May 13, 2026

WUCWO DAY

116 years committed to peace

World Union of
Catholic Women's
Organisations

I - Gathering & Opening Hymn

Suggested: Peace Prayer of St. Francis – "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"
(instrumental prelude may be used as people gather)

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is hatred let me bring love
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord
And where there is doubt, true faith in You.

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light
And where there's sadness ever joy.

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
It is in giving to all man that we receive
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

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It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
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II - Welcome & Setting the Intention

Leader 1: As women of WUCWO, we gather to renew our commitment as messengers of peace and hope in every aspect of our lives.

Leader 2: Today we gather in prayer, reflection and solidarity, asking God to shape our hearts as instruments of peace, hope and dignity in our families, communities, in the Church and in the world.

(Brief pause)

III - Remembering Pope Francis: A Legacy of Peace

Reader 1: We lovingly remember Pope Francis as a Pope of peace. Throughout his tireless appeals and constant visits, he showed closeness to those suffering the consequences of one of the most unjust man-made disasters: war.

Reader 2: From the first days of his twelve year pontificate, Pope Francis spearheaded the global Catholic movement for peace advocacy. Through words, actions and deeds, he demonstrated his unshakable belief in dialogue, reconciliation and the urgency of ending violence in all its forms.

Reader 3: We will always keep in our minds and in our hearts some of his most valuable teachings: "War is always, always, always a defeat." "Peace is possible. Let us not resign ourselves to war." "Peace emerges from the depths of the human heart." "There can be no peace without a culture of care".

Reader 4: At the close of the Jubilee Year of Hope, his messages, closeness and care for peace remain a living legacy for the Church and for humanity.

(Moment of silence – 1 minute)

IV - Pope Leo's Call to a Disarmed and Disarming Peace

Reader 1: At the dawn of 2026, we welcomed the exhortation of Pope Leo, who reminds us that: "Peace exists; it wants to dwell within us. It has the gentle power to enlighten and expand our understanding; it resists and

overcomes violence. Peace is a breath of the eternal: while to evil we cry out 'Enough,' to peace we whisper 'Forever.'"

And he challenges us: "Let us welcome it and recognize it, rather than believing it to be impossible and beyond our reach."

(Pause)

Reader 2: Pope Leo tells us that peace begins in the heart. A peace that comes from God, who loves us all unconditionally. He warns us of the danger of becoming accustomed to violence, of justifying it even with religious or ideological arguments, and invites us to a true inner disarmament: of the heart, of the mind and of life.

Reader 3: In his message for Lent, the Holy Father invited us to live a very practical form of abstinence. He said: "Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present... Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace."

V - WUCWO Identity & Mission

Leader 1: As women of WUCWO, we embrace this call and gather in solidarity with our Holy Father.

Reader 4 (President General's words): "These hopeful and meaningful words deeply illuminate the path of WUCWO and our resolutions. We are called to be women who, working together in faith and love of the Lord and our brothers and sisters, build bridges..."

Reader 1: "...in our families, in our communities, and in society; women who promote dialogue, including ecumenical and interreligious dialogue..."

Reader 2: "...who care for creation as our Common Home; who defend the dignity of every person, especially the most vulnerable..."

All: Our service, often silent, is already a concrete way of building that disarmed and disarming peace of which the Pope speaks.

VI - Human Dignity & Prayerful Commitment

Leader 2: On February 8, the International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking was observed under the theme: "Peace begins with dignity: a global call to end human trafficking."

Reader 3: This initiative reminds us that true peace is gentle and humble, born of love and sustained wherever human dignity is defended.

Reader 4: Through prayer, we open our hearts. Through reflection, we deepen our commitment. Through action, we bring Christ's peace and freedom to those who need it most.

VII - Guided Silence & Conversation in the Spirit

Leader 1: Peace, before being a goal, is a presence and a path. Let us listen to the Word of God and enter a time of quiet reflection.

Reader 1: (Eph 4, 2-4)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians
“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called.”

(1–2 minutes of silence)

Reader 2 (slowly, with pauses):
- Am I allowing polarization to dwell in my heart?
- Do I feel more strongly what separates me from others than what unites me with them?

Reader 3:
- Do I seek to understand before judging, to dialogue before imposing?
- Do I first seek what unites me with others, and then respect our differences?

(Optional brief sharing in pairs or small groups – 3 to 5 minutes)

VIII - Prayer Intentions for WUCWO Day

Leader 2: United in faith and hope, let us pray together and answer: “Lord of Peace, hear us”

Reader 4: Sisters, let us pray that, enlightened by the Gospel, we may listen to and accompany the realities of women around the world, especially of those who are most vulnerable. May the Lord grant us attentive and merciful hearts, so that suffering may be transformed into hope and injustice into paths of dignity.

All: Lord of Peace, hear us

Reader 1: Let us ask the Lord for all those who cannot live their faith freely. May the Holy Spirit strengthen us to be courageous witnesses of Jesus Christ and defenders of religious freedom, promoting respect and peace in every nation.

All: Lord of Peace, hear us

Reader 2: Let us pray for our migrant and refugee sisters, who walk uncertain paths in search of safety and a future. May the Risen Christ sustain them, and may we welcome them with charity, accompany them with tenderness and work for more just and fraternal societies.

All: Lord of Peace, hear us

Reader 3: Let us ask the Lord to make us women committed to the care of creation. Following the teachings of the Church and the call of Pope Francis, may we live an authentic integral ecology, protecting life, resources and the beauty of the Common Home that God has entrusted to us.

All: Lord of Peace, hear us

Reader 4: Let us pray for all the families around the world, especially those going through difficult times. May the Holy Family of Nazareth inspire our service, so that we may be artisans of unity, dialogue and forgiveness, and our homes may be peaceful places of faith, love, and growth.

All: Lord of Peace, hear us

Reader 1: Let us ask the Holy Spirit to guide us on the synodal path of the Church. As Catholic women, may we walk hand in hand with all the People of God, collaborating actively and co-responsibly in evangelisation and building, with our leadership, a more participatory, welcoming and missionary Church.

All: Lord of Peace, hear us

IX - Prayer

Leader 1: As we confidently seek the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima, let us now pray together with the words inspired by Pope Leo.

All: Let this greeting of peace resound in our hearts, in families, among all people, wherever they may be, in every nation and throughout the whole world. This peace is the peace of the Risen Christ, a disarmed and disarming peace.

Leader 2: God loves us all, and evil will not prevail.

All: We are in God's hands. Without fear, united, holding hands with God and with one another, let us move forward.

X - Closing Prayer

Leader 1: Let us entrust ourselves to our patroness.

All: Mary, Queen of Peace,
bring peace to our world.
Give us the humility to recognize when we are not being bridges of unity,
and the courage to change our path,
so that we may live as true witnesses of peace and hope.
Amen.

XI - Closing Hymn

Suggested: "Here I Am, Lord" or a song to Virgin Mary

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them – whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if You lead me;
I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne My people's pain.
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak My Word to them – whom shall I send?
I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them; My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them – whom shall I send?