

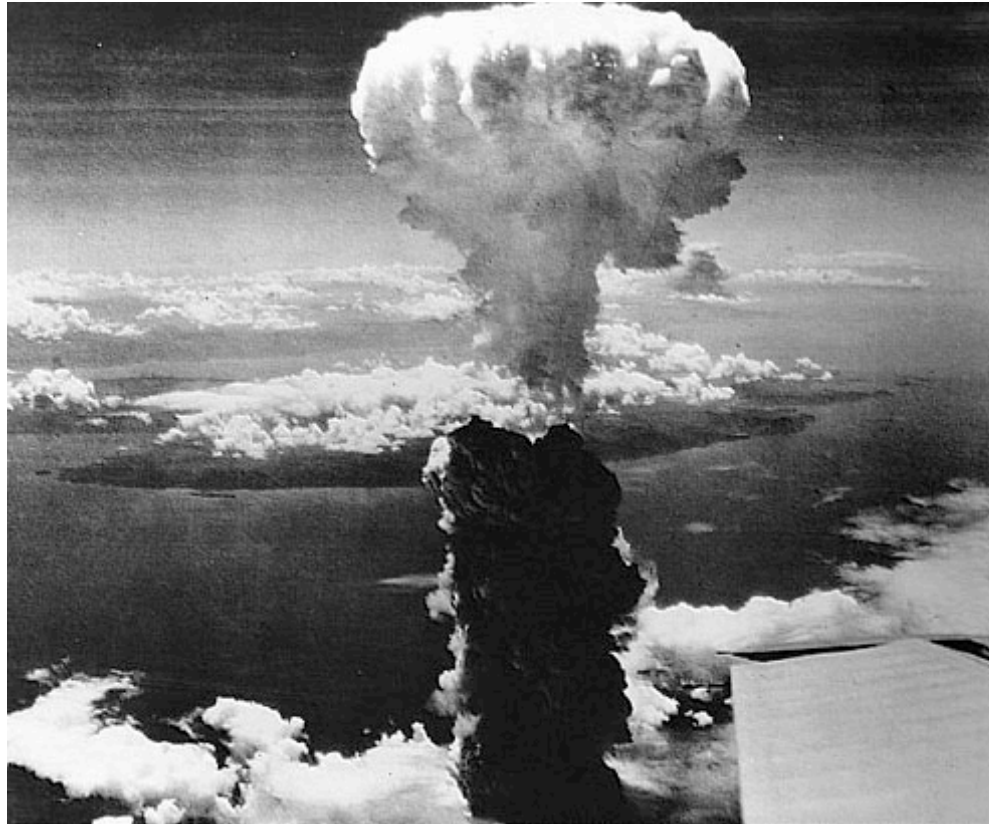
Personal Reflection for a Nuclear Free World

"...I firmly hope that...concrete decisions will be made towards progressive disarmament, with a view to freeing our planet of nuclear arms." Pope Benedict XVI on January 10th, 2010

With the call made by President Obama in April, 2009 at Prague, the world began to see a new possibility of eliminating nuclear weapons. However, the world still lives under the threat of nuclear weapons. There are still more than 23,000 nuclear weapons. Thousands of them can be launched within moments. 9 countries now possess nuclear weapons.

The Catholic Church views that nuclear weapons cannot be morally justified and that nuclear deterrence is a serious obstacle against genuine disarmament. Archbishop Migliore, the Holy See's observer at the United Nations emphasized the urgent need to create the legal, political and technical requisites for a nuclear weapons free world when he addressed to the Nuclear non-proliferation Treaty Review Conference held in New York in May, 2010.

Today, August 6 (9), we renew our commitment to work for a world without nuclear weapons as we reflect on Jesus the non-violent. We pray that our work for peace be a genuine expression of compassion and humility that will enable LIFE in all and at all levels



Atomic Bomb over Japan

In Commemoration of

Hiroshima (August 6th) and Nagasaki (August 9th)

As we reflect on the importance of promoting a nuclear free world. We call upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit that we may be instruments of peace wherever we are. We desire to create an environment where such a world is possible.

LORD, MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE.

I carry your Gospel message in my own being and in what I am about. I desire to announce your peace by bringing your presence to all those I meet.

WHERE THERE IS HATRED, LET ME SOW LOVE.

Truly moving from Your loving presence dwelling within me, I am called to love as You would love. Knowing what it means to be deeply loved by You, I am able to love others as I am loved by You.

WHERE THERE IS INJURY, PARDON.

I am encouraged to move beyond my injuries in whatever way is necessary through loving confrontation, through embracing

others, through becoming reconciled within myself and with all others. I am challenged to forgive and not to seek revenge.

WHERE THERE IS DOUBT, FAITH.

I need to look at ways to build trust that enables me to believe in others. Nurturing healthy relationships requires time and a willingness to develop the skills of dialogue for understanding.

WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, HOPE.

My reasons for hope deal with knowing the reality of the situation, facing the truth and exploring opportunities that present themselves. I can choose to join the efforts of others to promote a nuclear free world.

WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS, LIGHT.

I am guided by the light of Christ through the darkness, strengthened in Him with the courage to stay in the reality of the darkness until Wisdom appears.

WHERE THERE IS SADNESS, JOY.

I ask for the courage to go into the sadness and find value and meaning in pain. I am able to move through the pain to the joy of a new life of opportunities and loving relationships.

O, DIVINE MASTER,

You are the One whose footsteps I will follow. You are the Source of all of our lives.

GRANT THAT I SEEK NOT SO MUCH TO BE CONSOLED, AS TO CONSOLE.

As I attend to the loving presence of Christ in myself and others, I become a source of Your healing grace. I know that You are present because You promised that wherever two or three are gathered together in Your Name You are in our midst. (Mt. 18:20)

TO BE UNDERSTOOD, AS TO UNDERSTAND.

I ask to have the Wisdom to know the situation of others. And so I will listen to others without the distraction of my personal agenda.

TO BE LOVED, AS TO LOVE.

I desire to freely love others for themselves rather than for what they can do for me. I will the best good even for those that I find difficult to love.

FOR IT IS IN GIVING THAT WE RECEIVE.

Truly being able to give from Your abundance allows me to receive the good gifts of others.

IT IS IN DYING THAT WE ARE BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE.

I desire to prune away all that is not life giving so that I can help create a more peaceful world so that a nuclear free world is possible and desired by all. Amen.