

Publication Date: March 26, 2018

Reflection Date: April 1, 2018: Easter Sunday

Sing Small Alleluias

Easter 2018: Alleluia may stick our throats. We may identify more with the wrenching pain of Good Friday or the confused emptiness of Holy Saturday, than with the exultant joy of [Resurrection Sunday](#). It is always challenging to be a Christian, and this year's challenge to a core Christian belief is particularly difficult: confidence in hope and joy of resurrection. The daily news of gun violence, fleeing refugees, racism, a chaotic U.S. government, severe drought in some



countries with rising oceans in others, and more, doesn't stop. Harsh realities don't suddenly change because we Christians are singing alleluia hymns.

But let's remember that Roman dominion and hypocrisy of Jewish Pharisees didn't change either because "on the first day of the week" Mary of Magdala discovered the empty tomb, ran to tell Simon Peter and John, and they only gradually understood "that (Jesus) had to rise from the dead." The Roman empire continued its oppression of the Jews and most of the Pharisees did not become believers. Yet, the disciples did wake up to the meaning of the empty tomb, did experience the risen Jesus with amazed joy, and later were commissioned to continue the mission of Jesus, the Christ. And, yes, some of those Jewish leaders and some Romans came to believe in Jesus and the meaning of Resurrection.

On this Easter Sunday, when we may not **feel** very joyful, we need to remember that resurrection joy is not a feeling, but a deeply held belief that Jesus, Son of God, rose from the dead, that life and love prevail over death, that in our daily lives we experience not only pain, loss and confusion, but hope and joy. Perhaps we can be aware of small alleluias in our personal lives, our country, and the world. They do exist, and we can gather them together in a strong, joyful "Alleluia! He is risen!"

Sr. Marie Lucey, OSF
FAN Associate Director

Suggested Action: Make a list of hopeful or joyful realities in your personal life, in the United States, in the world, and with each one say "Thank You. Alleluia!"

Suggested Petitions:

For all our sisters and brothers experiencing deep pain, loss, fear, or oppression that our solidarity may offer them a glimmer of life and hope, let us pray. . .

In thanksgiving for the small and great alleluias in our lives, let us pray. . .

Prayer: St. Augustine of Hippo

We are Easter people and “Alleluia” is our song.

Let us sing “Alleluia” here and now in this life,
even though we are oppressed by various worries,
so that we may sing it one day
in the world to come, when we are
set free from all anxiety.

Amen

FAN Advocates for Peace in front of White House

Franciscan Action Network (FAN) co-sponsored a peace vigil on Saturday, March 10th in Washington, DC, to protest nuclear weapons and killing by armed drones. The vigil was a merger of two ongoing events, an anti-nuclear vigil sponsored by the [Consistent Life Network](#) and an anti-drone vigil sponsored by [Pax Christi Metro DC-Baltimore](#). The vigil featured FAN Executive Director Patrick Carolan as a speaker, as well as speakers from the Consistent Life Network, Pax Christi, and a variety of other co-sponsoring groups: the American Solidarity Party, Baltimore Nonviolence Center, Dorothy Day Caucus, and Rehumanize International.



The turnout for the combined vigils was good, and we attracted a fair amount of attention from passersby. We also received media attention from HispanTV, which gave the vigil [significant coverage](#) (news story is in Spanish). See the photos from the rally on [FAN’s Facebook page](#).

The next anti-nuclear/anti-drone peace vigil will be June 9th, so if you’ll be in the vicinity, mark your calendars.

Interfaith Immigration Coalition Update: Dreams Deferred, #DefundHate, #WhereRtheRefugees?

Please join the Interfaith Immigration Coalition for a Webinar **TODAY, March 26th at 4pm ET/ 1pm PT**: [Dreams Deferred, #DefundHate, WhereRtheRefugees?](#) On this webinar, learn the latest inside negotiations between Congress and the White House to pass a permanent, legislative solution to protect dreamers and uphold family unity, defund the detention, deportation, and border militarization machine, and lift up the need to protect the U.S. refugee resettlement program.



[Join advocates](#) to learn how to advocate for cuts for immigration detention, the deportation

force, and border militarization - especially as funding for harmful enforcement efforts will result in deportations of dreamers, TPS holders, and our community members.

RSVP LINK Webinar/ Visual Link

<http://join.me/faith4immigration>

Call in Number

(202) 602-1295 and enter the conference ID: 354-977-836#

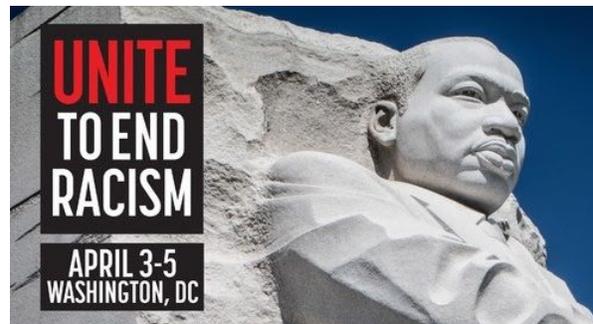
At the same time, the administration is dismantling the refugee resettlement program while refugee arrivals slow to a trickle. As we approach the halfway point for this fiscal year on March 31st, fewer than 10,000 refugees have been resettled -- far below the 22,000 refugees who should have been resettled to meet the administration's 45,000 refugee admissions goal, already the lowest in U.S. history. Learn about action steps to hold the administration accountable to see at least 45,000 refugees resettled this year and that the administration commits to resettling at least 75,000 refugees next year. [See WhereRtheRefugees Toolkit Here](#) and use it to take action.

Faith leaders and faith groups are urged to sign on to a letter calling on the administration to resettle at least 45,000 refugees this fiscal year and commit to resettle at least 75,000 refugees in FY 2019. Faith leader: [Click here](#) - Faith-based organizations: [Click here](#)

Finally, **join the March 28th National Call-In Day**: Members of Congress will be in their home districts March 26th - April 6th, and it is a crucial time for them to hear from constituents at town hall meetings, in visits to their local offices and through letters to the editor. [Click here](#) to call your 2 Senators and 1 Representative on March 28th and urge them to do everything in their power to hold the administration accountable to resettle at least 45,000 refugees in 2018. A sample call script is [available here](#).

Join Us as We Confront the Sin of Racism

The Franciscan Action Network (FAN) is proud to be among the partners of the [Act to End Racism](#) rally in Washington, D.C., April 3rd-5th, to mark the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. FAN has agreed to take the lead in organizing the Catholic communities. We are committed to ACT: Awaken, Confront, Transform.



We are urging our members and friends to participate in the spirit of these days in one of the following ways:

- Will you be on the ground at the rally? Are you willing to assist our planning team? We need YOU! Sign up to [volunteer at the ACT to End Racism rally](#). You may find information [here](#) about buses coming to D.C. from around the country.
- Plan a prayer service on April 4th for where you live or minister. You might consider a [prayer on racism through the lens of nonviolence](#) created by FAN friend and Mercy Sister Diane Guerin, or a [prayer service for racial healing](#) from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- Help us spread the word about the rally and events all over the country. Use the [social](#)

[media toolkit](#) put together by organizers. It contains sample posts for Facebook and Twitter along with graphics for downloading. [Share this post](#) from FAN of Executive Director, Patrick Carolan sharing why he is ACTing to End Racism.

The rally takes place **next week** in Washington, D.C. and Memphis, TN. Help us to make it a success. Please [share this page](#) with your networks and urge them to come Awaken, Confront, and Transform hearts to end racism. Feel free to [reach out to us with any questions](#).

Take Action: Defend Our National Monuments

Recently, President Trump signed an executive order authorizing the largest removal of protections for public lands in history. His actions gut the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monuments and opens up millions of acres of sensitive wildlife habitat, archaeological resources and cultural treasures to destructive development. This immoral attack on God's beautiful and wondrous creation can't be ignored.



[Photo caption: Bears Ears National Monument - [Bob Wick, Bureau of Land Management](#)]

[Take action today to tell Congress](#) to defend our national monuments! With your help, we can demonstrate the overwhelming public outrage over these unprecedented attacks on our national treasures and help ensure they won't advance in Congress while they are defended in court.

The American public overwhelmingly [supports](#) our national monuments and no president has ever attempted such a radical rollback of protections for our shared national treasures, until now. It's more important than ever that we once again show that the American people won't stand for this. [Tell Congress](#) to stand firmly against the attacks on national monuments.

Join The Webinar on Election Security

There's been a lot of news coverage of threat to our voting systems. But, many may assume incorrectly that this is a problem that can only be solved by tech experts - while preserving our core democratic infrastructure requires much more.

The Secure Our Vote Coalition invites you to a one-hour [webinar on the election security threat](#), what the solutions are, and the role of the grassroots advocacy community.

Please mark your calendars for **Tuesday, April 3rd at 8 pm ET/ 5pm PT**. [Click here to register](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email about joining the event.



Celebrate Earth Day With Creation Justice Ministries

Each year before Earth Day, FAN friends at [Creation Justice Ministries](#) offer materials to equip faith communities to protect, restore, and more rightly share God's creation.

The theme of the 2018 resource is "[Sense of Place](#)" and it offers insights about living in harmony with local ecosystems and watersheds, as well as rightly sharing places with a diversity of peoples. [Free to download](#), you can find Bible study, sermon starter, liturgical, and action materials inside.



Sense of Place

"Surely the LORD is in this place..."

Genesis 28:16

Thank you Creation Justice Ministries!

Iraqi Wartime Partners Need our Help

As a result of their service in support of the U.S. mission in Iraq, thousands of our trusted Iraqi partners have been threatened, abducted, tortured, and even killed. Unfortunately, the two legal pathways created to provide meaningful protection to these allies, the Iraqi Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program and Direct Access Program (DAP), are no longer meaningful avenues to safety, stranding these allies who risked their lives for our troops.

In response to this pressing humanitarian and national security issue, the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) has released the report [Fifteen Years On: Protecting Iraqi Wartime Partners](#), which outlines a set of recommendations to address the current situation and ways to improve the SIV and DAP programs.

Here are some ways you can help:
SHARE this [video](#) on social media
CALL your [representatives](#)
URGE President Trump (@POTUS) to #SaveOurAllies

We urge our members and friends to take action. Join in the advocacy efforts and continue spreading the word to Congress and the Administration.

