



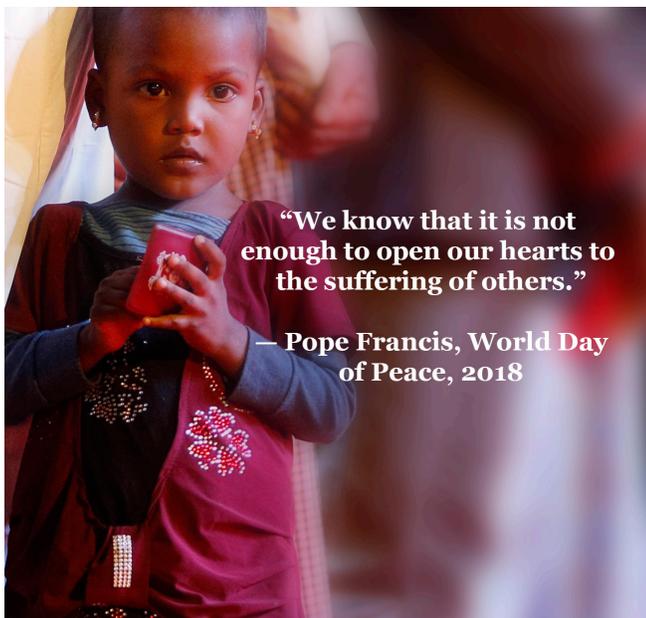
# Feast of the Holy Family

We celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on the first Sunday after Christmas—December 31 this year. This feast day is a reminder to us of the example Mary and Joseph set for all of us in welcoming Jesus into their lives. The Holy Family serves as a model for us all.

As Pope Francis has said, “Each Christian family can first of all—as Mary and Joseph did—welcome Jesus, listen to Him, speak with Him, guard Him, protect Him, grow with Him; and in this way improve the world” (*General Audience*, December 17, 2014).

## Ring in the New Year of Faith

January 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God and marks the eighth day of Christmas-tide. The Christmas season does not end until the Baptism of the Lord on January 8. And, for more than 50 years, the Church has recognized January 1 as the World Day of Peace. We are all invited to pray for peace in our communities and around the world. We also remember God’s will for us “Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God” (Mi 6:8).



“We know that it is not enough to open our hearts to the suffering of others.”

—Pope Francis, World Day of Peace, 2018

## A Prayer for Family Commitment

Dear God our Father, you have called all Christian families to be a sign of your love to the world.

Help us to be generous with the gifts of life and love that you have showered on our family. May we share them so that our homes become true signs of unitive and fruitful love.

Let us never forget to thank you each day for all that sustains us and to look to Christ, who comes to us in the events of family life, in the sacraments of the Church, and in service to the poor.

In all of this, our family becomes a living expression of your Church, a hallowed home of life and love. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may all of us—spouses, parents, and children—share, as members of his Body, in Jesus’ mission to build a civilization of love. Father, we ask this in Jesus’ name in union with the Holy Spirit.

Amen.