



To His Holiness Pope Francis I  
Palazzo Apostolico  
00120 Città del Vaticano  
Italia

Brussels, 26 February 2014

Your Holiness:

We send you warm greetings and immense gratitude from Pax Christi members around the world for the integrity of your concern about the millions of people who are marginalized by poverty and brutalized by war. In the year since your election you have touched deeply the consciences of women and men of good will in every nation and brought hope into dismal places.

Soon you will be meeting with the President of the United States, Barack Obama. We know that you will have many subjects to discuss with President Obama, but one topic presents itself with great urgency: the human cost of maintaining – and even rebuilding – the U.S. stockpile of nuclear weapons.

In April 1953, U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower said, "Every gun made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in a final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed."

Despite President Obama's declared commitment to nuclear disarmament, the United States plans to spend at least \$355 billion to maintain and rebuild its nuclear arsenal over the next decade, according to a recent report by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO). Over the next 30 years, the bill could add up to \$1 trillion.

Holy Father, you have called the world so clearly to the side of those who are impoverished. Pax Christi International believes that the continued investment in weapons of mass destruction is not only immoral in and of itself, but it is an immense violation of the dignity of those who are forced to live on the margins of our world.

When you meet with President Obama, please – on behalf of your beloved poor ones - convince him to abandon all plans to refurbish the U.S. nuclear arsenal and to move at once to eliminate nuclear weapons from the face of the earth.

You remain in our prayers. Thank you again for the powerful witness of your life.

Respectfully in Christ,



Marie Dennis  
Co-President



Msgr Kevin Dowling  
Co-President



José Henríquez  
Secretary General