

# Pope asks for a Feb. 23 World Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace

Pope Francis is asking Catholics around the world to observe a Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace on Friday, Feb. 23. The pontiff encouraged prayers for “the tragic prolonging of conflicts in various parts of the world,” particularly in the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan.

Speaking at his Feb. 18 Angelus in Rome, the pope also invited non-Catholic and non-Christians “to join us in this initiative in whatever ways they deem most appropriate.”

“Our heavenly father always listens to his children who cry out to him in pain and anguish,” the pope said, “He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds. I launch a heartfelt appeal that we too may listen to this cry and each, according to his or her own conscience before God, can ask: ‘What can I do for peace?’”

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops offers resources for participating in the day of prayer and fasting [here](#).