

## September Family Gathers

**September 1 – 30, 2018 Ordinary Time:** For a few weeks in January and February, and then all through the summer and fall, the Church is in Ordinary Time. *Ordinary* comes from the word *ordinal* and means “counted”. In other words, each of the weeks has a number (for example, The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time). Ordinary Time is full of solemnities, feasts, and memorials of the Lord and the Saints. In Ordinary Time the church and vestments of the priests are green.

- A. **Pick a symbol** that you think represents Ordinary Time in this month and place it on your table.
- B. **Select a prayer** you and your family will say at the start of the meal. You can create your own prayer or if you want use this one that relates to our family topic of the month:

*God of Justice and Peace, mold our consciences according to justice, and shape our hearts according to peace, that we may recognize the talents that you have given us to secure the rights of the poor, the oppressed, the sick and the marginalized.*

*God, we are YOUR children. Grant us the courage and strength to work for justice, and in this way, live out our call to be peacemakers.*

- C. **Family Topic of the Month:** In Phase 2 Confirmation we explore CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING – and now we are not talking about politics and socialism. The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. There are 7 Themes to Catholic Social Teaching listed below. Share the themes with your family.
  1. **Life and Dignity of the Human Person** - The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion and euthanasia. The value of human life is being threatened by cloning, embryonic stem cell research, and the use of the death penalty. The intentional targeting of civilians in war or terrorist attacks is always wrong. Catholic teaching also calls on us to work to avoid war. Nations must protect the right to life by finding increasingly effective ways to prevent conflicts and resolve them by peaceful means. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.
  2. **Call to Family, Community, and Participation** - The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society -- in economics and politics, in law and policy -- directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Marriage and the family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.
  3. **Rights and Responsibilities** - The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities--to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.
  4. **Option for the poor and vulnerable** - A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

5. **The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers** - The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected--the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.
6. **Solidarity** - We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers and sisters keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that if you want peace, work for justice. The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.
7. **Care for God's Creation** - We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

**D. Match it up:** Below are 3 societal "September" occurrences. Share with your family match the Catholic Social Teaching with the occurrence your family thinks best reflects the teaching.

**When you are done go to the FAMILY GATHERS webpage to complete and submit the report found there.** <http://www.stmarys-pompton.org/Ministry/Youth%20Ministry-630-Confirmation%20Family%20Gathers/>

**The Civil Rights Act of 1957 was enacted September 9, 1957**, a federal voting rights bill, was the first federal civil rights legislation passed by the United States Congress since the Civil Rights Act of 1875. Its purpose was to show the federal government's support for racial equality after the US Supreme Court's 1954 decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*.

Following the Supreme Court ruling in *Brown*, which eventually led to the integration, also called desegregation, of public schools, Southern whites began a campaign of "Massive Resistance." Violence against blacks rose; in Little Rock, Arkansas where US President Dwight D. Eisenhower had to order in federal troops to protect nine children integrating into a public school, the first time the US federal government ordered troops in the South since the Reconstruction era. There had been continued physical assaults against suspected activists and bombings of schools and churches in the South. The Eisenhower administration proposed legislation to protect blacks' right to vote.

The goal of the 1957 Civil Rights Act was to ensure that all Americans could exercise their right to vote. By 1957, only about 20% of blacks were registered to vote. Despite being the majority in numerous counties and congressional districts in the South, most blacks had been effectively disfranchised by discriminatory voter registration rules and laws in those states since the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

**World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD)** is an awareness day observed on 10 September every year, in order to provide worldwide commitment and action to prevent suicides, with various activities around the world since 2003. The International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP), collaborates with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH), to host World Suicide Prevention Day. According to WHO's Mental Health Atlas released in 2014, no low-income country reported having a national suicide prevention strategy, while less than 10% of lower-middle income countries, and almost a third of upper-middle and high-income countries had. On its first event in 2003,

the 1999 World Health Organization's global suicide prevention initiative is mentioned with regards to the main strategy for its implementation, requiring:

1. "The organization of global, regional and national multi-sector activities to increase awareness about suicidal behaviors and how to effectively prevent them."
2. "The strengthening of countries' capabilities to develop and evaluate national policies and plans for suicide prevention."

As of recent WHO releases, challenges represented by social stigma, the taboo to openly discuss suicide, and low availability of data are still to date obstacles leading to poor data quality for both suicide and suicide attempts: "given the sensitivity of suicide – and the illegality of suicidal behavior in some countries – it is likely that under-reporting and misclassification are greater problems for suicide than for most other causes of death.

**International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer** - September 16 was designated by the United Nations General Assembly as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer. This designation had been made on December 19, 2000, in commemoration of the date, in 1987, on which nations signed the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

In 1994, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 16 September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date of the signing, in 1987, of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

The closure of the hole in the ozone layer was observed 30 years after the protocol was signed. Due to the nature of the gases responsible for ozone depletion their chemical effects are expected to continue for between 50 to 100 years.