



The Holy See

**MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER LEO XIV
TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
OF PAX CHRISTI USA**

[Detroit, Michigan, 25-27 July 2025]

I extend cordial greetings and good wishes to those participating in the semi-annual National Assembly of *Pax Christi USA*, taking place in Detroit, Michigan this July.

In the midst of the many challenges facing our world at this time, including widespread armed conflict, division among peoples, and the challenges of forced migration, efforts to promote nonviolence are all the more necessary. We do well to remember that after the violence of the Crucifixion, the risen Christ's first words to the Apostles offered peace, one "that is unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering" (*First Blessing "Urbi et Orbi"*, 8 May 2025).

Jesus continues to send his followers into the world to become creators of peace in their daily lives. In parishes, neighborhoods, and especially on the peripheries, it is all the more important for a Church capable of reconciliation to be present and visible (cf. *Address to the Italian Episcopal Conference*, 17 June 2025).

I pray in a particular way that your gathering will inspire all in *Pax Christi USA* to work to make their local communities into "'houses of peace' where one learns how to defuse hostility through dialogue, where justice is practiced and forgiveness is cherished" (*ibid.*). In this way, you will enable many more people to embrace Saint Paul's invitation to live at peace with their brothers and sisters (cf. *Rom 12:18*).

With these sentiments, I entrust the Assembly to the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, and I gladly impart my Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of abundant heavenly graces.

From the Vatican, 20 July 2025

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