



Shalom News North America

An instrument of hope, formation, and action concerning priority matters of social justice.



September 2019



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Integrity of Creation

Season of Creation (9/1-10/4)

The Season of Creation is a time to reflect on God's presence in all of creation and to renew our commitment to solidarity with Earth and all creatures. The theme this year is the *Web of Life*; let us enter into it in the spirit of these words from *Laudato Si'*: "The divine Persons are subsistent relations, and the world, created according to the divine model, is a web of relationships. Creatures tend towards God, and in turn it is proper to every living being to tend towards other things, so that throughout the universe we can find any number of constant and secretly interwoven relationships. ... Everything is interconnected, and this invites us to develop a spirituality of that global solidarity which flows from the mystery of the Trinity" (240). Please visit <https://seasonofcreation.org/guide/> for resources.



SEASON OF CREATION

SEPTEMBER 1 to OCTOBER 4, 2019

Preservation of the Ozone Layer

September 16 is the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer. This is an annual reminder of the increasing hazards caused by ozone depletion in the atmosphere and its damaging effects on human health. World governments agreed in the late 1980s to protect the Earth's ozone layer with the [Montreal Protocol](#) and, although global action has halted its depletion, much remains to be done to ensure a steady recovery. [Learn more.](#)

Clean Up the World Weekend (9/20-9/22)

Established in 1993, *Clean Up the World* weekend is a non-government apolitical event that encourages local community groups to carry out activities that address local environmental issues. By facilitating local action world-wide, the organization works to bring about global environmental change. What could you, will you do to help clean up the world? [More information.](#)



Endangered Species Act

The Trump administration recently announced that it would change the way the Endangered Species Act is applied. The new rules would make it easier to remove a species from the endangered list and weaken protections for other species. [Critics say](#) the change will hurt plants, animals and other species at a time when [one million of the world's plant and animal species](#) are at risk of extinction. [Learn more, let your voice be heard.](#)

Climate Action Summit (9/23)

UN Secretary-General António Guterres is calling on global leaders to participate in a Climate Action Summit in New York on September 23 to address climate change and to accelerate actions to implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The Summit will bring together governments, the private sector, civil society, local authorities and other international organizations to develop ambitious solutions in six areas in line with reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45%

over the next decade, and to net zero emissions by 2050 – [learn more](#). Check out these [actions you can take](#) to help make a difference. On September 20, in anticipation of the Summit, young people and adults will participate in protests

and other actions all across the US calling for transformative action to be taken to address the climate crisis. Check the [interactive map](#) to find an event near you. [Prayer resource](#).

Human Dignity

Labor Day

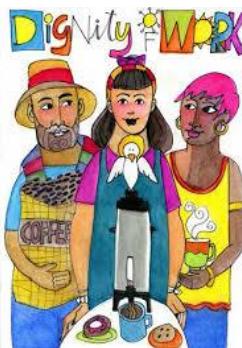
In the Catholic tradition, work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continued participation in God's creative action. As we mark Labor Day this year, we are invited in a special way to reflect on the persistence of low wages and inequality in our workplaces. Consider this [USCCB reflection resource](#), and NETWORK's [Racial Wealth & Income Gap](#) resources.

Catholic Day of Action for Immigrants and Refugees (9/4)

The Trump administration has announced it will use a new immigration rule that would allow it to detain some immigrant children and families indefinitely, replacing the 1997 Flores settlement, which had limited the length of time children could be held in detention, because detention is so harmful to children. Read [U.S. Bishops](#) and [LCWR](#) concerns about this action and additional [deep concerns](#) the US Bishops and others have about the impact the administration's new public charge rule will have on immigrants and asylum seekers. On September 4, you are invited to join with Catholics throughout the country in contacting the White House and members of Congress to insist they treat immigrants and those seeking asylum with the dignity and respect they deserve. [Learn more/take action.](#)

International Literacy Day (9/8)

International Literacy Day provides an opportunity for governments, civil society and stakeholders to highlight improvements in world literacy rates, and reflect on the world's remaining literacy challenges. The issue of literacy is a key component of the UN's [Sustainable Development](#)



Goals. The focus for 2019 is "Literacy and Multilingualism." [Learn more/resources](#).

International Day of Democracy (9/15)

"At heart, democracy is about people. Democracy is built on inclusion, equal treatment and participation — and it is a fundamental building block for peace, sustainable development and human rights," says the UN Secretary-General in [his 2019 message](#). Given all that is going on domestically and internationally, perhaps a day to reflect on democracy makes a whole lot of sense. [Learn more, resources for reflection](#) on the upcoming elections in Canada.

World Day of Migrants & Refugees (9/29)

From the Pope's message for the day, "Dear brothers and sisters, our response to the challenges posed by contemporary migration can be summed up in four verbs: welcome, protect, promote and integrate. Yet these verbs do not apply only to migrants and refugees. They describe the Church's mission to all those living in the existential peripheries, who need to be welcomed, protected, promoted and integrated. If we put those four verbs into practice, we will help build the city of God." Read [Pope Francis' full message here](#). Resources – [An Evening in Solidarity](#), [Host a Welcome Meal](#), [Welcoming Christ in the Migrant](#), [Unity in Diversity Scriptural Rosary](#).

Hispanic Heritage Month (9/15-10/15)

This month, we in the U.S. celebrate "the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America." Nearly [one-quarter of the total U.S. population is](#)

Hispanic, and they make up [more than 40% of Catholic parishioners](#). Learn more [here](#). Find ways

to connect with your Hispanic neighbors. [Pray](#) for Hispanic immigrants.

Peace and Non-Violence

Pray for Peace and Racial Justice in Our Communities (9/9)

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Second Vatican Council, racism and every form of discrimination based on “sex, race, color, social conditions, language, or religion must be curbed and eradicated as incompatible with God’s design” (Catechism, par. 1935 and *Gaudium et Spes*, no. 29). We must work to protect the dignity of all members of one human family by confronting racism in all its forms and by welcoming and celebrating the diversity of the many faces of the children of God in our communities. Reflect/act on LCWR’s recently passed resolution [Creating Communion at the Intersection of Racism, Migration & Climate Crisis](#), explore [these USCCB resources](#).



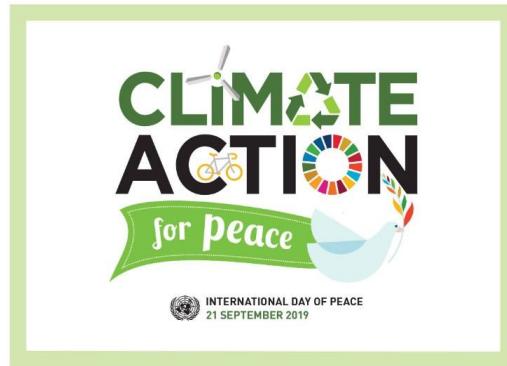
[more](#). Resources for [prayer and other actions](#), [events listing](#).

International Day Against Nuclear Tests (8/29)

"The legacy of nuclear testing is nothing but destruction. The [Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty](#) (CTBT) is vital to ensuring there are no more victims; it is also essential to advancing nuclear disarmament. On this International Day Against Nuclear Tests, I reiterate my call for all States that have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Treaty, especially those whose ratification is needed for the Treaty's entry into force. In a world of rising tensions and divisions, our collective security depends on it." - UN Secretary-General António Guterres. [Learn more](#).

Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

September 26 is the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, an occasion for the world community to reaffirm its commitment to global nuclear disarmament. It provides an opportunity to educate the public and their leaders about the real benefits of eliminating such weapons and the social and economic costs of perpetuating them. In 1969, Canada ratified the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and their missiles were phased out. The U.S. maintains the 2nd largest supply of nuclear weapons in the world. Learn more about efforts to abolish nuclear weapons [here](#).



International Day of Peace (9/21)

The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. This year's suggested theme "Climate Action for Peace" draws attention to the importance of combatting climate change as a way to protect and promote peace throughout the world. Peace can only be achieved if concrete action is taken to combat climate change. [Learn](#)



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