



Bishops' Statement on Peace to Resolve Global Conflicts

Seattle, WA January 8, 2020 – The bishops of the Archdiocese of Seattle support today's joint statement from Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, the president of the United States Catholic Conference and Archbishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, the chairman of the USCCB's Committee on International Justice and Peace, which reads:

“The U.S. bishops’ conference has spoken out regularly to encourage the pursuit of peace in the Middle East. We urge once again that all parties, in these critical days, embrace peace rather than violence. Peace has been all too elusive – in recent memory alone, war has caused hundreds of thousands of lives to be lost, as well as untold suffering and endemic instability. We have particularly witnessed and addressed growing acts of violence in recent weeks, most recently with the attack on the United States Embassy in Iraq, the killing of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani last Friday, and the missile attacks on Iraqi bases yesterday. We have called for necessary diplomacy, courageous dialogue, and tireless efforts toward peace to resolve such global conflicts. We do so now, and we will do so always.”

“May the Lord help all parties in this time of growing belligerence to peer through one another’s transgressions and appreciate the legitimate fears that lie behind them. All must discover islands of trust in a sea of distrust, do the hard work of reasoning together, acknowledge the futility of further violence and military action, and humbly pursue the common good together. Let us reflect on Pope Francis’ World Day of Peace message for 2020 and pray ‘to overcome evil with good and respond to hatred with love.’”

“We join in the hope expressed today that the people of Iran share in the promise of a great future, and that the United States is ready to embrace peace with all who seek it. In this spirit, we fervently believe, hope, work for, and indeed anticipate, days of peace ahead. We have just celebrated the birth of our Lord with Christmas. Jesus, as the Prince of Peace, calls us to the renewal of the heavens and earth. Let us bear witness to this truth, beginning with each of us.”

Archbishop Paul D. Etienne and his two auxiliary bishops, Eusebio Elizondo and Daniel Mueggenborg, ask that we pray for peace and for the wellbeing of all those involved in this contentious and delicate situation. Likewise, let us pray for an even greater commitment from governments to statesmanship and diplomacy as the preferred means for settling differences between nations.

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