

WORD OF LIFE: SEPTEMBER 2026

Recommended dates are provided, but you are welcome to use these materials at any time!

FEATURED THIS MONTH...

September 9, 2026

Memorial of Saint Peter Claver, Priest

National Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities

St. Peter Claver was a Jesuit missionary from Spain who, in the 1600s, served and ministered to captured and enslaved Africans as they were taken off the slave ships landing in South America. St. Peter Claver desired to offer his life as “a slave of the slaves.”¹

The U.S. Catholic bishops suggest that parishes “could use the National Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities, which falls on the feast of St. Peter Claver (September 9), to organize activities that foster community, dialogue, and reconciliation. These encounters will help open our minds and hearts more fully and continue the healing needed in our communities and our nation.”²

The following resources are available:

- [Prayer Service for the Feast Day of St. Peter Claver](#)
- [Prayer for Peace in Our Communities](#)
- [Prayer of the Faithful for the Day of Prayer for Peace in Our Communities](#)

Additional resources for the Day of Prayer are [available here](#). Additional resources from the Ad Hoc Committee against Racism can be found at www.usccb.org/racism.

¹ Collect from the Mass of Saint Peter Claver, *Roman Missal, Third Edition*.

² USCCB, *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love*, 25.

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Racism and Life Issues

In their November 2018 Pastoral Letter Against Racism, [Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love](#), the U.S. Catholic bishops wrote, “racism occurs because a person ignores the fundamental truth that ... all [humans are] equally made in the image of God.”¹ Racism fails to acknowledge the dignity with which God creates each person, and it contributes to a culture of death. The Church in the United States has spoken out consistently against abortion, assisted suicide, euthanasia, the death penalty, and other threats to human life; it is not a secret that these attacks have severely affected people of color. These brothers and sisters are targeted for **abortion**, disproportionately affected by **poverty**, have the greatest numbers on **death row**, and are most likely to feel pressure to end their lives through **assisted suicide** when facing serious illness.²

The feast of St. Peter Claver is an opportunity to highlight the connection between racism and various attacks against human life. As St. John Paul II reminded us, “*Where life is involved, the service of charity must be profoundly consistent*. It cannot tolerate bias and discrimination, for human life is sacred and inviolable at every stage and in every situation; it is an indivisible good”³ (emphasis added.) Additional [parish resources for combatting racism](#) are available online.

¹ USCCB, *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love*, 4.

² *Ibid*, 30.

³ Pope Saint John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae* (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1995), no. 87.

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Intercessions for Life

September 6th

For all who are forgotten or cast off,
especially the unborn, the poor, the sick, and the aged:
may they be treated according to the dignity
with which God created them;
let us pray to the Lord:

**Twenty-third Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

September 13th

For all people:
That we always recognize
each member of this human family
as being loved by God and made in his image;
let us pray to the Lord:

**Twenty-fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

September 20th

For all whose hearts ache
from participating in abortion:
may they be strengthened to seek
the Lord's compassion, mercy, and healing
in the Sacrament of Reconciliation;
let us pray to the Lord:

**Twenty-fifth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

September 27th

For those who struggle to find meaning in their lives:
May they find reassurance in Christ
through the loving support of friends and family;
let us pray to the Lord:

**Twenty-sixth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

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Bulletin Quotes

September 6th

“Mother Teresa, in all aspects of her life, was a generous dispenser of divine mercy, making herself available for everyone through her welcome and defense of human life, those unborn and those abandoned and discarded. She was committed to defending life, ceaselessly proclaiming that “the unborn are the weakest, the smallest, the most vulnerable”.

Pope Francis, Homily of the Canonization of Mother Teresa, September 4, 2016

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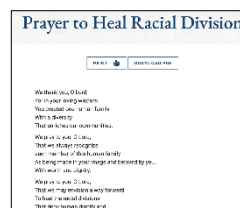


[Read Online](#)

September 13th

“We pray to you, O Lord, that we always recognize each member of this human family as being made in your image and beloved by you, with worth and dignity.”

USCCB, “Prayer to Heal Racial Division”



[Read Online](#)

September 20th

“When we have lost our way and find ourselves brought low by sin and suffering, we can know with confidence that the Lord will never abandon us. No matter what sins we have committed or how many times we have chosen to separate ourselves from the flock, we can know that Christ’s mercy and kindness await us. There is nothing we can do, no sin so great, that cannot be overcome with the infinite mercy of Christ.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, “Hope After Abortion”



[Read Online](#)

September 27th

“Suicidal individuals—with or without a terminal illness—typically do not want to die... The patient requesting assisted suicide is often asking, ‘Does anyone want me to be alive, or care enough to talk me out of this request and support me through this difficult time?’”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, “Every Suicide is Tragic”



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Bulletin Art

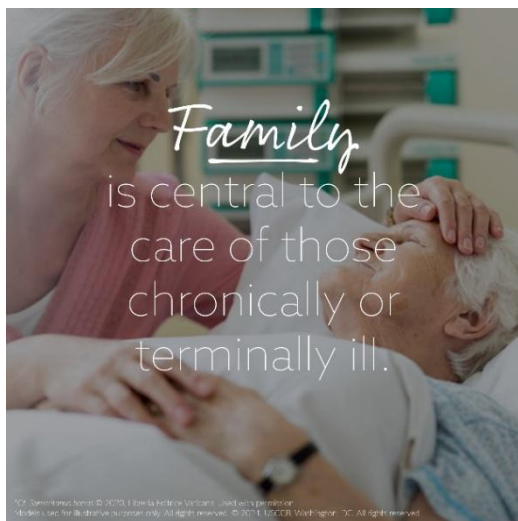
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Sunday, September 20, 2026



Download Image: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

Sunday, September 27, 2026



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SAINT OF THE MONTH

September 5, 2026: St. Teresa of Calcutta

Mother Teresa was the founder of the Missionaries of Charity, a religious order devoted to serving the poorest of the poor. She saw Christ in every human person. May her witness remind us of God's presence among those most in need, especially the unborn, the poor, the sick, and the aged.

St. Teresa of Calcutta, pray for us!

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