

Publication Date: March 19, 2018

Reflection Date: March 25, 2018: The 6th Sunday of Lent

“Hosanna in the highest!”

This Sunday, we may begin to see people we have not seen in awhile, in our Church and in our Parishes. New faces around us as we start our journey from Lent to Holy Week and to Easter Sunday. This adds to the excitement that we hear about in [this week's readings](#) especially, when Jesus enters Jerusalem to the shouts of the people.



What must of been in the heart of Christ in the midst of this week's Gospel? What was Jesus feeling while he was riding through the city?

Perhaps, Jesus' experience and feelings were somewhat bitter-sweet. Letting go of things in our lives is always very challenging, especially when we know what is coming and it's not a sudden event.

What have we been challenged about letting go of during our Lenten journey?

Perhaps, our change is happening due to our aging, or a health issue, retirement, or from stress due to the political climate. Or perhaps God is calling us to give up what might be good and comfortable for something that is different or outside our comfort zone.

Change always calls us to be challenged, it is never completely planned nor thought through, nor is it anywhere near perfect. But when we are called, we really have to “let go, and let God” move in our hearts and in our lives.

We pray for those who are migrants, refugees, and immigrants, who are called to let go because of economics, safety and family.

Br. Paul Crawford, OFM Cap.
FAN Board Member

Suggested Action:

Consider what you have had trouble letting go of during this Lenten season. Pray to God for the courage to let go of anxieties and burdens.

Suggested Petitions:

May we follow Jesus' example of humility and be willing to submit to our Crosses this Holy Week, we pray...

May all christians use the passion of Christ and the fire of the Holy Spirit as a challenge to inspire action for social justice, we pray...

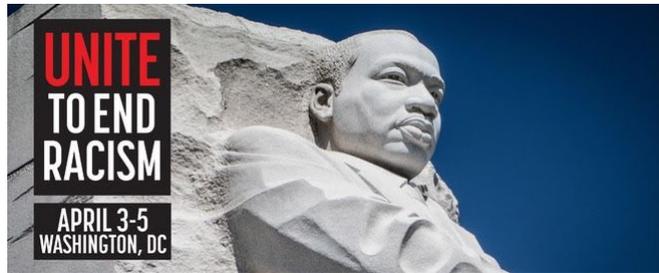
Collect Prayer

**Almighty ever-living God,
who as an example of humility for the human race to follow
caused our Savior to take flesh and submit to the Cross,
graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering
and so merit a share in his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.**

Amen

Register Now for the A.C.T. to End Racism Rally in D.C.

On April 3rd-5th, 2018 the [National Council of the Churches of Christ](#) in the USA and partners will gather in Washington, D.C. for a historic event to launch its Truth and Racial Justice Initiative. We are very proud to be a partner of the [A.C.T to End Racism Rally](#). FAN has agreed to take the lead in organizing the Catholic communities. We are committed to ACT: Awaken, Confront, Transform.



As we mark 50 years since the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4th, 1968, we will commit to do our part to eradicate the entrenched racism that grips the United States and paralyzes our ability to see every human being as equal.

[Registration is open](#) and **buses are being coordinated from cities all over the country.** Check the [website](#) for transportation and housing details. If you will be in DC and are willing to help assist the planning team, we encourage you to sign up to [volunteer at the rally](#). There are many opportunities to help.

If you can't make it to Washington, D.C., we encourage you to organize a prayer service on April 4th in your parish or community. You may consider using this [prayer on racism through the lens of nonviolence](#) created by FAN friend and Mercy Sister Diane Guerin, or the [prayer for racial healing](#) from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

This is only the beginning. The [Rally to End Racism](#) is the launch of a comprehensive, multi-year program to address racism in our nation. Won't you join us?

Last Chance to Register for the State of Appalachia

Conference

Today is your last chance to register for the [State of Appalachia conference](#) on March 23 & 24, 2018 at Pipestem Resort State Park in West Virginia. **All registrations must be received by 5pm tonight, March 19th.**

FAN is proud to be a partnering organization for the conference which will focus on the health, economy, ecology, and spirituality of Appalachia. This year's theme scripture is [Revelation 22:2](#), focusing on the tree of life and healing the nations.

Remember to share the [flyer](#) and the [Facebook event](#) with all who are interested. We look forward to having a gathering place to problem-solve, and to build relationships.



Tenth Anniversary of Postville, Iowa Raid

On May 11, 2008, 389 workers were arrested by ICE agents as they worked at Agriprocessors in Postville, Iowa. This event was followed by numerous imprisonments and threats of mass deportation. In a matter of hours on that day, Postville lost a significant segment of its population and hundreds of families were torn apart.



Ten years later, far too little has changed.

The [Sisters of St. Francis in Clinton, IA](#) will observe the tenth anniversary of this event as a SUMMONS; a time to once again call out for just, humane and comprehensive immigration reform. On May 11th, they will gather at St. Bridget Church, Postville, Iowa, for an Interfaith Prayer Service, then walk to Meyer Park near site of raid for a noon rally.

We encourage all members and friends to support their endeavor. [Share the message](#) on social media with your networks and be with them in presence, prayer or spirit as we mark this anniversary. Promotional materials and prayers are available for download [here](#).

Are you Ready for Earth Day?

From poisoning and injuring marine life to disrupting human hormones, from littering our beaches and landscapes to clogging our waste streams and landfills, the exponential growth of plastics is now

threatening the survival of our planet.

This fact leads to the theme of Earth Day 2018, which will focus on fundamentally changing human attitude and behavior about plastics and catalyzing a significant reduction in plastic pollution.

The [Earth Day Website](#) has many different toolkits for use to educate everyone from Kindergarten through college. The Catholic Climate Covenant is hosting an [Earth Day Webinar](#) on **Thursday, March 22nd at 2pm Eastern /11am Pacific**. Participants will hear from Valeria Merino, the Vice President for Global Earth Day about the World Without Plastic Pollution campaign. [Register here](#). Even if you can't join the webinar, please register to receive an email with the recording.

Additionally, the DC-based Interfaith Power and Light has some [resources in Spanish](#). Also, the Global Catholic Climate Movement is hosting several [webinars](#) to help you plan a successful event.

Finally, our friends at GreenFaith made us aware of the [Multi-Faith Sustainable Living Initiative](#), launched during the 23rd UN Climate Change Conference. The initiative comprises a global, multi-faith community who has made commitments to practice more sustainable lifestyles. [Read more about it here](#).

We encourage all our members and friends to take action in some way, however small to help reduce the use of plastics.

#WhereRtheRefugees? Hold the Administration Accountable

During today's global refugee crisis, the administration has set an all-time low refugee admissions goal for fiscal year 2018 at 45,000 - turning our back on the values of compassion and welcome we claim to represent. What's worse, the administration is only on track to resettle [20,000 refugees](#) this year, not even meeting their own goal.

Please find below some resources from the [#WhereRtheRefugees toolkit](#). We urge members to plan an action in your community. Here are the **Top 5 Ways to Take Action**:

1. [Join National Call-in Day on March 28th](#)
2. [Host an Interfaith #WhereRtheRefugees Public Witness Event](#)
3. [Plan a Visit with Your Members of Congress In-District During March 26th-April 6th Recess](#)
4. [Write Opinion Editorials & Letters to the Editor for Local Media Outlets](#)
5. [Share on Social Media](#)



Thank you for your continued action to be in solidarity with refugees in these trying times.

Sultan and the Saint DVD Available to Order

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 to order](#) 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!](#)