



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<p>1 An annual papal message for the World Day of Peace (Jan. 1) has been released every year since 1968. Read the 2019 message and use the accompanying two-page handout to reflect on its important invitation to all Catholics and people of good will.</p>	<p>2 The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has been working for 49 years to help end poverty by empowering low-income families and educating about the root causes of poverty. Read about the work of the United Workers Association and other groups that receive funding from CCHD.</p>	<p>3 Today's readings remind us that we are all children of God. Solidarity invites us to remember that we are part of one global human family. Join us in Washington, D.C. for the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering on Feb. 2-5 to speak out when human dignity is threatened by racism, poverty, division, and unjust treatment of immigrant families.</p>	<p>4 Today is the feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first canonized U.S. citizen and founder of the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, which serves and educates children living in poverty. Her work laid the foundation for the American Catholic School system. Both her order and Catholic schools continue to further the social mission of the Church to this day.</p>	<p>5 "If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him?" (1 Jn. 3:17). How can you be in solidarity with your brother or sister in need? Read how Catholics at a parish in New Orleans and their sister parish in Nicaragua help each other in times of need. Compassion has no borders.</p>
<p>6 Today is the first day of National Migration Week. There are many factors that have contributed to the displacement of more than 68.5 million people throughout the world; poverty and migration have a very strong link. What can you do to welcome our migrant brothers and sisters in your community?</p>	<p>7 Work is much more than simply earning a living; it is a way of using our gifts to participate in God's creation. We are called to uphold the dignity and rights of workers including just wages, humane conditions, respectful treatment, etc. How can you help ensure workers' rights and dignity are respected?</p>	<p>8 Fr. Matthew O'Donnell was the 2018 Cardinal Bernardin New Leadership Award recipient for his leadership as his parish works to address the poverty and violence in the community through GED prep, career readiness, and other programs. How can you get involved in your parish's efforts to address poverty?</p>	<p>9 "Poverty" is not a catch-phrase—it is a serious reality many are living. Are you familiar with the facts about those living in poverty in the U.S.? Learn facts about poverty in the U.S. and make 2 commitments to address poverty this month.</p>	<p>10 The CCHD Creating on the Margins Multimedia Art Contest in 2018 focused on the theme of Sharing the Journey with migrants and refugees. Watch these films and reflect on these pieces of art created by talented youth across the country who are passionate about the welfare of the world's migrants and refugees.</p>	<p>11 Today is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. There are many children, women, and men being trafficked in the world today. Use this film to learn about the systemic problems that lead to trafficking. Find out about your slavery footprint and learn about how you can make an impact with CRS ethical trade.</p>	<p>12 Today, reflect on the role of our civil leaders and their obligations to implement just policies for the common good. A basic moral test for society is how our most vulnerable members are faring. Learn about how you can promote the common good by visiting USCCB's Action Center. Say a prayer to confront global poverty.</p>

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<p>13 Through Baptism, we share in Christ’s prophetic mission as people of God “<i>to bring glad tidings to the poor...proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free</i>” (Lk 4:18). How can you live out your baptismal call to advocate for and with persons in poverty locally and globally?</p>	<p>14 The Gospel invites us to welcome our neighbors who are experiencing violence, persecution, or poverty. Visit ShareJourney.org and WeAreSaltandLight.org for help cultivating a spirit of encounter and welcoming towards people of diverse backgrounds.</p>	<p>15 Our faith calls us to care for God’s creation and help poor countries and communities adapt to the effects of climate change. Read and reflect upon this story about the connection between poverty and climate change in Filipino community.</p>	<p>16 We are called to lift up and support those who are vulnerable as they seek change in their communities. A key element of breaking the cycle of poverty is empowering communities through subsidiarity and supporting their work through solidarity. Learn more about how you can impact poverty through CCHD.</p>	<p>17 The Two Feet of Love in Action are two unique but complementary ways to fight poverty. Watch this video about how one foot is social justice—eliminating root causes of poverty, and the second is charitable works—responding to immediate needs. Search for a local organization you can join and learn about the current policies affecting persons in poverty.</p>	<p>18 Today begins the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, celebrated each year on January 18-25. The 2019 theme is “Justice and Only Justice You Shall Pursue” (Deuteronomy 16:18-20). Created by the Christian community in Indonesia, it urges Christians to reflect on the ways that they are complicit in injustice.</p>	<p>19 There are many ways to help raise awareness in our communities. One creative way is through the CCHD Creating on the Margins Contest. The 2019 contest theme is: “A Time to Heal Racism” inspired by the new pastoral letter against racism Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love. Learn about how you can get your local school and parish involved. Who can you invite to participate?</p>
<p>20 “In service of the poor, there is no room for competition. Rather, we should humbly recognize that the Spirit is the source of our actions that reveal God’s closeness and his answer to our prayers.” (Pope Francis) Say a prayer that the Holy Spirit will lead you to be of service to the poor.</p>	<p>21 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. fought tirelessly to eliminate injustice and segregation. He understood that eliminating poverty is not simply a hand-out; it is restoring the dignity all persons deserve. Learn about—and join—Catholics in the work to address the evil of racism and end racial injustice in our communities.</p>	<p>22 Today is the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. Read about how our call to create a culture of life is tied to our call to empower those living in poverty. Participate in this day through prayer or events offered by your diocese to observe the anniversary of <i>Roe v. Wade</i>.</p>	<p>23 Throughout our lives, God accompanies us. In a very special way, God is close to those who suffer and are marginalized. Watch this video and reflect: What priority do those who experience poverty have in my heart?</p>	<p>24 Poverty disproportionately impacts the elderly. Read about how CCHD funded organizations such as the Massachusetts Senior Action Council have organized around issues such as healthcare, transportation, and voter engagement that are often challenging for elderly to access, trapping them in a cycle of poverty.</p>	<p>25 “Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature” (Mk 16:15). How does the Gospel require us to respond to poverty in our communities? What can you do to proclaim the good news of God’s love today?</p>	<p>26 Read about Living Hope: A Voice for the Vulnerable. CCHD provides funds to help Living Hope empower members of the disability community. They work to not only provide wheelchairs, safety, and community to people experiencing poverty and disability, but they also work to give them a voice and place in society.</p>
<p>27 “Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor” (Evangelii Gaudium no. 187). Pray for the grace to understand how God is calling you to be an instrument for the common good.</p>	<p>28 Many face barriers to breaking the cycle of poverty due to discrimination or racism. Read and reflect on Open Wide Our Hearts, the bishops’ new pastoral letter against racism. How is this letter calling you to conversion?</p>	<p>29 When someone experiences poverty, their basic rights to clean water, food, housing, employment, and vital healthcare are violated. With rights come the duty to protect them. Learn more about our Rights and Responsibilities.</p>	<p>30 We are called to listen to the needs of victims and uphold the dignity of offenders through practicing restorative justice and opposing the death penalty. How can you show God’s love and mercy to those in need of healing and hope?</p>	<p>31 Keep the conversation about poverty going with your family, in your parish, and neighborhood by signing up to receive our newsletter Notes for Neighbors and other communications from the Department of Justice Peace and Human Development.</p>	<p>For more info and tips on getting involved, visit PovertyUSA.org or PobrezaUSA.org. Longer daily reflections are available at http://bit.ly/USCCBpoverty</p>	