

Today is the Feast of the Holy Innocents. As there were in Jesus's day, today there are many Holy Innocents, and it is on their behalf we present this tableau. Please join with us in remembering the Holy Innocents and in working to end all the forces of evil that keep creating more and more of them.

***IF HEROD HAD REAPER DRONES,
JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH
WOULD HAVE BEEN INCINERATED.***

In his 2023 *Urbi et Orbi Message*, Pope Francis addresses this tragic truth a bit differently, but the point is very much the same. In part, he wrote:

“In the Scriptures, the Prince of Peace is opposed by the “Prince of this world” (*Jn 12:31*), who, by sowing the seeds of death, plots against the Lord, “the lover of life” (cf. *Wis 11:26*). We see this played out in Bethlehem, where the birth of the Savior is followed by the slaughter of the innocents. How many innocents are being slaughtered in our world! In their mothers' wombs, in odysseys undertaken in desperation and in search of hope, in the lives of all those little ones whose childhood has been devastated by war. They are the little Jesuses of today, these little ones whose childhood has been devastated by war.

To say “yes” to the Prince of Peace, then, means saying “no” to war, to every war and to do so with courage, to the very mindset of war, an aimless voyage, a defeat without victors, an inexcusable folly. This is what war is: an aimless voyage, a defeat without victors, an inexcusable folly. To say “no” to war means saying “no” to weaponry. The human heart is weak and impulsive; if we find instruments of death in our hands, sooner or later we will use them. And how can we even speak of peace, when arms production, sales and trade are on the rise? Today, as

at the time of Herod, the evil that opposes God's light hatches its plots in the shadows of hypocrisy and concealment. How much violence and killing takes place amid deafening silence, unbeknownst to many! People, who desire not weapons but bread, who struggle to make ends meet and desire only peace, have no idea how many public funds are being spent on arms. Yet that is something they ought to know! It should be talked about and written about, so as to bring to light the interests and the profits that move the puppet-strings of war.

Isaiah, who prophesied the Prince of Peace, looked forward to a day when “nation shall not lift up sword against nation”, a day when men “will not learn war any more”, but instead “beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks” (2:4). With God's help, let us make every effort to work for the coming of that day!

...Let us open our hearts to him, who is the Savior, the Prince of Peace!”

CEASEFIRE NOW!

**Please call the White House at 202-456-1111
and your representatives at 202-224-3121
and insist on a ceasefire.**

Together we can save the Holy Innocents of today.

This tableau and this leaflet are prepared for you by New York Catholic Worker; Pax Christi Metro New York; Pax Christi New York State; Pax Christi Upstate New York, Ben Salmon Chapter; Upstate Drone Action; Veterans For Peace Chapter 10, Albany; Veterans For Peace Broome County

