ISSUE: Extension of New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START)

Urge Congress to support S 2394 and HR 2529 as these two bills would extend the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) as a vital step towards nuclear disarmament and towards avoiding a nuclear arms race.

Signed in 2010 between the United States and Russia, New START calls for continued reduction in nuclear forces. The United States and Russia possess over 90% of the world’s nuclear weapons. Under New START, the number of long-range deployed nuclear warheads held by both countries was reduced to the required limit of 1,550 and each country conducted more than 150 on-site inspections of the other’s facilities and exchanged military data. If New START expires, there would be no legally binding, verifiable limits on the world’s two largest nuclear arsenals for the first time since 1972.

Catholic teaching deems nuclear weapons to be weapons of mass destruction, indiscriminate in the harm they do, and thus should be banned. The Church has long promoted nuclear disarmament. Pope Francis, in his visit to Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 2019, reaffirmed: “With deep conviction, I wish once more to declare that the use of atomic energy for purposes of war is today, more than ever, a crime not only against the dignity of human beings but against any possible future for our common home.”

ACTION: Use this link to contact Congress:
https://www.votervoice.net/USCCB/campaigns/72282/respond

PRAYER:
God of Peace, we pray for an end to nuclear weapons, which rob the poor of their daily bread and perpetrate a culture of fear and violence in our world. Move in the hearts of all world leaders to pursue a pathway of peace, dialogue, and greater understanding.