



January 17, 2022

Archbishop John C. Wester
The Catholic Center Office
4000 Saint Joseph's Place NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120-1741

Dear Archbishop Wester,

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas express their deep gratitude to you for your pastoral letter, *Living in the Light of Christ's Peace: A Conversion Toward Nuclear Disarmament*, issued on January 11, 2022. This prophetic document builds on our Church's long history of opposition to nuclear weapons which have the power to ravage Earth, our Common Home, and end human life on this planet.

As you noted, it is unconscionable that the United States is intent on maintaining its nuclear arsenal and is poised to spend \$1.5 trillion to upgrade and modernize it. Why are we willing to squander this money when the greatest threats facing our nation, including climate change, racial oppression, growing economic inequality, political polarization and pandemic disease, cannot be remedied by military action much less nuclear weapons? Your letter calls us to deep conversion.

As Sisters of Mercy, we have committed ourselves to grow in our personal practice of nonviolence and peacemaking, actively collaborate with communities and organizations that foster peace and nonviolence and work to change violent systems and structures (Institute 2017 Chapter Recommitment). Over the years, members have taken part in public witness and nonviolent civil disobedience at the Nevada Test Site and the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.



We hope that your pastoral letter will be circulated widely and embraced by Catholics across the country. Thank you for challenging us to take the gospel call to peacemaking seriously.

Best wishes,

Patricia C. Flynn, RSM *Judith Friker, RSM*
Pine O' Connor, RSM *Anne Marie Miller, RSM*