

Publication Date: February 5, 2018

Reflection Date: February 11, 2018: The 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time

“I Will Do It”

The [Gospel story this week](#) brings a question as do the other readings from the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The question through the readings is the same and it is “Are we willing to Trust God’s Word?” And the follow up question should be “Am I willing to make an act of faith in believing God’s Word?”

These questions are a reflection about how open we are to God’s Love that we can be healed, we can be changed, and we can have our hearts turn from stone into the living, beating heart of God.

In our society, we love the success story, the retelling of how our struggles were turned around by our actions. We expect that each person will take care of themselves, will be responsible, will not bother others and should certainly not expect government help.

But God doesn’t just help those who help themselves. God helps those who ask and works miracles for those who believe and rely on God’s Word. How can I say that? All we have to do is read the stories of the founders of Religious Communities and Institutions, read about the lives of the Saints and the Blessed who are examples of believing and trusting in God’s Word and Action.

[Jean Vanier](#) the founder of L’Arche says it so well, “We are healed by those who are the most excluded and rejected, if we live with them in a relationship of friendship”.

May we all find this healing in our lives as we Encounter the other in our society.

Br. Paul Crawford, OFM, Cap.
FAN Board Member

Suggested Action:

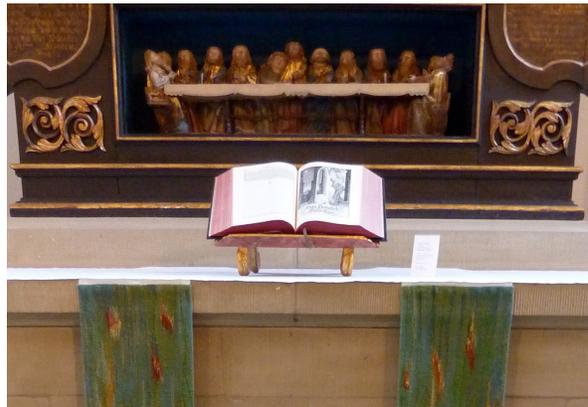
Read more about [Jean Vanier](#) and his compassion and message to “[be fully human.](#)”

Suggested Petitions:

May our hearts be open to accept the Word of God and allow it to guide our actions, we pray...
May we trust that God is with us always and see His presence in the eyes of each other, we pray...

Collect Prayer:

O God, who teach us that you abide



in hearts that are just and true,
grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace
as to become a dwelling pleasing to you.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen

Sultan and the Saint DVD Now Available for Purchase

For more than a year, FAN has worked to promote **The Sultan and the Saint** film, which is a powerful depiction of Muslim-Christian encounter as told through the story of St. Francis of Assisi and the Sultan of Egypt. We have been an integral part of the [world premiere in Washington, D.C.](#), many well-attended premiere screenings and related events nationwide, including a two-day summit on building relationships at Georgetown University on which we collaborated with Unity Productions Foundation (UPF), the producers of the film. The film [premiered on PBS television](#) on Dec. 26, 2017 and many communities across the country hosted viewing parties to begin to engage communities in peaceful, inter-religious dialogue.



Now, we are happy to announce the [DVD of the film is ready for purchase](#) along with the discussion guide to accompany the film.

To cover the cost of shipping, we are asking a \$25 suggested donation for each DVD. Your tax deductible donation helps continue the mission of FAN to bring a Franciscan voice to Capitol Hill and across the US on important issues like interfaith dialogue and peacebuilding.

[Order your copy today!](#)

JFI Resources to Advocate for Immigrants

Last week, [Justice for Immigrants](#) hosted a very informative [webinar](#) on DACA injunctions and applications. They explained legislation and offered a comparison of bills in the House and Senate and gave a call to action during the Congressional recess. **From Feb. 17-25, members of Congress will be at home**, in their districts, which is a perfect time to schedule a meeting to offer your thoughts on



immigration. They have produced this [Family Based Immigration and Dreamer toolkit](#) to help you in your planning.

Another idea is to host a screening of a film in your community. FAN friends at [Brave New Films](#) have two film series available to share with a group:

[Home is a Human Right: A Series on Immigration](#) - The short films in this series—*Pursuing the Dream*, *Nowhere to Go: Shutting Out Syrians*, and *The Call to Sanctuary*— focus on the specific actions individuals can take to fight for justice for immigrant and refugee communities. **These films range in length from 3-5 minutes which makes them perfect resources to use in conjunction with a workshop on immigrant justice, a speaker series, or an event.**

[Immigrant Prisons Series](#) - With immigrant rights so hotly debated throughout the country right now, one integral part of the conversation has gone relatively unnoticed—immigrant prisons. **Each year roughly 440,000 immigrants are being thrown behind bars in facilities that are owned and operated by large private prison companies.** The series runs for a total of 52 minutes and includes three short films—*Immigrant Prisons*, *Immigrants for Sale*, and *No More Detention: Free Pastor Noe*—which look at the injustices that run rampant in the 200 privately-run immigrant prison facilities throughout the United States.

The [registration](#) form only allows you to sign up for one film series at a time, because it helps Brave New Films keep better track of registrations per film. **So, if you'd like to receive both series, please fill out the registration form twice.**

Interfaith Delegation to Honduras Returns to US Feeling Inspired to Act

In last week's newsletter, we mentioned that our own Director of Advocacy, Sr. Maria Orlandini would be part of a delegation to Honduras, heading down to show support for the Honduran people in their struggles with their government. Sr. Maria gave us this [brief report](#).

Additionally, there were several journalists in the group, who have published articles on their findings. We invite members to read these articles and keep the Honduran people in prayer.

- [Post-election Honduras means living in a hypermilitarized state](#) by Tom Webb
- [Religious faithful ask US to withdraw recognition of Honduran president](#) (Tegucigalpa press conference in front of American Embassy)
- Various [Blog posts and photos from the Delegation can be found here](#).
- [Honduras: Amid Abuses of Democracy and Human Rights U.S. Faith Leaders Stand in Solidarity](#): blog posts and news articles by Ignatian Solidarity Network



We will continue to bring you information on the situation in Honduras and their desire for a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

Screen a Film, Get \$100 Donation

The [Interfaith Network on Drone Warfare](#) seeks to educate communities and congregations on the moral, ethical and theological issues raised in using drone warfare. They have produced five half hour videos, with military, legal, human rights, policy, and faith leaders discussing the moral, policy, and religious dimensions of this new and troubling development in modern warfare. Study guides accompany each video.



**INTERFAITH NETWORK
ON DRONE WARFARE**

Recently, INDW has announced they are offering \$100 donations to communities and organizations who register to screen the videos. From their website:

"In addition to providing free access to the videos, for congregations that agree to host a screening before mid-summer, we will send a \$100 donation upon receipt of the list of attendees and a review of the video they screened!"

You can find more information on each of the [videos](#) and the donation promotion on [INDW website](#).

Conventuals Retreat Center Welcomes the Undocumented

(Photo: J.D. Long-Garcia)

FAN was thrilled to see the [article in America Magazine](#) showcasing the efforts of the Holy Retreat Center in Las Cruces, NM. The story of the Taborda family and the trials they have lived through as a consequence of the reversal of humanitarian immigration policies touched our hearts deeply. The Conventuals at the center follow Gospel demands to care for those in need. The retreat center has even changed its mission statement to call itself a "center of hospitality."



While stressing that this is a "gospel response" as opposed to Sanctuary, Fr. Tom Smith, O.F.M.Conv. said, "We chose to call it 'Franciscan hospitality.'"

FAN is proud to call the Conventuals members of our Network family and congratulates them on demonstrating the love of God through their service to the people in their community.

GCCM Offers Lenten Fast Calendar

The [Global Catholic Climate Movement](#) (GCCM) together with their partners at the Anglican Communion Environmental Network, have collected

the stories of 40 people around the world who live on the front lines of environmental destruction.

We invite you to take a daily action during Lent to fast from harm to creation. Using the [Lenten Fast Calendar online](#), for each of the 40 days of Lent, you can click on a new witness story from around the world and connect it to your daily prayer.

Download the [full print version here](#) which includes:

- one-page Lenten creation fast calendar to use as bulletin insert/flyer
- 40 days of witness from people around the world
- 40 tips to reduce your environmental harm
- 40 reflection pieces with additional context, faith statements, and scripture
- 2 discussion guides for Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday

Together with GCCM, we're grateful for these sisters and brothers who are lighting the way toward better care of our common home. May we join them in making the changes needed to safeguard the future for our children and all future generations.

Statement on Migration and Human Trafficking

The United States [Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking](#) is a collaborative, faith-based national network that works to eradicate modern-day slavery. At their October 2017 meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously endorsed a strong statement entitled "The Nexus Between Migration and Human Trafficking."

As we pray and reflect on this theme on February 8th, we invite our members and supporters to share the statement widely and use it as a basis for their advocacy work as together we address these two crucial, interrelated issues.

We invite our members to [read the statement here](#).



Take Action: Sign NAFTA Petition That Puts People Over Profits

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is an agreement signed by Canada, Mexico, and the United States established in 1994 to create a trilateral free-trade zone in North America. It is described by many as disastrous for the U.S. economy as in it's current state, NAFTA eliminates jobs, erodes wages, increases pollution and is heavily in favor of large corporations.

Global Trade Watch has released this [video](#) of a cancer survivor and mother who is fighting the big pharmaceutical companies' latest attempt to keep prescription drug prices sky high – this time buried in NAFTA renegotiations.

North
American
Free
Trade
Agreement



NAFTA is now being re-negotiated in Canada. Negotiators have until the end of March to reach an agreement. Advocates have put together [this petition](#) to demand that the replacement puts people and planet before corporate profits. [We urge members to sign](#). Additionally, we encourage you to [email your representative](#) demanding NAFTA be replaced with a deal that stops job outsourcing and strengthens labor, wage and environmental standards.

