



# ASSOCIATION OF U.S. CATHOLIC PRIESTS

A PASTORAL VOICE OF HOPE AND JOY WITHIN OUR PILGRIM CHURCH AND WORLD  
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Mr. William Demchak  
President, CEO and Chairman  
PNC Financial Services  
300 Fifth Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

June 30, 2020

Dear Mr. Demchak,

We write because quite recently we moved our principle checking account to PNC because, among the many options available, PNC on its merits, won our business. Since that time we've learned PNC shares some of our ethical concerns as well such as when it divested from companies doing mountain-top removal. Several of our West Virginian priest-members know from firsthand experience how devastating is such removal. So, thank you for that decision.

The dangers nuclear weapons present to all humanity is now our reason for writing because our universal Catholic Church, in the declarations of popes from Pius XII who reigned when the first A-Bomb was used by the USA against Hiroshima/Nagasaki, to our current Pope Francis have called for the abolition of "nukes." Pope Francis now says that even the possession of nukes is unacceptable. Francis congratulated the International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons ([www.icanw.org](http://www.icanw.org)) for its landmark 7 July, 2017 success in getting 122 nations to sign the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The USA refused to sign it.

Since there is no political will among the nuke-possessing nations to move toward the abolition of nukes, ICAN initiated a campaign it calls "Stop Banking the Bomb" (SBTB). It does research to finger which banks on the world level facilitate the manufacture and maintenance of nukes. Sadly, PNC is one of these banks. When our enlightened friends in Pittsburgh discovered this three years ago they initiated SBTB Pittsburgh to protest PNC's involvement. Some share-holders have also brought this to your attention at recent annual shareholders' meetings.

With the expectation that our members and affiliates found throughout the USA will echo what SBTB Pittsburgh does by picketing outside that --yes --environmentally friendly PNC Tower, we pray that you will shift PNC loans and other financial instruments away from nuclear weapons producing

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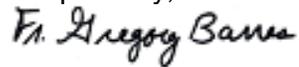
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corporations toward those which provide goods and services useful for humanity. Rather than consider nukes as “defensive,” we say they really represent a “defeat for humanity.”

Standing at Hiroshima’s Ground Zero on November 24, 2019, Pope Francis said nonviolence and peace are at the center of the Christian gospel’s message. Surrounded by the devastation of nearly 75 years ago, he asked the world if that is a harvest it is content to reap. "In a world where millions of children and families live in inhumane conditions, the money that is squandered and the fortunes made through the manufacture, upgrading, maintenance and sale of ever more destructive weapons are an affront crying out to heaven," he said.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of Fr. Gregory Barras in black ink.

Fr. Gregory Barras, Chair

Handwritten signature of Fr. Bob Bonnot in blue ink.

Fr. Bob Bonnot, Executive Director

Sr. Jacquelyn Doepker, OSF, Executive Secretary