

Dear Editor/ Communications Director,

Your diocese will soon participate in The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Through this collection, parishioners reveal Christ's love in ways that make a positive global impact for people living on the margins. That is because the collection supports organizations that aid victims of war and natural disaster, resettle refugees and migrants displaced by violence and poverty, address the pastoral needs of migrants and others lacking stable parish communities, and work to build peaceful solutions in regions affected by conflict, such as the Korean peninsula.

Although active fighting in the Korean War ceased with an armistice agreement in 1953, a lasting peace has never been established. In the intervening 70 years, relations among North Korea, South Korea, and the United States have grown in complexity, especially with the increasing recent threat of nuclear weapons.

The Catholic Church stands against the scourge of war and the proliferation of nuclear weapons without exception, as a world mission and voice to build lasting peace in place of war. The Catholic Institute of Northeast Asia Peace (CINAP) was founded in 2015 to strengthen communications among the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Japan, and the Holy See. In 2017, CINAP hosted its first international conference, the Catholic Korea Peace Forum.

After several years of virtual meetings due to pandemic restrictions, the 6th Annual Catholic Korea Peace Forum gathered in October 2022 in Washington, DC, bringing together church leaders from North and South Korea and the United States—including the USCCB's International Justice and Peace (IJP) committee chairman—as well as experts, scholars, and government officials from the United States, South Korea, and Japan. As co-organizer of the forum, IJP was integral to the Church's mission to pray and work for just and lasting peace on the Korean peninsula. This crucial work is made possible with the support IJP receives from The Catholic Relief Services Collection.

We rely on your help to promote this collection. Promotional materials, including prayer cards, web banners, and a social media tool kit, are available at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief/collection. Use your publication(s), website, social media channels, and other outlets to tell this story and the story of all who benefit from The Catholic Relief Services Collection.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact me at 202-541-3365 or *mhren@usccb.org*. Thank you for your continued support.

Gratefully in Christ,

Margaret Hren

Assistant Director, Promotions

