

CV: Raymond G. Helmick, S.J.

Jesuit Priest of the New England Province, since 1984 Instructor in Conflict Resolution, Department of Theology, Boston College.

Born September 7, 1931, Arlington, Massachusetts. Entered Jesuits 1949 on graduation from Boston College High School. After a short period outside the order for reasons of health, re-enter in February, 1951.

Personal website, <http://raymondhelmicksj.com>

Educated at Shadowbrook Novitiate/Juniorate, Lenox, Mass., 1949-'54; Weston College, Weston, Mass., for philosophy studies, 1954-'57 (BA, granted by Boston College, 1956, MA Phil. Boston College, 1957; Licentiate in Philosophy, Weston Jesuit College, 1957), Hochschule Sankt Georgen, Frankfurt/M., Germany, for undergraduate theology, 1960-'64 (Licentiate in Theology, 1964); Jesuit Tertianship, Pomfret, Connecticut, 1964-'65; Union Theological Seminary, New York, for graduate theology, 1967-'73.

Because of the theological sensitivity of the Doctoral dissertation prepared at Union Theological, it was recommended that its publication be delayed until such time as the Roman Catholic Church was prepared to receive it. The degree sought, Th.D., was suspended, by my request, until such time as the dissertation, on options for the mutual recognition of Eucharist and Ministry across the lines of disparate Church Order, could be published without incurring sanctions that would preclude the line of argument. The book is presently under updating and revision, and Union Theological gives assurance that, when it is completed, the degree, now a Ph.D., will be granted.

Taught at St. George's College, Kingston, Jamaica, 1957-'60 and 1965-'67.
Ordained Roman Catholic priest, Frankfurt/M, 1963.

Active in conflict resolution in Northern Ireland since 1972, first in association with Colleagues from American Churches, an *ad hoc* group formed at the recommendation of the National Council of Churches, USA, then from 1973 as Associate Director of the Centre for Human Rights and Responsibilities, London (the British outlet for the Paris-based *Fédération internationale des droits de l'homme*). Co-founder, 1979, along with one English and one Irish Jesuit, of the Centre of Concern for Human Dignity, a joint project of the English and Irish Jesuit Provinces, with offices in London and Dublin. Actively involved, 1972-'81, in the establishment and training of community associations in Belfast, in mediation among groups at many levels of both communities in the Northern Ireland conflict, including militant factions, and in consultation to a variety of peace organizations. Eventually mediated, over a six-week period, July-September 1981, between the IRA Provisional Army Council and the Northern Ireland Office of the

British Government in the matter of the hunger strike in the Maze Prison. Subsequently, over a period of years, gave seminars on conflict resolution and reconciliation to both Protestant and Catholic prisoners in the H-Blocks of the Maze Prison (Long Kesh), up to the time of its closing in the 1990s. Published, with Richard Hauser (London 1975), *A Social Option: Suggestions for a Community Social-Planning Approach to the Problems of Northern Ireland*, as well as various articles.

Simultaneously, over the 1972-'81 period, involved in mediation and conflict resolution in many other countries, including work with the ZANU and ZAPU movements as Rhodesia became Zimbabwe, exile representatives from East Timor, etc. Early contacts with a variety of figures in the Middle Eastern conflicts between Israel and the Palestinians and in Lebanon over this time.

A more serious involvement during these years was with the Kurds of Iraq, counseling them consistently during the time of the Mustafa Barzani rebellion (1973-'75) and after. This contact was broken off following return to the U.S. in 1981, but was renewed since 1987, and became a strong counseling role to both Massoud Barzani of the KDP (Kurdish Democratic Party) and Jalal Talabani of the PUK (Patriotic Union of Kurdistan), which continues to the present. Official observer, by invitations from both KDP and PUK, of the Kurdish elections in Northern Iraq, 1992. Since 1992, at the request of Talabani, in correspondence with Abdallah Ocalan of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) in Turkey (which Talabani regarded as influential in bringing Ocalan to his repeated unilateral cease-fires beginning in 1993) and with many officials of Turkish government. Member, since its foundation in 1993, of the Advisory Board to the Organization for Human Rights in Iraq.

Returned to United States 1981, resident until 1984 in Washington, D.C., working mainly for the establishment of what became the United States Institute for Peace.

Visited Lebanon extensively over 1982-'83, initiating extensive contacts and correspondence, which continue to the present, with figures in the many factions of that country's conflict. A report on the situation and peace-making resources of the country, written March 1983, circulated widely among leadership circles and was published in English, French, Arabic, Flemish and some other languages. That and correspondence with several of those leaders described later by Shi'ite leader Hussein al-Husseini as of great importance for the 1989 Taif Accord.

Returned to Boston 1984, at request of Cardinal Bernard Law, to be his counselor on various international conflict situations. Since then also Instructor in Conflict Resolution in the Theology Department of Boston College; Part-Time teacher, teaching full time, 1984 to present. Representative, 1993- 2014, of the Boston College Theology Department to the International Mission and Ecumenism Committee (IMEC) of the Boston Theological Institute (BTI: originally a consortium of nine theology faculties, Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox, in the Boston area, extended 2009 to include, as tenth member, Hebrew College). Along with BTI Director, Rodney S. Petersen, led

annual overseas seminar-workshops for students of the BTI schools, from 1993, generally in areas of ecumenical dialogue or, often, of conflict.

Since 1985, extensive contacts, by visits and correspondence, with Israelis and Palestinians, including Yasser Arafat of the PLO and Israeli Prime Ministers Peres, Shamir, Rabin and Barak. These contacts, especially constant since June 2000, have, like all others, been consistently reported to the U.S. State Department and Presidents Reagan, Bush and Clinton, George W. Bush and Obama, as well as to the Secretariat of State of the Holy See, without becoming representative of any of them. Correspondence on these close Middle East contacts with the Secretary of State Colin Powell. More recently, correspondence addressed to President Obama as well.

Visiting Middle Eastern region in 2002, as part of an interreligious group with Rev. Jesse Jackson, meeting extensively with Israeli government figures and PA President Arafat, established correspondence with Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin with a view to bringing about a cease-fire. Subsequently, after the Israeli and Palestinian elections of January 2006, insisted to Rev. Jackson, for our planned return visit, that we must begin in Damascus with Khalid Mish'al, which we accomplished with the help of Syrian President Bashar Assad. Out of this has come extensive correspondence with Mish'al on how Hamas can be a positive element for promotion of Israeli-Palestinian peace, reported in detail to U.S. presidents Bush and Obama.

Board member and Executive Committee member, since its founding in 1987, of the U.S. Interreligious Committee for Peace in the Middle East, an American association of some 2600 Jewish, Christian and Muslim leaders working together for the peace.

Continuing close association with and mediation among all parties to the Northern Irish conflict, British and Irish governments as well as internal parties and factions, up to the present. Held discussions of conflict resolution with prisoners of various militant groups, Protestant (UVF) and Catholic (IRA and INLA), in the Maze Prison, 1983 to the closing of the prison. Close contact, throughout the years of the Clinton administration, with the efforts of the U.S. government to promote a peaceful solution to the Northern Ireland conflict, also with primary officials of British and Irish government and with the full range of political parties and militant movements in Northern Ireland.

Contacts with Croatian (through Holy See), Bosnian (Foreign Ministry) and Serb (President Milosevic) elements in the Bosnian conflict during and after 1995. In April-May, 1999, after several previous visits throughout the region, took part in the mission of the Reverend Jesse Jackson, traveling to Belgrade during the bombing campaign to procure the release of three American soldiers captured by the Yugoslavs, and to reintroduce some diplomacy into a war situation from which it had entirely disappeared. Correspondence on this sequence of events on <http://www.raymondhelmicksj.com/correspondance.html>.

Appointed Senior Associate, in the Preventive Diplomacy Program, to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, D.C., September 2000 to 2004. Since then, emeritus member of the Center.

In Boston, Board Member from 2007 of the Interreligious Center on Public Life (ICPL), a project of Andover Newton School of Theology and Hebrew College in which all the BTI schools were involved. When the dispute arose over the building of the Roxbury Islamic Center, with expensive lawsuits running between the Boston Islamic Society and a group called The David Project, I was asked by the ICPL Board to undertake, with Professor Brita Gill-Austern of Andover Newton, an intervention to get the lawsuits retracted and the parties reconciled. My response was that I would do this only if joined by Jewish participants, and we were joined by Professor Rabbi Sanford Seltzer and Rabbi Harold Kushner. It took three years' work, with the lawyers of both sides, to accomplish the withdrawal of the lawsuits and the building of the mosque, with help from others.

Courses at Boston College:

Northern Ireland Conflict, Fall 1984 through 2003.

Principles of Conflict Resolution, Fall 1984 through 2002.

Lebanon in Conflict, Fall 1984 through 2003.

Sacraments and Ministry, Fall 1984 through 2003.

Eucharist and Ministry, 2004-2007.

Forgiveness and Reconciliation, 2003-2008.

Israelis and Palestinians: Two Peoples Three Faiths, 1998 to present.

Faith Elements in Conflicts, 1999 to present.

Toward an Abrahamic Family Reunion, a four-teacher course, with Rodney Petersen (Presbyterian Director of the BTI), Professor Rabbi Sanford Seltzer (Hebrew College) and Imam, plus guest lecturer, Jerome Maryon, given three times (you can't manage all those teachers for one course often), 2008-2009.

Conflict resolution Film: Film as Peacemaking Tool, with John Michalczyk, 2012 and 2014. A book and a boxed set of our films were published as a result of this course.

Conflict Transformation, 2012.

The Crisis of Confidence in the Catholic Church, 2012-2015. The course was the basis of the book on that subject.

Film and Genocide, with John Michalczyk, 2013. This course also eventuated in a published book, with essays by many authors, edited by John Michalczyk and myself.

Courses at Related BTI Schools:

St. John's Seminary: two courses, Christian-Jewish Relations, Christian-Muslim Relations, 1985-1987.

Andover Newton Theology School, with Rodney Petersen, **Religion and Social Conflict: Identity, Instrumentality and Interfaith relations**, 2000.

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, with Rodney Petersen, **Role of Religion in the Search for Peace**, 2001.

Holy Cross, Greek Orthodox School of Theology, with Rodney Petersen, **Russian Seminar and Workshop**, in preparation for an early summer visit to Russia, 2002

Episcopal Divinity School, with Rodney Petersen, **Comparative Christianity: Building Structures of Reconciliation**, 2002 and 2003.

Boston University Theology School, regular course, 2004 through 2013, always with Rodney Petersen, several times with Dr. Thomas Porter as well. In 2004, **The Shifting Contours of Contemporary Ecumenism**. Subsequently, **International Conflict Transformation: Religion and the Ministry of Reconciliation**, each year, with the exception of 2010, when we substituted **The Principles and Practices of Forgiveness: A Psychological, Theological and Political Challenge Before the Churches and Religious Communities**. These courses were the basis for the establishment of a Concentration in Conflict studies for the various schools of the BTI, now a Minor under the direction of Dr. Thomas Porter. It always attracted students from the full range of BTI schools.

Publications and Public Lectures:

Article, "Hope for Northern Ireland?" in *The Holy Cross Quarterly: The Irish Issue*, Vol. 6, Nos. 1-4, Worcester, Mass., 1974.

Co-authored with Richard Hauser, *A Social Option: Suggestions for an Overall Community Social Planning Approach to the Problems of Northern Ireland*, privately published by the Centre for Human Rights and Responsibilities, London, March 1975.

Chapter, “Die Kirchen in den Vereinigten Staaten,” in *Die Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika: Geschichte, Probleme, Perspektiven*, Würzburg, Verlag Ploetz, 1976.

“Church Structure and Violence in Northern Ireland,” London, *The Month*, August, 1977. This article, published with encouragement by the Vatican Secretariat of State, and taken up at once by British and Irish press, had wide influence on the understanding of the conflict by Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland.

“Northern Ireland in Moral Focus,” (on the issue of the hunger strikes in the Maze Prison), London, *The Tablet*, 30 May, 1981. The article concentrated on the efforts of British government to persuade Catholic bishops and theologians in Britain and Ireland to denounce the hunger strikes as suicide. After a long discussion of the article, sponsored by Editor Tom Burns of *The Tablet*, with a large group of British MPS and Lords, and press figures, its result was to remove this argument from the table for the rest of the hunger strike. It was largely responsible for the invitation to mediate between the British Northern Ireland Office and the IRA Army Council for many weeks of the hunger strike.

Conference paper, “Psychodynamics of Conflict in Northern Ireland and the Middle East,” for the Third International Conference on Psychological Stress and Adjustment in Times of War and Peace, Tel Aviv, January 1983. This conference followed after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982. Most of the speakers were Morale Officers of Israeli military units which had experienced, for the first time in their history, extensive conscientious objection and refusal of military units to follow orders they found repulsive. There were a few papers on how to stop smoking or manage your divorce (psychological stress and adjustment in times of peace), but most were on the Lebanon war, and treated the psychological stress as objections to the war and adjustment as becoming reconciled to the war. Mine was the only paper that treated the inclination to war and violence as the stress and the adjustment as overcoming that inclination, as was noted by the other participants.

“Report of a Visit to Lebanon,” March 1983, originally a privately circulated paper, subsequently printed in English (London, *The Month*, in two parts, July and August, 1983), in French (I haven’t the details at hand), in Flemish and in Arabic (London, *Al Hayat*, July, 1983). During a visit in May 2005, Hussein el-Husseini described this paper, along with correspondence with many Lebanese leaders, as having contributed substantially to the forming of the Taif Agreement.

Irish Papers, (a collection of reports and correspondence on Northern Ireland), published in annually revised and amplified editions since 1985, Boston, Boston College Press. This collection is now available on the webpage <http://www.raymondhelnicksj.com/correspondance.html>.

La Question Libanaise selon Raymond Eddé, expliqué aux Américains par Raymond G. Helmick, s.j., (published correspondence between author and Eddé, with communications to U.S. Administration, 1988-1990), Paris, Cariscript, 1990.

Conference paper, “The Context of Group Identifications and their Conflicts: A Four-Factor Theory of the Dynamic of Conflict,” for the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights Conference on Reconciliation between Populations, Vienna, September, 1996.

Address, “Spirituality in Current Contexts: Engagement or Retreat?”, given at Herrnhut, Germany, headquarters of the Moravian Brethren, June 13, 1996.

Middle East Papers, four volumes: Correspondence and Reports of Peace-Making Activities in the Middle East, initially in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, eventually including extensive material on Lebanon, on the 1990-91 Gulf War, on the September 11, 2001 crisis, on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Two Peoples, Three Faiths: Religion and Ethnicity in the Middle Eastern Conflict. Initially two volumes. Volume 1: *1985-1988 Documents on Establishing the U.S./PLO Dialogue.* Volume 2: *1990 and Subsequent Documents Through Gulf War, Madrid Conference, Oslo and After.* Personal reports and correspondence, published 1998, Boston, B.C. Press, revised and amplified editions through 2005. After 2005 Volume 2 had to be divided into two parts, updated annually, with the correspondence and reports brought up to date. By 2006, the second part of Volume 2 was renamed Volume 3, *Camp David and its Failure: the New Intifada and the Right Wing Ascendant in Israel*, and the whole collection was put on discs and mounted on the <http://www.raymondhelmicksj.com/correspondance.html> website where it remains available. A Volume 4 was added, bringing the collection up to date, 2006-2011, *Election of Hamas, Siege of Gaza, Election of Obama, Arab Spring.* Other materials to bring Volume 4 on the website up to date with a still active engagement are yet to be added.

Report on participation in the 1999 Jesse Jackson expedition (only catholic member) to Belgrade during the Kosovo War to gain the freedom three American soldiers captured by the Serbs, Faxed to Angelo Cardinal Sodano, Vatican Secretary of State, may 20, 1999.

Conference Paper, “Restorative Justice,” for the Boston Theological Institute’s Restorative Justice Workshop, March, 1999.

Article, “How Can a Catholic Respond, in Faith, to the Faith of Muslims?” February 1999, published in Serbo-Croat translation, *Kako katolik moze iz vreje odgovoriti na vjeru muslimana?*, in *Bosna Franciscana* (Franciscan theological quarterly), Sarajevo, November 1999, translated by Fra Ivo Markovic. This article, built on reflections made in Lebanon during visits in 1982-3, was written only in 1999 at the request of Fra Ivo Markovic. Published only in his Serbo-Croat translation, it has had a wide circulation since through courses and correspondence in English.

“Ethical Issues About the Kosovo War,” a Discussion at Hartford Seminary, September 21, 1999.

Forgiveness and Reconciliation: Religion, Public Policy and Conflict Transformation, co-edited with Rodney L. Petersen, Templeton Foundation Press, 2001 (papers from a conference presented by the Templeton Foundation at the Kennedy School, Harvard, in November 1999). Helmick chapter, “Does Religion Help or Fuel in Conflicts,” delivered as talk at the Templeton Foundation conference, Kennedy School, Harvard University, *Forgiveness and Reconciliation: Religious Contributions to Conflict Resolution*,” December, 1999.

“Ignatius of Antioch on the Role of the Bishop,” originally given as a talk at St. Andrew’s Theological College, Moscow, May 31, 2002

Report to Walter Cardinal Kasper, President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the Unity of Christians, on discussion with Archbishop Savelod Chaplin, Vice Chairman of the Department of External Church Relations of the Russian Orthodox Church, on the damaged relations between Catholics and the Russian Orthodox Church, June 17, 2002.

Article, “Task for the Next Church Council”, on the sexual abuse crisis in the Catholic Church, *Human Development*, Summer 2003. The article was reprinted in the Boston College Bulletin, *Church in the 21st Century*, and appeared subsequently on many websites.

Negotiating Outside the Law: Why Camp David Failed (London, Pluto Press, 2004, distributed in the United States by University of Michigan Press).

“Develop a Global Partnership for Development,” talk in the Series “Millennium Development Goals,” Sherrill Hall, Episcopal Divinity School, December 1, 2005.

Science and Theology News, online edition, “Religion and Genocide,” May 15, 2006.

Science and Theology News, online edition, “Religion as Weapon: When religions become exclusive clubs, dire consequences follow,” August 14, 2006.

International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences, 2nd edition, entry “Reconciliation,” 2006.

“Will it be Hamas that makes Peace with Israel?”, address to the Middle East Seminar, directed by Professor Herbert Kelman for the Weatherhead Institute, Harvard University, report on visit to Khalid Mish’al, November 9, 2006.

The Antioch Agenda: Essays on the Restorative Church in Honor of Orlando Costas, eds. Daniel Jeyaraj, Robert, W. Pasmino and Rodney S. Petersen, Helmick chapter “The Context of Group Identities and their Conflicts: A Four-Factor Theory of the Dynamic of Conflict” (New Delhi, printed by the Indian Society for the promotion of

Christian Knowledge for Andover Newton Theological School and the Boston Theological Institute, 2007).

Convocation Address, Gordon College, February 9, 2007, “The Moral Imagination.” For a Jesuit speaking at the Protestant Gordon College, a properly Jesuit theme seemed appropriate, hence an exposition of the *Praesupponendum* of the Ignatian *Spiritual Exercises*.

“Respect for the Person: Saving the Proposition of the Other,” address to the Massachusetts Bible Society, May 16, 2007.

Address, “Seeing the Image of God in Others: Key to the Transformation of Conflicts,” Presbyterian University, Seoul, Korea, summer, 2008.

Gerard Mannion, Ed., *The Vision of Pope Paul II: Assessing His Thought and Action*, Helmick Chapter, “John Paul II and Ecumenism” (Michael Glazier, publisher, 2008).

Human Development, 2008, “The ‘Hard Men’ as Peacemakers in Northern Ireland.”

“Secrets of Successful Mediation at Home and Abroad,” talk to the Kurdish Cultural Center, Washington, D.C., January 29, 2009.

“Talk to Adversaries,” address, Goddard Chapel, Tufts University, February 4, 2009.

“Memo on the Middle East,” addressed to President Obama, April 28, 2009.

“The Church and the Middle East,” talk at Marquette University, September 17, 2009

Article, *Bulletin of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre*, “Where do Efforts for Peace in the Middle East Now Stand?” November 7, 2009.

Article, *Bulletin of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre*, “Our Order and the Conflict,” September 9, 2010.

Living Catholic Faith in a Contentious Age, Continuum, 2010.

Rodney S. Petersen et al., Eds., *Sabbath, Sunday and the Weekend*, Helmick chapter “A Sacramental People: Catholic Experience of Sunday Worship” (Grand Rapids, MI, Eerdmans, 2010).

Keynote Address, “Readiness to Hear One Another,” *niamh* Conference, Belfast, Northern Ireland, Journey Towards Healing, “Trauma and Spirituality: An International Dialogue,” March 9, 2011. The conference was otherwise held at the Europa Hotel in Belfast, but this Welcoming Address was given in The Great Hall, Parliament Building, Stormont.

Article, *Bulletin of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre*, January 5, 2012.

“A Taxonomy of Religions,” February 12, 2012,

Address, “Pathways for Reconciliation,” for the Assisi conference of Ecclesiastical Investigations, “Where We Dwell in Common: pathways for Dialogue in the 21st Century,” April 20, 2012.

Thomas A. Kane, CSP, ed., *Healing God’s People: Theological and Pastoral Approaches*, A Reconciliation Reader, 2012, Helmick chapter: “What is Forgiveness?”

Article, *Bulletin of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre*, “Israel/Palestine: The Kerry Offer of Negotiations,” February 20, 2014.

The Crisis of Confidence in the Catholic Church, (Bloomsbury, now owner of the Continuum imprint, volume 17 of the series, *Ecclesiastical Investigations*, Senior Editor Gerard Mannion, 2014). The book was circulated in advance to the then eight Cardinal members of the Commission appointed by Pope Francis to assist in the reform of the Church, and acknowledged as helpful by four of the members.

Keynote Address, Conference on China, 9th Interethnic/Interfaith Leadership Conference Series begun in 2000 by **Dr. Yang Jianli**, with the support of His Holiness the Dalai Lama among other world human rights leaders, April 24, 2014, Taipei, Taiwan. A further supplementary talk on April 26.

“Just Peace in past and Present Context: Climate Change as Threat to Peace and Future,” Reykjavic, University of Iceland, May 3, 2014. Proposal for a WCC Conference on Just Peace, to be held in Iceland.

Fear Not: Biblical Calls for Faith (Cambridge, MA, Institute for Peace Studies in Eastern Christianity – IPSEC, Boston Theological Institute – BTI, 2014).

“The Effects of Religion in Conflicts,” November 1, 2014.

“The Nuremberg Race Laws,” talk to the Conference on Law, Ethics and the Third Reich, Boston College, March 10, 2015.

Address, “Religious factors in the Diplomacy of Violent Conflicts,” to the conference on “International Politics, Diplomacy and Religion” held in Fiesole by the European University Institute, May 5, 2015. Other speakers at this conference were all diplomats (ambassadors, senior advisors to foreign ministries, NGO heads). Unable to attend in person for reasons of health, but the address and full discussion were held nevertheless by Skype.

Article, *Bulletin of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre*, “Where do We Stand Now on the Middle East?” May 11, 2015.

Address, “A Sense of Resurrection: Recovery in the Catholic Church,” Ecclesiastical Investigations Conference, “Vatican II - Remembering the Future: Ecumenical, Interfaith and Secular Perspectives on the Council’s Impact and promise.” Follow-up to the Helmick book, *The Crisis of Confidence in the Catholic Faith* (Volume 17 of the series *Ecclesiastical Investigations*, Bloomsbury, 1914). Unable to attend because of hospitalization, but the talk will appear among the published conference papers.

Video documentaries (co-produced with John Michalczyk):

Out of the Ashes Northern Ireland's Fragile Peace, 1998

Prelude to Kosovo: War and Peace in Bosnia and Croatia, 1999

South Africa: Beyond a Miracle, 2000

Unexpected Openings: Northern Ireland's Prisoners, 2001

Different Drummers: Daring to Make Peace in the Middle East, 2003

Killing Silence: Taking on the Mafia in Sicily, 2004

Confronting Amnesia: Frozen Memories of the Russian Gulag, 2009

Writing on the Wall: Remembering the Berlin Wall, 2009

Kenya: Passing the Baton, 2010