



BPEACE for Jorge

Five years ago, violence struck at the heart of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts when 19-year-old Jorge Fuentes was murdered while walking his dog outside his home in Dorchester. He was a remarkable young man and natural leader, adored by the children he mentored at St. Stephen's Church in Boston. Many in our diocese knew him because he grew up and worked in the B-SAFE summer and B-READY afterschool programs and loved the Barbara C. Harris Camp in New Hampshire. B-PEACE's work to address the root causes of violence continues to honor his memory.



BPEACEforjorge.net
diomass.org/b-peace
facebook.com/bpeaceforjorge
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Bishop's Action Steps toward Peace

Programs for Youth

Employment for Teens and Young Adults

Academic Excellence in Public Schools

Communities of Support for Families

End to Gun Violence through Reforms

Key Leaders

The Right Rev. Alan Gates, Bishop of Diocese of MA
Liz Steinhauser, *Convener of B-PEACE for Jorge Campaign*
Ned Notis-McConarty, *Leader of Gun Reform Committee*
Sarah O'Connor, *Leader of Youth Jobs Committee*
Maureen Burns, *Leader of School Partnership Committee*
Tim Crellin, *Leader of Education & Liturgy Committee*
Mirna Ramos, *Community Leader*
Many teens, *Community Leaders*

REPORT FOR DIOCESAN CONVENTION
What B-PEACE has accomplished in 2017

Episcopal Leadership & Educational Opportunities

- Encouraged the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts to become a member of the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence. Leaders of EDoWM worked with B-PEACE on the gun safety research budget amendment.
- Organized a team of 14 Diomass leaders to participate in the Bishops United Against Gun Violence National Conference in Chicago in April. Bishop Gates, youth, clergy, and lay leaders attended “The Unholy Trinity: Racism-Poverty-Gun Violence.” Youth presented a workshop on B-PEACE at the conference.

Family Support & Youth Engagement

- Mobilized 10 B-PEACE youth leaders to testify at a hearing of the Judiciary Committee of the state legislature on gun reform legislation concerning silencers and Emergency Restraining Protection Orders (ERPO) for removing guns from disturbed family members.
- Ran a campaign, with Cosecha, for Boston Public Schools to become a sanctuary district for immigrant families. Parents and students testified; the city agreed to update the district policies to protect students and train school administrators in new procedures.
- Mobilized 250+ Episcopalians for the Mother’s Day Walk for Peace (in the rain!)

Youth Jobs & Workforce Development

- B-PEACE teen organizers met with legislators and participated in the Youth Jobs Coalition’s days of lobbying and rally actions to secure \$9M in funding in the MA state budget for youth employment.
- B-PEACE teen leaders pressed city officials kept promise to renovate Ramsay Park, our hyper-local model for increasing community safety. In September, ground was broken for construction and the park is on track to re-open in Spring 2018.

Church-School Partnerships

- Expanded our model of school partnership with a volunteer run school library, author visits to classrooms, and the largest ever Day of Action on MLK Day (300+ volunteers)
- Built a partnership with Boston College to engage college students in the fight to reduce gun violence.
- Advanced the AOC network by contributing a chapter to recently published book, *All Our Children: The Church’s Call to Address Education Inequity*

Gun Law Reform & Public Policy

- Intensified participation in the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, including leadership on the Strategy and Outreach Committees.
- Supported the successful amendment to the 2017 Massachusetts state budget to provide funding for gun safety research; Bishop Gates and other B-PEACE representatives sent letters, visited legislators, and made calls to ensure passage.
- Organized clergy, veterans, and medical experts to testify against silencers and in favor of ERPOs (Emergency Restraining Protection Order)

Collaborative Partners:



Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence



EPISCOPAL CITY MISSION



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS
“CELEBRATING GOD’S ABUNDANCE”

