

Hiroshima & Nagasaki: Catholic Voices

In August 1945, the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki each were completely destroyed by a single nuclear weapon, bringing about the loss of about 200,000 precious lives.

“The worst evil the world has witnessed since the crucifixion of Jesus was the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima.”

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen



They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again.

Isaiah 2:4

“Do to others whatever you would have them do to you”
Jesus Christ, Matt

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church

“Every act of war directed to the indiscriminate destruction of whole cities or vast areas with their inhabitants is a crime against God and human beings, which merits firm and unequivocal condemnation.” A danger of modern warfare is that it provides the opportunity to those who possess modern scientific weapons – especially atomic, biological, or chemical weapons – to commit such crimes”

CCC #2314, quoting *Gaudium et Spes*, #80

“The evil of war has plagued the world for as long as I can remember. The technological ‘advancement’ of weaponry devised by man continues to betray the Gospel of Jesus Christ and weakens our witness as peacemakers. Let us pray for a conversion of hearts.”

Bishop Edward Slattery, June 2005

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God”
Jesus Christ, Matt 5:9

“... given the new weapons that make possible destructions that go beyond the combatant groups, today we should be asking ourselves if it is still licit to admit the very existence of a ‘just war.’”

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger
Pope Benedict XVI, May

“If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.”

“War is the killing of human beings. Who can even think that it could ever be “just”?”

“Peace begins with a smile.”

Mother Theresa

“The true and solid peace of nations consists not in equality of arms, but in mutual trust alone.”

Pope John XXIII

“But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you”
Jesus Christ, Matt 5:44

“To remember the past is to commit oneself to the future... To remember Hiroshima is to abhor nuclear war. To remember Hiroshima is to commit oneself to peace... Let us promise our fellow human beings that we will work untiringly for disarmament and the banishing of all nuclear weapons. ... Our future on this planet, exposed as it is to nuclear annihilation, depends upon a single factor: humanity must make a moral about-face”

Pope John Paul II
Hiroshima, 1981