



NOVENA FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

AUGUST 1-9, 2022

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, spoke at the Peace Memorial in Hiroshima on Sunday, 24 November 2019:

“In a single plea to God and to all men and women of good will, on behalf of all the victims of atomic bombings and experiments, and of all conflicts, let us together cry out from our hearts: Never again war, never again the clash of arms, never again so much suffering! May peace come in our time and to our world.”

We invite all parishioners to join in praying this novena to implore the Blessed Mother’s intercession as we remember the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and ask Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to help us prayerfully consider the historical and ongoing human and environmental costs of allowing nuclear weapons in our society and world. Please reflect on each daily intention, pray the Rosary or recite an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be and conclude with the Novena Prayer below.

NOVENA PRAYER

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives. (John 14:27)*

Mother of Christ and Queen of Peace: we pray with all fervor for the peace which our divine Redeemer came to bring us. May Christ banish from the souls of all whatever might endanger peace. May Christ transform us into witnesses of truth, justice and filial love. May Christ illumine with His light the leaders of governments so that, besides caring for the proper material welfare of their peoples, they may also guarantee them the fairest gift of peace without fear of nuclear annihilation. Adapted from Pacem in Terris, 1963 Papal Encyclical

Day 1–Monday, August 1: Today we pray for the determination never again to use atomic energy as weapons of war. May we heed Pope Francis’ call for *“for prayer and commitment to a world completely free of nuclear weapons.”*

Day 2–Tuesday, August 2: Today we pray for solidarity with all indigenous peoples impacted by uranium mining, atomic bomb testing, and the long-term storage of nuclear waste on their sacred land in New Mexico. May we work toward real solutions to rectify these many wrongs done to our sisters and brothers.

Day 3–Wednesday, August 3: Today we pray for the people of New Mexico, a center for nuclear weapons research and development, and people of similar areas of the world. May we understand that the real financial, environmental, and human costs of

nuclear arsenal development, maintenance, renewal and even expansion result in the inability to provide adequately for people who experience high rates of poverty, greater economic disparity, poor health care, and lack of educational support.

Day 4–Thursday, August 4: Today we pray for forgiveness, for ourselves and all those with whom we wage war. May we follow God’s way of encounter and dialogue for the resolution of conflicts. May discussion, as stated by Archbishop Wester of Sante Fe, “be respectful, rooted in prayer, based in non-violence, and centered in hope and belief that nuclear disarmament is achievable.”

Day 5–Friday, August 5: Today we pray for wisdom, to better understand that the circumstances of history we thought we faced can never justify the use of such devastating weapons now.

Day 6–Saturday, August 6: On the 77th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, today we pray for the people of Hiroshima who carry the wounds of nuclear warfare.

Day 7–Sunday, August 7: Today we pray for the people of Ukraine who are already experiencing war but are also under the catastrophic threat of nuclear bombing.

Day 8–Monday, August 8: Today we pray for people of the Pacific islands and atolls who suffered, and continue to suffer, from radiation-related illness, birth-defects, and environmental destruction resulting from nuclear testing.

Day 9–Tuesday, August 9: On the 77th Anniversary of the bombing of Nagasaki, today we pray for the people of Nagasaki, whose lives were forever shattered by our use of an atomic weapon. May the world never experience such human loss and destruction again.

Suggested reading:

1. **Pacem In Terris**, 1963, Papal Encyclical, Pope St. John XIII
2. **Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes)**, 1965, Pastoral Constitution by 2nd Vatican Council
3. **Address to the General Assembly of the United Nations**, 1982, Pope St. John Paul II
4. **The Challenge of Peace**, 1983, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
5. **The Harvest of Justice**, 1993, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
6. **Statement on Nuclear Disarmament**, 2020, USCCB Committee on International Justice and Peace
7. **Fratelli Tutti**, 2020, Papal Encyclical, Pope Francis
8. **Living in the Light of Christ’s Peace: A Conversation Toward Nuclear Disarmament**, 2022, Pastoral Letter, John C. Wester, Archbishop of Sante Fe (New Mexico)