

### **Ask the Deacon May 2017**

#### **What is the Catholic Church's opinion on the usage of Nuclear weapons?**

Here is what the Catholic Catechism says: "Every act of war directed to the indiscriminate destruction of whole cities or vast areas with their inhabitants is a crime against God and man, which merits firm and unequivocal condemnation" (Gaudiam Et Spes 80). A danger of modern warfare is that it provides the opportunity to those who possess modern scientific weapons--especially atomic, biological or chemical weapons---to commit such crimes. (CCC 2314).

#### **Is there any hope for those who commit suicide?**

The Church does not despair of the salvation of those who have committed these acts, for they are often committed under forms of mental duress that robs the person of full accountability for his or her actions. It is also possible that, in the last moments of life, a form of repentance may take place that reconciles the person with God even if this cannot be perceived and it is too late for the person to stop their demise.

Here is what the Catholic Catechism has to say on the subject: "Grave psychological disturbances, anguish, or grave fear of hardship, suffering, or torture can diminish the responsibility of the one committing suicide. We should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives." (CCC 2282b-2283)