



Prophetic Transformation

2020-2021 Justice and Peace Calendar



Education
for Justice



Justice and Peace Calendar

“Love is the greatest power for the transformation of reality because it pulls down the walls of selfishness and fills the ditches that keep us apart.”

— Pope Francis

Print-ready resources are available at educationforjustice.org to assist you in observing and celebrating many of the dates listed below.

A Note from Education for Justice:

The first half of this year has been one marked by the COVID-19 global pandemic, protests against systemic racism and white supremacy, economic instability, and uncertainty.

In these turbulent times, as a resurrection people we believe that new life emerges from death and darkness. Henri Nouwen reminds us that centering ourselves in prayer and relationship with God, “Allows us to perceive interruptions as occasions for a conversion of heart, which makes our responsibilities a vocation instead of a burden, and which creates inner space where a compassionate solidarity with our fellow human beings becomes possible.”

Now more than ever, we see that we are connected and we pray that this new way of seeing allows us to experience **Prophetic Transformation**, this year’s Education for Justice theme. May we be transformed into ever more loving people and may we not go back to “normal”—but rather bravely work to transform unjust structures in society so that all people experience justice and peace.

AUGUST 2020

- 1 Birthday of Henrietta Lacks (1920-1951)**
African American woman whose cancer cells were the source of the HeLa cell line, one of the most important cell lines in medical research - <http://bit.ly/2vCQmlz>
- 4 The bodies of three Civil Rights workers James E. Chaney (21), Andrew Goodman (22), and Michael Schwerner (24) were found in a dam; all three were shot by the Ku Klux Klan (1964)**
- 5 Birthday of James H. Cone (1938)**
American theologian, best known for his advocacy of Black liberation theology
- 6 Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord - <https://bit.ly/31wZJfi>**
Anniversary of the death of Pope Paul VI (1897-1978) - <https://bit.ly/2kIM7a7>
Anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima (1945) - <http://bit.ly/1KNXzdi>
Voting Rights Act of 1965 signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson - <https://bit.ly/30v3EbR>
- 9 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples - <http://bit.ly/2Mq7tZ6>**
Anniversary of the bombing of Nagasaki (1945) - <http://bit.ly/2pwogun>
Feast of Edith Stein (St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross), patroness of Europe and martyrs
Anniversary of the death of Michael Brown Jr., at the hands of white Ferguson, MO police officer Darren Wilson, leading to Ferguson uprisings (2014)
- 11 Feast of St. Clare of Assisi - <https://bit.ly/2tMyVVZ>**
Watts Riots (Los Angeles, 1965) - <https://bit.ly/2ETreqi>
- 12 International Youth Day - Theme: Youth Engagement for Global Action - <https://bit.ly/2J4hhaF>**
- 14 Feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe, priest, martyr, and patron of addicts and drug addiction**
- 15 Feast of the Assumption of Mary**
Birthday of St. Óscar Romero (1917-1980) - <https://bit.ly/3dj5EAB> and <https://bit.ly/2NLZB3m>
Birthday of Catherine Doherty, C.M. (1896 -1985)
Pioneer of social justice, prolific writer, renowned speaker, and foundress of the Madonna House Apostolate
- 18 Birthday of Winona LaDuke (1959)**
Native American activist, environmentalist, economist, and writer, known for her work on tribal land claims and sustainable development
- 19 World Humanitarian Day - <https://bit.ly/2ZnfF1d>**

AUGUST 2020

- 20 Birthday of Ilia Delio, O.S.F. (1955)**
Author, global lecturer in the area of Christianity and evolution, and holder of the Josephine C. Connelly Endowed Chair in Theology at Villanova University
Muharram begins at sunset and ends at sunset on September 17 - <https://bit.ly/31ASJwD>
- 22 Earth Overshoot Day 2020** - <http://bit.ly/2YwVnDW>
- 23 International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition**
- 25 Birthday of Ray McGovern (1939)**
Retired CIA officer turned political activist
- 26 Women's Equality Day** - <https://bit.ly/2ZmSiop>
Commemorates the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, granting women the right to vote
- 27 Feast of St. Monica, patroness of wives, victims of abuse, and alcoholics**
- 28 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom (1963)**
Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Washington, DC (1963) - <https://bit.ly/2NVgjOd>
Ashura begins at sunsent and ends at sunset on August 29 - <http://bit.ly/2GGn8jd>
- 29 International Day against Nuclear Tests** - <http://bit.ly/2JeGbQl>
Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina (2005)
First Presidential Debate (at the University of Notre Dame)
- 30 International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances**
Birthday of Reverend William J. Barber II (1963)
Protestant minister, author, and architect of the Forward Together Moral Monday Movement, a coalition of faith leaders and activists who routinely protest poverty and discrimination throughout the U.S.

It may well be that we will have to repent in this generation. Not merely for the vitriolic words and the violent actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence and indifference of the good people who sit around and say, "Wait on time."

Martin Luther King Jr., A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings and Speeches

SEPTEMBER 2020

National Hispanic Heritage Month and Suicide Prevention Month

- 1** World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation - <https://bit.ly/2xBLokr>
Season of Creation begins and lasts through October 4
- 3** Feast of St. Gregory the Great, patron of teachers, students, and musicians
- 5** Feast of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, patron of World Youth Day - <https://bit.ly/2HeWtaJ>
- 6** The Medellín Conference Documents (1968)
Second meeting of the Latin American Episcopal Conference - <https://bit.ly/2klydVg>
Birthday of Jane Addams (1860-1935)
Known as the "mother" of social work, a pioneer American settlement activist, and leader in women's suffrage and world peace - <https://bit.ly/2HeHyNJ>
- 7** Labor Day (U.S.) - <https://bit.ly/2LTY0X5>
- 8** Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary - <http://bit.ly/2Je86zJ>
Birthday of Kerry Kennedy (1959)
Human rights activist, president of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights, and founder of Speak Truth To Power, a global education initiative - <http://bit.ly/2t0YIOZ>
International Literacy Day - <https://bit.ly/38dR9U6>
National Grandparents Day - <https://bit.ly/2kJUgeE>
- 9** Anniversary of the Attica Prison riot (ended 09/13/71) - <http://nyti.ms/1E7nRDN>
- 10** World Suicide Prevention Day - <https://bit.ly/2spr4xl>
- 11** Anniversary of terrorist attacks on United States (2001) - <https://bit.ly/3ij3ECo>
- 12** Anniversary of the assassination of Stephen Bantu Biko (1946-1977)
Anti-apartheid activist in South Africa during the 1960s and 1970s - <https://bit.ly/28lPWsn>
Birthday of Florence Kelley (1859-1932)
A leading organizer against sweatshops and an advocate for children's rights

SEPTEMBER 2020

National Hispanic Heritage Month and Suicide Prevention Month

- 13 Birthday of Marie Dennis (1942)**
Co-president of Pax Christi International and author of many books, including Choosing Peace (2018)
- 14 Laborem Exercens, On Human Work (1981), Pope John Paul II** - <https://bit.ly/3geemZg>
- 15 Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows** - <https://bit.ly/2YJyOuW>
Hispanic Heritage Month begins and lasts through October 15- <https://bit.ly/38gmyp9>
Birthday of Alfred Delp, S.J. (1907-1945)
A German Jesuit priest and philosopher of the German Resistance and a significant figure in Catholic resistance to Nazism
International Day of Democracy
- 16 International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer** - <https://bit.ly/2Jqaxn0>
Anniversary of the assassination of Víctor Lidio Jara Martínez (1932-1973),
Chilean teacher, theatre director, poet, singer-songwriter, and political activist
- 17 Constitution Day (U.S.)** - <https://bit.ly/1OoF1hN>
- 18 Clean Up the World Weekend: “Our Place...Our Planet...Our Responsibility”** - <https://bit.ly/2YK1a8v>
Rosh Hashanah begins at sunset and ends at nightfall on September 20
- 19 Birthday of Paulo Freire (1921-1997)**
Brazilian educator and philosopher who was a leading advocate of critical pedagogy of the oppressed - <https://bit.ly/2LSp2y8>
- 20 Birthday of Van Jones (1968)**
Civil rights activist, attorney, and co-founder of four non-profit organizations engaged in social and environmental justice

Let's teach kids, at the kindergarten level, what the contributions of people of color were to building the United States of America.

Dolores Huerta

SEPTEMBER 2020

National Hispanic Heritage Month and Suicide Prevention Month

- 21** International Day of Peace - <https://bit.ly/3dJWymZ>
Anniversary of the assassination of Chilean diplomat Orlando Letelier and his American colleague, Ronni Karpen Moffitt (1976)
The bombing was traced to the regime of General Augusto Pinochet
- 22** Birthday of Hans Scholl (1918-1943)
Founding member of the White Rose resistance movement in Nazi Germany
World Car Free Day
- 25** United Nations General Assembly Adoption of Sustainable Development Goals (2015) - <https://bit.ly/2CTfFhH>
- 26** World Environmental Health Day - <https://bit.ly/2ZpF6ip>
Feast of Blessed Pope Paul VI, who concluded the Second Vatican Council that brought sweeping reforms to the Catholic Church - <https://bit.ly/2kIM7a7>
First televised U.S. presidential debate (Kennedy v. Nixon, 1960)
- 27** Feast of St. Vincent de Paul, patron of charities, hospitals, prisoners, and volunteers
- 27-28** Yom Kippur - <https://bit.ly/2VtWyBi>
- 28** Feast of St. Lorenzo Ruiz, first Filipino saint and patron of the Philippines
- 29** World Day of Migrants and Refugees - <https://bit.ly/3f2wUew>
Birthday of Mother Catherine Elizabeth McAuley (1778-1841)
Founded the Sisters of Mercy in 1831
Feast of Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels
International Coffee Day - <https://bit.ly/31wyBxa>
- 30** Birthday of Elie Wiesel (1928-2016)
Author, professor, political activist, Nobel Laureate, and Holocaust survivor <https://bit.ly/2YJBgl8>

Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!

Pope Francis

OCTOBER 2020

Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Fair Trade Month

- 1 International Day of Older Persons** - <https://bit.ly/1NHQij3>
Birthday of Jimmy Carter (1924)
Former U.S. president, co-founder of the Carter Center, peace negotiator, and a voice for peace on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict
Feast of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, patroness of foreign missions, florists, and illness
- 2 Birthday of Mohandas Gandhi (1869-1948)**
Spiritual and political leader, father of the Indian independence movement, and architect of a nonviolent way of protesting against injustices - <https://bit.ly/2K3txYL>
International Day of Nonviolence - <https://bit.ly/31y3pgW>
Sukkot (Jewish feast of Tabernacles) begins at sunset and ends on October 9
- 4 Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron of animals, peace, and ecology**
<https://bit.ly/2l4bUCW>
World Animal Day - <https://bit.ly/2tjTmJA>
- 5 World Teachers' Day** - <http://bit.ly/2jdY8y4>
Birthday of peace activist, Philip Berrigan (1923-2002)
Birthday of Maya Ying Lin (1959)
Designer of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.
- 7 Birthday of Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu (1931)**
South African social rights advocate, awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his nonviolent role in ending apartheid
Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary
World Habitat Day - <http://bit.ly/2ysjLmQ>
- 9 Birthday of Jody Williams (1950)**
Founding coordinator of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997
- 10 World Mental Health Day** - <https://bit.ly/2KdxlHL> and <https://bit.ly/2M01MxG>
World Homeless Day - <https://bit.ly/2JQQNtT>
World Day Against the Death Penalty - <https://bit.ly/2D0qgYk> and <https://bit.ly/2JMvh9A>
Birthday of Ken Saro-Wiwa (1941-1995)
Nigerian writer and environmental activist - <https://bit.ly/28loTxE>
- 11 Opening session of Vatican II (1962)**
International Day of the Girl - <https://bit.ly/2t7NdRz>
Birthday of Thích Nhất Hạnh (1926)
Vietnamese Zen Buddhist monk, teacher, author, poet, and peace activist - <https://bit.ly/3g9mQAO>
Birthday of Eleanor Roosevelt (1884 -1962)
Diplomat and activist who worked tirelessly to draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the General Assembly on December 10, 1948 - <https://bit.ly/1loFPTw>

OCTOBER 2020

Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Fair Trade Month

- 12** **Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day** - <https://bit.ly/3dRiLzq>
National Farmers Day - <https://bit.ly/2JVU1rS>
Birthday of Rabbi Arthur Waskow (1933)
Activist and founder and director of The Shalom Center
- 13** **International Day for Disaster Reduction** - <https://www.unisdr.org/we/campaign/iddr>
- 15** **International Day of Rural Women**
Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day
Birthday of Benjamin Joseph Salmon (1888-1932)
Pacifist, conscientious objector, and outspoken critic of just war theory
- 16** **World Food Day** - <https://bit.ly/2MyKHvA> and <https://bit.ly/2yoRISk>
- 17** **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty** -
<https://bit.ly/2K0IASZ> and <https://bit.ly/2lIKfEV>
Black Poetry Day - <https://bit.ly/29vklGP>
- 19** **Anniversary of the assassination of Digna Ochoa (1964-2001)**
Mexican human rights lawyer, known for defending the poor and those working to protect the environment - <https://bit.ly/2h3IRGd>
- 19- 26** **Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice** - igsol.net/iftj
The virtual conference will offer professional development tracks, evening speakers and networking, and daytime content geared toward high school classrooms. October 24-26 will follow the traditional Teach-In format with 40+ dynamic speakers, breakouts, prayer and liturgy, and advocacy.
- 20** **World Mission Day** - <https://bit.ly/2l0ojbj> and <https://bit.ly/2JO3gOD>
- 21** **The Common Good and the Catholic Church's Social Teaching (1996)**
Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales - <https://bit.ly/2Ns3cm4> and <https://bit.ly/2VwowMT>
- 22** **Mix It Up at Lunch Day: Teaching Tolerance** - <https://bit.ly/2gdPyU2>
- 24** **United Nations Day** - <https://bit.ly/2KcE0IE>
- 24-30** **Disarmament Week** - <https://bit.ly/2tNtMNI>, and <https://bit.ly/3dRVLk6>
- 27** **Birthday of Majora Carter (1966)**
Environmental equality advocate, founder of Sustainable South Bronx, an organization that promotes people creating change their own neighborhood through environmental revitalization - <https://bit.ly/2M4mBrt>
Anniversary of mass shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA (2018)
- 31** **Halloween** - <https://bit.ly/2YMHwJO>

NOVEMBER 2020

Black Catholic History Month and Native American Heritage Month

- 1** **Feast of All Saints** - <https://bit.ly/2liphGV>
Economic Justice for All (1986), Pastoral Letter by the United States Catholic Bishops - <https://bit.ly/SA42QD>
Brothers and Sisters to Us (1979), Pastoral Letter by the United States Catholic Bishops - <https://bit.ly/1vMdmIM>
- 2** **All Souls' Day**
- 3** **Feast of St. Martin de Porres, patron of African Americans, race relations, and justice** - <https://bit.ly/2e6QzM3>
Election Day - <https://bit.ly/38luCVi>
- 6** **International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of Environment in War and Armed Conflict**
- 7** **Birthday of Ignacio Martín-Baró, S.J. (1942-1989)**
Scholar, social psychologist, and philosopher who was killed by a U.S.-backed Salvadoran death squad - <https://bit.ly/2JOGypS>
- 8** **Birthday of Dorothy Day (1897-1980)** - <https://bit.ly/2lkzXom> and <https://bit.ly/2g7BmtD>
- 9** **Birthday of Thomas Berry, C.P. (1914-2009)** - <https://bit.ly/2pukoM2>
Birthday of Ignacio Ellacuría, S.J. (1930 -1989)
Philosopher, theologian, and natural leader committed to the "preferential option for the poor," and who was killed by a U.S.-backed Salvadoran death squad - <https://bit.ly/2JOGypS>
- 10** **World Science Day for Peace and Development**
- 11** **Veterans Day (U.S.)** - <https://bit.ly/1KvX8m7>, <http://bit.ly/2L9gvpR>, <https://bit.ly/1YwTfRI>
Remembrance Day (Canada)
Birthday of Emma González (1999)
American activist and advocate for gun control. As a high school senior she survived the February 2018 Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida, and in response co-founded the gun-control advocacy group Never Again MSD.
- 12** ***For I Was Hungry and You Gave Me Food: Catholic Reflections on Food, Farmers, and Farmworkers (2003), Pastoral Letter by the United States Catholic Bishops*** - <https://bit.ly/1buC2Hj>
Called to Global Solidarity: International Challenges for U.S. Parishes (1997), Pastoral Letter by the United States Catholic Bishops - <https://bit.ly/29vI7mS>
- 13** **Feast of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini**
Patroness of immigrants and impossible causes - <https://bit.ly/2thXp9i>
A Place at the Table: A Catholic Recommitment to Overcome Poverty and to Respect the Dignity of God's Children (2002), Pastoral Letter by the United States Catholic Bishops - <https://bit.ly/2HZZeeH>

NOVEMBER 2020

Black Catholic History Month and Native American Heritage Month

- 14** Diwali (Festival of Lights) - <http://bit.ly/2YzIlfs>
Anniversary of the death of Cardinal Joseph Bernardin (1928-1996)
Co-founder of Center of Concern - <https://bit.ly/28ISdCz>
Birthday of Pedro Arrupe, S.J., (1907-1991)
Co-founder and first executive director of Center of Concern - <https://bit.ly/28IZyTD>
Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love, A Pastoral Letter Against Racism (2018),
Pastoral Letter by the United States Catholic Bishops - <http://bit.ly/333F80r>
- 15** *Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice (2000)*, Pastoral Letter by the United States Catholic Bishops - <https://bit.ly/19wi1s4>
- 16** 31st Anniversary of the murder of the six martyrs and their companions in El Salvador (1989) - <https://bit.ly/2YPnGwD>
International Day for Tolerance - <https://bit.ly/2pL71Kn>
- 18** *In All Things Charity: A Pastoral Challenge for the New Millennium (1999)*, Pastoral Letter by the United States Catholic Bishops - <https://bit.ly/1OrZzG7>
World Day of the Poor - <https://bit.ly/2yN711T>
- 19** World Toilet Day - <https://bit.ly/1S1XG4D>
- 20** Universal Children's Day - <https://bit.ly/2KdUIB6>
Transgender Remembrance Day - <https://bit.ly/2yn68gZ>
- 21** World Television Day
On this day, watch clips and documentaries provided by the United Nations to learn about issues happening around the world. <https://bit.ly/1FQeQOy>
"Bloody Sunday" / war of independence in Ireland (1920)

I'm content to do my little bit. Sometimes people think they have to do big things in order to make change. But if each one would light a candle we'd have a tremendous light.

Sr. Thea Bowman

NOVEMBER 2020

Black Catholic History Month and Native American Heritage Month

- 22** Feast of St. Cecilia, patroness of musicians
Assassination of President John F. Kennedy (1917-1963)
Feast of Christ the King
Anniversary of the killing of Tamir Rice by Cleveland Police (2014)
- 23** *Justicia in Mundo, Justice in the World (1971)*, Synod of Bishops - <https://bit.ly/2t4wzCw>
International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day - <https://bit.ly/2spr4xl>
Nuremberg Trials (1945)
- 24** Conference of Major Superiors of Women (now LCWR), founded in 1956
Birthday of Yara Sallam (1985)
Egyptian human rights defender and transitional justice researcher with the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR)
Evangelii Gaudium, The Joy of the Gospel (2013), Pope Francis - <https://bit.ly/1tmQF3S>
- 25** International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women - <https://bit.ly/3fayaN5>
Anniversary of the Declaration of the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief
- 26** Thanksgiving Day - <https://bit.ly/2lg8xzO>
- 27** National Buy-Nothing Day (traditional start of Christmas shopping season)
- 29** First Sunday of Advent
International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People - <https://bit.ly/2ymLmNT>

People say, what is the sense of our small effort? They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time. A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions. Each one of our thoughts, words and deeds is like that. No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There is too much work to do.

Dorothy Day

DECEMBER 2020

Universal Human Rights Month

- 1 **World AIDS Day** - <https://bit.ly/3gEQ0I6>
Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a bus (1955) - <https://bit.ly/1TZ78rk>
Feast of Blessed Charles de Foucauld
- 2 **International Day for the Abolition of Slavery** - <https://bit.ly/38HzFzF>
Anniversary of the deaths of Maura Clarke, Ita Ford, Dorothy Kazel, and Jean Donovan in El Salvador (1980) - <http://bit.ly/2Jgfc6H>
- 3 **International Day of Persons with Disabilities** - <https://bit.ly/2ekh7uG>
Feast of St. Francis Xavier, patron of foreign missions and Japan
- 5 **International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development**
- 6 **Feast of St. Nicholas, patron of travelers, children, and bakers**
Anniversary of the death of Philip Berrigan (1923-2002)
Anti-Vietnam war protester and peace activist
Birthday of Elizabeth A. Johnson C.S.J. (1941)
Christian feminist theologian known for her writings on the mystery of God, human suffering, ethics, and issues related to women
Second Sunday of Advent
- 7 ***Gaudium et Spes, Pastoral Constitution in the Modern World (1965),***
Second Vatican Council - <https://bit.ly/38JRoq5>
Dignitatis Humanae Declaration on Religious Freedom (1965),
Second Vatican Council - <https://bit.ly/2t3t13h>
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (1941)
Birthday of Noam Chomsky, social justice scholar (1928)
- 8 **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** - <https://bit.ly/2W5Glm7>
- 9 **International Anti-Corruption Day** - <https://bit.ly/2fenfSS>
- 10 **Human Rights Day** - <https://bit.ly/2CpZVIZ>
Anniversary of the death of Thomas Merton, O.C.S.O., (1915-1968)
Trappist monk and peace activist - <http://bit.ly/2JfIFxE> and <https://bit.ly/2tivCFH>
Birthday of Kathy Kelly (1952)
Peace activist and founding member of Voices for Creative Nonviolence
A Milestone for the Human Family (1998), Pastoral Letter by the Catholic Bishops of Australia - <https://bit.ly/2KQseJQ>
Hanukkah begins at sunset and ends at sunset December 18 - <https://bit.ly/2IzazEt>

DECEMBER 2020

Universal Human Rights Month

- 11** International Mountain Day - <https://bit.ly/3frTwER>
- 12** Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe - <https://bit.ly/2ZRvugU>
The Hispanic Presence: Challenge and Commitment (1983), Pastoral Letter by the
United States Catholic Bishops - <http://bit.ly/313IGz3>
- 13** Feast of St. Lucy, patroness of blindness and eye disorders
Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)
- 14** Feast of St. John of the Cross, patron of contemplatives, mystics,
and mystical theology
Anniversary of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School (2012) -
<http://bit.ly/2GkRDsz>
- 15** Birthday of Chico Mendes - <https://bit.ly/2fsbNII>
Bill of Rights Day (U.S.)
- 16 -24** Las Posadas - <https://bit.ly/2ZTcj6d>
- 17** Birthday of Pope Francis (1936) - <https://bit.ly/2ZSMKSR>
- 18** International Migrants Day - <https://bit.ly/2JhBF3Y>
Birthday of Stephen Biko (1946-1977)
Anti-apartheid activist in South Africa, founder of the Black Consciousness Movement
<https://bit.ly/28IPWsn>
- 20** International Human Solidarity Day - <https://bit.ly/2JZE9rr>
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Birthday of Mother Maria Skobtsova (1891-1945)
*Orthodox nun in Paris; her home was at once a soup kitchen for the needy, a center for the
renewal of Orthodox thought, and, under Nazi occupation, a haven for the rescue of Jews*
- 22** Anniversary of the assassination of Chico Mendes (1944-1988)
Brazilian rubber tapper, trade union leader, and environmentalist
- 24** Christmas Eve

DECEMBER 2020

Universal Human Rights Month

- 25** Christmas - <https://bit.ly/3feSJrH>
Deus Caritas Est, God is Love (2005), Pope Benedict XVI - <http://bit.ly/1Fa2Uam>
- 26-Jan.1** Kwanzaa
- 26** Feast of St. Stephen, first martyr, patron of stonemasons, deacons, horses, and headaches
Birthday of Baba Amte (1914-2008)
Indian social activist best remembered for his work for rehabilitation and empowerment of poor people suffering from leprosy
- 27** Feast of the Holy Family - <https://bit.ly/2oXSmHN>
Birthday of Jon Sobrino, S.J. (1938)
Theologian and writer, known for his contributions to liberation theology - <https://bit.ly/2Kh7H4T>
Feast of St. John the Evangelist, apostle and patron of Asia Minor, theologians, and editors
- 28** Feast of the Holy Innocents
Birthday of Liu Xiaobo (1955)
Chinese literary critic, writer, professor, and human rights activist, best known for his participation in the Tiananmen Square protests and currently incarcerated as a political prisoner
- 29** Anniversary of the Wounded Knee Massacre on the Lakota Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, SD (1890) - <https://bit.ly/2OnVJ9r>
Birthday of Sister Thea Bowman, F.S.P.A. (1937-1990)
Helped organize the 1987 Black Catholic Congress and credited with incorporating African rituals and dances and African American folk songs into the Mass - <https://bit.ly/28Jb7cf>
Birthday of James J. Martin, S.J. (1960)
Writer, lecturer, and editor-at-large of the Jesuit magazine America.
- 30** *Sollicitudo Rei Socialism, On Social Concern (1987), Pope John Paul II* - <https://bit.ly/1WJB2EX>
- 31** **Birthday of Odetta Holmes (1930-2008)**
American singer, actress, guitarist, songwriter, and civil and human rights activist, often referred to as "The Voice of the Civil Rights Movement"
New Year's Eve

This world's not going to change unless we're willing to change ourselves.

Rigobera Menchu

JANUARY 2021

National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

- 1** **New Year's Day** - <https://bit.ly/2Ms5YGA>
World Day of Peace (Catholic) - <https://bit.ly/3fgrhnp>
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - <https://bit.ly/2tKtlxO>
Emancipation Proclamation signed (1863)
- 3** **Birthday of climate activist Greta Thunberg (2003)**
Epiphany of the Lord
- 4** **Feast of St. Elizabeth Seton, first native-born American saint and patroness of Catholic school education in the United States**
- 5** **Feast of St. John Neumann, patron of Catholic education, sick children, and immigrants**
- 6** **Epiphany (Día de los Reyes)** - <https://bit.ly/1LMjibP>
Birthday of Jacobo Timerman (1923-1999)
Argentine journalist and author imprisoned and tortured for reporting the atrocities of the Dirty War. He is best known for his memoir, "[Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number](#)"
- 7** **Birthday of Sadako Sasaki (1943-1955)**
Japanese girl who was two years old when the atomic bomb detonated over Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, later developed leukemia, and folded 1,000 origami cranes for peace; she is a symbol of the innocent victims of war - <https://bit.ly/28JbiUY>
Birthday of Vann Nath (1946-2011)
Activist and noted Cambodian artist who survived the Khmer Rouge's torture and execution center by painting portraits of its brutal leaders - <https://bit.ly/2IECoCe>
Birthday of Brian Haw (1949-2011)
British protester and peace campaigner who lived for almost ten years in a peace camp in London's Parliament Square - <https://bit.ly/2IECoCe>

That I should have been born in 1915, that I should be the contemporary of Auschwitz, Hiroshima, Vietnam, and the Watts riots are things about which I was not first consulted. Yet they are also events in which, whether I like it or not, I am deeply and personally involved.

Thomas Merton

JANUARY 2021

National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

- 8 Birthday of Emily Green Balch (1867-1961)**
American economist, sociologist, and pacifist who was awarded the Peace Prize in 1946 for her lifelong work for disarmament and peace
Birthday of A.J. Muste (1885-1967)
Dutch-born American pacifist best remembered for his work in the labor, civil rights, and anti-war movements - <https://bit.ly/38ji0aW>
- 9 Birthday of Rigoberta Menchú Tum (1959)**
Guatemalan indigenous human rights activist awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992
Birthday of Joan Chandos Báez (1941)
American folk singer, songwriter, and activist whose music often includes songs of protest and social justice
- 10 Baptism of the Lord**
- 11 Anniversary of detainment of first War on Terror prisoners at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba (2002) - <https://bit.ly/2lFCppM>**
National Human Trafficking Awareness Day - <https://bit.ly/29tmhUk>
Anniversary of the start of the 1912 "Bread and Roses" labor strike in Lawrence, MA - <https://bit.ly/2fENNwr>
- 12 Anniversary of the earthquake in Haiti that killed over 200,000 and left 2.3 million homeless (2010)**
- 14 Birthday of Martin Niemöller (1892-1984)**
German anti-Nazi theologian and Lutheran pastor, best known for his statement "First they came..."
- 15 Birthday of Etty Hillesum (1914-1943)**
Jewish woman whose letters and diaries, kept between 1941 and 1943, describe life in Amsterdam during the German occupation
- 16 National Religious Freedom Day - <https://bit.ly/2KfLFzF>**
- 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - <https://bit.ly/1LCXjy5>**
- 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - <https://bit.ly/3ejc9u2>**
- 20 Birthday of Ernesto Cardenal (1925)**
Liberation theologian, poet, and founder of the primitivist art community in the Solentiname Islands
- 22 *Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope (2003)*, joint statement by the Catholic Bishops of Mexico and the United States - <https://bit.ly/1dRvQGO>**

JANUARY 2021

National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

- 24** **Feast of St. Francis de Sales, Doctor of the Church and patron of journalists and writers**
Birthday of Henri J.M. Nouwen (1932-1996)
Dutch-born Catholic priest, author, spiritual thinker, and a synthesist who advanced the "theology of the heart" - <https://bit.ly/2Kqx5Bk>
- 26** **Birthday of Bishop Thomas Gumbleton (1930)**
Retired auxiliary bishop of the Detroit archdiocese, founding member of Pax Christi USA, and a leading voice for peace, justice, and civil rights - <https://bit.ly/1JN5JkO>
Australia Day
World Leprosy Day
- 27** **International Holocaust Remembrance Day - <https://bit.ly/1DELzTC>**
Birthday of Mairead Maguire (1944)
Nobel Peace laureate, peace activist from Northern Ireland
- 28** **Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, patron of all universities and students**
- 29** **March for Life**
- 30** **Birthday of Saul Alinsky (1909-1972)**
American community organizer and writer and is generally considered to be the founder of modern community organizing
- 31** **Birthday of Thomas Merton, O.C.S.O. (1915-1968)**
Trappist monk and peace activist - <http://bit.ly/2JfIFxE>
Birthday of Sister Megan Rice, S.H.C.J. (1930)
Anti-nuclear activist, member of the Transform Now Plowshares group, known for breaking into the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, TN - <https://bit.ly/1KqkmsP>
- 31-Feb. 6** **National Catholic Schools Week 2020 (U.S.) - <https://bit.ly/2CmWk8e>**

Loosen the chains...they are so heavy.

St. Josephine Bakhita, patroness of Sudan and human trafficking

FEBRUARY 2021

African American History Month

1 National Freedom Day (U.S.)

In 1865, Abraham Lincoln signed a joint resolution from the House and Senate that proposed the 13th Amendment and eventually abolished slavery in the United States.

Birthday of Leymah Roberta Gbowee (1972)

Liberian peace activist, best known for leading a nonviolent movement that brought together Christian and Muslim women together to end Liberia's devastating, fourteen-year civil war in 2003 - <https://bit.ly/2qVs8X2>

Four African American college students stage a sit-in at a segregated Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, NC.

This peaceful action triggered similar nonviolent protests throughout the Deep South (1960).

Birthday of Former U.S. Representative Thomas Lantos (1928-2008)

Holocaust survivor and founder of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus in 1983 (renamed the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission)

Birthday of Langston Hughes (1902-1967)

American poet, social activist, novelist, and playwright, and one of the earliest innovators of the literary and musical art form called jazz

1-7 World Interfaith Harmony Week - <https://bit.ly/2KrcJrG>

2 Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

World Wetlands Day - <https://bit.ly/2ZeAugj>

Anniversary of the death of Alfred Delp, S.J. (1907-1945)

A German Jesuit priest and philosopher of the German Resistance and considered a significant figure in Catholic resistance to Nazism

Sometimes, people call my way of speaking ranting. Why are you always ranting and screaming, they ask. But here's the thing...the reason why I rant is because I am a voice for many women that cannot speak out to heads of state, UN officials, and those that influence systems of oppression. And so I rant. And I will not stop ranting until my mission of equality of all girls is achieved.

Leymah Roberta Gbowee

FEBRUARY 2021

African American History Month

- 3** **Feast of St. Blaise, patron of throat illnesses**
Birthday of Takashi Nagai (1908-1951)
Survivor of the Nagasaki bombing and mystic
Birthday of Simone Weil (1909-1943)
French philosopher, Christian mystic, and political activist
- 4** **Birthday of Rosa Parks (1913-2005)**
African American Civil Rights activist, known as “the first lady of Civil Rights” - <https://bit.ly/1TZ78rk>
Birthday of Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)
German Lutheran pastor, theologian, spiritual writer, anti-Nazi dissident, and key member of the Confessing Church - <https://bit.ly/2t9Vww2> and <https://bit.ly/2ljQmJP>
- 5** **Anniversary of the death of Pedro Arrupe, S.J.**
Jesuit Superior General (1907-1991), co-founder of Center of Concern - <https://bit.ly/28lZyTD>
- 6** **Feast of St. Paul Miki and Companions, martyrs of Japan**
International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation -
<https://bit.ly/2qOKxq0>
- 8** **Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita, patroness of Sudan and of human trafficking -**
<https://bit.ly/28lYSwV> and <https://bit.ly/2N4D4gZ>
International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking -
www.against-humanity.org, <https://bit.ly/2Jeh9ks>, and <https://bit.ly/2rjfEad>
- 10** **Anniversary of murders of three Muslim college students in Chapel Hill, NC (2015)**
- 11** **International Day of Women and Girls in Science - <https://bit.ly/2N4ZVsA>**
World Day of the Sick
- 12** **Chinese New Year**
- 13** **Anniversary of the assassination of Brother James (Santiago) Miller, F.S.C. (1944-1982)**
Martyred in Guatemala for his work with young indigenous Mayans from rural areas - <https://bit.ly/28jdCZq>
Economic Justice in South Africa (1999), Pastoral Statement by the Southern African Catholic Bishops’ Conference
- 14** **Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, FL (2018)**
Valentine’s Day - <https://bit.ly/2lwKmGH>
- 15** **Presidents’ Day (U.S.)**

FEBRUARY 2021

African American History Month

- 16** **Mardi Gras**
- 17** **Anniversary of the death of Janani Luwum (1922-1977)**
Anglican Archbishop of Uganda, and martyr
Ash Wednesday
- 20** **World Day of Social Justice** - <https://bit.ly/2HP7QYK>
- 21** **Birthday of Cardinal John Henry Newman (1801-1890)**
Theologian known for his contributions to doctrine and church government for both the Church of England and the Catholic Church
First Sunday of Lent
- 22** **Anniversary of the execution of Sophie and Hans Scholl (1943)**
Martyrs of the White Rose nonviolent resistance group in Nazi Germany
- 23** **Anniversary of the killing of Ahmaud Arbery in Brunswick, GA (2020)**
- 26** **Anniversary of the killing of Trayvon Martin (2012)**
- 28** **Birthday of Rev. Dr. Kelly Douglas (1957)**
Author and Canon Theologian of Washington National Cathedral. Kelly is considered a leader in the field of womanist theology, racial reconciliation and sexuality and the black church.
<https://bit.ly/2px8VgD>
Second Sunday of Lent

Most of the time the reservoir of racism remains stagnant. But—and this has been true historically for most societies—when major economic, social, or political crises arise, the backwaters are stirred and latent racial hostility comes to the surface. Scapegoats must be found, simple targets substituted for complex problems. The frustration and insecurity generated by these problems find an outlet in notions of racial superiority and inferiority."

Bayard Rustin, civil rights activist

MARCH 2021

Women's History Month

- 1 Self-injury Awareness Day**
Anniversary of Toxic Wastes and Race at Twenty (2007)
An update to the landmark study that coined the term "environmental racism" and established a direct correlation between toxic waste site placement and communities experiencing poverty and communities of color. - <http://bit.ly/2MJ8iMG>
- 3 Birthday of Thunder Rolling Down the Mountain, a.k.a. Chief Joseph (1840-1904)**
When the U.S. attempted to force the Nez Percé to move to a reservation, he tried to lead his people to Canada, in what is considered one of the great retreats in military history.
Anniversary of the assassination of Berta Isabel Cáceres Flores (1972-2016)
Honduran environmental activist, indigenous leader, and co-founder and coordinator of the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras - <https://bit.ly/2puluY8>
- 5 International Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (1970)**
- 6 Anniversary of the death of Martin Niemöller (1892-1984)**
German anti-Nazi theologian and Lutheran pastor known for "First they came..." statement about standing up to Nazi oppression - <http://bit.ly/2T3TexD>
- 7 Feasts of Saints Perpetua and Felicity, patronesses of expectant mothers and mothers**
Third Sunday of Lent
- 8 International Women's Day - <https://bit.ly/2K2BTgm> and <https://bit.ly/2N7s96e>**
- 10 Anniversary of the death of Harriet Tubman (1822-1913)**
Abolitionist and humanitarian during the United States Civil War
- 12 Anniversary of the murder of Rutilio Grande, S.J. (1928-1977)**
Martyr of El Salvador - <https://bit.ly/2tzY3QI> and <https://bit.ly/28Ja4dw>
- 13 Anniversary of the killing of Breonna Taylor by Louisville Police officers (2020)**
- 14 Fourth Sunday of Lent**
- 15 Anniversary of Shootings in Christchurch, NZ at the Al Noor Mosque and Linwood Islamic Center (2019)**
International Day Against Police Brutality - <https://bit.ly/2jP4fx2>
World Consumer Rights Day
- 16 Anniversary of death of Rachel Corrie (1979-2003)**
American activist for Palestinian human rights, crushed by an Israel Defense Forces bulldozer in Rafah, the Gaza Strip <https://bit.ly/2N93FJs>

MARCH 2021

Women's History Month

- 17** Feast of St. Patrick, patron of Ireland and engineers
- 19** Feast of St. Joseph - <https://bit.ly/2KglcSx>
Amoris Laetitia, The Joy of Love (2016), Pope Francis - <https://bit.ly/2yOpknt>
Gaudete et exsultate: On the Call to Holiness in Today's World - <https://bit.ly/2JPbMgA>
- 20** Start of the Iraq War (2003)
International Day of Happiness - <http://bit.ly/2KhloOz>
- 21** International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - <https://bit.ly/3gNuX6s>
International Day of Forests
World Poetry Day - <http://bit.ly/2shRYJG> and <http://bit.ly/2pnkT96>
Fifth Sunday of Lent
- 21-27** Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination - <http://bit.ly/2U9X6cS>
- 22** World Water Day - <https://bit.ly/2Zg7g0q> and <http://bit.ly/31lj1Rt>
EarthEcho Water Challenge - <http://bit.ly/31pGQI7>
- 24** Feast of Saint Óscar Romero - <https://bit.ly/2liYqdR> and <https://bit.ly/3dj5EAB>
Anniversary of the assassination of Óscar Romero (1917-1980)
Archbishop of San Salvador - <https://bit.ly/1O2WmuO> and <https://bit.ly/2yL8PZI>
World Tuberculosis Day
Birthday of Colman McCarthy (1938)
American journalist, teacher, lecturer, pacifist, and long-time peace activist who teaches peace in America's classrooms and lecture halls
International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims - <https://bit.ly/2KvwHSa>
- 25** International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade
- 26** *Populorum Progressio, The Development of Peoples (1967), Pope Paul VI* - <https://bit.ly/2tKrXAV>
- 27** Passover begins at sundown on March 27 and ends at sundown on April 4 - <http://bit.ly/2M4d2Nx>
- 28** Palm Sunday
- 31** Birthday of César Chávez (1927-1993)
Mexican-American farm worker, labor leader and civil rights activist, who, with Dolores Huerta, co-founded the National Farm Workers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers - <https://bit.ly/2gOqzls>

APRIL 2021

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

- 1** Birthday of Frida Berrigan (1974), activist and columnist for Waging Nonviolence
Holy Thursday
- 2** Anniversary of the death of Saint Pope John Paul II (1920-2005) - <https://bit.ly/2MGHkmi> and <https://bit.ly/2M6wEN5>
A Good Friday Appeal to End the Death Penalty (1999), Pastoral Letter by the United States Catholic Bishops - <https://bit.ly/1HZCCGv>
Good Friday
- 3** Holy Saturday
- 4** International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action - <https://bit.ly/2K2gBij>
Anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968)
Easter Sunday
- 7** World Health Day - <https://bit.ly/2HED6Mn>
Day of Remembrance for the Victims of the Rwandan Genocide
Birthday of Daniel Ellsberg (1931)
Activist and former United States military analyst who precipitated a national political controversy in 1971 when he released the Pentagon Papers, a top-secret Pentagon study of U.S. government decision-making in relation to the Vietnam War.
- 8- 9** Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) begins in the evening of April 8 and ends at nightfall of April 9 - <https://bit.ly/2W85mwZ>
- 9** Anniversary of the death of Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)
German Lutheran theologian, and anti-Nazi dissident - <https://bit.ly/2ljQmJP>
- 10** Birthday of Dolores Huerta (1930)
Labor leader and civil rights activist, who, with César Chávez, co-founded the National Farmworkers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers - <https://bit.ly/1IsBMY4>
- 11** **Pacem in Terris, Peace on Earth (1963)**, Pope John XXIII - <https://bit.ly/2yqLdZl>
Divine Mercy Sunday
- 12** International Day for Street Children
Ramadan begins at sundown and ends at sundown on May 11 - <https://bit.ly/2W8EOM7>

APRIL 2021

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

13 Birthday of Amy Goodman (1957)

Host and executive producer of Democracy Now!, a national, daily, independent, award-winning news program airing on over 1,300 public television and radio stations worldwide

15 World Art Day - <https://bit.ly/2HZQXcz>, <https://bit.ly/2lvSuHv>, and <https://bit.ly/2KvTahI> Income Tax Day in the United States - <https://bit.ly/2Ky9L4M> and <https://bit.ly/2Mu8coN>

16 Martin Luther King, Jr. writes "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" (1963) - <http://bit.ly/2Xwrmkf>

17 Birthday of Loung Ung (1970)

American-Cambodian human rights activist, author, and the national spokesperson for the Campaign for a Landmine-Free World

21 Anniversary of the Sri Lanka Easter Bombings (2019)

Birthday of Helen Prejean, C.S.J. (1939)

Leading American advocate for the abolition of the death penalty - <https://bit.ly/2Keq629>

22 Earth Day - <http://bit.ly/2tLK61A>

25 Birthday of Charlene Teters (1952)

Native American artist, educator, lecturer, and known for her activism against racism in sports and media on behalf of native peoples - <https://bit.ly/28JfjiE>

26 Birthday of Sister Joan Chittister, O.S.B. (1936)

Author and renowned international lecturer on social justice, women's issues, and spirituality in the church and society

Anniversary of the assassination of Bishop Juan José Gerardi (1922-1998)

Human rights defender, assassinated two days after announcing the release of the report on victims of the Guatemalan Civil War, "Guatemala: Nunca Más!" - <http://bit.ly/2edO88U> and <https://bit.ly/2tHfT3m>

30 Arbor Day

I saw the suffering and I let myself feel it... I saw the injustice and was compelled to do something about it. I changed from being a nun who only prayed for the suffering world to a woman with my sleeves rolled up, living my prayer.

Sr. Helen Prejean

APRIL 2021

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

- 27** *Evangelization in Modern Day Asia (1974)*, first plenary assembly document by the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences - <https://bit.ly/2tFjizD>
Ethical and Gospel Imperatives for Overcoming Dire Poverty and Hunger (2002), Document by the National Conference of the Bishops of Brazil
Canonization of Popes John XXIII and John Paul II - <https://bit.ly/2ljcjsb>
Day of Silence, annual day of action to protest bullying and harassment of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people - <https://bit.ly/2Mu0fAa>
- 28** Birthday of Oskar Schindler (1908 -1974)
German spy, and member of the Nazi Party who is credited with saving the lives of 1,200 Jews during the Holocaust
- 29** International Dance Day - <https://bit.ly/2IWLRrp>
Feast of St. Catherine of Siena, patroness of illness, nurses, and fire prevention
World Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare - <https://bit.ly/2qPau9T>
- 30** Anniversary of the death of Daniel Berrigan, S.J. (1921-2016)
Vietnam war protester and peace activist - <https://bit.ly/29TycZZ>
International Jazz Day

Of course, let us have peace, we cry, but at the same time let us have normalcy, let us lose nothing, let our lives stand intact, let us know neither prison nor ill repute nor disruption of ties... There is no peace because there are no peacemakers. There are no makers of peace because the making of peace is at least as costly as the making of war - at least as exigent, at least as disruptive, at least as liable to bring disgrace and prison, and death in its wake.

Daniel Berrigan

MAY 2021

- 1** **Feast of St. Joseph the Worker** - <https://bit.ly/2oRBumf>
Centesimus Annus, The Hundredth Year (1991), Pope John Paul II - <https://bit.ly/1BgALf1>
Birthday of Teilhard de Chardin, S.J. (1881-1955) - <https://bit.ly/28j093i>
Catholic Worker Movement began with the release of the first issue of the *Catholic Worker* (1933)
International Workers' Day - <https://bit.ly/2oRBumf>
- 2** **Join Hands Day** - <https://bit.ly/2lvGCoE>
- 3** **World Press Freedom Day**
***The Challenge of Peace* (1983), Pastoral Letter by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops** - <https://bit.ly/1s1ZNtm>
Birthday of Pete Seeger (1919-2014)
Iconic singer-songwriter best known for his contributions to the American folk music revival and his political activism and has been described as "a living archive of America's music and conscience" - <https://bit.ly/2Ms3NTf>
- 4** **Anniversary of the Kent State massacre (1970)**
First Freedom Ride, seven African Americans and six white activists leave Washington for the segregated Deep South (1961) - <https://bit.ly/28jvFkA>
- 5** **Cinco de Mayo**
Marks the anniversary of the battle at Puebla, Mexico, a historic victory of Mexican forces over the French military - <https://bit.ly/1D1fz0U>
- 6** **National Bike to School Day**
- 7** **National Day of Prayer (U.S.)**
- 8** **Birthday of Naomi Klein (1970)**
Social activist, syndicated columnist, and author of "This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate" - <https://bit.ly/2nSZ1T0>
- 8-9** **Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during WWII**
- 9** **Birthday of Daniel Berrigan (1921-2016)**
Anti-Vietnam war protester and peace activist - <https://bit.ly/29TycZZ>
Birthday of Peter Maurin (1877-1949)
Co-founder of Catholic Worker movement - <https://bit.ly/28jvPsj>
Birthday of Sophie Scholl (1921-1943)
German student and Christian anti-Nazi political activist, member of the White Rose nonviolent resistance group in Nazi Germany - <https://bit.ly/2IAFiYC>
Mother's Day - <https://bit.ly/2MvmaXN>
- 12-13** **Eid-al-Fitr (Muslim Festival of Breaking of the Fast, U.S.)**
- 13** **Feast of the Ascension of Christ**

MAY 2021

- 14** *Octogesima Adveniens, A Call to Action (1971)*, Pope Paul VI - <http://bit.ly/2Xx3f52>
- 15** **International Conscientious Objectors' Day** - <https://bit.ly/2KcXRRJ>
International Day of Families - <https://bit.ly/2MvncTE> and <https://bit.ly/2N4hWaE>
Rerum Novarum, On the Condition of Labor (1891), Pope Leo XIII - <https://bit.ly/2qs8Uur>
Quadragesimo Anno, After Forty Years (1931), Pope Pius XI - <http://bit.ly/2HaoLqo>
Mater et Magistra, Christianity and Social Justice (1961), Pope John XXIII - <https://bit.ly/2N3AwPT>
Feast of St. Dymphna, patroness of mental illness and victims of incest
Bike to Work Day
- 17** **Anniversary of the Catonsville Nine**, nine Catholic activists who burned draft files to protest the Vietnam War
- 19** **Birthday of Malcolm X (1925-1965)**
- 20** **Birthday of Franz Jägerstätter (1907-1943)**
Martyr and conscientious objector - <https://bit.ly/2g6GYcg>
- 21** **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development**
- 22** **International Day for Biological Diversity**
Birthday of Betty Williams (1943)
Co-recipient with Mairead Corrigan Maguire of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1976 for her work as a co-founder of Community of Peace People, an organization dedicated to promoting a peaceful resolution to the troubles in Northern Ireland
Birthday of Harvey Milk (1930-1978)
Visionary civil and human rights leader who became the first openly gay elected official in the United States
- 23** **Pentecost Sunday** - <https://bit.ly/2Koj2Q3>
- 24** *Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home (2015)*, Pope Francis - <https://bit.ly/2BOKUdR> and <http://bit.ly/2FqJgyR>
Laudato Si' Anniversary Year Ends- <https://bit.ly/2Xz777k>
- 25-31** **Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories**
- 25** **Anniversary of the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers (2020)**
- 26** **Birthday of Rebecca Masika Katsuva (1966-2016)**
Congolesse human rights campaigner who created an organization to help victims of war and rape - <https://bit.ly/2qhS3eE>
- 30** **Feast of St. Joan of Arc**, patroness of soldiers and military members
Trinity Sunday
- 31** **Feast of the Visitation** - <https://bit.ly/2oUMpKV>
Memorial Day (US) - <https://bit.ly/2tP7ZVN>

JUNE 2021

Torture and LGBTQ Awareness Month

- 1** **Stand for Children Day** - <https://bit.ly/2KdUIB6>
Feast of Corpus Christi
Anniversary of the Tulsa Race Massacre (1921) - <https://bit.ly/31jkA4d>
- 3** **Feast of St. Charles Lwanga and Companions**
- 4** **International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression**
Anniversary of Tiananmen Square Massacre (1989)
- 5** **World Environment Day** - <https://bit.ly/3iPzZkG>
- 6** **Anniversary of the Assassination of Robert F. Kennedy (1925-1968)**
Birthday of Marian Wright Edelman (1939)
Activist for the rights of children, leading voice for disadvantaged children and families, and founder of the Children's Defense Fund
Feast of Corpus Christi
- 7** **Birthday of Dr. Maha Hilal**
Executive Director of the National Coalition to Protect Civil Freedoms and Adjunct Professor at George Mason University, where she teaches classes on Muslims and Muslim American responses to the War on Terror
- 8** **World Oceans Day** - <https://bit.ly/1KeSh6p>
Birthday of Gustavo Gutierrez, O.P. (1928) - <https://bit.ly/1HQ5JOz>
- 10** **Pope John Paul II canonizes Lebanon's first female saint, Saint Rafqa (2001)**
Equal Pay Act of 1963 aimed at abolishing wage disparity based on sex signed into law by President John F. Kennedy as part of his New Frontier Program (1963) - <https://bit.ly/3ecvkwk>
Birthday of Bishop Walter F. Sullivan (1928-2012)
Nationally recognized for his pastoral leadership and prophetic role as a champion of peace and justice who led the Catholic Diocese of Richmond, VA for 29 years and served as the Bishop-President of Pax Christi USA, the national Catholic peace movement - <http://bit.ly/2JeeG9e>

There is no social-change fairy. There is only change made by the hands of individuals.

Winona LaDuke

JUNE 2021

Torture and LGBTQ Awareness Month

- 11** Feast of the Sacred Heart
- 12** World Day Against Child Labor - <http://bit.ly/2L8wlf0>
Birthday of Anne Frank (1929-1945)
Witness of the Holocaust, who died at Bergen-Belsen Concentration camp - <https://bit.ly/1Mtilzl> and <https://bit.ly/28ls5Fp>
Anniversary of the Orlando, FL nightclub shooting which left 49 people dead, the deadliest incident of violence against the LGBT community in the U.S. - <https://bit.ly/2tN9fbY>
In Loving v. Virginia, the Supreme Court rules that prohibiting interracial marriage is unconstitutional (1967) - <https://bit.ly/2purMH6>
Anniversary of the assassination of Medgar Evers (1925-1963)
Civil Rights worker shot and killed in his driveway in Jackson, MS - <https://bit.ly/2g7pXKa>
Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 14** Day of Memory for Repressed People (Armenia)
Execution of Daniel Lewis Lee (2020)
This was the first federal execution in the United States for 17 years since 2003 and was followed by two more federal executions in the same week of Wesley Ira Purkey and Dustin Lee Honken.
- 15** World Elder Abuse Awareness Day - <https://bit.ly/28lraca>
Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good (2001), Pastoral Statement by the United States Catholic Bishops - <https://bit.ly/1LS26KN>
Bostock vs. Clayton County, GA (2020)
Landmark Supreme Court ruling that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act applies to gender identity and sexual orientation, thus legally protecting LGBTQ people from workplace discrimination.
- 16** A nonviolent march by 15,000 students in Soweto, South Africa turns into days of rioting when police open fire on the crowd (1976)
At age 14, George Junius Stinney, Jr. becomes the youngest person executed in the United States in the 20th century (1944)
- 17** World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
Anniversary of the mass shooting at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, SC (2015)
South African Parliament repeals the Population Registration Act which required racial classification of all South Africans at birth (1991)
- 19** *Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions (1998)*, Reflections by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops - <https://bit.ly/1I0xjGC>
Juneteenth, commemoration of end of slavery in United States (1865) - <http://bit.ly/2U9X6cS>
- 20** World Refugee Day - <https://bit.ly/301jylz>
Father's Day (U.S./U.K.) - <https://bit.ly/2IBCryL>

JUNE 2021

Torture and LGBTQ Awareness Month

- 21** World Music Day - <https://bit.ly/2MsTKgV> and <https://bit.ly/2IxuhQR>
- 22** *Respecting the Rights of Workers (2009)*, Pastoral Letter by the U.S. Catholic Bishops - <https://bit.ly/1CW8GOF>
- 23** International Day of Public Service - <https://bit.ly/1DERCYf>
International Widows Day - <http://bit.ly/2Haefj0>
- 24** Capital punishment is declared unconstitutional in New York (2004)
Feast Day of John the Baptist
- 26** International Day in Support of Torture Victims and Survivors - <http://bit.ly/2tKFXes>
International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking - <https://bit.ly/1Kfc7Tf>
The U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges* declares that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marriage under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution (2015)
- 27** Feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help
Birthday of Helen Keller (1880-1968)
Political activist, journalist, co-founder of the ACLU, and the first deaf and blind person to earn a bachelor degree
- 28** Beginning of the Stonewall Riots in response to an anti-LGBTQ police raid at the Stonewall Inn (1969)
- 29** *Lumen Fidei, The Light of Faith (2013)*, Pope Francis
Caritas in Veritate, Charity in Truth (2009), Pope Benedict XVI - <https://bit.ly/2yMrUtU>
Birthday of Samantha Reed Smith (1972-1985)
American schoolgirl, peace activist from Manchester, ME, best known for the simple act of writing a leader of the Soviet Union, Yuri Andropov, in 1982 during the Cold War era; she is known as "America's Youngest Ambassador" and died at age 13 in a plane crash.
Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:17

JULY 2021

- 1** **Feast of Junipero Serra, patron of vocations**
Canada Day
- 2** **Civil Rights Act signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson (1964)** - <https://bit.ly/3ep6Qtj> and <https://bit.ly/28lr3xp>
- 3** **Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, patron of architects, construction workers, and cooks**
- 4** **Independence Day (U.S.)**
Birthday of Brian Willson (1941)
American veteran, peace activist - <https://bit.ly/1KvX8m7>
- 5** **Birthday of Rutilio Grande García, S.J. (1928)**
Assassinated in El Salvador on March 12, 1977
Anniversary of the death of Alton Sterling (2016)
37-year-old African American man shot several times at close range while held down on the ground by two Baton Rouge Police Department officers
- 7** **Birthday of Dorothy Stang, S.N.D. de N. (1931-2005)**
American environmental activist, advocate of the poor in Brazil, who was assassinated in 2005 for criticizing cattle ranchers for seizing land illegally and destroying the rain forest
<https://bit.ly/1NAG1R1> and <https://bit.ly/2bndQrr>
- 8** **Anniversary of the death of Abdul Sattar Edhi (1928-2016)**
Prominent Pakistani philanthropist, social activist, and humanitarian who has been described as "Pakistan's Mother Teresa"
- 11** **World Population Day**
Feast of St. Benedict, patron of farmers, farming, agricultural workers, and school children
Anniversary of Srebrenica genocide in Bosnia (1995)
- 12** **Birthday of Malala Yousafzai (1997)**
Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest-ever Nobel Prize Laureate - <https://bit.ly/1TdG4U>
- 14** **Feast of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, patroness of loss of parents, ecology, and the environment** - <http://bit.ly/2GXbWk2> and <https://bit.ly/28jbULp>
Birthday of Woody Guthrie (1912-1967)
American singer-songwriter and musician whose musical legacy includes hundreds of political, traditional, and children's songs
- 15** **World Youth Skills Day**

JULY 2021

- 17 Anniversary of the Death of John Lewis (1940-2020)**
Prominent U.S. Congressman and civil-rights leader - <https://nyti.ms/3fkW508>
Anniversary of the Death of Rev. C. T. Vivian (1924-2020)
Minister, author, civil rights activist and close friend of Martin Luther King Jr. - <https://bit.ly/3a07z3y>
- 18 Birthday of Nelson Mandela (1918-2013) - <https://bit.ly/2DvrQle>**
Birthday of Mildred Norman Ryder (1908-1981)
Known as the "Peace Pilgrim," she walked the roads of the United States promoting peace - <https://bit.ly/1MsHUAz>
- 19 Birthday of Aristides de Sousa Mendes (1885-1954)**
Portuguese diplomat who issued some 30,000 visas to Jews and others before he was recalled
- 23 Feast of St. Bridget of Sweden, patroness of Europe, Sweden, and widows**
- 25 Feast of St. Christopher, patron of travelers, drivers, pilots, and athletes**
Birthday of Emmett Till (1941-1955)
- 26 Feasts of Sts. Joachim and Anne, parents of Mary, patrons of grandparents - <https://bit.ly/2kjUgeE>**
Global Day of Parents - <https://bit.ly/1JEe2ep> and <https://bit.ly/2N4hWaE>
- 28 World Hepatitis Day**
- 29 Feast of St. Martha, patroness of housekeepers, waiters, and waitresses**
- 30 National Whistleblower Appreciation Day - <https://bit.ly/2N2i2iQ>, <https://bit.ly/1NiEFXE>, and <https://bit.ly/1Ys8QqX>**
World Day Against Trafficking in Persons - <https://bit.ly/29tmhUk>
- 31 Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola, patron of Jesuits, soldiers, retreats, educators, and Spiritual Exercises - <https://bit.ly/2lX9YDW> and <https://bit.ly/2AQTw2>**

I urge you to answer the highest calling of your heart and stand up for what you truly believe. In my life I have done all I can to demonstrate that the way of peace, the way of love and nonviolence is the more excellent way. Now it is your turn to let freedom ring.

John Lewis