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Reflection Date: March 3, 2019 - 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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## From Heart to Tongue to Action

On this [last Sunday in Ordinary Time](#) before Ash Wednesday, removing the wooden beam from one's own eye before removing the splinter in another's eye is a fitting admonition before entering the Lenten Season. But repeated references to speech draw my attention. "...so too does one's speech disclose the bent of one's mind," says Ben Sira in the First Reading. In the Gospel, Jesus shifts from hypocrisy of beams and splinters to the image of good trees and rotten trees, teaching the lesson, "...for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks." Even Psalm 92 bids us to sing, proclaim, and declare God's kindness and justice.



Although many creatures communicate by means of a variety of sounds, speech is a gift given only to humans. It is to be used truthfully, carefully, and kindly. Today there is so much glib, inaccurate, false speech by some political leaders and followers that fact checking has become a profession. Pilate's weary question to Jesus centuries ago, "What is truth?" has resonance today as contradictory claims to truth cause confusion and division.

Speech has consequences. Take just one current mantra, "build the wall/finish the wall." The political slogan began in the hearts and minds of anti-immigrant elected leaders. It culminated in the longest government shutdown in history followed by a declaration of a "national emergency," all to support appropriating billions of dollars to construct—or finish—an unnecessary wall to solve a nonexistent crisis on our southern border; from fearful, hardened hearts and minds, to false hate speech, to deplorable action. "...from the fullness of the heart, the mouth speaks." Wall-building begins in the heart.

At the same time, minds and hearts where love and truth reside speak words of compassion and justice which urge action to build bridges of relationship, not walls of intolerance. "...one's speech (and actions) disclose the bent of one's mind."

Sr. Marie Lucey, OSF  
FAN Associate Director

### **Suggested action:**

Be in touch with your heart and mind; speak truthfully and kindly; determine one action you can take to help tear down a wall of injustice meant to divide us from our immigrant and refugee sisters and brothers .

### **Suggested petitions:**

That we as Christian communities take action to build bridges of welcome and reconciliation, let us pray.

That our words may be spoken from hearts full of love and compassion, let us pray.

## Prayer: Psalm 92 (excerpts)

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,  
to sing praise to your name Most High,  
to proclaim your kindness at dawn  
and your faithfulness throughout the night, . . .  
declaring how just is the Lord . . .

Amen

## FAN ED Patrick Carolan Speaks in Front of White House in Support of Our Immigrant Sisters and Brothers

Last week, on President's Day a group of equitable democracy coalition partners coordinated [rallies and events](#) all over the country in protest of the declaration of a national emergency at the U.S. southern border. FAN responded to the declaration with [this statement](#).



After just 72 hours of organizing, 277 events were held in 48 states with at least 50,000 attendees all across the country in cities such as Atlanta, GA, Austin, TX, Cambridge, MA, Los Angeles, CA and Ft. Lauderdale, FL. The Franciscan Action Network staff joined the rally in Washington, D.C. in front of the White House, where executive director, Patrick Carolan spoke. See a short [video of his speech here](#).

Additionally, Patrick was invited to speak on an informational webinar for the new [We, the World](#) campaign. WE is a Consciousness, a Campaign, and a Collaboration of people, organizations and social change movements from around the world which promotes making a shift from "I" to "WE" in our individual actions and attitudes and in our societal priorities and policies. [Watch that webinar here](#).

## People of Faith Are Taking Action for the Environment

### Maryland Catholics Advocate in Annapolis

On [Feb. 18th, in Annapolis, Maryland](#), Catholics from 19 parishes gathered



(pictured) to march to the State House where they advocated with elected officials in support of the Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Act. Former FAN board member, Fr. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM and FAN intern and Holy Name Province postulant, Michael Specht were a part of the gathering.

Fr. Jacek is quoted [here](#) saying, "...members of diverse communities [are] speaking about the impact of climate change..." both globally and at the local level. Michael Specht offered his reflections of the day on [FAN's blog page](#).

### **Green New Deal Turning Up the Heat on Congress**

It is very encouraging to see young people leading one of the more recent climate movements, [Sunrise Movement](#). Sunrise calls themselves, "an army of young people to make climate change an urgent priority across America." They have been heavily promoting the [Green New Deal](#), with a goal to stop climate change and create millions of good-paying jobs in the process. We hope you have [signed on to support](#) the Green New Deal.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell announced he's calling for a vote on the Green New Deal resolution in the Senate as early as this week. It's not clear whether this call for a vote is in good faith. The Sunrise Movement has coordinated an action today where young people from Mr. McConnell's home state of Kentucky are in D.C. to demand good faith negotiations and to advocate for the Green New Deal.

### **Make a Living the Change Commitment Today**

We have also made you aware of another campaign, [Living the Change](#), whereby people are asked to make personal commitments to do their part to live more sustainably. Supporting movements such as Sunrise and the Green New Deal are concrete steps a person can take in caring for God's creation.

[\*\*If you have yet to make a commitment with Living the Change to reduce your own carbon footprint, please do so today.\*\*](#)

In the next few weeks, we will have a lot more information for you about various petitions, personal actions, and movements you can investigate and take part in. Through our dedication to care for all of God's creation, we hope Franciscans will be a significant part of the solution to climate change.

## **Join Us: Global Catholic Climate Movement Divestment Conference in Washington, D.C.**

The [Global Catholic Climate Movement](#) is pleased to invite you to a conference "**Catholic Divestment: A Prophetic Stand for Our Common Home**", a one-day event in Washington D.C. on Catholic fossil fuel divestment, aiming to discuss the practical implications of the Church's teaching and of the climate crisis for U.S. Catholic institutions investment practices.



The event will take place in **Washington D.C., United States, on Friday, March 15th, 2019.** Further information available in the [provisional program online](#).

[Please click here to register to attend the event](#). The deadline for registration is **March 7, 2019**. The exact location will be defined in a few days and will be updated on the [web page of the event](#).

This conference will be a rich and unique opportunity to learn from leading Catholics who have “walked the talk” on teaching to care for our common home. You’ll hear from speakers who have concrete experience in divesting from fossil fuels, and share thoughts and insights with attendees who are considering taking this important step for their institutions. We urge our members who are able to attend.

## Take Part: Where are the Refugees Webinar This Friday

Join RCUSA for a special webinar on **Friday, March 1st at 12pm ET** to lift up #WhereRtheRefugees. Let’s discuss how we can work together as refugee advocates across the country to continue building support for life-saving refugee resettlement. **Please [RSVP here](#)** to make sure you receive the call in information & webinar recording.

While the administration considers refugee admissions for the rest of this year and next, we need our national, state, and local leaders to hear from us about community support for refugees and call for the administration to restore the refugee resettlement program to historic norms. [Register to be on the call](#), where we will discuss how to engage in #WhereRtheRefugees actions around the country to commemorate March 31st, the halfway point in the fiscal year.

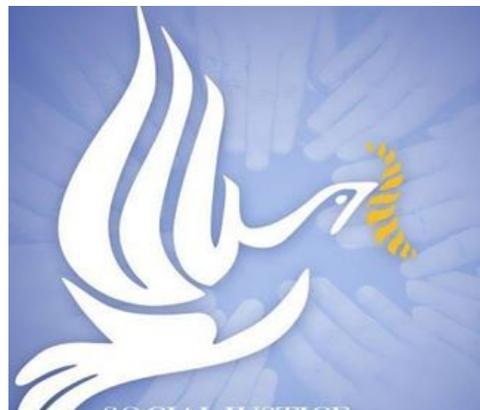
[Join us](#) to make sure you are briefed on the many opportunities for you to stand in solidarity with refugees, make your voices heard, & influence elected officials in support of refugees!



## Check Out the Social Justice Resource Center

The [Social Justice Resource Center](#) (SJRC) is an organization dedicated to linking faith to action by providing information and resources on the social issues of our time.

SJRC features a comprehensive website that has over 2,000 resources such as films, publications, and website links for 25 social issues as well as church teaching, prayers, quotes, [biographies](#) (browse the page and see if you find anyone you know), key



principles, important dates, action ideas, diocesan office information and upcoming Chicago area events. In addition, SJRC emails a monthly newsletter that features new resources as well updates on current issues, and regularly posts features on its [Facebook page](#).

We invite you to check it out here: [www.SocialJusticeResourceCenter.org](http://www.SocialJusticeResourceCenter.org)

## **New Lenten Resource: 40 Days; 40 Ways A Guide to A Green Lent**

As Franciscans, we consistently examine our relational understanding of creation. Looking to theologians like St. Bonaventure who developed a theological and spiritual vision that acknowledged all creation as emanating from the goodness of God, existing as a “footprint” of God, and leading us back to God if we are able to “read” nature properly.

As we approach the solemn season of Lent, during which we prepare our lives and souls for the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus, FAN would like to offer our

members a new resource. In order to assist you in your "reading" of nature, we offer you this guide, [40 Days; 40 Ways: A Guide to a Green Lent](#), by Dianne Scheper.

Despite its title, “[40 Days; 40 Ways](#)” is not fashioned as a daily devotional. Dianne describes it as "a range of suggestions for merging your Lenten disciplinary spirit with creation-centered activities." We hope you will consider challenging yourself with some creative action this Lent.

### **40 Days; 40 Ways A Guide to a Green Lent**

