

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Presentation 2026

My name is Rosemarie Pace. I am Coordinator of Pax Christi New York State, a state chapter of Pax Christi USA, a member of the international Catholic peace movement.

It is my honor to be able to be with you today, to be able to express deep regret for the horrific atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 81 years ago, to call for the complete abolition of all nuclear weapons, and to do so on behalf of Pax Christi.

As we know, the threat of annihilation from nuclear weapons is even worse today than it was 81 years ago. Today, nine countries, not one, have nuclear weapons. Each nuclear weapon is far more deadly than the two dropped in 1945. Despite that fact, the nuclear-weapon states are focused on upgrading their arsenals, not abolishing them. Just this past May, the latest review conference on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty failed yet again to make progress toward the treaty's goal of limiting nuclear weapons and failed even to agree upon a final statement. And some non-nuclear weapon states feel so vulnerable that they are considering becoming nuclear-weapon states, themselves, for supposed self-protection.

In contrast, from its founding in 1945 in the aftermath of World War II, Pax Christi has prioritized the work of nuclear disarmament. This priority flows naturally from our deep faith in the Nonviolent Jesus and in our embrace of contemporary Catholic Teaching. Pope after Pope since the end of World War II has spoken out against nuclear weapons. In a new book of Pope Leo XIV's writings, *Disarmed and Disarming: Peace Is a Gift*, Pope Leo calls for peace and the elimination of nuclear weapons. He also expresses major concern about the potentially lethal combination of modern technologies, like AI, and military ambitions.

This particular concern inspired a *Global Nobel Laureates Assembly on Artificial Intelligence and Nuclear War* which was just held at Castel Gandolfo, the Pope's summer residence, between July 14th and 16th. More than 200 Nobel laureates, scientists, diplomats, technologists, religious leaders, and peace advocates participated, a remarkable array of experts credited to the Vatican for its unique ability to bring them all together. Ultimately, the Assembly produced the *Rome Declaration for an Unarmed and Disarming Peace* (a phrase adopted directly from Pope Leo) *in the Age of Artificial Intelligence, Nuclear and Autonomous Weapons, New Digital Protocols, and Emerging Models of Digital Development*. The Declaration explicitly calls for "the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and for binding international safeguards to prevent AI from being integrated into nuclear weapons systems."

With such outspoken leadership coming from Pope Leo, Pax Christi New York State, has just sent a letter by way of Archbishop John C. Wester of Santa Fe, New Mexico, to ask Pope Leo to call a Peace Conference with Trump, Putin, and Xi Jinping to withdraw nuclear weapons from the Russian border and ultimately to abolish all nuclear weapons completely. Our appeal goes through Archbishop Wester, a member of Pax Christi and this year's Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace, because he has become a leading voice in the cause of nuclear weapons abolition. We can only hope that Pope Leo will heed our call and use his influence once again to help bring us closer to a world without nuclear weapons.

(<https://www.pressenza.com/2026/07/dont-let-ai-get-the-bomb-ira-helfand-on-artificial-intelligence-and-the-nuclear-threat/>).

<https://www.pressenza.com/2026/07/rome-declaration-calls-for-a-new-global-ethic-on-artificial-intelligence-and-nuclear-weapons/>

<https://globalnobelassembly.org/rome-declaration>