

Pope Francis Calls for A Ceasefire

Why Won't Archbishop Henning?

Pax Christi MA wrote to Archbishop Henning on December 13, 2024 asking him to call for a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon and to engage in further dialogue with them on the issue. One week later, Pax Christi members were told via an advisor that the Archbishop was not prepared to make a statement, nor did he have the time to meet with them.

Five days after 1,100 Israelis were killed on October 7, 2023., the Archdiocese of Boston issued a statement condemning Hamas. Fourteen months later, at least 45,000 Gazans have been slaughtered, yet the archdiocese continues to remain silent.

The vast majority of the dead in Gaza are women and children. 90% of the population has been displaced at least once. Over half of Gazan children say they wish they were dead, and starvation and disease are rampant. Many Palestinians have lost multiple family members. Thousands of children have lost both parents. There is no functioning maternity ward in Gaza. How can an archdiocese, which professes to be pro-life and to value the family, remain silent in the face of a conflict that devastates so many Palestinian families?

Pope Francis has repeatedly called for a ceasefire and lamented the suffering of Gazans, saying recently, "This is cruelty; this is not war." In his *Urbi et Orbi* Christmas message, the Pope said: "May the sound of arms be silenced in the Middle East! ...May there be a ceasefire."

The conflict has spread to Lebanon, the West Bank, Syria, and Yemen with no end in sight.

The U.S. continues to veto ceasefire resolutions at the U.N. and supplies almost 70% of the weapons used in this conflict.

On this Feast of the Holy Family and the opening of the Jubilee Year, we urgently call on Archbishop Henning to use his voice, his position, and his influence, and to join Pope Francis in promoting peace.

Sponsored by: Pax Christi MA, Agape Community, Saints Francis & Thérèse Catholic Worker, Just Faith, and Massachusetts Catholics for Indigenous Rights

