

Social Justice: May

Dates Worthy of Note:

- 1 National Day of Prayer in the U.S.
- 15 International Day of Families
- 21 World Day for Cultural diversity for Dialogue and Development
- 29 International Day of the United Nations Peacekeepers



Monthly Focus: Peacemaking & Nonviolence



Suggested Actions:

Read *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion* by Reverend Gregory Boyle, S.J. and learn about his effort to untie the bonds of despair, failure and shame in the lives of young people.

During the coming month someone is bound to cross your path feeling alienated, defensive, or depressed. Stay attuned to recognize this person and respond with creative hope. Consider reconnecting with someone with whom you have been distant or estranged.

Visit the website of Catholic Relief Services, www.crs.org to become aware of countries that are suffering from violence and lack of peace.

Discover ways that your local community can participate in national and global peace efforts. Check out the Franciscan Action Network (www.franciscanaction.org) for possibilities.

PeaceBuilders
Those who Teach, Inspire and Challenge

Prayer Response:

A Prayer for the World – Rabbi Harold Kushner (2003)

Let the rain come and wash away
the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds
held and nurtured over generations.
Let the rain wash away the memory
of the hurt, the neglect.
Then let the sun come out and
fill the sky with rainbows.
Let the warmth of the sun heal us
wherever we are broken.
Let it burn away the fog so that
we can see each other clearly.
So that we can see beyond labels,
beyond accents, gender or skin color.
Let the warmth and brightness
of the sun melt our selfishness.
So that we can share the joys and
feel the sorrows of our neighbors.
And let the light of the sun
be so strong that we will see all
people as our neighbors.
Let the earth, nourished by rain,
bring forth flowers
to surround us with beauty.
And let the mountains teach our hearts
to reach upward to heaven. Amen.