Celebrating the Feast of the Nativity of Mary (September 8th) through the Commemoration of the International Day of Peace (September 21st)

We celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of Mary on September 8th. This day commemorates the birth of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Her extraordinary life demonstrated her deep sense of faithful commitment and love to God.

Mary’s devout life not only prepared her for the birth of Jesus, but also her life with him as his supportive and unconditionally loving parent. Jesus came into this world to carry out the Word of God and begin the transformation of the world. He lived a harmonious life with people living in poverty and marginalized communities while finding peaceful means towards reconciling inequality; thus, revolutionizing our world today. Through His life and carrying out God’s mission for Him, Mary continued to support her only Son, by opening the minds and hearts of people to the love Jesus has for them and for the movement towards a more just society. The presence of Mary in the world was paramount to the existence of Jesus on this earth and within our lives and for this; her life is further celebrated on the International Day for Peace on September 21st.

In Catholic Social Teaching, the notion of peace and justice, first precipitated by the presence and divine intervention of Jesus in this world, continues with us serving with love and compassion for the person irrespective of her life and circumstance. “Peace needs to be based on an order “founded on truth, built according to justice, vivified and integrated by charity and put into practice in freedom”.1 The Good Shepherd people carry this out through our ministries to people living in poverty, living among and within violence and war and with people crying out for a better life for themselves and their families.

2 Mary and Jesus www.lewesartist.co.uk
We first celebrate the birth of Mary, the mother of the Prince of Peace on September 8th and continue the commemoration of her life in celebrating the International Day of Peace on September 21st.

**Ways in Unitig the Celebration** (these are a few and you may have others):

- Listen and Discuss Peace Music
  International Day of Peace [http://www.internationaldayofpeace.org/music.htm](http://www.internationaldayofpeace.org/music.htm)
- Coordinate a Peace Walk
- Lead youth in working together in creating a Peace Pole

**GOOD SHEPHERD PEOPLE AS PEACEBUILDERS AND PROMOTERS OF JUSTICE**