

Peace and Justice Calendar
July 2026

Disability Pride Month: Let us be attentive to the needs of all our brothers and sisters.

National Picnic Month: Take time to enjoy a picnic outside or inside with friends and relatives.

Eye Injury Prevention Month: May we continue to pray for those who suffer from eye injuries.

1 Today is Canada Day a federal statutory holiday marking Canada's confederation. It features nationwide celebrations including parades, fireworks, and festivals. Today is also National Postal Worker Day. Let us give thanks for our neighbors to our North and support all the postal workers who show up in all kinds of weather.

2 Today is "World UFO Day" which commemorates the 1947 Roswell incident and the Kenneth Arnold sighting, promoting sky-watching and conversations about potential life outside Earth. May we give thanks for the entire universe we can see and beyond. Today is also the anniversary of the founding in 1829 of the Oblate Sisters of Providence in Baltimore, MD. May our Provident God bless them in a special way.

3 Today is the Feastday of St. Thomas the Apostle. In remembering St. Thomas, let us give thanks that Christ continues to love and forgive us for the times we doubt God's presence within us and in one another.

4 Today is the 250th Anniversary of the USA. Let us celebrate by doing all we can to support and adhere to the values and beliefs written in our Constitution. Also today in 1881 Tuskegee University was founded and Booker T. Washington served as the 1st. President. May this University continue to meet the needs of their students.

5 Today is the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. A quote of Sr. Joan Chittister spoken in 2024 is appropriate for today: "We need patriots to make America American again. Patriots who don't think, America is a horrible place. Patriots who respect the Constitution, especially those who have taken an oath to uphold it. Patriots who want a democracy, not a kingdom." As we continue celebrating our country's birth, may we work and pray for the common good of all.

6 Today is the Feastday of St. Maria Goretti. She is known as the "Patron Saint of Purity" and a virgin martyr, as well as the patron saint of youth, teenagers, young women, and rape victims. She is venerated for choosing to protect her chastity, dying at age 11 in 1902 after forgiving her attacker. Let us do all we can to support those in harm's way through our prayers.

7 Let us reflect on these words of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. "Great compassion is the root of all forms of worship." May the compassion of our Provident God become visible in us.

8 As we look into the sky, may we ponder this quote. "To see the universe through the eyes of love helps us make sense of evolution, not as a process of cold, blind chance or randomness, but one of passion, yearning, novelty, union, gift, suffering, death, and new life." Ilia Delio, OSF

9 Today is the death anniversary of Fr. Augustus Tolton (1897), the 1st African-American priest in the U.S. His cause for canonization is in process. Today in 1868 the Congress ratified the 14th Amendment, thereby granting U.S. citizenship to African-Americans. May we support all our African-American brothers & sisters.

10 Today is the birthday of Mary McLeod Bethune, who started a private school for African-Americans in Mayesville, SC. May all children around the world have the opportunity to attend school.

11 Feastday of St. Benedict of Nursia. He was a monk and founder of a monastic rule which became one of the most influential in Western Christendom. He founded 12 communities for monks at Subiaco, Italy. Let us give thanks for all Benedictine Monks and Sisters who continue to challenge us in our call to follow Christ.

12 Today is the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time and it is also “National Simplicity Day.” May we grow in simplicity in all we do and say for the sake of the Gospel message of love and peace.

13 Let us recall, on this the anniversary of Bishop Ketteler’s death, that we are “...the legacy of Wilhelm Emmanuel von Ketteler, Bishop of Mainz and pioneer of social justice, and of Mother Marie de la Roche.” May we continue to follow our founders with “...the particular response to God’s providential love which is our charism – Trust in, and openness to, the Providence of God.” May Bishop Ketteler intercede for us today and every day.

14 Today is the Feastday of St. Kateri Tekakwitha and also the anniversary of the founding of the Franciscan Handmaids of Mary in 1916. May St. Kateri intercede for all women who work for peace & justice.

15 On this day in 1951 Howard Florey and Norman Heatley developed Penicillin. Let us give thanks for scientists who develop medicines for the common good of all people across the world.

16 Today is the Feastday of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. This recognizes the Carmelite Order, founded in the 12th century on Mount Carmel in Israel and symbolizes spiritual protection and guidance for the faithful. The feast emphasizes the importance of prayer and contemplation in daily life. May we turn to Our Lady for guidance today and every day.

17 On this day in 1975, the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project marks the first joint space mission between the United States and the Soviet Union, which took place... astronauts from both sides docked and did the first international in space. This mission demonstrated the potential for collaboration between the two superpowers in the field of space exploration, paving the way for future joint ventures. May the US and Russia find ways to work together for peaceful space endeavors.

18 Today is the birthday of Nelson Mandela, the 1st Black president of South Africa and an activist. May his efforts and sacrifices continue to benefit all living in South Africa.

19 Today is the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. We celebrate the gift of Christ in the bread and wine in our liturgy. May this prayer from Bread for the World broaden our world view: “We pray for all people in the Middle East region and all who have endured repression and uncertainty. Protect them in this hour. Strengthen those who seek justice and peace. Sustain families who are anxious and afraid.” Let us work with Bread to end hunger around the world.

20 In 2006, Fr. Anthony Gittens reminded us that “... we do not have a Mission because Mission is what God is about... Jesus is Mission incarnate. He is the Good News of God’s Mission....Our task is discipleship, that is, to be faithful to God’s Mission, imitating Jesus by doing ‘good-newsing’ as He did.” Let us continue to be faithful, imitating Christ Jesus.

- 21 Today is the anniversary of the establishment of the National Association of Colored Women in Washington, DC in 1896. May Women of Color know of our support to promote equality for all.
- 22 Today is the Feastday of St. Mary Magdalene. She was a woman who traveled with Jesus and witnessed his crucifixion and resurrection and is called the "Apostle to the Apostles." May all women who follow Christ Jesus be acknowledged for their faithful call and mission to spread the Good News.
- 23 Today is the Feastday of St. Bridget, She is primarily known as one of the three patron saints of Ireland (along with St. Patrick and St. Columba). She is the patron saint of midwives, newborn babies, dairy workers/maids, poets, printers, travelers, and sailors. Let us give thanks for her mystical life of service.
- 24 On this Friday, let us recall "...our commitment to making God's Providence more visible with fidelity, courage, compassion and hope, collaborating with people of good will in fostering God's reign on earth."
- 25 Today is the Feastday of St. James, Apostle. He is described as one of the first disciples to join Jesus. The Synoptic Gospels state that James and John were preparing to fish with their father by the seashore when Jesus called them to follow him. May we, like James, listen carefully to the call of God in our daily lives.
- 26 Today is the Feastday of Sts. Joachim and Anne and it is also known as Parents' Day. Let us give thanks for the parents of Mary and our parents, knowing that they did the best that they could. May we learn from their limitations to be forgiving and loving.
- 27 On this day in 1962 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was jailed for protesting segregation of public facilities in Albany, GA. May Dr. King's spirit continue to encourage us to protest peacefully the injustices of today.
- 28 On this day in 1917 there was the "Silent Parade" of approximately 10,000 African-Americans marching down Fifth Ave. in New York City in silent protest against racial oppression. Let continue to find ways to speak up against any form of prejudice.
- 29 Today is the Feastday of Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus. May we treasure and support family life, giving thanks for our families and may these saints of old continue to intercede for all families.
- 30 UN's International Day of Friendship and World Day against Trafficking in Persons. Let us give thanks for all the friends we have gifted us over the years and let us pray for those persons who fell into the hands of traffickers. May they find friends to help them escape and rebuild their lives in peace.
- 31 Today is the Feastday of St. Ignatius of Loyola. In 1517 he became a knight and was employed in a military undertaking. While defending the citadel of Pamplona, Ignatius was hit by a cannonball, sustaining a bad fracture of his right leg and damage to his left. This event closed the first period of his life. In 1534 he formed a religious brotherhood in Paris known as the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), which received official papal recognition in 1540. Let us give thanks for all the spirituality of St. Ignatius that has gifted us throughout our formation and ongoing formation years.