



+
Anniversary
of the
Bombings of Hiroshima and
Nagasaki
August 6th & 9th, 2008
+

“Here are the beginnings of the age to come; here we see it reflected as in a mirror.” With these words, an ancient sermon describes the Transfiguration, the moment when Jesus revealed himself as God to his disciples. The “age to come” the sermon speaks of is the age of God’s peace, and the reflection it describes is found in the love and light of Christ.

On August 6th, Catholics celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration.

On August 6th, 1945, America became the first and only nation in the history of the world to use nuclear weapons against civilians.

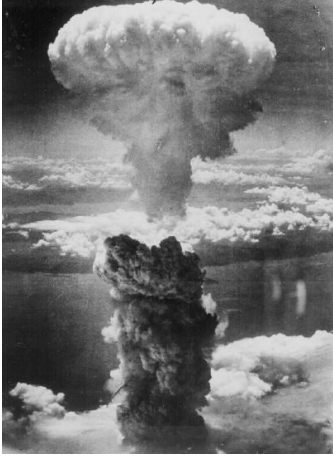
On August 9th, 1943, Franz Jägerstätter, an Austrian peasant, a husband and father, was beheaded for refusing to fight in the Nazi army. Despite the objections of his bishop, Jägerstätter insisted that Christ was calling him to resist, to have no part in Nazism or its works.

On August 9th, 1945, America dropped its second atom bomb. Between the two bombings and their after effects, hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed.

With profound sorrow we remember these thousands. We also remember the thousands killed in Iraq, in Palestine, in Israel, and in Lebanon. We pray for all of their souls, and for their families.

We pray for our times, that they will reflect the love of Christ, and not the cold, dispassionate hatred of the atom bomb. We pray for the “age to come,” that it will be one of souls transfigured by Christ’s peace—souls like that of Franz Jägerstätter.

We pray to the God of mercy for mercy, and to the God of peace for peace, and we ask for a time of transfiguration in this season of fury.



Dorothy Day on the Atom Bomb at Hiroshima

Reprinted from *The Catholic Worker*, (New York) September 1945

Mr. Truman was jubilant. President Truman. True man; what a strange name, come to think of it. We refer to Jesus Christ as true God and true Man. Truman is a true man of his time in that he was jubilant. He was not a son of God, brother of Christ, brother of the Japanese, jubilating as he did. He went from table to table on the cruiser which was bringing him home from the Big Three conference, telling the great news; "jubilant" the newspapers said. ***Jubilate Deo. We have killed 318,000 Japanese.***

That is, we hope we have killed them, the Associated Press, on page one, column one of the **Herald Tribune** says. The effect is hoped for, not known. It is to be hoped they are vaporized, our Japanese brothers, scattered, men, women and babies, to the four winds, over the seven seas. Perhaps we will breathe their dust into our nostrils, feel them in the fog of New York on our faces, feel them in the rain on the hills of Eaton.

Jubilate Deo. President Truman was jubilant. We have created. We have created destruction. We have created a new element, called Pluto. Nature had nothing to do with it.

The papers list the scientists (the murderers) who are credited with perfecting this new weapon. Scientists, army officers, great universities, and captains of industry—all are given credit lines in the press for their work of preparing the bomb—and other bombs, the President assures us, are in production now.

Everyone says, "I wonder what the Pope thinks of it?" How everyone turns to the Vatican for judgment, even though they do not seem to listen to the voice there! But our Lord Himself has already pronounced judgment on the atomic bomb. When James and John (John the beloved) wished to call down fire from heaven on their enemies, Jesus said:

"You know not of what spirit you are. The Son of Man came not to destroy souls but to save." He said also, "What you do unto the least of these my brethren, you do unto me."