



‘A future of dignity and peace for all people’

A message from the Dutch Roman Catholic bishops

Since his election on 8 May 2025, Pope Leo XIV has been a powerful advocate for peace. He calls for a future based on trust, hope and the dignity of all people. Justice leads to peace. Where there is peace, there is human dignity, security and hospitality.

We join the Pope in his call. He emphasizes that wars do not reduce problems but make them worse. He asks leaders to resolve conflicts through diplomacy, mutual understanding, compassion and sincere dialogue. This is the path to 'unarmed and disarming' peace.

It is important that the desire for 'a future of dignity and peace for all people' grows in the hearts of most people. Such a future is an essential part of God's plan, writes the Pope in his message for the 'World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2025'. He calls migrants and refugees 'missionaries of hope' in a world darkened by war and injustice and praises their courage and hope as a 'heroic testimony of faith'.

In his message for the 'World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2025', the Pope writes that injustice and violence also affect creation. He refers to the prophet Isaiah, who says that God's Spirit can transform the scorched desert into an orchard: 'Then justice will dwell in the desert, and righteousness in the orchard. And justice will bring forth peace, tranquility and security are its fruits' (Isaiah 32:17).

The theme of the Dutch Week for Peace (starting September 21st) 2025, 'doing nothing is not an option', calls on all of us to continue to work actively for peace and security. Peace begins with each of us, in the way we look at our fellow human beings, listen to each other and talk about others.

Commitment to peace and security goes hand in hand with prayer. Together with you, we pray for lasting peace and support for all who suffer from injustice and violence.

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The Roman Catholic bishops of the Netherlands