

National Seminar on ‘Disarmed and Disarming’ Peace – Pop Leo XIV’s message for the 2026 World Day of Peace

On 10 January 2026, Catholic and civic peace organizations gathered for a timely international seminar reflecting on the Message of **Pope Leo XIV** for the 59th World Day of Peace. Held amid escalating global tensions—from protracted wars to renewed arms races and climate-related insecurity—the seminar provided a critical space to examine the Pope’s call for a “disarmed and disarming peace,” rooted in justice, dialogue, and human dignity, with particular attention to the context of the Korean Peninsula.

The seminar was jointly organized by Pax Christi Korea, the Justice and Peace Commission, and the National Reconciliation Commissions of the Archdiocese of Seoul and the Diocese of Uijeongbu. This joint effort underscored the growing importance of collaboration among faith-based actors, civil society, and academia in advancing peace. Participants highlighted the political and ethical dimensions of the papal message, which challenges dominant security paradigms based on deterrence and military superiority.

Panel discussions further explored the potential of the forthcoming 2027 Seoul World Youth Day (WYD) as a historic opportunity to generate new momentum and revitalize youth-led peace movements at the global level.

The seminar concluded with a shared commitment to translate reflection into concrete action. Participants called for sustained peace education grounded in Catholic social teaching, making active use of the Pope’s message at parish, diocesan, and national levels throughout the year. Since 2019, Pax Christi Korea has organized this annual January seminar, and the 2026 gathering marked the first time it was convened in partnership with multiple Church-based and civil society organizations, signaling a new phase of collaborative peace engagement.

