

Message Commemorating the Nuclear Inferno on Hiroshima and Nagasaki Vienna, 2023

It is now 78 years since the United States of America dropped two nuclear bombs on Japan, leveling two cities and killing over 200,000 fellow human beings, along with unknown countless plants and animals. Despite such utter destruction, here we are 78 years later still crying out, "No More Hiroshimas! No More Nagasakis! No More Hibakushas! No More Nuclear Weapons!" We now have the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons making them illegal according to international law. We have Pope Francis saying unconditionally that even the possession of nuclear weapons is immoral. Nevertheless, we also have nine nuclear weapons states refusing to sign and ratify the Treaty. Their nuclear weapons are far more deadly than those from 1945. And yet they invest in upgrading those weapons of mass destruction, robbing the entire planet of adequate health care, clean air and water, nutritious food, affordable housing, living wages, quality education for all boys *and girls*. Russia threatens the use of nuclear weapons against Ukraine. And politicians and weapons manufacturers insist they are necessary to keep the peace! They also try to delude themselves and the rest of us into believing that it is possible to have a "limited" nuclear war.

When will this madness cease? For 25 years we have been sending our messages to the world by way of Vienna, pleading for an end to all nuclear weapons (and nuclear power plants, as well). *We* will not cease until the world hears us and heeds us.

Thank you to all who provide this international opportunity and to all who join their voices to shout: "No More Hiroshimas! No More Nagasakis! No More Hibakushas! No More Nuclear Weapons!"

Rosemarie Pace, Ed.D., Coordinator
on behalf of Pax Christi New York State