




Peace and Justice Prayer Calendar

April 2016

Child Abuse Prevention Month (USA/USCCB)

National Poetry Month

- 1 We pray for the end of violence in Honduras and for the repose of the soul of activist Berta Caceres, Honduras environmental and indigenous people activist murdered last month.
- 2 World Autism Awareness Day (UN) we pray for children, especially those with behavioral health issues, that they receive the love and support to develop their full potential.
Hans Christian Andersen (b. 1805) - Creative and imaginative writer whose stories enchant children to this day * In gratitude for all writers who continue to do so. Andersen once said, “*Every person’s life is a fairy tale written by God’s finger.*”
- 3 **Divine Mercy Sunday** * We pray for God’s Mercy on all those who have committed acts of violence, especially child abuse, participate in genocide, or sexual abuse. We pray especially for all of their victims.
- 4 **Annunciation** * We pray for all pregnant women, especially those who find this pregnancy difficult.
A small painting depicting the Annunciation, with the Virgin Mary seated and the Angel Gabriel standing before her.
International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance (UN) * We pray for all those who are victims of mine explosions.
Maya Angelou (b. 1928) – Poet , Civil Rights Activist * For all those who enlighten us and raise our awareness about important issues.
- 5 We pray for candidates for government positions, that they *interact civilly* and work to achieve policies that benefit the common good.
George Bernard Shaw once said in his play, *The Devil’s Disciple*, “*The worst sin toward our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them: that’s the essence of inhumanity.*”
- 6 International Day of Sports for Development and Peace (UN)
We pray for the end of the death penalty and for Pablo Vasquez, scheduled for execution in Texas, the victim, and the families affected.



- 7 World Health Day (UN) * We pray in gratitude for those working toward curing malaria, Ebola, Zika viruses and other illnesses which plague the most vulnerable in our world.

Day of remembrance of the victims of the Rwanda Genocide (1994) * We Pray for all victims and survivors of genocides throughout the world today.

- 8 St. Julie Billiart, foundress * We pray for the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and those who practice their charism. We pray for women leaders in the church and religious communities.
Buddha (b. 536 BC)

- 9 The Civil Rights Bill passed granting Blacks the rights and privileges of U.S. Citizenship (1866) * We pray for the end of racism in our country.



- 10 Dolores Huerta (b. 1930) - co-founder of the National Farm Workers Association. We pray for farm workers and migrant workers that they have adequate compensation for their labors.

- 11 **John XXIII's** *Pacem in Terris* published (1963) * We pray for peace in the world. "*A peaceful person does more good than a learned one.*" Pope John XXIII



- 12 International Day for Street Children Consortium for Street Children (CSC)
Theme and Action: Identity * We pray for all street children that they may have the documents necessary to provide the care and protection that they need.



- 13 Thomas Jefferson- Third President of the U.S., Drafter of the Declaration of Independence * We pray for the civil rights and freedom of all peoples of the world.

For all those on death row, especially Ivan Teleguz scheduled for execution in Virginia, the victims, and the affected families.

April 15-18 For the success of the Ecumenical Advocacy Days in D.C.
Theme: "Lift up Your Voice: Racism, Class, and Power."

- 14 Vaishkhi/Baisakhi (Hindu/ Sikh New Year feast) we pray for tolerance among believers of different faiths.

Karen Klimczak, CSJ, Buffalo, NY - peacemaker and martyr (2006)
Pax Christi USA founded (1972) * We pray in gratitude for peacemakers and justice seekers.

- 15 Day of Silence to protest bullying and harassment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and gender variant people. * We pray for tolerance and respect of the members of the LGBTQ community.



- 16 Holocaust Remembrance Day (UN)
Anniversary of the VA Tech Shooting (2008) * We pray for the end of violence in our families and communities throughout the world.

- 17 We pray for the end of the death penalty and for the repose of the soul of Coy Westbrook executed last month in the USA.
Alice Walker wins Pulitzer Prize for Fiction Award for the *Color Purple* (1983)

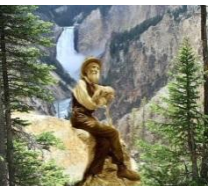
- 18 Tax Day 2016
Income Tax Resisters Day (USA) * We pray for a more equitable tax structure in the USA and that tax income would be designated for human needs over military needs.

April 19 - 23 * Global Soil Week (UN)
We pray that governments work toward a just & sustainable soil and land policy.



- 19 Oklahoma City bombing (1995) * We pray for those communities which have endured murders through gun violence.
Boat carrying approx. 850 migrants is shipwrecked in the Mediterranean between Italy and Libya, with only 27 migrants rescued * We pray for the safety and well-being of immigrants, migrants, and refugees.

- 20 **St. Rose of Lima** - Patroness of Latin America
Columbine High School Shooting (1999) * We pray that Congress will enact appropriate gun violence prevention laws.



- 21 John Muir (b. 1838) - environmentalist * We pray that governments continue to work in carrying out the commitments of the Paris Climate Change Meeting of December 2015.

- 22 International Earth Day (UN) - Theme: "Trees for the Earth" * We pray in gratitude for Creation especially the trees. Do something today that might reduce our use of tree pulp. Recycle! Reuse!



Jewish Passover begins (sundown) * We pray for peace in Israel and Palestine.

- 23 **Blessed Frederic Ozanam** - Founder of the Vincent de Paul Society * For the many volunteers throughout the world who strive to alleviate the plight of persons in need.



24 St. Vincent de Paul (1581) - Dedicated himself to serving persons who are poor.

We pray that “small farmers may receive a just reward for their precious labors.” (Pope Francis Monthly Intention)

25 St. Mark - Evangelist * We pray for all those who spread God’s Word throughout the world.

Supreme Court rules pension plans can't require women to pay more (1978)

26 That ”Christians in Africa may give witness to love and faith in Jesus Christ amid political and religious conflicts.” (Pope Francis Monthly Intention)

27 Mary Wollstonecraft (b. 1759) – Philosopher, Advocate for Women’s Rights once said, “*Virtue can only flourish among equals.*”

We pray for all those on death row, especially Robert Pruett scheduled for execution in Texas, the victim, and the families affected.

28 Oskar Schindler (b. 1908) - Credited with rescuing the lives of over a thousand Jews in Nazi Germany during the Holocaust by employing them in his factories. * We pray for more compassion in our world.

World Day for Safety and Health at Work (UN) * That all workers will labor in environments which are safe and healthy and they are provided with living wages.



29 St. Catherine of Siena - Philosopher & theologian spoke ‘truth to power’ and strove to bring back the papacy of Pope Gregory XI to Rome from its displacement in France.

Arbor Day (from the Latin *arbor*, meaning tree) is a holiday in which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant and care for trees today or just go hug a tree today.



30 Vietnam War ends (1975) * We pray for all those who experience the ill effects of the Vietnam War and all the other wars since that time.

