

CATHOLICS
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POVERTY

WORLD DAY OF PEACE 2014

ENCOUNTERING THE "OTHER", BUILDING PEACE



Who is the "other" that Christ calls you to "encounter" in this new year? In his 2014 Message for the World Day of Peace (January 1), Pope Francis urges us to open our hearts in a new way to those brothers and sisters affected by poverty, hunger, underdevelopment, conflicts, migrations, pollution, inequalities, and injustice. When we break free from indifference and see ourselves as members of one human family, we can truly "encounter" one another and build peace.

Here are some questions for prayerful reflection based on Pope Francis' message, entitled "Fraternity, the Foundation and Pathway to Peace."

Pope Francis writes that our self-centered, "throwaway culture" can cause us to fail to see those who suffer as human beings created in God's image. *What is your reaction when you hear about injustice? Do you see the one who suffers as a brother or sister—or as a statistic?*

Instead, Pope Francis urges a "culture of encounter" based on relationship and solidarity, so that we can love those who suffer with the heart of Christ. *With whom do you need to cultivate solidarity?*

Pope Francis criticizes treating those who are poor and needy as burdens or as passive recipients of charity. Instead, they should be invited to the table so they can be protagonists of integral and inclusive development. *What is your perspective towards those who are poor and vulnerable? How are you working to "invite these brothers and sisters to the table"?*

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 2014 World Day of Peace message and supplemental resources: www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/war-and-peace/world-day-of-peace.cfm

YOU CAN BE A PEACEMAKER.

confrontglobalpoverty.org

1-866-608-5978

info@confrontglobalpoverty.org



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4 WAYS YOU CAN “ENCOUNTER THE OTHER”

1. **Pray for the courage to “overcome indifference” towards your brothers and sisters in need.** Use the prayers 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 encounter the “other” in my church, neighborhood, and the global human family?*
2. **Visit ConfrontGlobalPoverty.org and PovertyUSA.org** to hear the stories of those in poverty and how the church is responding.
3. **Go out and encounter your neighbor!** 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.** Advocate for and with those in poverty by taking part in Action Alerts on issues of life and dignity that impact those who are vulnerable [in the U.S.](#) and [around the world.](#)

PRAYERS FOR PEACE

That we will overcome indifference and see all who suffer as brothers and sisters. *We pray to the Lord...*

That our governments and leaders will respond with wisdom to the current crises in Syria, the Philippines, and the Holy Land. *We pray to the Lord...*

That we may see with new eyes and encounter the “other,” including immigrants and persons in poverty, in our local communities. *We pray to the Lord...*

That we will work to ensure that those in need have a place at the table as protagonists of their own development. *We pray to the Lord...*

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