



## In Memoriam Bishop Luigi Bettazzi

*"I am the resurrection and the life..." (Jn; 11:19-27)*

**It is with deep sadness that Pax Christi International informs you about the death of Bishop Luigi Bettazzi, one of the youngest and most junior participants in the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), early morning of 16 July 2023.**

*Bishop Luigi Bettazzi (1923) was a life-long friend of Pax Christi International, who served as President of our international peace movement from 1978 to 1985.*

During the presidency of Bishop Bettazzi, Saint Oscar Romero, the Archbishop of San Salvador invited Pax Christi International to act in solidarity with his troubled country; ; Dom Helder Camara of Brazil asked Pax Christi to sponsor several influential consultations on nonviolence; fact-finding missions led by Bishop Bettazzi travelled to Central America, Haiti and Brazil after which Pax Christi published important reports about the human rights situation in those countries.

During those years, Pax Christi also responded to 'The Troubles' in Northern Ireland and to other critical conflicts worldwide. In line with the concerns of Cardinal Bernardus Alfrink, his predecessor as International President, Bishop Bettazzi engaged in dialogue with Christians in Central and Eastern Europe and then in the Soviet Union, with an important series of seminars and exchanges with the Russian Orthodox Church.

Pax Christi International was granted Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC at the United Nations in 1979, and started to make regular submissions, especially to the Human Rights Commission in Geneva, related to (nuclear) disarmament, the arms trade, human rights, and East-West relations.

After his mandate, Mgr. Bettazzi remained active within Pax Christi Italy and Pax Christi International, participating in different solidarity visits to the Balkans during the civil wars (1992-1995). In April 2016, Bishop Bettazzi attended the ['Nonviolence and Just Peace Conference'](#), cosponsored by Pax Christi International and the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. In 2017 he took part in Pax Christi International's delegation to the Vatican's conference on 'Prospects for a World Free from Nuclear Weapons and for integral disarmament' and the Conference's Audience with Pope Francis.

Bishop Bettazzi loved Pax Christi International and was always an enthusiastic, active member of our international Catholic peace movement. His focus on active nonviolence (*peace in action*), disarmament and human rights nourished by a prophetic biblical spirituality was evident in the many books he authored. Bishop Luigi Bettazzi's warm personality and closeness to the people will be greatly missed. *Pax Christi International was blessed by the leadership and love of Bishop Bettazzi, a great shepherd and nonviolent practitioner to the end of his life.* May his passion for a more peaceful, just and nonviolent world inspire both young and old around the world and may this holy peacemaker rest in the peace for which he lived.

**Bishop Marc Stenger**

**Sister Wamuyu Wachira**

**Pax Christi International Co-Presidents**

**Martha Inés Romero  
Secretary General**

Pax Christi International • Avenue de la Reine 141 • 1030 Brussels • Belgium

Phone : +32 (0)2 502 55 50 • [hello@paxchristi.net](mailto:hello@paxchristi.net)

[www.paxchristi.net](http://www.paxchristi.net)