



*Affirming the vision and practice of active nonviolence
at the heart of the Catholic Church.*

A project of Pax Christi International

Selected quotes from Pope Francis on peace and nonviolence

June 2, 2013: Today we have come to pray for our dead, for our wounded, for the victims of the madness that is war! ***It is the suicide of humanity because it kills the heart.*** It kills precisely that which is the Lord's message: it kills love!¹

August 18, 2013: The true force of the Christian is the force of truth and of love, which means rejecting all violence. Faith and violence are incompatible! **Faith and violence are incompatible!** But faith and strength go together. The Christian is not violent, but he [sic] is strong. And with what strength? That of meekness, the force of meekness, the force of love.²

September 7, 2013: We have perfected our weapons, our conscience has fallen asleep, and we have sharpened our ideas to justify ourselves. As if it were normal, we continue to sow destruction, pain, death! ... Is it possible to walk the path of peace? Can we get out of this spiral of sorrow and death? Can we learn once again to walk and live in the ways of peace? ... Yes, it is possible for everyone ... **In the silence of the Cross, the uproar of weapons ceases and the language of reconciliation, forgiveness, dialogue, and peace is spoken...**³

September 30, 2013: Peace is the responsibility of everyone. ... Peace requires a persistent, patient, strong, intelligent dialogue by which nothing is lost. Dialogue can overcome war. Dialogue can bring people of different generations who often ignore one another to live together; it makes citizens of different ethnic backgrounds and of different beliefs coexist. Dialogue is the way of peace. ... **Each one of us is called to be an artisan of peace**, by uniting and not dividing, by extinguishing hatred and not holding on to it, by opening paths to dialogue and not by constructing new walls!⁴

January 1, 2014: **Peace requires the force of meekness, the nonviolent strength of the truth and of love....**hear the cry for peace of those people oppressed by war and violence, so that the courage of dialogue and reconciliation might prevail over the temptation for revenge, arrogance and corruption.⁵

January 13, 2014: Everywhere, the way to resolve open questions must be that of **diplomacy and dialogue.**⁶

June 8, 2014: **Peacemaking calls for courage**, much more so than warfare. It calls for the courage to say yes to encounter and no to conflict: yes to dialogue and no to violence; yes to negotiations and no to hostilities; yes to respect for agreements and no to acts of provocation; yes to sincerity and no to duplicity. All of this takes courage, it takes strength and tenacity....⁷

August 19, 2014: It is licit to stop the unjust aggressor. I underscore the verb “stop”; **I don’t say bomb, make war -- stop him.**⁸

October 1, 2014: In a special way we all say forcefully, continually, that **there can be no religious justification for violence**, in whatever way it manifests itself.⁹

September 17, 2015: We need to find a solution, which is never a violent one, because violence only creates new wounds ... the Church responds to the many attacks and persecution that she suffers in those countries by **bearing witness to Christ with courage**, through her humble and fervent presence, sincere dialogue and the generous service in favour of whoever is suffering or in need without any distinction.¹⁰

September 24, 2015: ... Why are deadly weapons being sold to those who plan to inflict untold suffering on individuals and society? Sadly, the answer, as we all know, is simply for money: money that is drenched in blood, often innocent blood. In the face of this shameful and culpable silence, it is our duty to confront the problem and to **stop the arms trade....**¹¹

December 17, 2015: At the same time, he pointed to a positive development, saying we are witnessing from those **with more mature consciences a growing “nonviolent reaction” to the wars and terrorism** that have marked this year.¹²

January 1, 2016: I would like to make a threefold appeal to the leaders of nations: to refrain from drawing other peoples into conflicts or **wars which destroy not only their material, cultural and social legacy, but also – and in the long term – their moral and spiritual integrity.**¹³

January 1, 2016: **The enemy of peace is not only war, but also indifference**, which makes us think only of ourselves, so that we create barriers, suspicions, fears and narrow-mindedness. These things are the enemies of peace.

[1] <http://www.news.va/en/news/pope-francis-war-is-the-suicide-of-humanity>

[2] <http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/pope-francis-faith-and-violence-are-incompatible>

[3] http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2013/documents/papa-francesco_20130907_veglia-pace.html

[4] http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2013/september/documents/papa-francesco_20130930_incontro-pace-s-egidio.html

[5] http://catholicnews.sg/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9651:pope-francis-peace-requires-the-strength-of-meeekness&catid=196:vis-vatican-information-service&Itemid=498

[6] http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2014/january/documents/papa-francesco_20140113_corpo-diplomatico.html

[7] http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2014/june/documents/papa-francesco_20140608_invocazione-pace.html

[8] <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2014/08/19/pope-francis-i-would-to-iraq-to-help-stop-violence/>

[9] http://accracatholic.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=192%3Apope-francis-there-can-be-no-religious-justification-for-violence&catid=13%3Alatest-news&Itemid=91

[10] http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/09/17/pope_calls_for_peaceful_solution_to_wars_in_syria_and_iraq/1172423

[11] http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2015/september/documents/papa-francesco_20150924_usa-us-congress.html

[12] http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/12/17/pope_francis%E2%80%99_address_to_four_new_ambassadors/1195077

[13] https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/papa-francesco_20151208_messaggio-xlix-giornata-mondiale-pace-2016.html