



First Atomic Bomb Detonation, July 16, 1945, Trinity Site, NM

"July 16 is the symbol and reality of weaponry that kills even if it is never used, as well as, weaponry that kills long after it is used. By its cost alone it murders the working class and poor by depriving them of indispensable resources, which they need to live, and to which every human being has an inalienable right—a right conferred simply by the fact that he or she is a human being.

Also, once the soul and the soil are seeded by the production of such weapons, no one on the planet can protect himself or herself from being contaminated by their ever-mutating spiritual and physical manifestations. They have already created within humanity a cauldron of physical, moral, spiritual, social, personal, and economic pathologies that have infected and affected humanity in ways never before seen. Every child in the womb, every farm, every lake, every person, every person's loved ones and offspring for untold generations will eventually wind up living downwind—physically, morally, spiritually, socially, personally, and economically—from the mushroom cloud."

From the Statement of Purpose for the Annual Day of Prayer on July 16 at Trinity Site, NM

Today the mushroom cloud of July 16, 1945 generates little more than a "ho-hum" response from most people—"seen it, been there, done that." It's yesterday. It is a photo of an event from the past whose pertinence to the present and the future is tangential. If truth be told, however, every person on the planet today is living in the atmosphere of evil that the Atomic Cloud of 1945 generated and that generated it.

Today, atomic, biological, chemical, drone and electromagnetic weapons (ABCDE weapons), far more destructive of human life at every level than the A-Bomb of 1945, are being generated in the same atmosphere of evil by the same personality types and used by the same personality types who cursed humanity with the Atomic Cloud of 1945 and its progeny, *Little Boy* and

Since July 16, 1990, people have gather at the edge of Trinity Site in the New Mexico desert to pray for twenty-four hours for peace, to ask God forgiveness for all the destruction of mind, soul, body and spirit that the creation of this moral monstrosity and similar moral savageries have brought upon humanity and for protection from all the potential moral abominations that the complex of gifted scientists, corporate executives and big time politicians can bring down on human beings.

Pray is all that people do each July 16 at TrinitySite. They pray with each other and with those who have gone before them, including with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, whose universal feast day under the title Our Lady of Mt. Carmel is July 16.

Of what use is it in the face of the immensity of the military-industrial-academic-mass media complex for a few people out of seven billion on earth to speak the truth with love by praying for humanity's protection from the evil of human destruction so deeply embedded and operating full throttle in gifted scientists, corporate executives, big time politicians and in the military-industrial-academic-mass media complex? One possible answer to this question is that prayer is only useless if there is no God to listen or if God does not listen. Another answer might be found in the words of St. Catherine of Siena, "*Preach the truth as if we had a million voices, for it is silence that kills the world.*" Another motivation might be our love of God and Jesus who said, "*Whatever you do to the least you do to me.*"

But, I think I will leave the answer to the question, "*What use it to pray to God on July 16 for these intentions,*" to Sr. Patricia McCarthy, CND, a person who comes regularly to Trinity Site to pray on July 16. It is from a column she wrote for the Rhode Island Catholic paper about ten years ago.

"What good is a handful of people praying through the night against such high-tech destructive capability? Or as many have asked me through the years, "What good does it do to keep going there year after year?" In the face of all this potential for death to humanity and earth itself, what can a handful of people praying in the desert do? What can God do?"

Questions come easier than answers, but as the night progresses, a flicker of a response sparks in the darkest night. Because we are there at the site of humanity's unleashing of destruction beyond comprehension, Christ is there in us and in the Blessed Sacrament. Against every bomb built, used or tested, we kneel in adoration to our Creator as an act of defiance to destruction. We kneel to the God of love rather than the god of hate. We kneel in the presence of one another as brother and sister instead of enemy. Hour after hour under the "blue and the dim and the dark cloths of night" we gaze on the face of Christ and "all is changed, changed utterly."

If the Holy Spirit so moves you, maybe you could take a moment and go to your own closet—desert—on this July 16 and pray with those at Trinity Site for those same intentions?



Icon of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel of Trinity Site

Emmanuel Charles McCarthy

www.centerforchristiannonviolence.org or www.emmanuelcharlesmccarthy.org