

# Justice, Peace and Life

April 2026

*“In the light of Easter, let us allow ourselves to be amazed by Christ! Let us allow our hearts to be transformed by his immense love for us! Let those who have weapons lay them down! Let those who have the power to unleash wars choose peace! Not a peace imposed by force, but through dialogue! Not with the desire to dominate others, but to encounter them!”*

*-Pope Leo XIV, [Urbi et Orbi Easter Message 2026](#)*

## “Step Back from the Precipice of War”

“The threat of destroying a whole civilization and the intentional targeting of civilian infrastructure cannot be morally justified. There are other ways to resolve conflict between peoples. I call on President Trump to step back from the precipice of war and negotiate a just settlement for the sake of peace and before more lives are lost.

“After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples in Jerusalem, and his first words were ‘Peace be with you.’ As the Holy Father, in his Urbi et Orbi message on Easter reflected, the peace that ‘Jesus gives us is not a peace that merely silences the weapons, but one that touches and transforms the heart of each us! Let us make heard the cry for peace that springs from our hearts!’

“Pope Leo has invited everyone to join him in a prayer vigil for peace on Saturday, April 11. I make a special plea to my brother bishops, the priests, the laity, and all people yearning for true peace to join the Holy Father’s Vigil for Peace, whether virtually, or in parishes, chapels, or before the Lord present in the quiet of their hearts to join with our Holy Father as we pray for peace in our world.

“Let us entrust to the Lord ‘all hearts that suffer and await the true peace that only he can give. Let us entrust ourselves to him and open our hearts to him! He is the only one who makes all things new (cf. Rev 21:5).”

**- Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops**



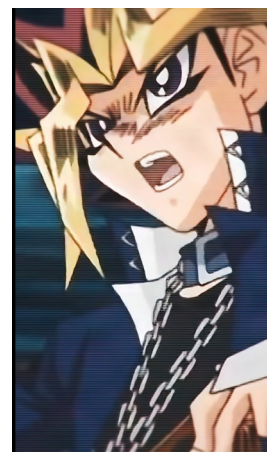
A fire breaks out at the Shahrn oil depot in Tehran.  
Hassan Ghaedi /

### “A profound moral failure”: Gamifying the War in Iran

#### A Call to Conscience

As more than 1,000 Iranian men, women and children lay dead after days of bombardment from U.S. and Israeli missiles, the official White House X account on Thursday evening posted a video of scenes from popular action movies spliced with actual strike footage from their war on Iran. [Images in this section are taken from that video.] The clip was captioned: “JUSTICE THE AMERICAN WAY.”

A real war with real death and real suffering being treated like it’s a video game — it’s sickening. Hundreds of people are dead, mothers and fathers, daughters and sons, including scores of children who made the fatal mistake of going to school that day. Six U.S. soldiers have been killed. They are also dishonored by that social media post. Hundreds of thousands displaced, and many millions more are terrified across the Middle East.



This horrifying portrayal demonstrates that we now live in an era when the distance between the battlefield



and the living room has been drastically reduced. The moral crisis we are facing is not just a matter of the war itself, but also how we, the observers, view violence, for war now has become a spectator sport or strategy game. Indeed, the prediction market Kalshi recently paid a \$2.2 million settlement related to users who were unhappy with how the company paid out the \$55 million wagered on Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's ouster after he was killed.

Journalists now use the term "gamifying" the war to describe this dynamic. What a profound moral failure, for gamifying strips away the humanity of real people. Let's not forget, a "hit" isn't putting points on the board; it's a grieving family whose suffering we ignore when we prioritize entertainment, and profit, over empathy.

Our government is treating the suffering of the Iranian people as a backdrop for our own entertainment, as if it's just another piece of content to be swiped through while we're waiting in line at the grocery store. But, in the end, we lose our humanity when we are thrilled by the destructive power of our military. We become addicted to the "spectacle" of explosions. And the price of this habit is almost unnoticeable, as we become desensitized to the true costs of war. But the longer we remain blind to the terrible consequences of war, the more we are risking the most precious gift God gave us: our humanity.

I know that the American people are better than this. We have the good sense to know that what is happening is not entertainment but war, and that Iran is a nation of people, not a video game others play to entertain us.

-Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago



### Join Christians Across the U.S. in Fighting Hunger!

**Now** is the time to organize an Offering of Letters at your parish. Let's keep the pressure on our Senators and Members of Congress, asking them to be champions against hunger by protecting SNAP (food stamps) WIC, and international humanitarian aid from proposed draconian budget cuts. Learn more at [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org) or contact [Laurie.Konwinski@dor.org](mailto:Laurie.Konwinski@dor.org)



**ENERGIZING  
OUR FAITH \*  
EARTH DAY 2026**

Download Catholic Climate Covenant's toolkit for Earth Day (or any time) at this [link](#). The 2026 Earth Day program will focus on energy related issues, especially advancing needed action in energy efficiency, clean and renewable energy, solarization, reforestation, and net-zero projects in U.S. Catholic facilities, with special focus on diocesan wide actions.



Please turn your CRS Rice Bowl donation in to your parish this weekend! And please be kind to the folks who count the collection — DON'T bring in a big envelope of coins. Turn that cash into a check made out to your parish, with "CRS Rice Bowl" in the memo.

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