



September 21

We join together in prayer as we commemorate The U. N. International Day of Peace

International Day of Peace

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

The theme for 2017 is **“Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All.”** This year, the International Day of Peace will focus on engaging and mobilizing people throughout the world to show support for refugees and migrants. The Day will highlight solidarity with refugees and migrants and showcase the shared benefits of migration to economies and nations, while also acknowledging legitimate concerns of host communities. Ultimately, it will be about bringing people together and reminding them of their common humanity.

<http://www.un.org/en/events/peaceday/>

Prayer

God of our Wandering Ancestors,
long have we known that your heart is with the refugee:
that you were born into time in a family of refugees
fleeing violence in their homeland,
who then gathered up their hungry child
and fled into alien country.
Their cry, your cry, resounds through the ages:
“Will you let me in?”
Give us hearts that break open
when our brothers and sisters turn to us with that same cry.
Then surely all these things will follow:
Ears will no longer turn deaf to their voices.
Eyes will see a moment for grace instead of a threat.
Tongues will not be silenced but will instead advocate.
And hands will reach out—
working for peace in their homeland,
working for justice in the lands where they seek safe haven.
Lord, protect all refugees in their travels.
May they find a friend in me
and so make me worthy
of the refuge I have found in you.
Amen.

Catholic Relief Services

In times of insecurity, communities that look different become convenient scapegoats. We must resist cynical efforts to divide communities and portray neighbors as ‘the other’. Discrimination diminishes us all. It prevents people — and societies — from achieving their full potential.” “Together, let us stand up against bigotry and for human rights. Together, let us build bridges. Together, let us transform fear into hope.” United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres



Children in Zataari Refugee Camp in Jordan. Photo credit UN/Sahem Rababah