

Peace & Justice Prayer Calendar

March 2014

Women's History Month

[Women's History Month is an annual declared month worldwide that highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society.]

- 1 International Death Penalty Abolition Day * We pray for the end of the death penalty worldwide.
- 2 Pope Leo XIII (b. 1810- 1903) * Wrote the encyclical, *Rerum Novarum* (On the Condition of Labor) in 1891, which began the Church's steady development of Social Teaching throughout the next century on through to the present day * For justice for laborers all over the world
- 3 St. Katharine Drexel - Founder of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament * for blessings on the Sisters and their ministry with Native Americans and African-Americans.
- 4 Mardi Gras - We sing our last Alleluias today until Easter * In gratitude for the gift of Jesus' incarnation into our world.
Jeanette Rankin becomes first congresswoman (1917). Frances Perkins becomes first woman cabinet member (1933) * For all women serving in government.
- 5 Ash Wednesday - "*Repent and Believe in the gospel!*" * We pray that each day of Lent we will strive to live out the Gospel beatitudes.
- 6 Michelangelo (b. 1495) brought much beauty into our world. * May we recognize the beauty that surrounds us especially in those whom we will come in contact today.
- 7 Saints Perpetua and Felicity – martyrs * We pray for equality for all women.
World Day of Prayer – A Global, Ecumenical Movement of Christian women joined together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday of March.
- 8 International Women's Day (UN) Theme: "*A promise is a promise: Time for action to end violence against women*" - For all those who continuously work for justice for women's rights.
- 9 First Sunday of Lent * We pray for a change of heart of the Congresspersons who oppose a path to citizenship and family unity in an Immigration Reform Bill.
- 10 Harriet Tubman (b. 1820) – African American, Abolitionist, humanitarian, and Union Spy the Union during the American Civil War. * That all cultures respect the rights and dignity of women (Pope Francis monthly intention.)

- 11 Gandhi's salt march begins (1930) We pray for peace makers and the personal gift of nonviolence in all our interactions.
Rutilio Grande, SJ martyred in El Salvador (1977) * In gratitude and for the safety of all those who are voices of those in poverty.
- 12 Pax Christi International - founded in France (1945) by French woman, Marie-Marthe Dortel Claudot * For all those who act as peacemakers throughout the world. Dorothy Day once said, "*No one has a right to sit down and feel helpless, there's too much to do.*"
- 13 We pray for the success of the Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath (Mar 13-16) * For a greater awareness of gun laws which will protect the innocent and remove weapons from the violent.
- 14 "*The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.*" (Eleanor Roosevelt)
* For people who are striving to believe in their dreams.
- 15 St. Louise de Marillac - Founder of the Daughters of Charity (with St. Vincent de Paul) * For all those who minister to the sick, uneducated, and/or low income persons.
- 16 Second Sunday of Lent
Jewish Feast of Esther (Purim) * We pray that all religions work to protect the human rights of women.
"It was our provident God who cast fire into my soul, the fire that burns, elevates, and gives the strength to overcome." (Marie de la Roche, co-founder of the Sisters of Divine Providence)
- 17 St. Patrick (Patron of Ireland and Nigeria) We pray for a lasting peace in Nigeria and Ireland and in gratitude for the contributions of culture by these people to the world.
- 18 We pray for the end of the death penalty and the repose of the souls of Kenneth Hogan, Herbert Smulls, Suzanne Basso, Juan Chavez executed last month in the USA.
- 19 St. Joseph - Patron of Workers * For just wages for all laborers throughout world. We pray for Roy Jasper scheduled for execution in Texas, the victim, and their families. We pray for fathers, especially those separated from their families due to war or immigration.
- 20 Spring Equinox * Welcome Spring!!!
International Day of Forest and Trees. Consider hugging a person and a tree today and say a prayer in gratitude.

We pray for Clayton Lockett scheduled for execution in Oklahoma, the victim, and their families.

- 21 International Day for the Elimination of Racism * We pray that we may accept all persons on this earth as God's wonderful creation..
- 22 World Water Day * For clean water for the 1.2 billion people in the world without fresh water
- 23 Third Sunday of Lent * We pray that young people accept the Lord's invitation to consecrate their lives to practicing the gospels. (Pope Francis Monthly Intention.
- 24 Bishop Oscar Romero martyred (1980) * We pray for the end of violence in Central America.
International Day of remembrance for the right to the truth concerning Human Rights violations and for the dignity of victims.
- 25 Feast of the Annunciation * We pray for pregnant women especially those for whom this pregnancy brings sadness and not joy.
International Day for the Remembrance of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.
- 26 Robert Frost (b. 1874) U.S. Poet Laureate, Pulitzer Prize for Poetry - Robert Frost once said, "*Poetry is when an emotion has found its thought and the thought has found words.*" * For all the poets among us who find words to fill us with life and hope.
- 27 "When sleeping women wake, mountains move." (Chinese Proverb)
We pray for all those on Death Row, especially Charles Warner in Oklahoma and Anthony Doyle in Texas scheduled for execution, the victims, and their families.
- 28 Pope Francis becomes the first Pope to wash the feet of women in the Holy Thursday service in Rome (2013) * Joan Chittister once said, "*Goodness is what I do because it must be done; not what I do because I have no other choice.*"
- 29 Pearl Bailey (b. 1918) – Singer, Actress, Tony Award (1968) for lead role in all Black production of "Hello, Dolly" * For talented singers who enliven our lives.
- 30 Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday) * Let us rejoice in God's goodness!!
Vincent van Gogh (b. 1853) - Post-Impressionist Dutch Painter* For all those who create beauty through their art enhancing God's creation.
- 31 Cesar Chavez (b.1927-1993) Founder: United Farm Workers * We pray ingratitudes for farm workers and their families who labor long and hard to bring food to our tables.