

July 21, 2009

Dear Faith Community Leader:

We write to encourage your congregation's participation in a significant community effort--the commemoration of the 64th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. (Print out the return coupon response form listed at the end of the letter).

We often focus on the differences among our faiths, rather than the principles we share. While our traditions take various positions on the overall legitimacy of war, they all condemn the killing of innocent civilians and the use of weapons which are so destructive that they can't help but be indiscriminate.

With the anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima (August 6) and Nagasaki (August 9) fast approaching, we hope you will join us in honoring the lives of the victims and committing ourselves to the creation of a world where weapons of mass destruction are no more. The campaign is united under the theme: "Remember Hiroshima & Nagasaki: Demand a Nuclear-Free Future."

A coalition of organizations including the Syracuse Peace Council, Peace Action of Central New York, and Pax Christi is planning a dramatic procession for the commemoration. Full details are provided at: <http://www.peacecouncil.net/hiroshima>.

Highlights include:

- **Visits to libraries and summer camps to fold paper cranes and read the story of *Sadako*.**
- **The annual dramatic procession through downtown Syracuse to honor the victims – Thursday, August 6, leaving City Hall at 12 noon (gather at 11:30 am wearing white or light colored clothing). Please join us.**
- **An Interfaith Sharing for Peace Gathering followed by the launching of Lanterns for Peace at the Everson Museum on Wednesday, August 5th at 7:30 pm. This event is being planned by representatives of various faith communities.**

We welcome your participation in the Interfaith Sharing for Peace.

For the innocents who suffered 64 years ago, for those still suffering from the effects, and for our children who need not grow up under the nuclear shadow, we ask you as faith leaders to support this effort. We thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response.

In Peace,

Carol Baum, Syracuse Peace Council
Gerry Lotierzo, Peace Action of Central New York
Dick Keough, Pax Christi

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www.peacecouncil.net

www.peaceactioncny.org

Yes, we'll join the effort to commemorate the 64th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Our congregation will:

- Ring Bells at noon on August 6th
- Include information in our bulletin, please contact us for details.
- Invite in guests to teach children to make paper cranes and tell the story of Sadako or a speaker for a service or adult education program, please contact us for details.
- Invite guests to watch a DVD of ***White Light, Black Rain: The Destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki***. Please contact the Peace Action office at 478-7442 for a copy of the DVD.
- Address the issue through a sermon
- Send a delegation to the **August 6** procession
- Send a delegation to the **August 5th** Interfaith Gathering at the Everson Museum
- Provide financial support of \$_____ to support this effort. (Checks can be made payable to Syracuse Peace Council and/or to Peace Action of Central New York)

Please provide contact information below!

Faith Community _____

Contact Person _____ Email _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (eve) _____

(day) _____

Please check the appropriate boxes and return as soon as possible
(August 4 at the latest)

Please return to:
Central New York Coalition
Remember Hiroshima & Nagasaki: Demand a Nuclear-Free Future
c/o Center for Peace and Social Justice
2013 East Genesee St.
Syracuse, NY 13210