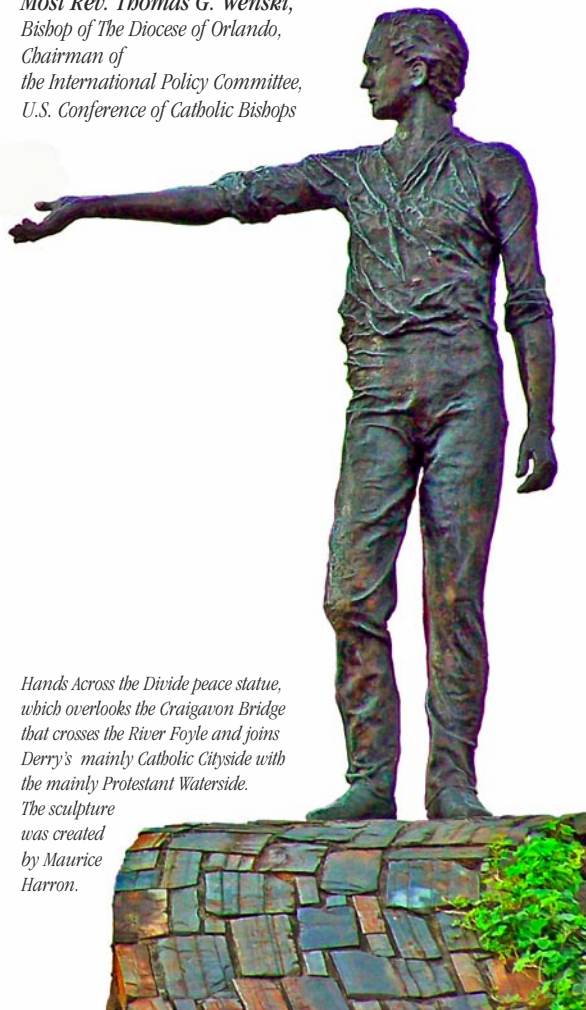


**be trouble  
it be in our day,  
may live in peace!"**

*- Thomas Paine (1737-1809)  
American War of Independence Patriot*

"The Irish Summer Institute offers an invaluable opportunity to come to a deeper understanding of the conflict in Northern Ireland informed by the perspective of those committed to justice, peace and reconciliation for both Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland."

*Most Rev. Thomas G. Wenski,  
Bishop of The Diocese of Orlando,  
Chairman of  
the International Policy Committee,  
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops*



*Hands Across the Divide peace statue,  
which overlooks the Craigavon Bridge  
that crosses the River Foyle and joins  
Derry's mainly Catholic Cityside with  
the mainly Protestant Waterside.  
The sculpture  
was created  
by Maurice  
Harron.*



*Bridge on border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.*

### Miscellaneous

Institute participants are asked to utilize knowledge and insights gained from their experiences in Northern Ireland in order to commit themselves to becoming post-trip peacemakers after returning home to their own churches and communities in the United States.

Because participants are expected to attend all events, they need to be aware of the demanding pace and intensity of this travel / study experience. Institute leaders need to be consulted about special health or diet concerns well in advance.

We are visiting Northern Ireland as guests to listen and learn in order to gain new understanding of the Irish situation. We are not there to tell the Irish people how we think they should solve their national problems.

While "Casual Dress" is the usual order of the day for this trip, we do ask participants to bring "Professional Business Attire" which will be the required dress for visits with religious leaders and for some other more formal events and occasions.

The application deadline with a \$300 per person deposit is due February 1, 2008. Participation is limited. Persons accepted will be notified shortly after the closing date for applications. For further information and application forms, please contact the Director below:

The Rev. Dr. James G. Macdonell,  
Chair Presbyterian Committee for Northern Ireland  
9708 DePaul Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817  
(Phone) (301) 530-8093  
jim.nancymac@verizon.net



*11th  
century  
High  
Cross*



PRESBYTERIAN  
COMMITTEE FOR  
NORTHERN IRELAND



## The 12th (2008) Bi-Annual Irish Summer Institute

August 18–31, 2008

A unique travel / study experience  
conducted under the auspices of:  
The Presbyterian Committee for  
Northern Ireland (PCNI) of the PCUSA,  
and the United States Conference  
of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).



*Derry gate*



*St. Columba's Cathedral*



*The Giant's Causeway*

**"If there must  
in the world, let  
so that our children**

"The Irish Summer Institute study tour is a unique learning experience – a chance to be in conversation with knowledgeable church, community and government leaders dedicated to peace building efforts in Northern Ireland."

*Rev. Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick,  
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly  
of the PCUSA*





Hands Across the Divide sculpture in Derry



Derry



Church House, PCI Headquarters in Belfast

## Purpose of the 12th (2008) Irish Summer Institute

The 12th Irish Summer Institute, a bi-annual two week long travel-seminar, is scheduled to take place August 18 – 31, 2008. The purpose of the *Institute* is to afford American Presbyterian and Roman Catholic Christians a first hand opportunity to gain knowledge and insight into the complex peace process being waged in Northern Ireland after decades of sectarian violence. Nearly two decades ago the *Institute* was created and developed by the Presbyterian Committee for Northern Ireland (PCNI) of the PCUSA. The PCNI reached out to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), inviting them to become a partner in sponsoring the Institute as an ecumenical venture in peacemaking. The USCCB enthusiastically agreed to do so.

### Background

More than 20 years ago, after a small group of American Presbyterian leaders became aware of the fact that much of the money raised in the United States to pay for paramilitary sectarian violence in Northern Ireland came from well-meaning but misguided American Presbyterian and Roman Catholics, they determined that Christians of good will ought to be part of a *peaceful* Irish solution rather than remaining



Corrymeela

part of Northern Ireland's ongoing tragic *violence*.

This concern led to the formation of a non-profit organization within the PCUSA called *The Northern Ireland Working Group*, later renamed the *PCNI*. The stated purposes of the *PCNI* are 1) support of Irish efforts to establish permanent peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and 2) helping American Presbyterians and others to gain accurate insight and factual knowledge of the complex Northern Ireland situation.

The major initiative developed by the *PCNI* to fulfill these goals was the creation of the bi-annual *Irish Summer Institute* in partnership with the *USCCB* as a unique first-hand opportunity for American Christians to become involved as peacemakers in a supportive learning experience in Northern Ireland.

During the past 30 years, media reports have tended to characterize the complex Northern Ireland situation in simplistic terms that described it only as a struggle between Irish Protestants and Roman Catholics. This simplified perception has often ignored the great variety of other economic and political issues that have also fueled this conflict. *The Irish Summer Institute* is intentionally designed to correct past misconceptions and to note the outstanding efforts of Irish Protestant and Roman Catholic leaders who have heroically been in the forefront of efforts

to implement and build permanent and lasting peace initiatives for the citizens of Northern Ireland.

### Methodology of the Institute

In addition to visiting many of Ireland's historic sites and places of beauty, *The 12th Irish Summer Institute* will provide a "hands on" opportunity for Protestant and Roman Catholic participants to meet and talk informally with many

of Ireland's leading religious, political and community leaders involved in peacemaking in both the Republic and in Northern Ireland. Hopefully these encounters will reveal the dynamics of peacemaking within a Christian context to our participants and prepare them to become peacemakers in their own churches and communities once they return home to the United States



The Ha'penny Bridge in Dublin

### Brief Itinerary

*The 12th Irish Summer Institute* will begin in Dublin with several days of orientation for our participants to help them get acquainted and begin exploring the religious and political background of "The Troubles" in Northern Ireland. There will be free time to explore Dublin's sights, shops and cultural entertainment. One day will be spent traveling south to the Glencree Reconciliation Centre in County Wicklow where eminent Irish scholars will review the history of "The Troubles" and examine current and future issues involved in Northern Ireland's elusive search for peace.

Then we will travel north on the Institute bus to Belfast, capital of Northern Ireland, stopping along the way to visit several sites of historical significance. In Belfast we will meet with religious and political leaders, visit "cross community" reconciliation centers and economic development projects. A day's trip up the Antrim coast will take us to Corrymeela, Northern Ireland's internationally renowned peace center located near the geological wonder of the world, the Giant's Causeway. On the Sunday midway through the Institute, we will visit a nearby village where we will worship in Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland (Anglican) parishes, after which we will be hosted for lunch and fellowship in the homes of local parishioners.

Later, Institute participants will visit the cities of Derry, Omagh and Armagh, where again we will meet with local leaders involved in the peace process, before returning to Belfast for our flight back home to the U.S.

### Institute Costs

(Please see list of itemized Institute travel expenses on enclosed sheet )