

## 80 Years Under the Threat of Nuclear Annihilation

*“What can be said, too, about those governments which count on nuclear arms as a means of ensuring the security of their countries? Along with countless persons of good will, one can state that this point of view is not only baneful but also completely fallacious. **In a nuclear war there would be no victors, only victims***

*The truth of peace requires that all — whether those governments which openly or secretly possess nuclear arms, or those planning to acquire them—agree to change their course by clear and firm decisions, and strive for a progressive and concerted nuclear disarmament. The resources which would be saved could then be employed in projects of development capable of benefiting all their people, especially the poor.”*

*-Pope Benedict XVI,  
2009 World Day of Peace*

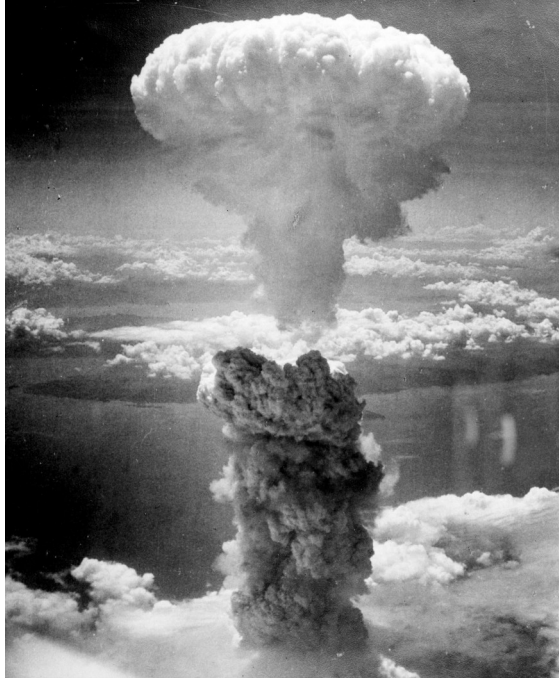


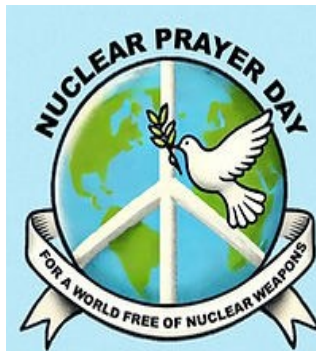
Photo by George Robert Caron

August 6 and August 9 mark the **80th** anniversaries of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki which ushered in the nuclear age. Humanity has lived under the threat of **omni-cide**, the destruction of all life, ever since.

Historians can only estimate the number of people—predominantly civilians—killed by the atomic bomb blasts and by radiation sickness and cancer afterwards; it could be higher than 300,000.

The Catholic peace organization Pax Christi USA is calling on Americans to sign an **apology petition** to the people of Japan at this [link](#).

It's a small step toward facing our responsibility to cry out against nuclear weapons.



A Call to **Pray**,  
A Call for Peace

**Wednesday  
August 6**

11am & 4:45pm

Register at this [link](#)



Pope Francis prays at the Nagasaki ground zero site, November 24, 2019. Credit: Vatican Media.

*“With deep conviction I wish once more to declare that the use of atomic energy for purposes of war is today, more than ever, **a crime** not only **against the dignity of human beings** but **against any possible future for our common home**. The use of atomic energy for purposes of war is immoral, just as the **possessing of nuclear weapons is immoral**... We will be judged on this. Future generations will rise to condemn our failure if we spoke of peace but did not act to bring it about among the peoples on the earth. How can we speak of peace even as we build terrifying new weapons of war?*

*-Pope Francis, Address at the Peace Memorial,  
Hiroshima, November 24, 2019*



*"I am following with deep concern the extremely grave humanitarian situation in Gaza, where the civilian population is being crushed by hunger and continues to be exposed to violence and death."*

*-Pope Leo XIV*

Catholic Relief Services has managed to deliver 1.7 million people in Gaza since 2023. Read about their work [here](#) and support it by donating at this [link](#).

Palestinian baby Zainab Abu Haleeb, dies due to malnutrition, in Khan Younis

## Use Your Voice to Save Lives

*From Catholic Relief Services:*

The administration's cuts to international assistance have severely impacted millions of vulnerable people worldwide, especially women and children. These programs were designed to provide emergency food aid, help smallholder farmers in improving their crops, and empower communities to meet their own needs. Without them, countless lives are in jeopardy, and the need for aid continues to grow.

Go to [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org) to ask your members of Congress to support robust funding for international humanitarian aid and development assistance in the 2026 Federal budget.



Eko, Kalle /CRS

*A young girl plays on a swing at her nursery school in Senegal. This school's educational materials were funded through a U.S. government grant as part of a CRS program that promoted peace and prosperity in the region. The program was terminated in the spring due to the government's realignment of international aid.*

## Do Not Grow Weary— Keep On Opposing Physician-Assisted Suicide



NOW is the time to contact Governor Kathy Hochul to ask her to VETO the bill which would legalize physician-assisted suicide in New York State.

Even if you've already contacted her, go to this [link](#) (again!) to e-mail the governor. But don't stop there. CALL her office after you e-mail. That number is:

**1-518-474-8390.** Let her staff know that you oppose this terrible policy.

To learn more, go to [www.nyscatholic.org](http://www.nyscatholic.org)

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