

## On Hiroshima-Nagasaki Anniversary,

### Let's get out of Nuclear Shadow



On the 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we need to call an end to the nuclear experiment.

It was my great pleasure to meet the future of India who can accompany me to take people out of Nuclear Shadow. I happen to visit Infant Jesus Maculation School in Bangalore on the very day of Hiroshima Anniversary to share my experience associated to visit of Hiroshima to the students of 8<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>.

I feel myself lucky to see the holy place

“Hiroshima” in month of October 2011. “The first atomic bombing at Hiroshima” was only the thing which was being known to me in my childhood. As part of curriculum, we the student were been thought about World War II during History lessons. This bookish knowledge never gave me the real understanding of the Fact.

Considering interest level & knowledge seeking of teens I shared my experience with children of Infant Jesus Maculation School on 6<sup>th</sup> Aug 2012. It started with the presentation in class 8<sup>th</sup> with strength of 35.



The presentation was prepared keeping in view level of understanding of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. I begin the presentation with their area of interest “the cartoons”. I asked about the fights they had witnessed with the cartoon characters & told about its unrealistic injuries, losses. I presented the data about the major wars so far in the World & their massive destruction.

After which I diverted the topic to the real world by revising their knowledge on World War II, followed by the facts of atomic

bombing at Hiroshima & Nagasaki. I shared as:

At 8:15 a.m. on Aug. 6, 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, killing around 140,000 people & more. The death toll included men, women and children who died instantaneously, and thousands who died within months from the lingering radiation sickness. The U.S. attack on Nagasaki three days on Aug 9<sup>th</sup> later took the lives of 75,000 more.





To these numbers should be added the plight of the Hibakusha: survivors of the nuclear bombings. The Hibakusha, who suffered lifelong diseases, including cancer, have been unwavering in their demand to ban nuclear weapons.

I educated them about the effects of bombing in Hiroshima which I have gathered from one of my special meeting with Hibakusha, Mrs.Sadanabu San at Hiroshima. The effects on the city life, flora & fauna, the damages

were being shown with pictures taken by me at Museum. I taught them the folding of paper crane, and its significance. A card with message of peace was given to everyone to pin in their shirts as remembrance of the occasion.

As young minds they had many genuine questions which were being answered by me with limited knowledge on the topic. They pledge for peace towards the end of the session.



After this 1hr 30 minutes with 8<sup>th</sup> grade, I moved to the more responsible minds, the 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. As their study schedule was at priority I was provided with 30-45 minutes to explain the importance of the day & the share the facts about the event of 6<sup>th</sup>& 9<sup>th</sup> August 1945. It was more interactive session with the students numbered to 45. They were into the quest of India's Future by end of the session. They also shown their grief for the people who lost their lives & also who are still suffering. The session was ended with peace pledge.

According to the schedule 15 minutes before the children leave the school premises, students of 8<sup>th</sup>& 10<sup>th</sup> were asked to assemble in quadrangle & provided with candles to pray & remember those people who suffered for us, to make us know the real meaning of Nuclear Weapons. They pledge that they worth people who sacrificed their life for the welfare and will stand for anti-nuclear & anti- bombing. They will contribute for peace.

As Hiroshima-Nagasaki Memorial Day is an occasion to ponder the destructive capacity of nuclear weapons, as well as the wisdom of all uses of nuclear energy — particularly given the spectre cast by the meltdown of the reactors in Fukushima, Japan, last year.



Considering the importance of occasion, this small step towards peace was made. This would impossible without the help & support Br. Stephen, Principal Infant Jesus Maculation School& Br. Albert Xaviour, Director Angelo ITI A.P. & RFYN Representative to the IC-IARF. I extend my thanks to all who has directly & indirectly contributed for this event.

This Aug. 6th, we remembered the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and pledge to get ourselves out from the nuclear shadow.

As the mayor of Hiroshima said last August on the anniversary of the bombings, "Nuclear energy and humankind cannot coexist."

## **We Pledge Peace will Prevails on the Earth.**

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