

Daily Reflections



JIMMY CARTER, PEACEMAKER (1924-2024)

By Sister Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Quotes

“To be a Christian is not only to believe in God but to live as Christ did – serving others.”

JIMMY CARTER

“We become not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams.”

JIMMY CARTER

“No poor, rural, weak, or black person should ever again have to bear the additional burden of being deprived of the opportunity for an education, a job, or simple justice.”

JIMMY CARTER

His Story

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter was born on October 1, 1924, in Plains, Georgia. In 1946, he graduated from the U.S Naval Academy and married Rosalynn Smith. After several years in submarine service, Carter left active duty in 1953, and he and Rosalynn returned to the family's peanut farm in Plains. Carter served in the inactive Navy reserve until 1961 and left with the rank of lieutenant. During those years, he received many awards.

In 1963-1967, Carter served as Georgia State Senator and, in 1971-1975, Governor of Georgia. As a member of the Democratic Party, Carter was active in the human rights movement and was openly committed to desegregation. As Governor, he set up centers for mentally disabled children and educational programs for convicts. In 1977, Carter was inaugurated the **39th President of the U.S.**

Despite a rocky presidency, **Carter's post-presidency** years, **1981-2024**, were mainly focused on diplomacy and peacekeeping in the Middle East, Northern Ireland, North Korea, Taiwan, Venezuela, South Africa and Syria. In the U.S., Carter built homes (Habitat for Humanity) after the devastation of Hurricane Sandy. He also worked with former presidents to help the victims of Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma in the Gulf Coast and Texas communities. **The Carter Center**, which Jimmy and Rosalynn founded in Atlanta, Georgia in 1982, has worked to eradicate Guinea Worm Disease: in 2022 there were only 13 human cases in the world; in 1986 there were 3.5 million human cases in 21 countries in Africa and Asia. The disease is expected to be 100% eradicated by 2030. This will be the only disease that has been eradicated since smallpox in 1980. For 40 years, the Carter Center has worked in more than 90 countries to resolve conflicts, advance democracy, protect human rights, prevent disease and improve mental health. Among his many awards and honors, Jimmy Carter won the **Nobel Peace Prize** in 2002 for undertaking peace negotiations, campaigning for human rights and working for social welfare.



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For Pondering

- As you remember some of the highlights of Jimmy Carter's post-presidential life, does anything resonate with your life experiences?
- In Jimmy Carter's last 43 years of life, he found many ways to serve the 'dear neighbor,' to lift them out of poverty, disease, and homelessness. Perhaps his goodness inspires you to reach out and serve the Common Good in your own way.

For Prayer

On this day last year, our President Jimmy Carter entered into his eternal rest.
Let us remember him with these words of Psalm 107:

*We give thanks to You, who are the Source of Love; whose Light shines forth
throughout the universe!*

*Come awaken our hearts that we might do your Work; for, without You, we can do
nothing; 'tis your Love that loves through us.*

*Gather us in from all the lands, from the east and the west, from the south and the
north.*

*Let all who are hungry and thirsty, whose souls are faint within them, cry out to the
Most Merciful to give them succor, to nourish them with healing love; for fear cannot
live where love, grace and gentleness abide.*

*Enter into the Great Silence, where you may hear the voice of the Beloved, who
satisfies the hungry soul and quenches the thirsty with streams of Living Water.*

Amen.

PSALMS FOR PRAYING BY NAN C. MERRILL

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