



MESSAGE FOR WORLD DAY OF PEACE

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Peace be with you all!

On this Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God and the World Day of Peace, we gather in the name of the risen Christ to reflect on the gift of peace that is both our vocation and our mission. In his Message for the 59th World Day of Peace, Pope Leo XIV invites every person of good will to embrace a peace that is “unarmed and disarming”—a peace that rejects the logic of violence, fear, and domination, and instead fosters trust, dialogue, and the renewal of hearts and minds.

“Peace be with you!” are not mere words of greeting; they are a call to transform our relationships, our communities, and our world. This peace is rooted in the victory of Christ over sin and death, and it demands that we embody justice, mercy, and reconciliation in our daily lives.

Across the world, conflicts continue to displace families, intensify poverty, and erode human dignity. Pope Leo XIV’s call for a peace that is unarmed and disarming addresses not only wars between nations but also the structural and systemic violence that marginalizes the vulnerable and fuels mistrust among peoples.

Equally, the Pope reminds us that even when Peace is endangered within us and around us, like a small flame threatened by a storm, we must protect it, never forgetting the names and stories of those who have borne witness to it.” It is, therefore, important that we remember, especially, our PCI members across the globe, who continue to believe, live, work and die promoting and contributing to an ‘unarmed and disarming peace’.

Reflecting further on the Pope’s message, we are challenged to “guard against the growing temptation to weaponize even thoughts and words” and instead engage in prayer, spirituality, ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue as paths of peace. This will involve the disarmament of heart, mind and life. Let us, therefore, learn from Jesus’ nonviolent living, by totally abandoning ourselves, resisting any form of violence, and indeed “beat swords into plough shares and spears into pruning hooks” (*Is; 2:4*)

When we promote respect for life, defend the rights of the oppressed, and foster inclusive dialogue, we contribute to a broader movement for peace that extends far beyond our shores. Our pursuit of peace mirrors the universal longing for a world where conflicts are resolved not by arms or intimidation, but through justice, encounter, and mutual respect.

On this World Day of Peace, let us renew our Pax Christi International commitment to be builders of peace in our families, our neighborhoods, and our nations. May the Prince of Peace give us the courage to disarm our hearts, to uphold human dignity without compromise, and to work tirelessly for reconciliation and justice wherever they are needed!