

Calendar of Social Justice/ Catholic Social Teaching in the Church

Catholic Social Teaching Working Group



GOAL: The Catholic Women's League of Canada addresses and supports Catholic social teaching through advocacy.

STRATEGY: Empower members by providing educational opportunities to learn more about Catholic social teaching.



Calendar of Social Justice/Catholic Social Teaching in the Church



This calendar provides links to information about some important dates to remember while in pursuit of Catholic social justice. In it, are commemorative days that have been declared by the church, the United Nations, The Catholic Women's League of Canada and other organizations. Anniversary dates for important church documents are also included along with links to the document.

Councils are encouraged to use this calendar in planning yearly League activities, and members in their personal prayer and celebrations. Share it with others. Spread the good news that God's kingdom is among us.

"But you shall keep my statutes and my ordinances and commit none of these abominations, either the citizen or the alien who resides among you (for the inhabitants of the land, who were before you, committed all of these abominations, and the land became defiled); otherwise the land will vomit you out for defiling it, as it vomited out the nation that was before you." (Leviticus 18:26-28)

"You shall not pollute the land in which you live; for blood pollutes the land, and no expiation can be made for the land, for the blood that is shed in it, except by the blood of the one who shed it. You shall not defile the land in which you live, in which I also dwell; for I the Lord dwell among the Israelites." (Numbers 35:33-34)

"I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination." (Jeremiah 2:7)

"Look up to the bare heights, and see! Where have you not been lain with? By the waysides you have sat waiting for lovers, like a nomad in the wilderness. You have polluted the land with your whoring and wickedness. Therefore the showers have been withheld, and the spring rain has not come; yet you have the forehead of a whore, you refuse to be ashamed." (Jeremiah 3:2-3)

DATE	TITLE	SPONSOR & CATEGORY	HYPERLINK
JANUARY			
January 1 st	World Day of Peace	Vatican – Church	vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace.index.html#messages
January 18 th – 25 th	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	The Canadian Council of Churches – Church	weekofprayer.ca/
January 22 nd	Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn Children	USCCB – Church	usccb.org/committees/pro-life-activities/january-roe-events/january-22-day-of-prayer
January 27 th	International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/holocaustremembrance/observance/
Last Sunday of January	World Leprosy Day	The Leprosy Mission International – Secular	leprosymission.org/leprosy-champions/world-leprosy-day/
FEBRUARY			
February 1 st week	World Interfaith Harmony Week	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/interfaith-harmony-week
February 2 nd	World Wetlands Day Secular	World Wetlands Day	worldwetlandsday.org/
February 6 th	International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/female-genital-mutilation-day
February 8 th	International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking	Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development – Church	preghieracontrotratta.org/

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February 11 th	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	United Nations – Women – Secular	unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/international-day-of-women-and-girls-in-science
February 11 th	World Day of the Sick	Vatican – Church	vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick.index.html#messages
February 13 th	World Whale Day	World Wildlife Federation – Secular	wwf.org.uk/updates/world-whale-day-2019-wwf
February 20 th	World Day of Social Justice	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/social-justice-day
February 22 nd	National Human Trafficking Awareness Day	Compassion International – Secular	https://www.compassion.com/world-days/human-trafficking-awareness-day.htm#:~:text=National%20Human%20Trafficking%20Awareness%20Day,slavery%20(neo%2Dslavery).
February Last Wednesday	Anti-Bullying Day/Pink Shirt Day	CKNW Kids' Fund's Pink Shirt Day – Secular	pinkshirtday.ca/about
MARCH			
March	Lent		
March 1 st Friday	World Day of Prayer	World Day of Prayer International – Church	worlddayofprayer.net/index.html
March 3 rd	World Wildlife Day	United Nations – Secular	wildlifeday.org/
March 8 th	International Women's Day	International Women's Day	internationalwomensday.com/ wucwo.org/index.php/en/messages-resources/noticias-de-la-iglesia/920-women-s-day-wucwo-thanks-pope-francis vaticannews.va/en/africa/news/2020-03/international-women-s-day-2020.html
March 21 st	International Day of Forests	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/forests-and-trees-day
March 22 nd	World Water Day	United Nations – Secular	worldwaterday.org/

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APRIL			
April 4 th	International Day for Mine Awareness	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/mine-awareness-day
April 11 th	Anniversary of Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth) encyclical, 1963	Vatican – Church documents	vatican.va/content/john-xxiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_j-xxiii_enc_11041963_pacem.html
April 22 nd	Earth Day	Earth Day – Secular	earthday.org/
MAY			
Various	March for Life Canada	National March for Life – Church	marchforlife.ca/
May	Catholic Education Week	Sponsoring School Board – Church	Contact the local school board.
May 1 st	International Worker Day	UFCW Canada – Secular	ufcw.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1785:may-1-international-workers-day-&Itemid=6&lang=en
May 1 st	The Catholic Worker Movement anniversary (1933)	The Catholic Worker Movement - Church	catholicworker.org/
May 8 th	World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day	World Red Cross – Secular	redcross.ca/blog/2018/5/a-reason-to-smile-world-red-cross-day
May 8 th – 15 th (approximately)	Week of Prayer for Palliative Care	CWL National	cwl.ca/12-hours-of-prayer-for-palliative-care-2020/
May 13 th	WUCWO Annual Day of Prayer	World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations – Church	wucwo.org/index.php/en/prayers/wucwo-annual-day-of-prayer

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May 13 th	Anniversary of Octogesima Adveniens (<i>A Call to Action on the Eightieth Anniversary of Rerum novarum</i>) incipit of apostolic letter, 1971	Vatican – Church documents	vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/apost_letters/documents/hf_p-vi_apl_19710514_octogesima-adveniens.html
Week of May 15 th	National Week for Life and the Family	Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops – Church	https://www.cccb.ca/national-week-for-life-and-the-family/
May 15 th	International Day of Families	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/international-day-of-families
May 15 th	Anniversary of <i>Mater et Magistra</i> (Christianity and Social Progress) encyclical, 1961	Vatican – Church documents	vatican.va/content/john-xxiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_j-xxiii_enc_15051961_mater.html
May 15 th	Anniversary of <i>Quadragesimo Anno</i> (The Reconstruction of the Social Order) encyclical, 1931	Vatican – Church documents	vatican.va/content/pius-xi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xi_enc_19310515_quadragesimo-anno.html
May 15 th	Anniversary of <i>Rerum Novarum</i> (On Capital and Labour) encyclical, 1891	Vatican – Church documents	vatican.va/content/leo-xiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_l-xiii_enc_15051891_rerum-novarum.html
May 16 th – 25 th	<i>Laudato Si'</i> Week	Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development - Church	laudatosiweek.org/
May 21 st	World Catholic Education Day	Sponsoring School Board – Church	Contact the local school board.
May 21 st	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/cultural-diversity-day

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May 22 nd	International Day for Biological Diversity	Convention on Biological Diversity – Secular	cbd.int/idb/
May 24 th	Anniversary of <i>Laudato Si'</i> (On Care for Our Common Home) encyclical, 2015	Vatican – Church documents	vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html
May 24 th	Day of Prayer for the Catholic Church in China	Vatican – Church	vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-05/pope-francis-day-of-prayer-for-chinese-church.html

JUNE

June 1 st	Global Day of Parents	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/parents-day
June 4 th	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/child-victim-day
June 5 th	World Environment Day	United Nations – Secular	worldenvironmentday.global/
June 8 th	World Ocean Day	World Ocean Day – Secular	worldoceanday.org/
June 12 th	World Day Against Child Labour	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/world-day-against-child-labour
June 2 nd Sunday	Canadian Rivers Day	Nature Canada – Canadian	naturecanada.ca/?s=Canadian+rivers+day
June 15 th	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day	United Nations – Secular	un.org/development/desa/ageing/world-elder-abuse-awareness-day.html
June 17 th	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/desertification-day

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June 20 th	World Refugee Day	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/refugee-day
June 21 st	National Indigenous Peoples Day	Government of Canada – Canadian	rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100013248/1534872397533
June 22 nd	Anniversary of <i>Respecting the Just Rights of Workers: Guidance and Options for Catholic Health Care and Unions, 2009</i> USCCB	United States Conference of Bishops (USCB) – Church	uscbb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/labor-employment/upload/respecting_the_just_rights_of_workers.pdf
June 23 rd	United Nations Public Service Day	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/public-service-day
June 26 th	International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/end-drug-abuse-day
June 26 th	International Day in Support of Victims of Torture	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/torture-victims-day
June 29 th	Anniversary of <i>Caritas in Veritate</i> (Charity in Truth) encyclical, 2009	Vatican – Church documents	vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_ben-xvi_enc_20090629_caritas-in-veritate.html
June 29 th	Anniversary of <i>Lumen Fidei</i> (The Light of Faith) encyclical, 2013	Vatican – Church documents	vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20130629_enciclica-lumen-fidei.html
JULY			
July 11 th	World Population Day	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/world-population-day
July 15 th	World Youth Skills Day	World Skills – Secular	worldskills.org/what/projects/world-youth-skills-day/
July 18 th	Nelson Mandela International Day	Nelson Mandela Foundation – Secular	nelsonmandela.org/content/page/mandela-day?gclid=CjwKCAiA17P9BRB2EiwAMvwNyNZo7GiGA1ittKW-Yvgl-5UriUrvlxGNFb1QGCSHkPs1oLPE-7TnBhoC7_oQAvD_BwE

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July 3 rd Saturday	Canada's Parks Day	Plant a Seed and See What Grows Foundation – Secular	seewhatgrows.org/celebrate-canadas-parks-day/
July 28 th	World Hepatitis Day	World Hepatitis Alliance – Secular	worldhepatitisday.org/
July 30 th	International Day of Friendship	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/friendship-day
July 30 th	World Day Against Trafficking in Persons	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/end-human-trafficking-day
AUGUST			
August 9 th	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day
August 12 th	International Youth Day	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/youth-day
August 19 th	World Humanitarian Day	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/humanitarian-day
August 23 rd	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	UNESCO – Secular	en.unesco.org/commemorations/slavetraderemembranceday
August 29 th	International Day against Nuclear Tests	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/end-nuclear-tests-day
August 30 th	International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/victims-enforced-disappearance

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SEPTEMBER			
September 1 st – October 4 th	Season of Creation	Global Catholic Climate Movement – Church	seasonofcreation.org/
September 1 st	World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation	Catholic Climate Movement Education for Justice – Church	catholicclimatemovement.global/world-day-of-prayer/ educationforjustice.org/resource/world-day-prayer-care-creation/
September 6 th	The Medellin Conference Documents	Education for Justice – Church	educationforjustice.org/resource/remembering-medellin-conference/
September 8 th	International Literacy Day	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/literacy-day
September 10 th	World Suicide Prevention Day	Education for Justice – Church National Today - Secular	educationforjustice.org/resource/world-suicide-prevention-day-september-10/ nationaltoday.com/world-suicide-prevention-day/
September 14 th	Anniversary of <i>Laborem Exercens</i> (on Human Work) encyclical, 1981	Vatican – Church documents	vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_14091981_laborem-exercens.html
September 15 th	International Day of Democracy	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/democracy-day
September 16 th	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/ozone-day
September 18 th	World Water Monitoring Day	Days of the Year – Secular	daysoftheyear.com/days/water-monitoring-day/
September 3 rd Wednesday	National Tree Day	Tree Canada – Secular	treecanada.ca/engagement-research/national-tree-day/

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September 21 st	International Day of Peace	United Nations – Secular	internationaldayofpeace.org/
September 21 st	National Day of Prayer for Christians in the Holy Land	The Catholic Women's League of Canada	cwl.ca/communique-15-community-life/
September 22 nd	World Car-Free Day	United Nations – Secular	unep.org/news-and-stories/story/world-car-free-day-22-september-great-opportunity-reduce-air-pollution
September 26 th	World Environmental Health Day	International Federation of Environmental Health – Secular	ifeh.org/wehd/
September 30 th	Orange Shirt Day	Orange Shirt Day – Canadian	orangeshirtday.org/
September Last Sunday	World Day of Migrants and Refugees	Vatican – Church	migrants-refugees.va/world-day-of-migrants-refugees/
OCTOBER			
October	Respect Life Month	United States Conference of Catholic Bishops – Church	respectlife.org/respect-life-month
October	Women's History Month	Government of Canada – Canadian	https://cfc-swc.gc.ca/commemoration/whm-mhf/theme-en.html
October 1 st	International Coffee Day	International Coffee Organization – Secular	ico.org/international-coffee-day.asp
October 1 st	International Day of Older Persons	Education for Justice – Church United Nations – Secular	educationforjustice.org/resource/film-discussion-guide-alive-inside/ un.org/development/desa/ageing/international-day-of-older-persons-homepage.html
October 1 st	National Seniors Day	Government of Canada – Canadian	https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/campaigns/national-seniors-day.html

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October 2 nd	International Day of Non-Violence	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/non-violence-day
October 4 th	Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron of ecology	Franciscan Media – Church	https://www.franciscanmedia.org/franciscan-spirit-blog/a-doers-prayer
October 4 th	World Animal Day	Nature Watch Foundation – Secular	worldanimalday.org.uk/
October 5 th	World Teachers’ Day	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization – Secular	en.unesco.org/commemorations/worldteachersday
October 7 th	World Habitat Day	United Nations – Secular	urbanoctober.unhabitat.org/whd
October 10 th	World Day Against the Death Penalty	World Coalition Against the Death Penalty - Secular	http://www.worldcoalition.org/worldday.html?gclid=CjwKCAjwsO_4BRBBEiwAyagRTcFoWiBbSx-rwWyK2FOFjaFOTG6EbD4WHC_04jTSHw_35lQqoDlJrxoCXk4QAvD_BwE
October 10 th	World Homeless Day	World Homeless Day – Secular	worldhomelessday.org/
October 10 th	World Mental Health Day	World Health Organization – Secular	who.int/campaigns/world-mental-health-day
October 11 th	International Day of the Girl	Child Voice – Secular	childvoice.org/all-blog-posts/2016/12/16/join-childvoice-in-celebrating-the-international-day-of-the-girl-child?gclid=CjwKCAjwsO_4BRBBEiwAyagRTYll7laGlo6laGTF4uKkhAoCOi6jxxQotyixBC6thC6MJjkbzPhtbBoC_oUQAvD_BwE
October 13 th	International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction – Secular	undrr.org/
October 15 th	International Day of Rural Women	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/rural-women-day
October 16 th	World Food Day	United Nations – Secular	fao.org/world-food-day/home/en/

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October 17 th	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/day-for-eradicating-poverty
October 18 th	Persons Day	Government of Canada – Canadian	cfc-swc.gc.ca/commemoration/whm-mhf/persons-personne-en.html
October 21 st	<i>The Common Good and the Catholic Church's Social Teaching statement (1996)</i>	Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales – Church	http://www.catholicsocialteaching.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/THE-COMMON-GOOD-AND-THE-CATHOLIC-CHURCH_1996.pdf
October 24 th	United Nations Day	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/un-day
October 24 th – 30 th	Disarmament Week	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/disarmament-week
October 27 th	International Religious Freedom Day	Institute for Global Engagement – Secular	globalengage.org/updates/view/the-need-for-ige-uscrif-2020-report
October Last Sunday	World Mission Day	Vatican – Church	vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/missions.index.html
NOVEMBER			
November 6 th	International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/environment-in-war-protection-day
November 16 th	International Day for Tolerance	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/tolerance-day
November 3 rd week	International Restorative Justice Week	Church Council on Justice and Corrections – Church Government of Canada – Secular	ccjc.ca/restorative-justice-week/ csc-scc.gc.ca/restorative-justice/003005-2000-eng.shtml

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November 3 rd Saturday	International Day for People Impacted by Suicide Loss	Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention – Secular	suicideprevention.ca/page-18139
November 17 th	World Day of the Poor	Vatican – Church	vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/poveri.html
November 20 th	National Child Day	Government of Canada – Secular	canada.ca/en/public-health/services/health-promotion/childhood-adolescence/national-child-day.html
November 20 th	World Children’s Day	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/world-childrens-day
November 21 st	World Fisheries Day	Sea Around Us – Secular	seaaroundus.org/world-fisheries-day-2020-what-research-has-found/#:~:text=November%2021st%20marks%20World%20Fisheries%20Day
November 22 nd	Anniversary of <i>Justicia in Mundo</i> (Justice in the World) document, 1971	Office for Social Justice St. Paul & Minneapolis – Church document	Anniversary of Justicia in Mundo (Justice in the World), 1971
November 25 th	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/ending-violence-against-women-day
November 26 th	Anniversary of <i>Evangelii Gaudium</i> (The Joy of the Gospel) apostolic exhortation, 2013	Vatican – Church document	vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium.html
November 29 th	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/international-day-of-solidarity-with-the-palestinian-people

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DECEMBER			
November/ December 4 th Sunday before Christmas - December 24 th	Advent		
December 1 st	World AIDS Day	Vatican News	vaticannews.va/en/world/news/2018-12/world-aids-day-progress-made-but-more-needed.html
December 2 nd	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/slavery-abolition-day
December 3 rd	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/day-of-persons-with-disabilities
December 6 th	National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women	Government of Canada – Canadian	cfc-swc.gc.ca/commemoration/vaw-vff/remembrance-commemoration-en.html
December 7 th	Anniversary of <i>Dignitatis Humanae</i> (Declaration on Religious Freedom), 1965	Vatican – Church document	vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decl_19651207_dignitatis-humanae_en.html
December 7 th	Anniversary of <i>Gaudium et Spes</i> (The Church in the Modern World), 1965	Vatican – Church document	http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html
December 9 th	International Anti- Corruption Day	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/anti-corruption-day

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December 10 th	Human Rights Day	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day
December 12 th	National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples	Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops – Church	cccb.ca/indigenous-peoples/prayer-and-spirituality/national-day-of-prayer-in-solidarity-with-indigenous-people/
December 18 th	International Migrants Day	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/migrants-day
December 20 th	International Human Solidarity Day	United Nations – Secular	un.org/en/observances/human-solidarity-day
December 25 th	Anniversary of <i>Deus Caritas Est</i> (God is Love) encyclical, 2005	Vatican – Church document	vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_ben-xvi_enc_20051225_deus-caritas-est.html
December 30 th	Anniversary of <i>Sollicitudo Rei Socialis</i> (On Social Concern) encyclical, 1987	Vatican – Church document	vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_30121987_sollicitudo-rei-socialis.html





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