

# World Food Day - October 16

## International Day for the Eradication of Poverty – October 17



**World Food Day** celebrates the creation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on October 16, 1945. First established in 1979, World Food Day marks a day to take action against hunger with the sole aim of eradicating it in this lifetime.

The observance of the **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty** can be traced back to 17 October 1987. On that day, over a hundred thousand people gathered at the Trocadéro in Paris, where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed in 1948, to honor the victims of extreme poverty, violence and hunger.



### **PRAYER FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY**

For these millions of children twisted by the pain of hunger,  
no longer able to smile, yet still yearning to love.

For these millions of young people,  
who have no reason to believe or even to exist,  
and who vainly search for a future in this senseless world.

**God of compassion and justice hear us.**

For these millions of men, women and children,  
whose hearts are still pounding strong to the beat of struggle,  
whose minds rise in revolt against the  
unjust fate imposed upon them,  
whose courage demands the right to priceless dignity.

**God of compassion and justice hear us.**

For these millions of children, women and men  
who do not want to condemn,  
but to love, to pray, to work and to unite,  
so that a world of solidarity may be born.  
A world, our world, in which all people would have given the  
best of themselves before dying.

**God of compassion and justice hear us.**

We pray for a world  
where people no longer live in hunger;  
where they are free from HIV AIDS;  
where mothers no longer die in childbirth;  
where children no longer die of preventable diseases;  
*where every child has the right to quality education;*  
*where poverty and inequality have been overcome.*

**God of compassion and justice hear us.**

*Universal Prayer for Poverty Eradication  
Adopted from Joseph Wresinski, October 17, 1987,*

