

Remembering
Social Justice Saints
from Around
Our World



“Those who teach justice shall be like the stars forever.”

— Daniel 12:3

Leader: On All Saints Day, we remember those who have been inspired by great faith to devote their lives to social justice. Today, we recall their inspiring witness and ask them to pray for us as we seek to build a society that places the human person and the earth at the center.

Reader 1: We remember **Saint Teresa Chikaba** of Guinea, kidnapped and enslaved at the age of 10, sold, and later denied entry to the convent because of her race.

We stand in solidarity with all victims of racial and ethnic discrimination who are treated as non-humans. May we who are granted full rights work alongside the victims of discrimination for a more just world.

All: Saint Teresa Chikaba, pray for us.

Reader 2: We remember **Blessed Alberto Hurtado** of Chile, a Jesuit patron of Chilean trade unionists who was admired for his focus on the causes of poverty.

We stand in solidarity with all workers and seekers of justice. May we work to defend the rights of workers and recognize God's face in all those affected by global poverty. May we be filled with a love and fortitude that will move us to confront poverty's root causes.

All: Blessed Alberto Hurtado, pray for us.

Reader 3: We remember **Saint Katharine Drexel** of the United States, who spent her family's fortune to build schools and missions for Native Americans and who also founded the first U.S. university for African Americans.

We stand in solidarity with all those from whom educational opportunities have been withheld. May we have the courage to take initiative in challenging the inequalities in education, the workplace, and the legal system.

All: Saint Katharine Drexel, pray for us.

Reader 4: We remember our martyred brothers, **Saint Daudi Okelo** and **Saint Jildo Irwa** of Uganda who were martyred for their faith and who are shining examples of living a life of service rooted in the Gospels.

We stand in solidarity with those who seek to be of service to the poor of our world. May we learn from their example how to be authentic servants of justice and to be more effective instruments of goodness and peace.

All: Saint Daudi Okelo and Saint Jildo Irwa, pray for us.

Reader 5: We remember **Saint Maximilian Kolbe** of Poland, who volunteered to die in place of a father of young children in the German death camp of Auschwitz, located in German-occupied Poland during World War II.

We stand in solidarity with all those who resist structural injustice. With them, may we be people of faith and courage and may love direct our actions in the face of oppression.

All: Saint Maximilian Kolbe, pray for us.

Reader 6: We remember the life and witness of **Saint Nimatullah Youssef Kassab Al-Hardini** of Lebanon, who lived through two civil wars in his country and suffered greatly with his people.

We stand in solidarity with all those in the midst of relentless civil wars, for children who grow up knowing gunfire and death, for the orphaned youth recruited as child soldiers, and for the victims of rape during war. May we never tire of working to end this misery of injustice.

All: Saint Nimatullah Youssef Kassab Al-Hardini, pray for us.

Reader 7: We remember **Saint Rocco Gonzalez** of Paraguay, a Jesuit missionary who saw the evil and dangers of the slave trade. He gathered the Guarani people of Brazil, moved them inland, and taught them agriculture, architecture, construction, and farming, all the while honoring their culture.

We stand in solidarity with the indigenous peoples of our world. The injustices which they faced in the past continue to threaten their civil, human, and cultural rights today. May we commit to empowering and elevating the protection of indigenous peoples and communities globally.

All: Saint Rocco Gonzalez, pray for us.

Reader 8: We remember **Saint Lorenzo Ruiz** of the Philippines, who was falsely accused of murder. He found refuge on board a ship with three Dominican priests and headed to Japan. Upon arriving in Japan, he was arrested for the crime of being a Christian and ordered to recant his faith. He and his companions were tortured and killed.

We stand in solidarity with all those who are falsely accused of crimes and deprived of their basic right to legal representation. May we commit to ensuring that all prisoners are treated in a humane manner and guaranteed equal protection rights.

All: Saint Lorenzo Ruiz, pray for us.

Reader 9: We remember **Saint Pierre Toussaint** of Haiti, a slave who, after accompanying his owners to New York City and being granted his freedom, became a noted philanthropist to the poor of the city and housed destitute Haitian refugees.

We stand in solidarity with refugees across the world who flee violence, slavery, hunger, and devastation in their home countries. May we welcome them warmly and assist in seeking solutions to the problems that caused their flight.

All: Saint Pierre Toussaint, pray for us.

Reader 10: We remember **Blessed Victoria Rasoamanarivo** of Madagascar, a lay missionary who lived in a time and a place where religious persecution and anti-Christian sentiment were very much alive. Her choice to be Christian meant that she stood outside her culture and tradition. Yet, she stood up to soldiers who forbade Catholic worship and devoted her life to service—visiting prisoners, the orphaned, and the sick. She later founded the Catholic Action movement to assist the poor and became known for her hands-on approach.

We stand in solidarity with women and men throughout the world who risk their lives daily to provide care for the victims of war. May we open our eyes to the mission fields around us and may we minister to those in need.

All: Blessed Victoria Rasoamanarivo, pray for us all.

Reader 11: We remember **Saint Cristóbal Magallanes Jara** of Mexico, a former shepherd who worked with the indigenous people to form agrarian cooperatives. He was falsely accused of inciting resistance and violence, and was later killed for preaching against armed rebellion.

We stand in solidarity with the indigenous and small farmers who struggle to compete in an increasingly globalized world. May we act as global citizens, supporting the rights of small farmers and businesses and may we amplify our voices when others are treated unjustly.

All: Saint Cristóbal Magallanes Jara, pray for us.

Reader 12: We remember **Saint Juan Grande** of Spain, who was a merciful tenant of the Gospel of Life and a critical conscience against injustice. He started his own hospital and provided quality health care for prisoners, the convalescing sick and the incurably ill, prostitutes, rejected sick soldiers, abandoned children, and the elderly.

We stand in solidarity with all those who suffer from a lack of adequate health care and who are plagued by preventable illness. May we work for a better system in which quality health care is accessible and affordable to all.

All: Saint Juan Grande, pray for us.

Reader 13: We remember **Saint Josephine Bakhita** of Sudan, who, at the age of nine was kidnapped into the slave-trade and resold into slavery. The pain of being ripped apart from her family and the perpetual brutal beatings she endured caused her to forget the name given to her by her parents. Her captors gave her the name Bakhita, which means “lucky one.”

We stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers of Sudan—those who fall victim to human trafficking and who are forced to serve as child soldiers. May we play our part in calling the international community to stand against these crimes that shatter the lives of young children.

All: Saint Josephine Bakhita, pray for us.

Reader 14: We remember **Saint Anthony Peter Dich** of Vietnam, a simple farmer who had an undying love and devotion for the poor and the sick. He was beheaded for sheltering a priest in his home during a period of religious persecution,

We stand in solidarity with all those who desire to help end the oppression of others—especially those overwhelmed with fear that standing on the side of the oppressed will impact their lives and the lives of their families. May we all have the strength to act with conviction,

All: Saint Anthony Peter Dich, pray for us.

Reader 15: We remember **Saint Pope John XXIII** of Italy, whose papacy lasted only five years, but who renewed the church through his social documents and the summoning of the Second Vatican Council.

We stand in solidarity with people of faith who are inspired by a keen awareness of the Church’s duty to stand up for the dignity of the poor. May the principles of Catholic social teaching inspire us to live out our faith through works of mercy.

All: Saint Pope John XXIII, pray for us.

Reader 16: We remember **Saint Pedro de San Jose Betancurt** of Guatemala, a poor shepherd who practiced mercy with the lowliest and the most deprived. He founded a hostel for the homeless and a school for poor and abandoned children. Known as the “St. Francis of the Americas,” he begged for alms and walked the streets ringing a bell, inviting the wealthy to repent, treat their workers with dignity, and to share their wealth with the poor and needy.

We stand in solidarity with those subjected to inhumane labor, the immigrants, and abandoned children who often have no place to call home. May we find time in our daily lives to alleviate the sufferings of the less fortunate and challenge those who pursue wealth at the expense of others.

All: Saint Pedro de San Jose Betancurt, pray for us.

Reader 17: We remember **Blessed Michael Ghebre** of Ethiopia, a holy priest who was arrested, imprisoned, and tortured to force him to renounce his Catholic faith. He was kept in chains and dragged from place to place before dying in a prison cell.

We stand in solidarity with those who are persecuted, tortured, and humiliated on account of their faith. May we take the time to reflect on the demands of discipleship and what holds us back from giving an unhesitating “yes” to Jesus’ invitation to stand on the side of justice.

All: Blessed Michael Ghebre, pray for us.

Reader 18: **Saint Peter Ou** of China was known from his youth for his sense of justice and his outspoken defense of the poor and oppressed,

We stand in solidarity with the poor and oppressed in our midst. May we have a compassionate awareness of the suffering around us and learn to be sowers of justice.

All: Saint Peter Ou, pray for us.

Reader 17: We remember **Saint Teresa** of India, who devoted her life to serving the poor and destitute around the world. She spent many years in Calcutta, India, where she founded the Missionaries of Charity, a religious congregation devoted to helping the poorest of the poor.

We stand in solidarity with those who have become victims of the crime of poverty created by greed and corruption. May we be generous dispensers of mercy, making ourselves available to anyone in need, especially those suffering from physical and spiritual poverty.

All: Saint Teresa of Calcutta, pray for us.

Leader: God of our ancestors, like the saints who have gone before us and those of today, may we bravely seek to rid our world of injustice. Empower us with your Spirit so that we may also become your zealous saints for peace with justice. Amen.

“If we have no peace,
it is because we have forgotten
that we belong to each other.”

— Saint Teresa of Calcutta