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NEWS RELEASE

Partnership for a World Without Nuclear Weapons: Archbishop John C. Wester to Honor the 79th Anniversary of the Atomic Bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – Saturday, August 3, 2024 – IMMEDIATE RELEASE—Partnership for a World Without Nuclear Weapons: Most Rev. John C. Wester, Archbishop of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Jay Coghlan, Executive Director of Nuclear Watch New Mexico, are set to embark on a pilgrimage to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, to commemorate the 79th anniversary of the atomic bombings. This visit underscores the Archdiocese of Santa Fe's unwavering commitment to advocating for universal, verifiable nuclear disarmament.

During this multi-day journey, they will engage with Japanese and Korean bishops, fostering dialogue and solidarity in the shared mission to eliminate nuclear weapons globally. This pilgrimage is a testament to the enduring spirit of peace and reconciliation and a call to action for renewed and serious conversations about disarmament in New Mexico and around the world.

"Standing in the very places where the catastrophic consequences of nuclear warfare were first realized compels us to rededicate ourselves to the pursuit of a world free from nuclear weapons," said Archbishop Wester. "This pilgrimage is not only a gesture of remembrance but also a commitment to continue our work toward global peace and security."

He emphasized the critical need for sustained advocacy. "The lessons of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are more relevant than ever. As we honor the victims and survivors of these tragedies, we must also challenge the status quo and push for real progress in nuclear disarmament."

The visit to Hiroshima and Nagasaki will include participation in memorial ceremonies, meetings with survivors (hibakusha), and discussions with key religious and civic leaders. These activities will serve as a powerful reminder of the moral and ethical imperatives to dismantle nuclear arsenals and prevent future nuclear catastrophes.

As leaders in the movement for nuclear disarmament, the pilgrimage symbolizes a bridge between past tragedies and future hope, reinforcing the global call for a world without nuclear weapons. Their efforts in Japan will further energize conversations and initiatives within New Mexico and beyond, aiming to inspire a new generation of activists and policymakers committed to this vital cause.

For more information on the Partnership for a World Without Nuclear Weapons and updates on the pilgrimage, visit archdiosf.org/living-in-the-light-of-christs-peace and Archdiocese of Santa Fe's [Facebook page](#).

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