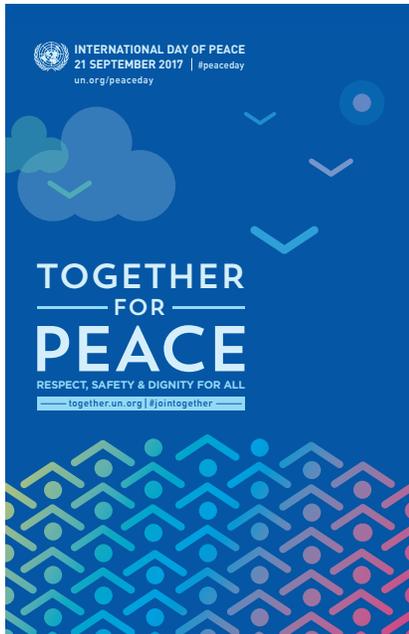


Prayer for Peace

International Day of Peace • September 21, 2017



Theme: “Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All.”

Setup: Create a sacred space with symbols of welcome and unity such as a candle, flowers or a welcome mat.

Song: Select music to begin your gathering, e.g. *Let There Be Peace on Earth, Prayer of St. Francis*, or instrumental music.

Introduction: This year’s theme for the International Day of Peace, “Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All,” honors the spirit of **TOGETHER**, a global initiative that promotes respect, safety and dignity for everyone forced to flee their homes in search of a better life.

“In times of insecurity, communities that look different become convenient scapegoats,” said United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres. “We must resist cynical efforts to divide communities and portray neighbors as ‘the other.’ Discrimination diminishes us all. It prevents people—and societies—from achieving their full potential.” He added, “Together, let us stand up against bigotry and for human rights. Together, let us build bridges. Together, let us transform fear into hope.”

Leader: On this day dedicated to peace we gather in solidarity with our human family and commit to support refugees and migrants and celebrate our common humanity.

READER 1

“Migrants and refugees are not pawns on the chessboard of humanity.

They are children, women and men who leave or who are forced to leave their homes for various reasons, who share a legitimate desire for knowing and having, but above all for being more. The sheer number of people migrating from one continent to another, or shifting places within their own countries and geographical areas, is striking. Contemporary movements of migration represent the largest movement of individuals, if not of peoples, in history. As the Church accompanies migrants and refugees on their journey, she seeks to understand the causes of migration, but she also works to overcome its negative effects, and to maximize its positive influence on the communities of origin, transit and destination.”

—Pope Francis: *World Day of Migrants and Refugees*

READER 2

In January 2017, the Administration announced a widespread Travel Ban that would impact people traveling to the U.S. from majority-Muslim countries. This instilled fear and confusion into people waiting for family members to arrive in the U.S. as well as Muslim and refugee communities. Shortly after it was announced, lawyers and supporters of the Muslim community gathered at airports across the country to stand in solidarity with and provide much-needed legal assistance to people impacted by the Travel Ban. A lawyer who volunteered at NYC’s Kennedy International Airport describes the scene, “There were attorneys from numerous major law firms, nonprofits, all working together. The dynamic between what was happening inside the terminal with all the attorneys, and outside with massive protests and people holding signs—I’ve never experienced anything like that.”

—New York Times, January 2017

REFLECT AND SHARE

Leader: Let's take a few moments to consider: How am I being called to accompany migrants and refugees?

After the quiet

Leader: I now invite anyone who would like, to share briefly your reflection

Sharing

LITANY OF PEACEMAKERS

Leader: Together, let us stand up against bigotry and for human rights. Loving God

Response: *Hear our prayer*

Leader: Together, let us build bridges. Loving God. *R*

Leader: Together, let us transform fear into hope. Loving God. *R*

Leader: Together, let us recognize the dignity in all people and Earth. Loving God. *R*

Leader: Together, let us be peacemakers in our daily lives. Loving God. *R*

Leader: Together, let us become the people we've been waiting for. Loving God. *R*

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray
God of all people
Stir us to holy anger
Over the wounds of our world.
Move us to actions for justice
Until the fullness of welcome is fulfilled
In our midst
And the problems that cause
migration—
Poverty, the fear, and the suffering—
Are confronted by all
People of good will
And transformed
By the power of compassion.
Amen!

—Education for Justice

“By opening our hearts, joining hands and reaching out to refugees and migrants, we can move closer to attaining peace, prosperity and protection for all.”

—UN Secretary-General António Guterres

