



Archdiocese of Santa Fe

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MEDIA ADVISORY

July 16, 2025

80th Anniversary of the Atomic Age: Church Bells to Toll at 5:29 a.m.

Faith Leaders to Hold Prayer Service at Trinity Test Site

ALBUQUERQUE – Monday, July 14, 2025—IMMEDIATE RELEASE— This Wednesday, July 16, marks the 80th anniversary of humanity's entry into the atomic age with the detonation of the first nuclear bomb at the Trinity Test Site in the Jornada del Muerto desert, part of the Alamogordo Bombing Range.

To commemorate this somber milestone, Most Reverend John C. Wester, Archbishop of Santa Fe, along with Most Reverend Peter Baldacchino, Bishop of Las Cruces, and Most Reverend James Wall, Bishop of Gallup, will gather with select faith and lay leaders at the Trinity Test Site for a private prayer and meditation service. Together, they will pray for the end of the wars that plague our world and to protect us from the ongoing threat of nuclear devastation.

Archbishop Wester invites churches across New Mexico and beyond to join in observance by ringing their church bells at 5:29 a.m. on July 16, the exact time of the first atomic explosion, as a call to prayer for peace and nuclear disarmament.

Additionally, clergy are encouraged to include prayers for peace and the elimination of nuclear weapons in the Prayers of the Faithful during the Mass of the day, celebrated in honor of the Feast Day of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, a significant Marian feast in the Catholic Church. On this particular date—coinciding with the anniversary of the first atomic bomb detonation—it is fitting to seek Our Lady's intercession for peace, protection from the threats of war and nuclear weapons, and for the conversion of hearts away from violence. As the Mother of Christ, the Prince of Peace, invoking her aid on this feast emphasizes the Catholic Church's hope for a world free from the peril of nuclear conflict.

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