

2021

From Prayer to Action: A Celebration of the World Day of the Poor and World Youth Day



SAT
13
NOV

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR • VIRTUAL VIGIL

Find the video of our virtual vigil starting at 8am at www.caritas.org/prayeraction2021, or watch with others around the world on Caritas Internationalis' Facebook page at 10pm. You can also hold your own vigil in person using resources found at the link above.

SUN
14
NOV

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR • ONLINE MASS

Find the video of our World Day of the Poor Mass at www.caritas.org/prayeraction2021, or watch with others around the world on Caritas Internationalis' Facebook page at 10am.

PRAYER: *Loving Father, Inspired by your goodness, we prepare ourselves to offer our hands and feet, hearts and minds, to you. You have called us from every corner of the world. Help us to use our unique gifts to listen, accompany and serve others, wherever we may be led. Amen.*
(Written by Erin Shuler, Catholic Relief Services)

MON
15
NOV

CARITAS AT THE HEART OF THE CHURCH

PRAYER: *Jesus, brother and friend: Help us to live, walk and observe reality together with the poorest: to let ourselves be evangelised by them, to be inspired by their faith and to build a simple, joyful and fraternal Church. Amen.* (Written by Caritas Latin America and Caribbean Youth Groups)

👁️ **SEE:** Jesus said 'The Poor you will always have with you'. Where do you see the poor in your community? What different types of poverty do you see? Have you noticed any new types of poverty now, that are different from those you remember from when you were younger?

🕯️ **JUDGE:** Pope Francis says that we must allow ourselves to be evangelized by the poor. What does this mean to you? Have you allowed yourself to be evangelized by the poor? How can you make more room in your heart for this?

➡️ **ACT:** Be a Good Samaritan! Go out into the streets and perform an act of kindness to a stranger in need.

TUES
16
NOV

REDUCE RISK, SAVE LIVES, REBUILD COMMUNITIES

PRAYER: *Open our eyes, O Lord, that we may see poverty, The apparent one in the lives of others and the hidden one in our own personal lives. Help us today to renew our mission in granting freedom and free dignity to all human beings. Amen.* (Written by Caritas Alexandria Youth Group)

👁️ **SEE:** How do you see the poor being disproportionately affected by humanitarian emergencies?

🕯️ **JUDGE:** In his 2021 World Day of the Poor message, Pope Francis says that we do not find Jesus when and where we want, but see him in the sufferings and needs of the poor. He says that the poor know the suffering of Christ through their own suffering. How can the poor who we see suffering in humanitarian disasters can bring us closer to God?

➡️ **ACT:** Do you know someone who has been affected by a humanitarian crisis? Maybe someone in your own family or community, or a migrant who had to flee their home. Have a conversation with this person and ask them about their experience. Make space in your heart to truly listen to their story, and let them teach you about what it means to experience suffering.



2021

The poor you will always have with you
(Mk 14:7)

This printable calendar should be used alongside the Activity Guide, where you will find complete descriptions of the events and full versions of the prayers. Find this resource and more at www.caritas.org/prayeraction2021.

All times indicated on this calendar are in Central European Time (Rome time).

WED
17
NOV

PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND CARE FOR CREATION

PRAYER: *Creator of all goodness, As a symbol of greatness, you created a beautiful Blue Moana to be our home. Enlighten us of the sacredness of your creation. Renew us so that we may have the courage to stand up as Your witnesses, to help sustain and care for all of your creation. Amen.* (Written by Caritas Oceania Youth Alliance)

👁️ **SEE:** Do you see the poor caring for creation in your community? Do you see them recognizing the image of God in others and promoting their human dignity?

🕯️ **JUDGE:** Do you make space for the poor to teach YOU about how to care for creation, and promote human dignity? Where can you make more space in your life to follow the lead of the poor?

➡️ **ACT:** Integral Ecology tells us to build strong relationships with God, with our sisters and brothers, and with nature. Go for a walk in nature and find 3 things that you admire. Reflect on how these things are gifts from God. How might people living in poverty value these items differently than you do?

! **@ LEARNING & SHARING WEBINAR: 'How To Make Space To Learn From The Poor'**
10:00-11:00 am Rome Time - Register at caritas.org/prayeraction2021

THURS
18
NOV

BUILD GLOBAL SOLIDARITY

PRAYER: *Lord God, You are a God within and among us in this world with so much need and suffering. Please keep us strong that we may never waver in our faith, our love and hope, our trust in you, and reaching out to others. Amen.* (Written by Shandu Nduduzo, Caritas South Africa)

👁️ **SEE:** Who are the defenders of the poor in your community? Are you one of them?

🕯️ **JUDGE:** Where do you hear the cry of the poor most clearly?

➡️ **ACT:** Be an amplifier for the voice of the poor! Tell a decision-maker about an issue that affects the poor, and have a conversation with your friends and family about defending the rights of the poor.

FRI
19
NOV

INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CARITAS CONFEDERATION

PRAYER: *Dear Lord, Transfigure our hearts so we may let the poor evangelise us into disciples of Christ. Grant us the courage to bear witness to the joy of the gospel through service to the poor. And bless us, that the work we do as one Caritas family may be fruitful and pleasing to you. Amen.* (Written by Edwin Susanto, Caritas Singapore)

👁️ **SEE:** What is the relationship between your local Caritas and the poor, both in your own community and in the world?

🕯️ **JUDGE:** Jesus said to Paul 'Arise! I appoint you a witness of what you have seen.' (Acts 26:16) What does it mean to be a witness? How can you use your opportunities and gifts to be a witness of what you have seen this week, with respect to the poor?

➡️ **ACT:** Get in touch with a Caritas Youth group that you learned about this week, and send them a message of encouragement as they continue their important work to serve the poor.

! **@ LEARNING & SHARING WEBINAR: 'Caritas Youth Serving, Accompanying, and Defending the Poor'** - 2:00-3:00 pm Rome Time - Register at caritas.org/prayeraction2021

SAT
20
NOV

WORLD YOUTH DAY • DAY OF ACTION

Jesus said to Paul on the road to Damascus, 'Stand up, I appoint you as a witness of what you have seen.' **Now, it's time for you to stand up and be a witness of what you have seen this week!** On this Feast of Christ the King, go out and put your love of Christ and love of the poor into action, inspired by your new insights on poverty. Do something today to serve the poor – but in a different way than you would have before. For example, Instead of serving *to* them, engage in dialogue and have a true encounter *with* them; instead of speaking *for* them, help them to speak *for themselves*. Encourage people to join you, and share your initiative with us on social media!

! **@ WYD ONLINE LITURGY**
Find the video of our World Youth Day Liturgical Reflection at www.caritas.org/prayeraction2021, or watch with others around the world on Caritas Internationalis' Facebook page on Sunday 21 November at 10am.

PRAYER: *Dear Lord, We pray for all young people that answer Your call to serve the Poor within Caritas. May youth bring hope to our societies as they bring Your Heavenly Kingdom to Earth by their acts of mercy and compassion. Amen.* (Written by Agnieszka Zarzyńska, Caritas Europa)



WORLD YOUTH DAY 2021

"Arise, I appoint you
as a witness
of what you have seen!"
(Acts 26:16)

SUN
21
NOV



Share your progress and activity with us on social media by tagging @CaritasYouth and @iamCARITAS, and by using the hashtag #CaritasYouth