



STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, December 25, 2022

Christmas: A Time for Hope and Peace

The legend of the “Christmas Truce” is told that for several hours on Christmas Day 1914, a large number of Allied and German soldiers laid down their guns and emerged from their trenches to share gifts and sing songs. They exchanged prisoners and allowed proper burials for each side’s dead. For a time, humanity recognized humanity.

“It did not end the war and it did not solve any disputes. But the story endures because it speaks both to the generosity of the human spirit in the worst of times and to the hope that accompanies the yearly celebration of the birth of Christ.” (*America*, December 2022)

The reality of mass shootings in America is another war scenario that begs our relentless efforts at not just a truce but real action for peace. The venues and victims of those shootings vary — grocery stores, nightclubs for the LGBTQ+ community, children in schools, and churchgoers. But one thing that is almost always common is the weapon of choice used to commit the violence: An assault weapon.

The emotional toll of these tragedies never seems to lead to action. 600+ mass shootings like these a year for three years running... And the worst part is that the data is clear on what we need to do. (Excerpted from *MoveOn Civic Action*, 11/29/22 and 11/28/22)

“Study after study has shown that after the Assault Weapons Ban of 1994 went into effect, cities across America saw dramatic drops in these weapons being seized at crime scenes” (*The Washington Post*, January 10, 2013).

“The violence caused with these weapons of war must stop, and we can make that happen by cutting the supply off at the source: The U.S. gun market.

Pundits and the press are too eager to say it will never happen. They claim that there is no way the Senate will pass an assault weapons ban. But here’s the thing: They said the same about the gun control bill that PASSED in the House earlier this year.

We’ve seen more progress to get weapons of war off our streets in 2022 than ever before — and we need to go further. **It’s time to remind Congress that we’re STILL paying attention — and that we will keep demanding action:** now, during the lame-duck session, and into the new year.... The biggest thing that will make a difference? People like us continuing to show up.” [Sign now to tell your members of Congress: Ban Assault Weapons NOW.](#) (*Win Without War Team*, 11/28/22)

For the Holy Family in Bethlehem, few signs suggested reasons to be hopeful, “any more than they did for the soldiers in the trenches in 1914 – and perhaps not any more than they might for those who suffer today. But like the Holy Family, we will face our challenges all the better when we rely less on progress or bemoan its opposite and instead turn our minds to the sacred truth that God is with us.” (*America*, December 2022)

O’ Come O’ Come, Emmanuel!