International Day of Peace (9/21)



The International Day of Peace is an inspiring reminder that, together, we can create Peace. Peace is possible. Give peace a chance! Created in 1981 by the UN General Assembly to strengthen cultures of peace around the world, it has also become a 24-hour period of global ceasefire and non-violence for groups in active combat. We recognize the efforts of those who have and are continuing to work hard to end conflict and promote peace. A few suggestions for the day:

1. Observe the global "Minute of Silence" at midday to create a "peace wave" across the planet.
2. Host a global peace feast: Bring people together with a 'global' potluck, encouraging others to share a unique dish from various countries or cultures. Breaking bread together is one of the oldest yet most effective ways to bring peace into your life. Interfaith and intercultural discussions can make the evening even richer.
3. Foster cultures of peace through education: Learn and share about living peace once today.

Five Factors That Promote a Culture of Peace

1. **Seek to understand**

Around the world, we are more alike than different; seek common ground, understand and value the differences you find in the people you meet and cultures you experience different from your own.

2. **Promote economic and social stability**

Eliminating poverty, food insecurity, and social injustice leads to a stronger culture of peace because it removes common causes of unrest and violence.

3. **Respect all human rights**

At the core of peaceful relations is the belief that all humans are valuable - no one group being better than another; see how you can contribute to this understanding in your sphere of influence.

4. **Advocate for equality**

Support the advancement of women in society through political and economic initiatives; actively oppose violence against women and girls in your community and promote the elimination of discrimination in the workplace.

5. **Choose democratic principles**

Encourage the democratic participation of all peoples in your community so that every voice is heard in civic decision-making and corruption in political leadership and operations is eliminated.

Why the International Day of Peace is Important

1. **It connects us to each other**

Nations and communities around the world struggle with poverty and disease, education, and healthcare. The International Day of Peace reminds us that regardless of where we come from or what languages we speak, we are more alike than we are different.

2. **It reminds us to believe in something bigger than ourselves**

Sometimes, it's healthy to reflect on how communities and nations need to get outside our comfort zones. We can have peace when we make an effort to see someone else's perspective or, put another way, to "walk a mile in their shoes."

3. **It demonstrates that small actions can make big impacts**

We can all contribute to the worldwide culture of peace be that through prayer, advocacy, education, and respecting others. If each of us did one small thing to bring about peace, even each week, think of the global impact this would have!

Catholic Peacebuilding in Times of Crisis

The Journal of Moral Theology has published a symposium of essays developed from presentations at the conference *Catholic Peacebuilding in Times of Crisis: Hope for a Wounded World* held in June of 2022. You can find these inspiring presentations, along with three original articles online here.