

Peace and Justice Calendar
October 2026

Breast Cancer Awareness Month: May there be global advocacy for early detection and treatment.

ADHD Awareness Month: Let us foster understanding and inclusion.

LGBTQ+ History Month and Global Diversity Awareness Month: May our support for others be evident in all we say and do.

National Arts & Humanities Month: Let us treasure all those who promote the arts and the humanities.

National Book Month: Take time to read a good book and share our books with those who can't afford books.

1 Today is the Feastday of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church. She had a great devotion to the Infant Jesus, and her spirituality was a childlike simplicity and trust in God's love. May we grow in our devotion to Christ.

2 Today is the UN's International Day of Non-Violence. Today is also the feast of the Holy Guardian Angels. A **guardian angel** is a type of angel that is assigned to protect and guide a particular person, group or nation. Belief in tutelary beings can be traced throughout all antiquity. The idea of angels that guard over people played a major role in Ancient Judaism. Let us give thanks for all those angels in our lives who protect us and keep us safe from violence.

3 Today is the Feastday of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. This Feast was established by Pope Pius IX in 1876, which honors the Blessed Virgin Mary under this, her well-known title, associated with a miraculous 15th-century Byzantine icon. May we turn to Our Lady for all our needs, asking for her perpetual assistance.

4 Today is the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time and in 1864 on this date the *New Orleans Tribune*, was published, the 1st African-American owned daily newspaper. May we continue to support reputable newspapers and those who promote honesty and credibility in their reporting.

5 Today let us reflect on this quote by Thomas Merton: "The whole idea of compassion is based on a keen awareness of the interdependence of all these living beings, which are all part of one another, and all involved in one another." May this quote inspire us as we continue to grow more interdependent with one another as an international congregation.

6 Today is World Cerebral Palsy Day. Let us support all those who suffer from this chronic illness and may they be included in all meaningful walks of life through our support and prayer.

7 Today is the Feastday of Our Lady of the Rosary. Jamaal Howard is scheduled for execution today in TX. Let us pray for him, his victims and their families. May Our Lady intercede for all those on death row and help us find ways to end the death penalty in our country.

8 Today is International Podiatry Day. May we give thanks for our feet and all podiatrists as we continue to walk in faith and hope towards our God.

9 May this quote of Rainer Maria Rilke bring us an inner peace only God can give. "Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart. And try to love the questions themselves."

10 Today is World Mental Health Day. Today is also the World Day Against the Death Penalty. Let us take time to learn how to grow stronger mentally and emotionally so as to be courageous in working with others to end the death penalty.

- 11 Today is the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Today in 1894 the National Negro Catholic Congress met in Baltimore, MD. May our support of this Congress grow stronger as we learn about their needs and concerns through the reading and studying of their ongoing efforts within the Catholic Church.
- 12 Today is Indigenous Day, a celebration to honor Native American cultures and histories. May we honor and cherish the gifts and talents of all Native First Peoples on this continent.
- 13 As we continue our preparations for our Provincial Chapter, may this quote by Henry Van Dyke give us inner courage and confidence: "Use what talents you possess. The woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sang best." Let us remember our call to listen and speak synodally.
- 14 On this date in 1964 the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. This quote of Omar Bradley reflects the life and spirit of MLK, Jr: "We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we do about peace more about killing than we do about living." Let us often pray with the Sermon on the Mount to strengthen our resolve to work for peace and end all wars.
- 15 Today is the Feastday of St. Teresa of Jesus, Virgin, (also known as St. Teresa of Ávila). She was a 16th-century Spanish mystic, Carmelite reformer, and the first woman named a Doctor of the Church. Her writings and foundational work transformed Catholic spirituality, making her an enduring symbol of contemplation and reform. May her writings continue to inspire and challenge us today.
- 16 Today is the World Food Day. Today is also the Feastday of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. She was a French Visitation nun and mystic who promoted devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in its modern form. May our efforts, through the intercession of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque bring about a world where food is plentiful for all God's children.
- 17 Today is the United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. It is also the Feastday of St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr. Arrested for his faith, he was transported to Rome to face a martyr's death. Along the way, he wrote seven foundational letters to Christian communities, solidifying early church theology. May our faith strengthen our collaboration with others to eradicate poverty around the world.
- 18 Today is the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time. May this quote by Mahatma Gandhi strengthen our call to be people of non-violence today and every ordinary Sunday. "In nonviolence, the masses have a weapon that enables a child, a woman, or even a decrepit old man to resist the mightiest government successfully. If your spirit is strong, mere lack of physical strength ceases to be a handicap." Let us believe in the power of nonviolent movements to "move mountains of hate."
- 19 Today is the Feastday of the North American Martyrs, Isaac Jogues and Companions. They traveled to "New France" to evangelize Indigenous tribes, primarily the Huron, facing intense hardships, torture, and death during the Iroquois-Huron wars. May their example inspire us to face our difficulties as we profess our faith in action.
- 20 Today is the Feastday of St. Paul of the Cross, Priest. He grew up in a devout Catholic family that instilled in him a strong love for prayer and compassion for the poor. Let us do all we can to help those less fortunate than we are.

21 Today let us take seriously our responsibility to pray for leaders of all nations as we reflect on this quote of John K. Stoner, spoken way back in 2001. "A country which has dangled the sword of nuclear holocaust over the world for half a century and claims that someone else invented terrorism is a country out of touch with reality." May our prayers promote the conversion of all those who promote war!

22 Today is the Feastday of St. John Paul II, Pope. Also on this date in 1963, 225,000 people boycotted Chicago schools to protest segregation. May the spirit of Pope John Paul II continue to bring about and celebrate integration of classrooms across our country.

23 Today is the Feastday of St. John of Capistrano, Priest. At the age of 30 he entered the Franciscan novitiate and was ordained a priest four years later. His preaching attracted great throngs at a time of religious apathy and confusion. He and 12 Franciscan brethren were received in the countries of central Europe as angels of God. They were instrumental in reviving a dying faith and devotion. May we pray for those whose faith is waning and may they experience Christ's love in our care for them.

24 Today is celebrated as United Nations Day. It is also the death anniversary of Rosa Parks, a civil rights pioneer, who died in Detroit, MI, 2005. May we continue to support the works and values of the United Nations and of all those civil rights personnel who continue in the spirit of Rosa Parks.

25 Today is the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time. May this quote of our Founder, Bishop Ketteler inspire us to face any difficulties life gives us. "From all my heart do I desire that you may know the mystery of Christ, the blessings and the spiritual fruits that lie hidden in the Cross."

26 Today is National Pumpkin Day in the U.S., and today the U.S. holds the major historical significance as the anniversary of the last natural case of smallpox in 1977. May we enjoy nature's gifts of seasonal types of squash. Let us support the promotion of immunizations for all children who are at risk for childhood diseases.

27 Today is National Civics Day: Dedicated to the importance of civic education and participation. Let us continue to value and support civic pride and methods that can lessen the gap between us.

28 Today is National First Responders Day. It honors the police, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel who put their lives on the line. Today is the anniversary of the birth of our foundress: Marie de la Roche and also the Feastday of Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles. May Mother Marie and these "first responders" to the Call of Christ intercede for us as we honor those who protect and save us from life-threatening experiences.

29 Today may this quote of Thomas Merton stir our hearts. "Prayer and sacrifice must be used as the most effective spiritual weapons in the war against war, and like all weapons, they must be used with deliberate aim: not just with a vague aspiration for peace and security, but against violence and war." May we do our part to promote lasting peace within our hearts and around the world.

30 On this date in 1954 the last segregated unit of the Armed Forces was abolished. Let us do all we can to bring about a sense of community in our corner of the world, especially for those who are feeling alienated and alone because of race, religion, nationality, and gender.

31 Today is Halloween. Rooted in the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain and later integrated into Christian traditions, it has evolved into a widely secular celebration of the macabre, featuring traditions like trick-or-treating, costume parties, carving jack-o'-lanterns, and exploring haunted attractions. May this feast of fun be a safe experience for all, especially for the children around the world.