

POPE FRANCIS

**Against War**

*Building a Culture of Peace*

*With an Afterword by Andrea Tornielli*

ORBIS  BOOKS  
[www.orbisbooks.com](http://www.orbisbooks.com)



Founded in 1970, Orbis Books endeavors to publish works that enlighten the mind, nourish the spirit, and challenge the conscience. The publishing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Orbis seeks to explore the global dimensions of the Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and to serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. The books published reflect the views of their authors and do not represent the official position of the Maryknoll Society. To learn more about Maryknoll and Orbis Books, please visit our website at [www.orbisbooks.com](http://www.orbisbooks.com).

---

English edition copyright © 2022 by Orbis Books

Published by Orbis Books, Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

Original edition: Papa Francesco, *Contro la Guerra*, © 2022 RCS Media-Group S.p.A., Milan Literary property reserved; © 2022 Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Queries regarding rights and permissions should be addressed to: Orbis Books, P.O. Box 302, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0302.

Manufactured in the United States of America

---

Library of Congress Control Number: 2022939137

# Contents

Introduction: <i>War Is a Sacrilege. Let's Stop Feeding It!</i> . . . . .	1
With War, No One Wins . . . . .	7
<i>War Destroys the Future</i> . . . . .	7
<i>We Have Accumulated Weapons and Lost the Peace</i> . . . . .	8
<i>What's the Point of Showing Your Teeth?</i> . . . . .	9
<i>With War, No One Wins</i> . . . . .	10
<i>Spending on Weapons Sullies the Soul</i> . . . . .	11
<i>Human Life before Any Strategy</i> . . . . .	12
<i>Abuse of Power Condemns the Helpless</i> . . . . .	14
<i>Every Conflict Is a Defeat of Humanity</i> . . . . .	15
<i>The Good Sense to Negotiate</i> . . . . .	17
<i>Let's Not Forget the Many Wars around the World!</i> . . . . .	18
<i>Those Who Have Weapons Sooner or         Later End Up Using Them</i> . . . . .	19
A Culture of Death . . . . .	23
<i>The Culture of Indifference</i> . . . . .	23
<i>War Is Born in Human Hearts</i> . . . . .	24
<i>War Eliminates All Development</i> . . . . .	26

<i>A Madness</i> . . . . .	27
<i>A Monster That Destroys Humanity and the World.</i> . . . . .	27
<i>Conflicts Also Disfigure the Environment.</i> . . . . .	28
<i>The “Piecemeal” World War</i> . . . . .	29
<i>Affecting the Little Ones.</i> . . . . .	29
<i>We Listen to the Little Ones</i> . . . . .	30
<i>Looking at Reality through the Eyes of Its Victims.</i> . . . . .	30
<i>Terrorism Has Nothing to Do with True Religion.</i> . . . . .	31
<b>The Criminal Folly of Nuclear Weapons</b> . . . . .	33
<i>A Global Problem.</i> . . . . .	33
<i>A Tremendous Power</i> . . . . .	36
<i>A Great Deception</i> . . . . .	37
<i>Peace Cannot Be Built on Mutual Distrust</i> . . . . .	38
<i>Atomic Weapons Are Senseless</i> . . . . .	41
<b>Protect Every Life: From the Apostolic Journey to Japan</b> (November 23–26, 2019) . . . . .	45
<i>The Dream of a World Free of Nuclear Weapons</i> . . . . .	45
<i>Nuclear Power for Military Purposes Is Immoral.</i> . . . . .	49
<i>Hiroshima Is a Catechesis on Cruelty</i> . . . . .	54
<i>The Only Solution to Conflicts Is Dialogue.</i> . . . . .	55
<b>Peace and Fraternity: From the Apostolic Journey to Iraq</b> (March 5–8, 2021) . . . . .	56
<i>Fraternity Is Nourished by Solidarity</i> . . . . .	56
<i>Weaving a Single Fraternity</i> . . . . .	60
<i>We Look to Heaven and Journey on Earth</i> . . . . .	62

<i>Love Wins</i> . . . . .	69
<i>Jesus at Our Side</i> . . . . .	74
<i>Church and Society Open to All</i> . . . . .	76
A Better World . . . . .	80
<i>When the Seed Dies, It Bears Much Fruit</i> . . . . .	80
<i>Peace Is a Gift</i> . . . . .	82
<i>There Is No Alternative to Peace</i> . . . . .	84
<i>Peace Comes from the Cross</i> . . . . .	85
<i>True Peace Costs</i> . . . . .	86
<i>Nonviolence: A Style of Politics for Peace</i> . . . . .	89
An Artisanal Path. . . . .	95
<i>Peace Is a Path</i> . . . . .	95
<i>Peace Is Daily</i> . . . . .	99
<i>Dialogue Opens the Way</i> . . . . .	99
<i>Pray for Those Who Do Not Love Us</i> . . . . .	100
<i>Learning the Art of Dialogue</i> . . . . .	101
<i>Architecture of Reconciliation</i> . . . . .	102
<i>Overcoming Evil with Good</i> . . . . .	102
<i>Peace Is the Priority</i> . . . . .	103
<i>Ecological Conversion</i> . . . . .	106
<i>Brothers and Sisters</i> . . . . .	108
<i>Fraternity Is the Grace of God the Father</i> . . . . .	110
<i>Easter Makes the Encounter with the Other Sprout Up</i> . . . . .	112
<i>Follow Another Logic</i> . . . . .	114

Prayers .....	116
<i>A Prayer to the Creator</i> .....	116
<i>An Ecumenical Christian Prayer</i> .....	117
<i>Prayer for Fraternity</i> .....	117
<i>Prayer of the Children of Abraham</i> .....	119
<i>Prayer for the Victims of War</i> .....	120
Afterword: A Century-Long Magisterium of Peace by Andrea Tornielli .....	123