

## Witnesses to Devastation of War; Credible Builders of Peace

Hiroshima, Japan, August 5, 2025

Congratulations to Nobel Peace Prize Recipients

Most Reverend Paul D. Etienne, Archbishop of Seattle

Good morning, afternoon, evening!

On behalf of the members of the Partnership for a World Without Nuclear Weapons, I wish to congratulate the Nihon Hidankyo organization, the hibakusha from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, for your tremendous efforts over the past 80 years and for being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Thank you for your courageous truth-telling about the terrible death and destruction wrought by the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Your enduring witness is the most powerfully convincing argument for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Your personal experience and testimony have been shared not to foment hatred and revenge, but rather to help the world community to never forget the tragic consequences of employing nuclear weapons against the human family. You help us to never forget the horrors of nuclear warfare so that no other people will suffer what you have suffered since 1945.

Your witness keeps fresh the memory of those tragic days when so many lives were lost or forever changed. Your life testimony bears the beautiful fruit of helping bring to life the memory those who are still dear and loved and missed. It calls to mind the lyrics of a beautiful song by the One Voice Children's Choir in a song: Memories.

Close to the ones here today  
Close to the ones that we lost on the way  
'Cause the dreams bring back all the memories  
And the memories bring back, memories bring back you

Memories are a powerful thing. Memories can be painful, and at the same time, can bring great joy. My grandmother would always say during family activities, "We are making memories".

Dear friends, thank you for keeping alive the memory of the horrors of your experience in a positive effort to build a world without nuclear weapons.