

Social Justice throughout the Year

January

Poverty in America Awareness Month (www.povertyusa.org) *Do awareness-raising activities throughout the month. Discuss the Option for the Poor.*

World Day of Peace (January 1) Read the Pope's message and pray for peace in the world. http://www.vatican.va/phome_en.htm

National Migration Week (Beginning on Epiphany Sunday) (www.usccb.org/mrs) *Celebrate with an international festival and learn about the difficulties of being displaced or the situations that would cause people to flee their homes. Discuss the Principle of Solidarity.*

Martin Luther King Day *Discuss the sin of racism and the Principle of Human Dignity. Participate in a community event.*

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-25) *Join in with other local churches for an ecumenical event.*

March for Life. Held on the Anniversary of Roe v. Wade, January 22, in Washington DC. A statewide march is held in St. Augustine. It will be held on Jan. 17, 2009. *Hold a prayer vigil in the parish. Pray for all of the unborn and for mothers and fathers experiencing crisis pregnancy.*

International day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust (UN) (January 27)

<http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/focus/ihrd/>

February

Black History Month

National Day of Prayer for the African American Family (February 3)
For more information, contact the USCCB, (202) 541-3177

World Day of Prayer for the Sick (February 11) Contact the Catholic Health Association: (202) 721-6321. *Organize a healing Mass. Discuss the Corporal Works of Mercy.*

Valentine's Day (February 14) *Work with the Director of Pastoral Care to send cards to anyone who has been divorced or lost a loved one in the past year. Participate in Spirit FM's Hearts of Hope for Valentine's Day, Make treat bags for a nursing home or homeless shelter.*

March

Lent: *Organize a parish day of service or participate in the Florida Catholic Long-Sleeve Shirt drive for farmworkers.*

Lenten Rice Bowl Collection. (www.crs.org) *Operation Rice Bowl is the official Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services. As a Lenten solidarity program, Operation Rice Bowl calls Catholics to reach out to assist our brothers and sisters around the world through the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Use the Rice Bowl Educator's Guide and home calendars. Discuss the great work of CRS across the world. Discuss the Principle of Solidarity.*

Catholic Days at the Capital *Encourage the adults and youth groups from your parish to travel to Tallahassee to learn about key issues and visit with Legislators. Have parish groups or youth groups write letters on the key legislative issues identified by the Florida Catholic Conference (www.flacathconf.org)*

- Anniversary of the start of the War in Iraq (2003)** (March 19) *Pray for all who have lost their lives as a result of this war. Pray for all soldiers and innocent victims of war.*
- World Water Day** (March 22)
- Anniversary of Oscar Romero's Assassination (1980)** (March 24)
- April** **Earth Day** (April 22)
- May** **Feast of St. Joseph the Worker** (May 1)
- Cover the Uninsured Week** (usually the first week in May). See <http://covertheuninsured.org>
- National Day of Prayer, USA** (First Thursday in May)
- World Fair Trade Day** (May 10) <http://www.wftday.org>
<http://www.fairtradefederation.org/ht/d/sp/i/208/pid/208>
 Visit the Catholic Relief Services fair trade website:
<http://www.crsfairtrade.org>
- Mothers' Day:** *Have a Baby Shower or collect supplies for a Pregnancy Center in the Life Ministry Alliance.*
- National Day of Families** (May 15)
- June** **Juneteenth** (June 19) Commemoration of the end of slavery in the U.S.
- World Refugee Day** (June 20)
- International Day in Support of Victims of Torture** (June 26)
- International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking** (June 26)
- July** **Natural Family Planning Awareness Week.** *The dates highlight the anniversary of the papal encyclical Humanae Vitae, July 25, and mark the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, July 26. Provide NFP brochures and diocesan information.*
- August** **Anniversaries of the Dropping of the Atomic Bombs** (August 6 and 9)
- Feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe** (August 14) Martyr of Auschwitz. *Pray for all victims of violence, particularly our brothers and sisters who have died from genocide. Pray in gratitude for our martyrs.*
- September** **Labor Day-** *Focus on the Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers. Learn about people in sweatshops who are exploited.*
- Anniversary of the Terrorist Attacks of 2001** (September 11th)
- Wash for Life:** The Wash for Life is an annual pro-life youth event. On the same day, groups of youth all over the country hold a car wash in their own home town and donate the money to a local Pregnancy Care Center. info@washforlife.org or call 703-405-5783 or 704-241-7171. <http://www.washforlife.org>. Contact Sabrina in the Office of Life Ministry for a list of Pregnancy Care Centers in the Life Ministry Alliance: 727-344-1611 *325; sab@dosp.org.
- Feast of St. Vincent de Paul** (September 27) *Do a canned food drive and educate the community about the work of St. Vincent de Paul.*
- October** **Respect Life Month** Refer to the Bishop's website or the Parish Packet from the USCCB, Pro-Life Secretariat (www.usccb.org/prolife): *Utilize the bulletin inserts, prayers and homily helps. Provide educational materials on a life issues each week. Pray that we will be people who recognize the dignity of all human life.*

Fair Trade Month:

<http://www.fairtradefederation.org/ht/d/sp/i/208/pid/208>

Visit the Catholic Relief Services fair trade website:

<http://www.crsfairtrade.org>

Feast of St. Francis (October 4). St. Francis is the Patron Saint of Ecology. *Study global climate change or some other environmental issue. Sponsor an outdoor clean-up day.*

The World Day Against the Death Penalty (October 10). This day is organized by a group called the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty. *Pray for and perhaps write letters to the imprisoned.* (www.worldcoalition.org).

World Food Day (October 16)

Bread for the World Sunday (To be held one Sunday between World Food Day and Thanksgiving.) The day provides an opportunity to reflect on God's gifts, pray for people in need and take steps to reduce hunger. Visit www.bread.org/sunday or call 1-800-82-BREAD.

National Weekend of Faith and Action on the Death Penalty (October 19-21).

Pastoral Care Week (October 20-26, 2008) Pastoral Care Week gives opportunities for organizations and institutions of all kinds and types to recognize the spiritual caregivers in their midst and the ministry which the caregivers provide. <http://www.pastoralcareweek.org>

United Nations Day (October 24)

November

Election Day: *Discuss the importance of being a well-informed voter. Hold a voter registration drive. Write letters to your new legislators assuring them of your prayers.*

Feast of St. Francis Cabrini, Patron Saint of Immigrants (November 13)

Universal Children's Day (November 20)

Farmworker Sunday Dates vary. Contact the Office of Life Ministry.. *Find resources for liturgy and education on the Florida Catholic Conference website: www.flacathconf.org. Learn about what Farmworkers experience as far as labor and salary. Research current actions through the National Farmworker Ministry: <http://www.nfwm.org> Have a Farmworker speak at a parish program. Learn about the latest action of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers: <http://www.ciw-online.org>.*

Catholic Campaign for Human Development Collection (Usually the Sunday before Thanksgiving) *Promote the Catholic Campaign, to fight domestic poverty. Grants are given each year to economic development programs and community organizing groups (like HOPE in Hillsborough and FAST in Pinellas Counties). 75% of the collection is sent to the Bishops' Conference to be distributed into grants. 25% stays at Catholic Charities locally.*

Promote Alternative Giving. *Set up a Fair Trade Market. In preparation for Christmas, sell Work of Human Hands project items after parish programs and after Sunday Masses. Catholic Relief Services and A*

Greater Gift bring you high quality, fairly traded handcrafts and gourmet food items from disadvantaged producers all over the world through the Work of Human Hands program. Also sell fairly traded coffee and chocolate. <http://www.crsfairtrade.org>

December **World AIDS Day**, December 1st *Pray for the sick and those who have lost loved ones to this pandemic.*

National Night of Prayer for Life. (December 8-9) We unite our prayers with Catholics throughout the country in an effort to turn hearts towards Christ, thus bringing an end to abortion and the destruction it causes to all those involved. For more information contact lupegladu@juno.com.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas (December 12). *Pray for our brothers and sisters from Mexico who lack jobs, food and other valuable resources. Pray that we may be more accepting of those that come into our country to work*

Las Posadas (December 16 – 24). *Tie in Las Posadas to your Faith Formation programming or parish Christmas program. Discuss the fact that Mary and Joseph were forced to flee their home. This ties in well with catechesis on Comprehensive Immigration Reform.*

International Day of Migration. (December 18) Pray for those who have had to leave their homeland due to poverty, violence or natural disaster. Visit the Justice for Immigrants website to learn more about Church teaching on Comprehensive Immigration Reform:

www.justiceforimmigrant.org

National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day (December 21) On the first day of winter, join us to remember those who have died homeless in our community in the past year.

Feast of the Holy Family (December 26)

CRS Fair Trade www.crsfairtrade.org

Raise Money Right with Fair Trade Chocolate:

The CRS Fair Trade Program offers you a way to raise money that you can feel good about. With “Raise Money Right,” you can sell fair trade chocolate for special projects and support a special group of Fair Trade farmers.

Work of Human Hands:

Catholic Relief Services and A Greater Gift bring you high quality, fairly traded handcrafts and gourmet food items from disadvantaged producers all over the world through the *Work of Human Hands* program. The people who produce these items earn a fair price and get access to credit and training. When you participate in *Work of Human Hands*, everyone wins.