

CATHOLICS
CONFRONT
GLOBAL
POVERTY



In the Archdiocese of San Antonio, 275 middle-schoolers gathered for a global solidarity day focused on prayer and learning. One activity focused on families' difficulty obtaining clean water. The students are now planning action to help. Find more stories like this at WeAreSaltAndLight.org



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WORLD DAY OF PEACE 2016

OVERCOME INDIFFERENCE AND WIN PEACE

Every day, we hear of issues—such as war, poverty, or persecution—that affect our brothers and sisters around the world. The problems can seem so large, complex, and remote that they can leave us paralyzed, overwhelmed, or even numb. We may wonder, “What can *I* possibly do?”

In his Message for the 49th World Day of Peace, celebrated on Jan. 1, 2016, Pope Francis urges us to overcome such challenges by replacing isolation with community, and indifference with solidarity.

In our families, schools, and institutions, we must foster awareness about problems such as intolerance, religious persecution, slavery, war, and the plight of refugees. We must encounter our neighbors, engage in civil dialogue, cooperate, and build skills to together address these problems in meaningful ways.

Working together, we can creatively overcome inaction and indifference and work toward peace and respect for the lives and dignity of all people.

Pope Francis' message is the most recent in a long history of messages for the World Day of Peace beginning with Pope Paul VI in 1968.

Visit the USCCB website for a link to the 2016 World Day of Peace message and supplemental resources: <http://bit.ly/49-peace-day>

YOU CAN BE A PEACEMAKER.

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In the Archdiocese of Hartford, immigration teams at 15 parishes work to train leaders, educate and engage the community, and improve laws and policies on immigration. Find more stories like this:

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WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. **Pray.** Use the Prayer to Overcome Indifference (below) with your family, school, faith community, or in other settings.
2. **Get inspired.** Visit WeAreSaltAndLight.org and click on "Success Stories" in the menu for real examples of what communities are doing around the U.S. Then explore the site's Pray Together, Reach Out Together, Learn Together, Act Together process to overcome indifference. Gather with others and ask: *How might the Holy Spirit be calling our faith community to respond?*
3. **Reach out.** Use this resource to foster a spirit of encounter in your community: <http://bit.ly/reach-out-faith>. Contact your diocesan representative for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development or your regional representative for Catholic Relief Services to explore opportunities to encounter your neighbors locally and globally.
4. **Take action.** Join tens of thousands of others to advocate for policies that address issues that impact our brothers and sisters at home and around the world. For current action alerts, visit ConfrontGlobalPoverty.org and the www.usccb.org "Take Action Now" page (under "Issues and Action").

PRAYER TO OVERCOME INDIFFERENCE

All too often, Lord, we turn away from the world's many problems, which seem too big, too complex, or too far away.
Forgive us our indifference.

It is easier, Lord, to see only what is around us:
our lives, our homes, our challenges.
Forgive us our isolation.

Help us to see with *your* eyes:
eyes which notice one another
and help us understand.

Help us to dream *your* dream:
of communities that reach out and dialogue
and where diverse people creatively cooperate.

Help us to be people of solidarity and action,
so moved by prayer, encounter, and understanding
that peace can become a reality.

Amen.