

SHOL PAX Christi Newton

A Novena For

Nuclear Disarmament

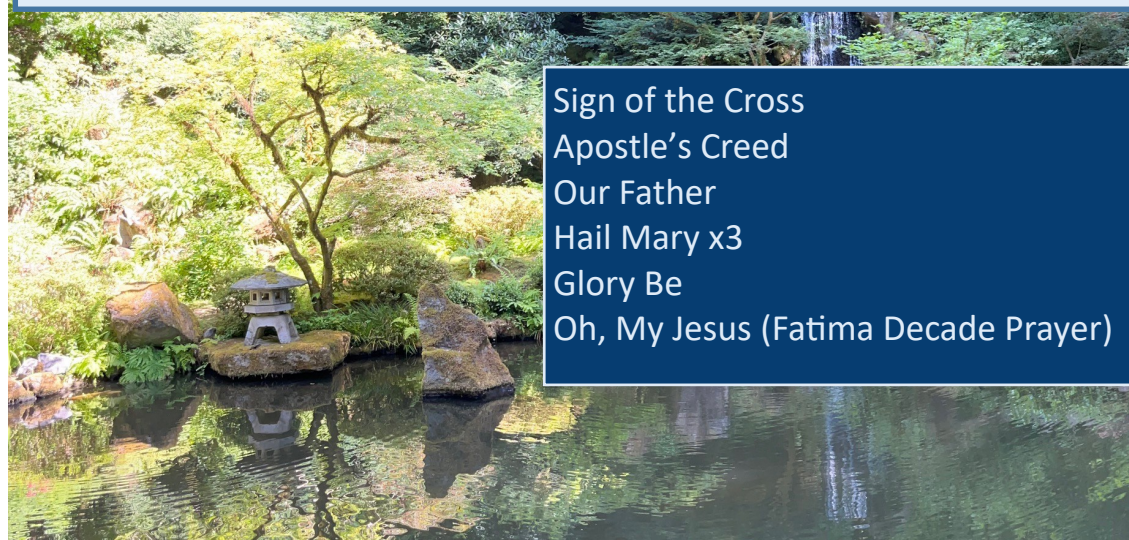
August 1—9, 2025



Day One—Friday, August 1st

In November 2019, Pope Francis spoke at the Peace Memorial in Hiroshima: “In a single plea to God and to all men and women of goodwill, 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 join together 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. *Our reflections will be based on Most Reverend John C. Wester’s pastoral letter “Living in the Light of Christ’s Peace” and the PAX Christi Novena for Nuclear Disarmament.*



Sign of the Cross
Apostle’s Creed
Our Father
Hail Mary x3
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade One

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

Together, let us pray for a world free from nuclear weapons.

Our Father
Decade 1 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade Two

In recent years, Pope Francis led the Church in a dramatic shift away from supporting nuclear weapons and deterrence to denouncing them as immoral and calling for their complete abolition. In 2017, Pope Francis publicly declared that nuclear deterrence is “morally unacceptable.”

Together, let us pray for a world free from nuclear weapons.

Our Father
Decade 2 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade Three

In 2019, Pope Francis visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki and met with atomic bomb survivors and prayed for nuclear disarmament. He spoke passionately about the “black hole of death and destruction” that nuclear weapons could cause today and called for a “world without nuclear weapons.” He added, “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 possession of atomic weapons is immoral.”

Together, **let us pray for a world free from nuclear weapons.**

Our Father
Decade 3 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade Four

Pope Francis declared that the nuclear arms race creates a false sense of security and poisons international relations. He further said that these weapons are wasteful and environmentally damaging. “In a world where millions of children and families live in inhumane conditions, the money that is squandered and the fortunes made through the manufacture, upgrading, maintenance, and sale of evermore destructive weapons are an affront crying out to heaven.”

Together, **let us pray for a world free from nuclear weapons.**

Our Father
Decade 4 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)



Reflection for Decade Five

Pope Francis said: “Convinced as I am that a world without nuclear weapons is possible and necessary, I ask political leaders not to forget that these weapons cannot protect us from current threats to national and international security. We need to ponder the catastrophic impact of their deployment, especially from a humanitarian and environmental standpoint, and reject heightening a climate of fear, mistrust, and hostility fomented by nuclear doctrines.”

Together, **let us pray for a world free from nuclear weapons.**

Our Father
Decade 5 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)



Peace I leave you, my peace I give to you;
Not as the world gives, do I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, nor fearful.
(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.

Amen.

Adapted from Pacem in Terris, 1963

End of Night One

Day Two—Saturday, August 2nd

We join together for our second night 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.

Our reflections will be based on Most Reverend John C. Wester's pastoral letter "Living in the Light of Christ's Peace", the 2010 Cultural Survival Report on Uranium Mining and Nuclear Testing on Indigenous Lands, and the PAX Christi Novena for Nuclear Disarmament.

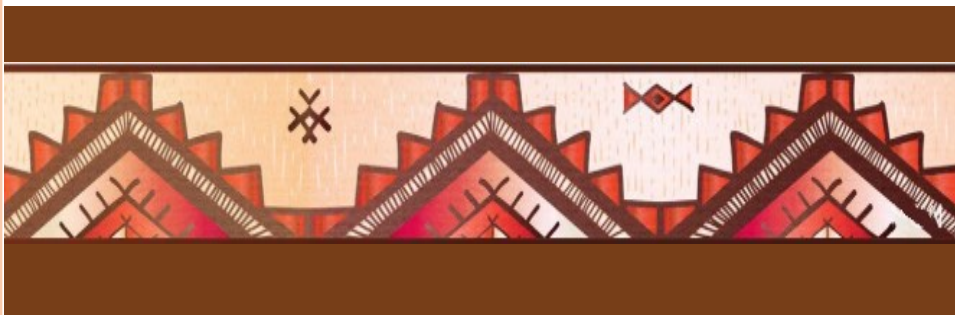


Sign of the Cross
Apostle's Creed
Our Father
Hail Mary x3
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade One

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 lands. May we work toward real solutions to rectify these many wrongs done to our brothers and sisters.

Together, **let us pray for all people whose lives are impacted by the production, testing, and storage of nuclear weapons.**



Our Father
Decade 1 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade Two

For the indigenous people who have suffered from nuclear testing and uranium mining on their lands¹:

the Yakima, Colville, Nez Perce, Coeur d'Alene, Spokane, Kalispell, Umatilla, and the Klickitat people of the Pacific Northwest,

for the Havasupai, Kaibab Paiute, for the Navajo and the Hopi, for the Western Shoshone and the South Paiute – the most the most bombed nation on the earth (*814 nuclear tests have been done on their land since 1951*),

for the Oglala Lakota of the Black Hills, for the Cherokee, for the Mescalero Apache, the Prairie Island Mdewakanton, the Minnesota Sioux, the Skull Valley Goshutes, the Lower Brule communities, the Chickasaw, the Sac and Fox peoples, the Eastern Shawnee, the Quassarie, and the Ponca.

For the Inuit, Chipewyan, and Anishinabe of the Northwest Territories, for the Serpent Lake Band, for the Cree, and the Metis. For the Yanomami, Yekuana, Munduruku, Kayapo, Bau-Megragnoti, and Menkrantire. For the Shuar, Archuara, Cfan, Huaorani, Quechua, Secoya, Siona, the Mapuche, Techueleche, Chaco, Mataco, Choroti, Toba, Mocobi, Pilaga, Chrguanos, and the Chinguanos. For the Tamacheq and the Ful, for the Beduin, Ovambo, Bambuti, the Khoikhoi, and the Bantu-speaking groups of South Africa.

For the Kazakh, Khanti, Mamsi, Evenk, Yakut, and Chukchee peoples.

For the Ho, Santal, Mundu, Rajasthani and Bhil tribes.

For Uigur, Kirghiz, Xibo, Tadzhik, Uzbek, Tatar, the Western Mongols of the Gobi Desert,

and the indigenous Tibetan people.

For the Yami and the Micronesian people, the Moruroa and Fangataufa. For the Kokatatha, Arabana, Martujarra, Yungnora, and all the indigenous peoples of Australia.

Together, **let us pray for the indigenous people whose health and homes have suffered from nuclear testing and uranium mining on their lands.**

Our Father
Decade 2 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)



Indigenous Rights
are
Non-Negotiable



The Last Supper, by Waniwa Lester

Reflection for Decade Three

The effects of uranium mining for nuclear weapons are estimated to have led to dramatic increases in cancer, leukemia, tuberculosis, chronic lung disease, and thyroid tumor rates, disproportionately affecting indigenous populations around the world. Hundreds of abandoned uranium mines continue to contaminate bodies of water and aquifers on tribal lands, and in some cases prohibit access to sacred sites.

Together, **let us pray for all people whose health and homes are impacted by the production and storage of nuclear weapons.**

Our Father
Decade 3 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)



Reflection for Decade Four

During World War II, much of the land for the Los Alamos Lab in New Mexico was seized from Native American ancestral lands and Hispanic homesteaders without adequate compensation, continuing the legacy of colonialism, racism, and systemic violence. ^(p 27)

Together, **let us pray for an end to systemic racism and acknowledge the harm done to the people and their land.**

Our Father
Decade 4 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade



Reflection for Decade Five

The Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, the birthplace of nuclear weapons, currently plans to “cap and cover” about 900,000 cubic yards of radioactive and toxic wastes, leaving them buried in unlined pits and trenches three miles uphill from the Rio Grande. Those wastes will remain a permanent threat to regionally shared groundwater. At the same time, the National Nuclear Security Administration has declared that half of New Mexico’s Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's future capacity will be reserved for radioactive wastes from future plutonium “pit” bomb core production for new nuclear weapons. ^(P 28)

Together, **let us pray for the people whose sacred lands have been polluted by dangerous radioactive and toxic wastes.**

Our Father
Decade 5 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)





Peace I leave you, my peace I give to you;
Not as the world gives, do I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, nor fearful.
(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.

Amen.

Adapted from Pacem in Terris, 1963

¹<https://www.culturalsurvival.org/publications/cultural-survival-quarterly/nuclear-war-uranium-mining-and-nuclear-tests-indigenous>

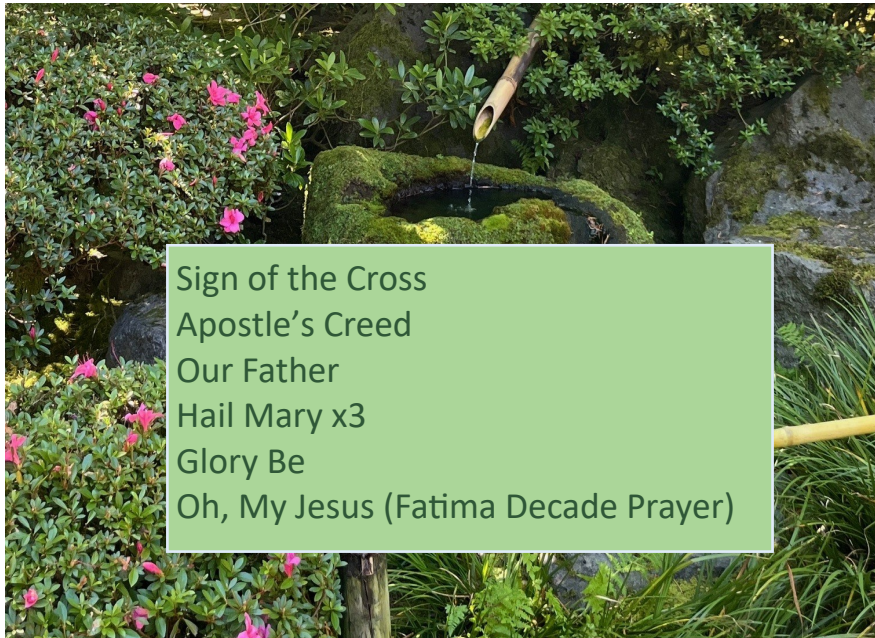
End of Night Two

NOVENA FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Day 3 – Sunday, August 3

We come together for our third night 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.

Our reflections will be based on Most Reverend John C. Wester's pastoral letter "Living in the Light of Christ's Peace" and the PAX Christi Novena for Nuclear Disarmament.



Reflection for Decade One

Today, we pray for the people impacted by nuclear weapons research, development, testing, and use, here in the United States and around the world. May we understand the real human, financial, and environmental costs of developing, maintaining, and expanding nuclear arsenals, even as many continue to suffer from a lack of basic human needs such as food, clothing, housing, education, and healthcare.

Together, **let us pray for the people impacted by the industry of nuclear weapons.**

Our Father—Decade 1 (Hail Mary x10)—Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade Two

In 2019, Pope Francis declared: "The arms race wastes precious resources that could be better used to benefit the integral development of peoples and to protect the natural environment. In a world where millions of children and families live in inhumane conditions, the money that is squandered and the fortunes made through the manufacture, upgrading, maintenance, and sale of ever more destructive weapons are an affront crying out to heaven."

Together, **let us pray for the needs of children and families living in poverty.**

Our Father—Decade 2 (Hail Mary x10)—Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade Three

In 2014, Pope Francis wrote:

“Since the end of the Cold War more than twenty years ago, the end of the nuclear stand-off has failed to provide a peace dividend that would help to improve the situation of the world’s poor...The [nuclear] arms race is an utterly treacherous trap for humanity, and one which injures the poor to an incredible degree.”

Today, the production, maintenance, and deployment of nuclear weapons continue to siphon off resources that otherwise might have been made available for the amelioration of poverty and socio-economic development for the poor. The prolongation of the nuclear establishment continues to perpetuate patterns of impoverishment both domestically and internationally.” (p 29)

Together, **let us pray for those who are suffering as a result of economic inequality around the world.**

Our Father
Decade 3 (Hail Mary x10)

Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade Four

Archbishop Wester of Santa Fe wrote: “The time has come to commit ourselves globally to the complete abolition of nuclear weapons. We should end all these massive financial investments for building and maintaining these weapons of mass destruction--investments which make only a few individuals and corporations enormously wealthy--and instead invest those massive funds in education, healthcare, environmental cleanup, addressing the climate threat, rebuilding our infrastructure, and providing vaccinations for everyone everywhere against future pandemics.” (p. 30)

Together, **let us pray for the complete abolition of nuclear weapons.**

Our Father
Decade 4 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade Five

Archbishop Wester also wrote: “We could end poverty and hunger, maybe even the causes of warfare itself, by funding real international conflict resolution programs to prevent future wars. Moreover, the reality of catastrophic climate change means we can no longer waste our resources on preparing for nuclear war when the whole planet is facing global destruction. It is time to take up the hard work of nuclear disarmament and move toward the creation and building of a new culture of justice that cares for our planet and offers peace for everyone. Together, let us pray for nuclear disarmament, climate justice, and global peace.

Our Father—Decade 5 (Hail Mary x10)—Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)



Peace I leave you, my peace I give to you;
Not as the world gives, do I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, nor fearful.
(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.

Amen.

Adapted from Pacem in Terris, 1963

End of Night Three

NOVENA FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Day 4 – Monday, August 4

We come together for our fourth night 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.

Our reflections will be based on Most Reverend John C. Wester's pastoral letter "Living in the Light of Christ's Peace" and the PAX Christi Novena for Nuclear Disarmament.



Sign of the Cross
Apostle's Creed
Our Father
Hail Mary x3
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade One

Today, we pray for forgiveness, especially for those times when we have opted for violence instead of reconciliation. May we follow God's way of encounter and dialogue for the resolution of all conflicts. As stated by Archbishop Wester, "All our conversations should be respectful, rooted in prayer, based in nonviolence, and centered in the hope and belief that nuclear disarmament is achievable. We can do this, and with the God of peace with us, we can do this soon." ^{p.34}

Together, **let us pray for conflict resolution and the belief that nuclear disarmament is achievable.**

Our Father
Decade 1 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade Two

In 2017, Pope Francis delivered a message entitled "Nonviolence— A Style of Politics for Peace". In it, he addressed the violence of the world and Jesus' way of nonviolence and called us to make "active nonviolence our way of life." "Countering violence with violence leads at best to forced migrations and enormous suffering," Pope Francis wrote, "because vast amounts of resources are diverted to military ends and away from the everyday

needs of young people, families experiencing hardship, the elderly, the infirm and the great majority of people in our world. At worst, it can lead to the death, physical and spiritual, of many people, if not of all.”

pp. 13-14

Together, **let us pray for an end to the culture of violence that escalates conflict around the world.**

Our Father
Decade 2 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)



Reflection for Decade Three

Archbishop Wester recalls the Gospel story in Luke, where Jesus and his disciples are walking to Jerusalem through Samaria. The Judeans and Samaritans were at war, and had engaged in violent attacks upon each other. When a Samaritan village refused to welcome Jesus, disciples James and John asked Jesus, “Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?” Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they journeyed to another village,” (Luke 9:54-55). Archbishop Wester asks, if Jesus rebuked James and John for wanting to call down fire from heaven, He certainly rebukes us for having done it and preparing to do it again. ^{p. 16}

Together, **let us pray for universal love and creative nonviolence, in our hearts, and in our relations at home and abroad.**

Our Father — Decade 3 (Hail Mary x10) — Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade Four

At the Last Supper, Jesus says, “My body is broken for you, my blood is shed for you, do this.” Here, Jesus offers the new covenant of nonviolence. Those of us who partake of the Eucharist enter into this covenant of the nonviolent Jesus, which is the preference of suffering and dying, rather than killing. ^{P17}

Together, **let us pray for lives committed to nonviolence.**

Our Father
Decade 4 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade Five

When Jesus rises from the dead, He greets His friends with words of peace and sends them out again to carry on His mission of peace and nonviolence. We are all invited to be peacemakers. We are challenged to face the violence that is being prepared in our name by the National Nuclear Security

Administration, and to start the process of nuclear disarmament so that no one ever again calls down hellfire from the sky. *pp 17-18*

Together, **let us pray for an end
to hellfire called down from the sky.**

Our Father
Decade 5 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima
Decade Prayer)

Peace I leave you, my peace I give to you;
Not as the world gives, do I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, nor fearful.
(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.

Amen.

Adapted from Pacem in Terris, 1963



End of Night Four

NOVENA FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Day 5 – Tuesday, August 5

We join together for this fifth night of our novena to implore the Blessed Mother's intercession as we remember the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and we 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.

Our reflections will be based on Most Reverend John C. Wester's pastoral letter "Living in the Light of Christ's Peace" and the PAX Christi Novena for Nuclear Disarmament.

Sign of the Cross
Apostle's Creed
Our Father
Hail Mary x3
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade One

Today we pray for the wisdom to understand fully the devastating consequences of using nuclear weapons, and for the fortitude never to justify their use again.

Together, **let us pray for an end to nuclear weapons.**

Our Father — Decade 1 (Hail Mary x10) — Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade Two

The obvious dangers of nuclear war are well known from the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which killed approximately 200,000 people almost immediately, and tens of thousands more over time from radiation exposure. However, in gauging the potential nuclear dangers of today, those horrifying experiences must be multiplied by the fact that the world now has more than 12,000 nuclear weapons, some of which are up to 100 times more powerful than the two bombs dropped on Japan. ^{p 23}

Together, **let us pray for the wisdom and fortitude to bring about nuclear disarmament.**

Our Father
Decade 2 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

"Jesus was not an impractical idealist. He was the practical realist."

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Reflection for Decade Three

Archbishop Wester calls for us “to engage in a spirited conversation that will lead to nuclear disarmament throughout our world. If we do not, then who will? If not now, then when? As Dietrich Bonhoeffer said during World War II:

“Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”¹

We cannot sit back and be silent in the face of our ongoing preparations for nuclear war. ^{p.7}

Together, **let us pray that nations talk with each other about how to abolish nuclear weapons and ensure that they are never used again.**



Photo from Japanese Friendship Garden & Museum niwa.org

Our Father

Decade 3 (Hail Mary x10)

Glory Be

Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade Four

For many decades now, the church has condemned nuclear weapons and the threat of nuclear war. In his 1963 Encyclical *Pacem in Terris*, Pope Saint John XXIII reflected on the arms race, saying, "Justice, right reason, and the recognition of man's dignity **cry out insistently** for a cessation to the arms race...Nuclear weapons must be banned... true and lasting peace among nations cannot consist in the possession of an equal supply of armaments but only in mutual trust." ^{p.10}

Together, **let us pray for the Popes, the Bishops, and all who advocate for nuclear disarmament, that their voice of right reason may be heard.**

Our Father — Decade 4 (Hail Mary x10) — Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade Five

The United States still has 3,750 nuclear weapons in its active stockpile, a number sufficient to destroy the planet many times over. The U.S. plans to rebuild existing nuclear weapons with new military capabilities and produce newly designed warheads. These new production plants are expected to be operational until at least 2075, and new heavy bombers, submarines, and ballistic and cruise missiles are being built to deliver the new nuclear warheads. ^{p.21}

Together, **let us pray for a future free from the deadly consequences of nuclear warfare.**

Our Father — Decade 5 (Hail Mary x10) — Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)



Peace I leave you, my peace I give to you;
Not as the world gives, do I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, nor fearful.
(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.

Amen.

Adapted from Pacem in Terris, 1963

End of Night Five

NOVENA FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Day 6 – Wednesday, August 6

On August 6, 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. An estimated 60,000-80,000 were killed instantly while the death toll climbed to 140,000 by the end of 1945 as radiation took its grim toll.

Today, despite this unspeakable horror, the world's nuclear-armed states possess a combined total of about 12,100 nuclear warheads, putting the entire planet at risk of annihilation.

On this is the sixth night of our novena, we again implore the Blessed Mother's intercession, praying to Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to hear our prayers for peace and an end to nuclear weapons once and for all.

Our reflections will be based on Most Reverend John C. Wester's pastoral letter "Living in the Light of Christ's Peace" and the PAX Christi Novena for Nuclear Disarmament.



Photo of the Genbaku Dome from
the Asia-Pacific Journal
apjif.org/2019/15/kingston

Sign of the Cross
Apostle's Creed
Our Father
Hail Mary x3
Glory Be

Reflection for Decade One

Today, we pray for the people of Hiroshima on the 80th anniversary of its bombing, especially for the Hibakusha, or witnesses/survivors. As they continue to bear the wounds of nuclear warfare, may they know healing and peace.

Together, **let us pray for healing and peace.**

Our Father
Decade 1 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade Two

For the victims of the Hiroshima bombing, may they rest in eternal peace.

Together, **let us pray that perpetual light shine upon them.**

Our Father
Decade 2 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade Three

In a February 1981 address to scientists of the United Nations University in Hiroshima, Pope Saint John Paul II spoke about how the wounds inflicted at Hiroshima and Nagasaki profoundly influence all of humanity. He observed, “Our future on this planet, exposed as it is to nuclear annihilation, depends upon one single factor: humanity must make a moral about-face.”^{p 11}

Together, **let us pray for the future of our planet, and for those who work for nuclear disarmament.**

Our Father
Decade 3 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade Four

Archbishop Wester states: “We are the people who designed and built these weapons of mass destruction. We were the first to use them. We must be the people to dismantle them and make sure they are never used again.”^{p 6}

Together, **let us pray for peace, protection from war and nuclear threats.**

Our Father
Decade 4 (Hail Mary x10) — Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade Five

We remember all those who lost their lives at Hiroshima, and recall the lasting effects of war on God’s holy people. We remember those who gave their lives to help those suffering after the bomb struck and who died of radiation sickness.

Together, **let us pray for hope, for when the darkness covers the land and all seems lost, Christ’s light still shines for us. The light of Christ is still present to us and can show us the way.**¹

Our Father — Decade 5 (Hail Mary x10) — Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

¹ [80 Years Later, New Mexico Faith Leaders Return to Trinity Site to Pray for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament](#)



Photo of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial
Japan City Tour (japancitytour.com)



Peace I leave you, my peace I give to you;
Not as the world gives, do I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, nor fearful.
(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.

Amen.

Adapted from Pacem in Terris, 1963

End of Night Six

NOVENA FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Day Seven — Thursday, August 7th

Welcome to the seventh night of our novena. We 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.



Poster and Art, STREET SINGER, 1998 by John August Swanson, 2020

Our reflections will be based on Most Reverend John C. Wester's pastoral letter "Living in the Light of Christ's Peace", the PAX Christi Novena for Nuclear Disarmament, and Mass Peace Action's 80th Hiroshima-Nagasaki Commemoration.

Sign of the Cross

Apostle's Creed — Our Father

Hail Mary x3 — Glory Be

Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade One

Today, we pray for all who are involved in conflicts and war around the globe, especially the people of Ukraine and Russia, where the threat of nuclear weapons is used to heighten the crisis.

Together, **let us pray for all people whose lives are threatened by nuclear annihilation.**

Our Father

Decade 1 (Hail Mary x10)

Glory Be

Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade Two

Let us pray for the people of India and Pakistan, brought back to the nuclear abyss in their war over Kashmir.

Together, **let us pray for an end to nuclear weapons around the world.**

Our Father — Decade 2 (Hail Mary x10) — Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade Three

Let us pray for the United States and Israel, two nuclear-weapon states that attacked the non-weaponized nuclear facilities of Iran, a non-nuclear-weapon state.

Together, **let us pray that all forms of aggression between nations cease, and that every nation renew efforts to establish lasting peace.**

Our Father — Decade 3 (Hail Mary x10) — Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)



Reflection for Decade Four

Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State for the Vatican, said: “The ultimate goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons is both a challenge and a moral and humanitarian imperative,’ ... and ‘a practical approach should promote reflection on a multilateral and cooperative ethic of peace and security that goes beyond the fear and isolationism that permeate many current debates.’”¹³

Together, **let us pray for the total elimination of nuclear weapons.**

Our Father — Decade 4 (Hail Mary x10) — Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade Five

Pope Benedict XVI said:

“How can there ever be a future of peace when investments are still made in the production of arms and in research aimed at developing new ones?”

Together, **let us pray for a future of peace and an end to the production of weapons of mass destruction.**

Our Father — Decade 5 (Hail Mary x10) — Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)



Peace I leave you, my peace I give to you;
Not as the world gives, do I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, nor fearful.
(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.

Amen.

Adapted from Pacem in Terris, 1963

End of Night Seven

Novena For Nuclear Disarmament Day Eight—Friday, August 8th

We come together for the eighth night of 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.

Our reflections will be based on Most Reverend John C. Wester's pastoral letter "Living in the Light of Christ's Peace", the Silent Fallout movie, and the PAX Christi Novena for Nuclear Disarmament.



Sign of the Cross
Apostle's Creed
Our Father
Hail Mary x3
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade One

Today, we pray for people of the Pacific islands and atolls who suffered, and continue to suffer, from radiation-related illnesses, birth defects, and environmental destruction as a direct result of nuclear testing.

Together, let us pray for those who are harmed by nuclear testing .

Our Father
Decade 1 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade Two

The United States conducted 67 nuclear tests in the Pacific Marshall Islands from 1946-1958. Let us pray for the men of the Japanese fishing fleet and all the fishermen who died from radiation poisoning from fishing near the test sites. And for the US and British soldiers stationed in those bases, who died at high rates from cancer.¹

Together, let us pray for everyone affected by radioactive contamination.

Our Father
Decade 2 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)



Aerial view of "The Tomb", a concrete covered crater on Runit Island (Photo by Asahi Shimbun/Getty)

Reflection for Decade Three

Pope Francis stated in his 2015 Encyclical, *Laudato Si'*: On Care for Our Common Home: "Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods." Archbishop Wester adds that the resources used for nuclear weapons in New Mexico could be mobilized for the development of solar, wind, and geothermal resources, which will be needed as we stop extracting fossil fuels. ^{p33}

Together, **let us pray that nuclear disarmament leads to more practical, and environmental solutions to the global environmental crisis.**

Our Father
Decade 3 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade Four

"Climate change will likely cause massive disruptions and human migrations around the world that increase the chances of conflict, including nuclear war." ^{p 25}

Together, **let us pray that nuclear disarmament helps countries come together to solve the challenges of climate change.**

Our Father
Decade 4 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)



Reflection for Decade Five

"The reality of catastrophic climate change means we can no longer waste our resources on preparing for nuclear war when the whole planet is facing global destruction. It is time to take up the hard work of nuclear disarmament and move toward the creation and building of a new culture of justice that cares for our planet and offers peace for everyone."

Together, **let us pray for nuclear disarmament and a culture of justice that cares for our planet and offers peace.**

Our Father
Decade 5 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)





Peace I leave you, my peace I give to you;
Not as the world gives, do I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, nor fearful.
(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.

Amen.

Adapted from Pacem in Terris, 1963

End of Night Eight

NOVENA FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Day 9 – Saturday, August 9

On August 9th, 1945, three days after the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, a second atomic bomb detonated 500 meters above Matsuyama in Nagasaki City at 11:02 am. This bomb killed 70,000 people immediately. The area within a 2.5-kilometer radius of the hypocenter was utterly devastated, and the rest of the city was left in ruins. After the bombing, which destroyed all plant life around the hypocenter, people said that no plants would grow there for the next 75 years. However, one month after the atomic bombing, about 30 kinds of plants started to grow again. Today, 500 cherry blossom trees flourish in the Hypocenter Park, as well as flowers and lush greenery that can be seen throughout the year. It truly captures the power of revival ¹.

On this, the ninth and final night of our novena, we implore the Blessed Mother for her intercession, praying to Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to hear our prayers for peace, revival, and an end to all nuclear weapons.



Photo of the Urakami Catholic Cathedral in Nagasaki, Japan (AP Photo/St Stanley Troutman, Pool, File)

Sign of the Cross
Apostle's Creed
Our Father
Hail Mary x3
Glory Be

Reflection for Decade One

Today, we pray for the people of Nagasaki on the anniversary of the bombing in 1945. As they continue to bear the wounds of nuclear warfare, may they know healing and peace. May we say “never again” to the use of nuclear weapons.

Together **let us pray for the people of Nagasaki.**

Our Father
Decade 1 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade Two

For the victims of the Nagasaki bombing, may they rest in eternal peace.

Together, **let us pray that perpetual light shine upon them.**

Our Father
Decade 2 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

Reflection for Decade Three

Urakami Cathedral was Japan's largest Catholic church during WWII. It suffered catastrophic damage from the atomic bomb dropped on its city. The bells that had once rung from the left and right tower of the Cathedral were badly damaged and buried in the rubble. After the war, they were dug out from the wreckage, and one was rung for Christmas that year. When it rang, the sound echoed through the streets of Nagasaki as a symbol of hope, of peace, and of overcoming the tragedy of war. That recovered bell still rings in the cathedral 80 years later, and its chime carries in it both mourning for the lives lost in war and also the determination that such faults will not be repeated².

Together, **let us pray Never again war!**

Our Father — Decade 3 (Hail Mary x10) — Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

²From www.discover-nagasaki.com/en/featured-topics/peace-special

Reflection for Decade Four

May such powerful weapons and indiscriminate annihilations be forever banned and eliminated from the face of the earth.

Together, **let us pray that the deadly power of nuclear weapons never again be unleashed on God's people nor on God's creation.**

Our Father — Decade 4 (Hail Mary x10) — Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)

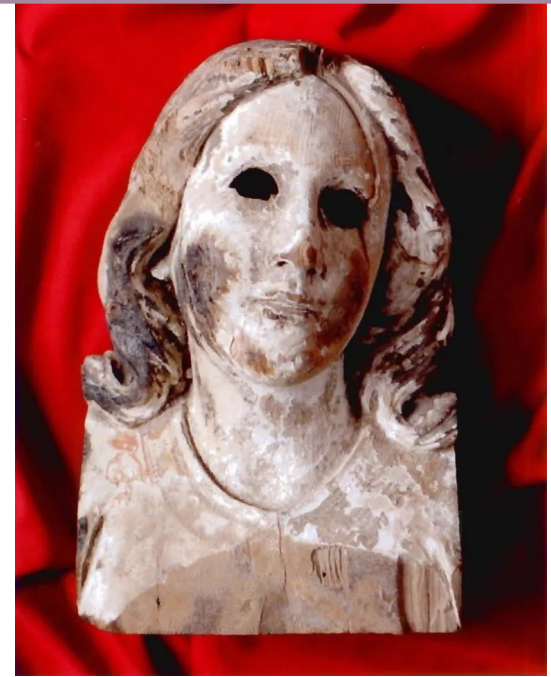


Photo of the burnt Our Lady of Nagasaki found at the destroyed Urakami Catholic Cathedral

Reflection for Decade Five

Let us remember Hiroshima and Nagasaki as beacons, showing us a path to find ways to live together in peace.

Together, **let us pray for the courage and strength to raise our voices to work for complete global nuclear disarmament.**

Our Father
Decade 5 (Hail Mary x10)
Glory Be
Oh, My Jesus (Fatima Decade Prayer)



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Amen.

Adapted from Pacem in Terris, 1963

SHOL PAX Christi Newton would like to thank everyone who participated in and contributed to this Novena for Nuclear Disarmament, and for the ongoing support of the Collaborative and the Collaborative Staff.

*End of Night Nine
End of Our Novena for Nuclear Disarmament*