December 2017

Dear Sisters and Associates,

In today’s mailing you’ll find a copy of the 2018 Peace Gathering prayer. We invite you to gather together (or gather some friends or co-workers) to celebrate our peacemaking efforts. We’ve traditionally held the prayer service in early January, but please feel free to schedule it whenever it works best for you. We will offer the service at the Motherhouse for those in the Toledo/Sylvania area:

**Regina Hall Conference Room, Tuesday, January 16, 6:00 PM**

The theme Pope Francis has chosen for the World Day of Peace this prayer year is Migrants and Refugees: Men and Women in Search of Peace.

For the prayer, you will need

A leader

11 readers (adapt to your group, as needed)

Copies of the full prayer service for the readers (please print back-to-back)

Copies of the handouts for the attendees (please print back-to-back)

Copy of the Peacemaker Pledge card for each of the attendees (see below)

For the ambiance, we suggest:

A table with photo of Earth (or globe or Earth ball)

You may also want to add a table cloth made in another country, artwork of people of diverse cultures, images or photos of “home,” or images or photos of people of diverse cultures

There is also an optional PowerPoint with images that can be shown during the prayer, or you may print out copies of some of the images for display during the prayer. Contact Sister Sharon Havelak, for more information ([shavelak@sistersosf.org](mailto:shavelak@sistersosf.org); 419-517-7488).

For the music, we suggest:

For the opening song:

All Are Welcome, Marty Haugen, in Ritual Song # 846, in the 2018 Music Issue # 415

Any other appropriate song

For the closing song:

Let There Be Peace on Earth, Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, in Ritual Song # 831, in the 2018 Music Issue #526

Any other appropriate song

This year, we have an option of watching a video on the plight of the refugees. Choose one of these three suggestions:

Greece: Embracing Refugees in a Time of Crisis (The Beauty of Serving)

2:04 minutes, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m9NWXf2XG9M>

17 Years is Too Many to Lose, 1:15 minutes, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQ2ZMFdZ5fc>

Holy Family in Midst of Refugee Crisis, 3:02 minutes, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqXY39xBBnw>

If you need more copies of the Peacemaker Pledge card, you can find it with the other materials on our website, [www.sistersosf.org](http://www.sistersosf.org). Click on the Mission and Values tab, then on Justice and Peace Efforts, finally click on the word Peace. The file is at the bottom of the page, on the right-hand side. If you print one side of the card and turn it over and print it again on the other side of the paper, you’ll get 4 copies.

A copy of this letter and of the prayer service will be posted on our Justice and Peace website. If you have any questions or need help with copies, please contact Sister Pat Gardner or Sister Sharon Havelak.

Blessings on your event! Our simple gatherings offer a powerful witness to our desire for peace in our lives and in our world and for our dream to help alleviate the refugee crisis.

Peace!

The Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Network members