



DIOCESE OF HIROSHIMA

ALEXIS MITSURU SHIRAHAMA

DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA EPISCOPUS HIROSHIMAENSIS

BISHOP'S OFFICE
4-42 NOBORI-CHO
NAKA-KU HIROSHIMA
〒730-0016 JAPAN

PROT.N.

Your Excellency, Archbishop Domenico Sorrentino,
Dr. Giuseppe Rotunno, President of Civiltà della Amore ODV

Hiroshima, September 8, 2025,
Feast of the birth of Mary

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God”
(Matthew 5:9)

On the occasion of the 80th memorial year of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we sincerely thank you for joining us in prayer on August 6th and 9th for the hibakusha and for world peace.

I am truly delighted to learn that your community of Civiltà della Amore in collaboration with the Peace foundation of the Community of Sat'Edigio, Dr Andrea Bartoli will host a seminar in Assisi on September 15, 2025, titled “Religion and the Nuclear Weapons Conversion: Dialogue for Peace,” with Archbishop Domenico Sorrentino in attendance.

I agree with the statement in the seminar announcement: “If we cannot effectively destroy nuclear weapons, nuclear weapons will destroy us.” On August 26th, I had the opportunity to meet and speak with a Hiroshima survivor. He told me, “Rather than worrying about the remaining years of us aging survivors, you should be concerned about the remaining years of humanity.” I have also heard that the destructive power of today's advanced nuclear weapons is nearly 500 times greater than the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

How wonderful it would be if we could chart a path where the power of these nuclear weapons is not used to destroy humanity, but rather converted into peaceful energy, contributing to the sustainable development of people worldwide. I hope that this seminar in Assisi could open the new technology not only for destroying permanently the atomic bomb, but also for reducing effectively the radioisotopes present as nuclear waste in the world through the conversion of nuclear weapons.



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And it is also urgently needed and most important now to call for dialogue between the political leaders of nuclear-armed and nuclear-developing nations who rely on nuclear deterrence theory and the scientists of this seminar who establish the new technology of nuclear weapons conversion for peace.

If scientists and political leaders open their hearts to dialogue and unite their efforts for humanity's future, might a new path of hope will surely open? I believe it is our mission as religious leaders to create and call for opportunities for such dialogue, research and also economical support with believers.

Jesus Christ said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9). Though physically distant from you, my heart remains close. I wish to be your companion in realizing peace together under Christ.

Praying for the intercession of Mary and Saint Francis of Assisi, as Bishop of Hiroshima, the city bombed by the atomic bomb, I pray for God's blessing that this seminar, held on the 80th anniversary of the bombing, may be a historical and meaningful opportunity.

+ Alexis Mitsuru Shirahama

Alexis Mitsuru Shirahama, Bishop
Catholic Diocese of Hiroshima

