

Peace and Justice Calendar
September 2026

Childhood Cancer and Pain Awareness Month: Dedicated to accelerating research and supporting families affected by childhood cancer and chronic pain. Let us give thanks for those working to eliminate childhood cancers and chronic pain issues.

National Recovery Month: Celebrates the societal and personal victories of individuals overcoming substance use and mental health disorders. May they receive all the support they need.

National Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month: It brings awareness to mental health struggles, share resources. Let us support and pray for all those who tend to have feelings of isolation and no hope.

Hispanic Heritage Month: It is celebrated from mid-September through mid-October to recognize the histories, cultures, and contributions of Americans whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. Let us give thanks for our Hispanic brothers and sisters.

1 Today is the opening of the Congregational Chapter in South Korea. Let us pray to the Holy Spirit to guide the delegates, presenters, translators, secretaries, and support staff. May the God of Providence be visible in the hearts of each Sister of Divine Providence, trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

2 Today let us give thanks for our Korean Sisters who have prepared, in advance all the house-keeping responsibilities to ensure a smooth welcoming and life-giving experience all those attending the Congregational Chapter at the retreat center in Seoul as well as at their Motherhouse.

3 Today is the Feastday of St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church. He is widely credited with establishing and organizing the "Gregorian chant," which remains the foundational sacred plainchant of the Church. He was a prolific writer, theologian, and passionate supporter of missionary work and education. May we give thanks for St. Gregory and how we have been blessed because of his gifts and talents.

4 Today, let us continue to pray for all those at the Congregational Chapter in Seoul, Korea. May they be open to the guidance of the Spirit in all their deliberations and times of synodal listening.

5 Today is the UN's International Day of Charity. Today is also the Feastday of St. Teresa of Calcutta. May St. Teresa's community continue to live out their ministry to those less fortunate in the spirit of this international day of charity.

6 Let us meditate on these words of Mary Horgan, SP in 2005: "There are endless possibilities. ...together we are so much more...What a powerful image for the ongoing work of Women of Providence..." May the God of Providence continue to guide our Delegates at our Chapter at the St. Imbert Retreat Center in S. Korea.

7 Today is Labor Day! It is observed in the United States and Canada, honoring the contributions and achievements of workers. Let us give thanks for the gift of our labors that support the common good of all.

8 Today is the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Today is International Literacy Day. It is a global observance highlighting the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and a human right. Let us, in the spirit of Mary, the first teacher of her son, Jesus, continue to support all ESL teachers as well as tutors of reading.

9 Today is the Feastday of St. Peter Claver, Priest. At our Congregational Chapter Liturgy today we are celebrating the 175th Anniversary of our Foundation. Let us be united with all those at the Chapter, giving thanks for the gift of these 175 years as a congregation.

10 Today is World Suicide Prevention Day. Let us pray for all families who suffer from the loss of a loved one due to suicide. May those considering suicide, have someone there to talk and guide them to choose life.

- 11 Today is the USA's Patriot Day which honors the memory of the lives lost in the 2001 terrorist attacks twenty-five years ago. May we continue to work for reconciliation efforts within our families, community and between all nations to bring about safety for all around the world.
- 12 Today is the celebration of the Holy Name of Mary. May she intercede for all the Sisters at the Congregational Chapter, bringing them closer to living more deeply the gift of our charism of trust and openness as they listen to the promptings of the Spirit within one another.
- 13 Today is the Feastday of St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church. May his dedication and love for the Church inspire all of us, especially the Sister Delegates in their last full day at the Chapter, to commit ourselves to promote and live in trust, the outcomes of our Congregational Chapter.
- 14 Today is the celebration of the Exultation of the Cross. Today is also the closing of the Congregational Chapter in South Korea. May we unite ourselves with Christ on the Cross and give thanks for the faithful call of each of the Delegates in these closing hours of the Chapter. May we faithfully rejoice in the direction of the Chapter and support those Sisters called and elected to lead us as the Congregational Leader and Councillors for these next 5 years.
- 15 Today is the Feastday of the Sorrowful Mother. Today is also the UN's International Day of Democracy, to promote and uphold democratic principles. May the strength shown us by the Sorrowful Mother, inspire us to address the difficulties asked of us as we work to honor and promote the gift of democracy.
- 16 Today is the UN's International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer. Today is also the Feastday of Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs. In the spirit of all Pope- Martyrs, may we do all we can to encourage government leaders to abolish the death penalty and protect the Ozone Layer for future generations. LeJames Norman is scheduled for execution today in TX. Let us pray for him, his victims and their families.
- 17 Today is the Feastday of St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church. Today is also known as Constitution Day, which celebrates the signing of the U.S. Constitution. Let us give thanks for St. Robert, the first Jesuit to teach at a university, where the subject of his course was the *Summa Theologica* of Thomas Aquinas. May we treasure all important writings with reverence.
- 18 Let us reflect on this statement: "How do I find myself **committed**, both actively and intellectually, to "Right Relationship" as a metaphor for Providence?" May the Spirit continue to speak to our Delegates at the Chapter with wisdom and love that leads them to deeper relationships with one another.
- 19 Today is the Feastday of St. Januarius, Bishop and Martyr. He was arrested and condemned to death alongside several companions for refusing to offer sacrifices to Roman gods. Let us rid ourselves of all the "false gods" in our lives and pray for strength when temptations arise within.
- 20 Today is the Feastday of Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs. Today is also the UN's International Day of Peace. Today at sundown is the beginning of the Jewish Feast of Yom Kippur – a Day of Atonement. It ends at sundown on the 21st. May we strive to live as peaceful people no matter the cost and challenges of each day.
- 21 Today is the Feastday of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist. Today is also the UN's International Day of Peace. It was established to commemorate and strengthen the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples, promoting global peace and ceasefires. May peace begin in our hearts. Today is the end of Yom Kippur and the beginning of Rosh Hashanah which ends on the evening of Wednesday, September 23. Rosh Hashanah is a celebration of the Jewish New Year. May the intercession of St. Matthew inspire us to see all Jewish people as our brothers and sisters, praying for their peace and safety.

22 Today is the Autumn Equinox (the first day of fall) in the Northern Hemisphere. Today is also the celebration of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862 when President Abraham Lincoln issued the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, which declared that all enslaved people in the Confederate states would be freed. May the laws across our country truly echo this declaration that all people are created free in God's eyes.

23 Today is the Feastday of St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio), Priest. Today is also the International Day of Sign Languages. May we cherish the gifts of Padre Pio and all those who've learned how to "speak" sign language to the hearing impaired. Ker'Sean Olajuwa Ramey is scheduled for execution today in TX. Let us pray for him, his victims and their families.

24 St. Paul reminds us in Ephesians 1: 9-10 that "God has given us the wisdom to understand fully the mystery, the plan God was pleased to decree in Christ, to be carried out in the fullness of time: namely, to bring all things in the heavens and on earth into one under Christ's headship." Let us reflect on these words as the work of Providence, making a difference in our lives and in our ministries to others.

25 As we continue to support refugees and the ministries of Casa San Jose and Dignity, may those being served be protected and feel safe within the Pittsburgh area, especially our refugee families past and present.

26 Today is the Feastday of Sts. Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs. They were 3rd-century twin brothers and early Christian martyrs who worked as physicians in Syria, renowned for healing the sick without ever accepting payment. Let us give thanks for all nurses, aides, doctors and physicians who attend to our bodily needs.

27 Today is the Feastday of St. Vincent de Paul. He was a French Catholic priest who dedicated himself to serving the poor and is best known for founding the Congregation of the Mission and the Daughters of Charity. May these congregations continue to be blest today and into the future.

28 Today is the Feastday of St. Wenceslaus. He was the Duke of Bohemia, celebrated as a martyr and the patron saint of the Czech Republic. Renowned for his deep piety, charity to the poor, and efforts to Christianize his country, he was assassinated by his younger brother over religious and political tensions. Let us pray for all families today who find themselves deeply divided over religion and politics.

29 Today is the Feastday of Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels. Today is also the Foundation Day of our Congregation (175th). May these Angels of God and our founders: Bishop Ketteler and Mother Marie, continue to bless and guide our international congregation. May we continue to be the Face of Providence in our world through all our efforts to promote the reign of God.

30 Today is the Feastday of St. Jerome. He was an early Christian priest, theologian, and historian famously celebrated for translating the Bible into the Latin Vulgate. As one of the original four Doctors of the Catholic Church, he dedicated his life to scripture, and is the patron saint of librarians and translators. Let us give thanks for librarians and all who speak more than one language and offer to translate for those who need assistance. Christa Gail Pike is scheduled for execution today in TN. Let us pray for her, her victims and their families.