

MANNA *in the wilderness*

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The Newsletter of the Las Vegas Catholic Worker

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Nuclear Disarmament: Seeking Human Security

From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, July 6, 2017

For many, the horror of a potential nuclear war receded from consciousness with the end of the Cold War, but recent geopolitical developments remind us that our world remains in grave danger. Even a limited nuclear exchange would have devastating consequences for people and the planet. Tragically, human error or miscalculation could lead to a humanitarian catastrophe. Moreover, our world has become increasingly multipolar with a variety of threats reaching from terrorism, asymmetrical conflicts, cybersecurity to environmental degradation and poverty, which raises doubts about the adequacy of nuclear deterrence as an effective response to these challenges.

Nuclear disarmament is now on the world's agenda. From 15 June to 7 July, the United Nations is hosting a conference "to negotiate a legally binding treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination." The fact that most of the world's nations are participating in this effort testifies to the urgency of their concern, an urgency intensified by the prospect of nuclear terrorism and proliferation, and to the inequality and dissatisfaction of non-nuclear states about the lack of progress in nuclear disarmament efforts.

The United States and most European nations are not joining these negotiations. Instead of focusing on a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons, their attention is on the need for a broader security architecture to allow for strategic stability as verifiable reductions are achieved.

Nuclear states are making significant new investments to modernize nuclear arsenals. These costly programs will divert enormous resources from other pressing needs that build security, including achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. As Pope Francis has argued powerfully: "Spending on nuclear weapons squanders the wealth of nations. To prioritize such spending is a mistake and a misallocation of resources which would be far better invested in the areas of integral human development, education, health and the fight against extreme poverty" (7 December 2014).

Security is a basic prerequisite for human flourishing. The Church's own teaching affirms that "the common good requires peace, that is, the stability and security of a just order" (Catechism, #1909). A key



Weekly Thursday Vigil for Peace:

Gary Cavalier (left) and Robert Majors in front of the Federal Courthouse.

moral question is: Do nuclear weapons foster security and contribute to genuine peace?

Pope Francis in his message to the UN Conference on nuclear weapons ban treaty negotiations in March 2017 used direct language in answering this question: "International peace and stability cannot be based on a false sense of security, on the threat of mutual destruction or total annihilation, or on simply maintaining a balance of power. Peace must be built on justice, on integral human development, on respect for fundamental human rights, on the protection of creation, on the participation of all in public life, on trust between peoples, on the support of peaceful institutions, on access to education and health, on dialogue and solidarity. From this perspective, we need to go beyond nuclear deterrence: the

international community is called upon to adopt forward-looking strategies to promote the goal of peace and stability and to avoid short-sighted approaches to the problems surrounding national and international security."

Moreover, in his January 2017 address to the Diplomatic Corps, Pope Francis recalled the longstanding support of the Catholic Church for a ban on nuclear weapons: "The words of Saint John XXIII in *Pacem in Terris* continue to ring true: "... Nuclear weapons must be banned." The Holy See continues to be an insistent voice of moral reason in support of nuclear disarmament and nonpro-

liferation.

As pastors and moral teachers, it is beyond our competence to chart out the exact path to a world without nuclear weapons, but we can point with some certainty to decades of frustration with the pace and scope of nuclear disarmament. This frustration has undoubtedly contributed to the effort of many nations to engage in negotiating a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons.

The indiscriminate and disproportionate nature of nuclear weapons, compel the world to move beyond nuclear deterrence. We call upon the United States and European nations to work with other nations to map out a credible, verifiable and enforceable strategy for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. This goal is achievable if all nations, nuclear and non-nuclear alike, work together. We are aware that the path towards a world without nuclear weapons is complex and long, but we think that, in *(see Bishops, continued on back page)*



Nonviolence in Action: Sisters of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ in Columbia, PA dedicated a chapel in the pathway of a planned Atlantic Sunrise gas pipeline through their property. PHOTO BY MARK CLATTERBUCK

(Bishops, from front page)
 particular, the following steps could make a significant contribution to achieving this goal:

- to carry further the nonproliferation and disarmament obligations in line with the international legal framework;
- to reinforce safeguard and control mechanisms at the military, diplomatic and political levels;
- to develop and implement with determination measures deepening mutual trust at all levels;
- to reduce reliance on nuclear deterrence in national and international security strategies in favor of more effective alternatives focusing on human security and peace; and
- to engage in a global debate in relevant international fora, so as to work for creating and promoting the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons.

We share the hope of our Holy Father, Pope Francis: "Nuclear deterrence and the threat of mutually assured destruction cannot be the basis for an ethics of fraternity and peaceful coexistence among peoples and states. The youth of today and tomorrow deserve far more. They deserve a peaceful world order based on the unity of the human family, grounded on respect, cooperation, solidarity and compassion. Now is the time to counter the logic of fear with the ethic of responsibility, and so foster a climate of trust and sincere dialogue" (7 December 2014).

Archbishop

Jean-Claude Hollerich,
 President, Conference of European Justice and Peace Commissions (Justice & Peace Europe)

Bishop Oscar Cantú,
 Chairman, Committee on International Justice and Peace United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

(Editor's note: On July 7, 2017, the UN adopted a Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty, over 120 nations voted for the first legally binding ban since the world entered the nuclear age more than 70 years ago. The U.S. and other nuclear powers boycotted.)



Fr. Jerry Zawada, 1937-2017

Franciscan Father Jerry Zawada, a dear friend, died July 25th at the age of eighty. We loved having Jerry stay with us. He was always full of stories and never tired of sharing his life experiences and adventures. With his nifty walker in tow he navigated through varied and sometimes difficult terrain with fierce determination to get where he wanted to go. Whether to our morning soup line to serve the hungry or out to Creech Air Force Base to protest drone warfare, Fr. Jerry was always ready to give of himself in faithful pursuit of the fulfillment of the Gospel message of love and nonviolence. Fr. Jerry, forever in our hearts. **Photo:** Fr. Jerry Zawada (seated) at the soup line. From left: Julia Occhiogrosso, Gary Cavalier, Mark Kelso, Robert Majors.

Living Nonviolence Workshop

Friday, Sept. 22, 2 - 5 p.m.

This afternoon workshop offers the tools and insights for unleashing the power and possibility of non-violent transformation in our lives, our communities, and our society. Using story-telling, exercises, role-plays, small and large group discussions, short presentations and journaling, this workshop explores the spirituality, principles and practices essential to living nonviolence. Join Las Vegas Catholic Worker co-founder Julia Occhiogrosso and Catholic Worker Robert Majors as they bring us this Pace e Bene workshop to strengthen our ability to live a nonviolent life and to create a more nonviolent world during this September 16-24 Week of Campaign Nonviolence.

Stillpoint Center for Spiritual Development

8072 W. Sahara Ave., #D

\$15-30 Suggested Donation

(Proceeds may be designated for the Catholic Worker and/or Stillpoint)

"He walked that path to the very end, to the cross, whereby he became our peace and put an end to hostility. To be true followers of Jesus today also includes embracing his teaching about nonviolence."
 -Pope Francis, Jan. 1, 2017



Annual Christmas Breakfast for the Homeless: Sat., Dec. 23

We will be closed:

Saturday, September 16

Thurs., Nov. 23 - Sat., Nov. 25

Wed., Dec. 27 - Sat. Dec. 30

Nevada Desert Experience presents

Justice for Our Desert

Saturday, Sept. 9

1 - 8 p.m.

A Gathering for Social Justice through Art and Community

Funk Yard @ ReBar

1225 S. Main St.

Live Music

Open Mic: 5 - 8 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 10, Noon

Luncheon at 1420 W. Bartlett Ave. & carpool for Peace Vigil at the Nevada Nuclear Security Site, Mercury, NV

<http://nevadadesertexperience.org>

(702) 646-4814

PLEASE JOIN US:

Wednesday-Saturday, 6:00 a.m.:

Morning prayer at Catholic Worker.

Wednesday-Saturday, 6:30 a.m.:

Breakfast served to 150-200 poor & homeless people.

Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.:

Hospitality Day, we invite 20 homeless men home for showers, to wash clothes and for a great lunch.

Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.:

Vigil for Peace in front of Federal Courthouse, 333 Las Vegas Blvd. S.

Thursday, 10:30 a.m.:

50 lunches taken to the homeless.

Second Saturday of the month:

Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast to the homeless.

Third Saturday of the month:

Deliver food boxes to homes in need.

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