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# WORLD DAY OF PEACE 2013

## HOW ARE YOU CALLED TO PROMOTE PEACE?



Where do you experience a lack of love, faith, and peace in your family, relationships, neighborhood, and in the global human family? In his 2013 Message for the World Day of Peace (January 1), Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that we *all* have a role to play in building peace in our communities and world.

Pope Benedict XVI's message is entitled, "Blessed are the Peacemakers" and is the latest in a long tradition of papal messages to celebrate this January 1 observance, beginning with Pope Paul VI in 1968.

This year's message reminds us that our commitment to pursue peace flows from the inner peace we experience through our relationship with Christ and our belief in the life and dignity of every person, created in God's image and endowed with fundamental rights and responsibilities. This belief compels us to take action, especially by promoting freedom of conscience and religion as well as models of economic development based on love, solidarity and self-giving for the common good. Pope Benedict XVI exhorts families to live out their vocation as the "seedbed" for a "culture of peace" and notes a special role for educational institutions and religious communities in promoting a "pedagogy of peace" based on "activity, compassion, solidarity, courage and perseverance."

Pope Benedict XVI's message marks the fiftieth anniversary of Pope John XXIII's encyclical letter, *Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth)*, which emphasized our duty to help build a world that serves human dignity and is directed toward the common good, justice and peace.

*The full text of the annual World Day of Peace message is available every December at [www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/messages/peace/index\\_en.htm](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/peace/index_en.htm)*

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## YOU CAN BE A PEACEMAKER.



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## “BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS” (MT. 5:9) 4 WAYS YOU CAN BE A PEACEMAKER

1. **Pray for peace in the world and the courage to be a peacemaker!** Use the Prayers for Peace below, in your daily prayer, at the family dinner table, or as part of general intercessions at Mass. Ask yourself: *How does the Prince of Peace call me to build peace in my family, relationships, neighborhood, and the global human family?*
2. Have you read [\*Pacem in Terris \(Peace on Earth\)\*](#), the encyclical letter whose 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary is celebrated this year? Spend an afternoon digging into this inspiring document and reflect on how our faith calls us to act in response to the world’s current needs.
3. Visit [confrontglobalpoverty.org](http://confrontglobalpoverty.org) to join the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services in [learning about issues](#) that impact persons in poverty. Then [join other Catholics in taking action](#) to let elected officials know how they can act to protect the vulnerable.
4. **Be a peacemaker by educating others.** Visit the USCCB [Resources and Tools page](#) and the [CRS Education page](#) for materials and activities to help others reflect on the Gospel call to do promote peace and justice.

## PRAYERS FOR PEACE

That we will welcome the peace of Christ into our hearts, and that His love for those who are poor and marginalized will awaken us to the dignity of all God’s children. *We pray to the Lord...*

That the call to build peace in our local and global communities will take root in our midst through the promotion of human dignity and through working for the common good. *We pray to the Lord...*

That those in public office will work to address the economic crisis in ways that promote human dignity and protect those who are poorest and most vulnerable. *We pray to the Lord...*

That freedom of conscience and religion for all people in every part of the world will be respected. *We pray to the Lord...*

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