

— News Release —

For Immediate Release
For News and/or Community and/or Religion Editor(s)

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After Mother's Day... Why not "Children's Day"?

- **Special day predates both Mother's and Father's Day**

Batavia, Ill., May 11, 2008 (*The Religion Wire™*) —

Four weeks from Mother's Day, *the second Sunday in June* — June 8, 2008, is "**Children's Day.**"

Many individuals, groups, and churches, are trying to bring attention to this special day for children that predates both Mother's and Father's Day.

John Ross, advocate for **Children's Day** and part of a growing movement spear-headed by the website www.nationalchildrensday.us, notes the importance and need for the day. "Children are just as in need of a special day as are our fathers and mothers. Children are being left behind and out of the American discourse today. Roughly nine million children are without health insurance. Some of our urban schools are graduating students at rates lower than 50 percent. Our children are behind in math and science. Americans are the most imprisoned population in the world... our children need more moral and spiritual guidance than ever. Our children are calling out to the adults of this great land for a new commitment and a new future. Yes, America needs **Children's Day!**"

Last month, Illinois governor Rod R. Blagojevich issued a **Children's Day** proclamation for the second year in row. Last year the Illinois cities of Batavia and Aurora (Illinois' second largest city) also issued mayoral proclamations.

Children's Day



Second Sunday in June

Add one — After Mother’s Day... Why not “Children’s Day”?

The website www.nationalchildrensday.us, supporting the revival of **Children’s Day** on *the second Sunday in June*, is stressing this day as a day of celebration and commitment by parent and individuals to children.

The **Children’s Day** website offers helps and challenges parents, individuals, churches/houses of worship, schools/places of education, government/community and businesses to sign commitment cards directed at affirming America’s children. They pledge to “commit myself(ourself), in the coming year, to love, cherish, nurture(physical, mental, emotional, & spiritual needs), and affirm...” They can also make a commitment beyond America to the world’s children.

Children’s Day observations in the United States predate both Mother’s and Father’s Day. This day dates from the 1860s and earlier. The Methodist Episcopal Church at the Methodist Conference of 1868 recommended that *the second Sunday in June* be annually observed as **Children’s Day**.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in 1883 designated the “the second Sabbath in June as Children’s Day.” The spring/summer 2005 issue of *The Journal of Presbyterian History* highlighted **Children’s Day** in the Presbyterian Church.

Chase’s Calendar of Events cites Children’s Sunday and notes that The Commonwealth of Massachusetts issues an annual proclamation for *the second Sunday in June*.

Numerous churches and denominations currently observe *the second Sunday in June* including the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Church of the Nazarene.

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