

PRESS RELEASE

Wearing the White Poppy: an Important Gesture

Montreal, October 31, 2019 — The Social Action Office from the Catholic Church of Montreal is inviting the entire community to wear the “white poppy” until Nov. 11 in memory of all war-related victims, because there are many.

Since 2011, the collective *Échec à la guerre* suggests we wear the white poppy “against war and militarism.” The goal is, while appreciating veterans and militaries, to consider the common good when choosing means to preserve human security. Many people, especially nuns, have been wearing the white poppy for years, with conviction and perseverance. Some will wear both the red and white poppies, and why not? May awareness on tragic losses induced by wars encourage everyone to become a peacemaker in their community!

On November 1-2, the Catholic Church celebrates the Solemnity of All Saints, commemorates the faithful who have passed, gives praise for the life of all saints known or unknown, and remembers all the dead. These people include all who died in wars: women, children, men, soldiers and civilians. On Remembrance Day, Nov. 11, one will also remember the militaries who died in action and all other war victims, whether soldiers or civilians, who were wounded, imprisoned, displaced, violated or became refugees.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops released a [Statement on Nuclear Weapons](#) on September 26, 2019. This is a “special call to the Canadian government to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. “Did the new Trudeau government hear the call? Will they follow up? Wearing the white poppy brings attention on the necessity to eliminate nuclear weapons,” Louise Royer, Director of the Social Action Office, stated.

“The Social Action Office takes part of peace initiatives, especially in partnership with parishes for interreligious visits around September 21, on the International Day of Peace. We are here to stand up for human dignity and to promote the common good, that is to say conditions that ensure people’s flourishing, especially that of the excluded, individually and collectively,” Louise Royer added.

For more information:

Press release: CCCB Statement on Nuclear Weapons

<https://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/media-room/statements-a-letters/5155-ccb-releases-statement-on-nuclear-weapons>

The White Poppy Campaign and locations to obtain the white poppies:

<https://echecalaguerre.org/agir/campagne-2019-coquelicot-blanc/> (French only)
<https://echecalaguerre.org/depots-de-coquelicots-blancs-pres-de-chez/>

Reference on the Compendium on the social doctrine of the Church:

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/justpeace/documents/rc_pc_justpeace_doc_20060526_compendio-dott-soc_en.html (art. 508)

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