

Publication Date: April 9, 2018

Reflection Date: April 15, 2018: 3rd Sunday of Easter

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## Live the Gospel

We continue our journey through Easter season. The Triduum was a few weeks ago. We celebrated the death and resurrection of Jesus. We welcomed some new members to our community on the Easter vigil. Maybe on Easter Sunday, we celebrated with family and friends. When my children were younger their grandfather would always hide Easter eggs and we would have an Easter egg hunt. Our extended family would sit down to a big dinner with ham and potatoes. Then Monday would come and life would go on. Do we just go through the motions? Is the Triduum and Easter just another static event that happened some two thousand years ago? Or do we actually have any trust and hope in the power of the Risen Christ?



In our [first reading from Acts](#) on Sunday, Peter tells us, “whom you handed over and denied in Pilate’s presence when he had decided to release him. You denied the Holy and Righteous One.” Peter should know; he walked with Jesus for three years, witnessed miracles and yet even he denied Jesus. I often wonder if we are continually denying the “Holy and Righteous One” and turning him over to Pilate again and again. But the good news is the Resurrection. Today, we can deny Jesus, turn him over to Pilate by failing to live the Gospel, and tomorrow, we can be born in the Spirit.

In this week’s Gospel reading, Luke 24:45 states that Jesus “opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.” St. Francis is credited with saying “Preach the Gospel at all times, if necessary, use words.” Everyday, if we open our hearts and live the Gospel, not just preach the Gospel, we understand the Scriptures. In Matthew 3, Jesus tells us “the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Last week, my staff and I participated in the A.C.T. to End Racism mobilization. A few weeks ago I was arrested for non-violent civil disobedience, standing with my brothers and sisters covered by DACA. Next week I will be participating in a forum on faith and environmental justice. How could the kingdom of Heaven possibly be at hand if we are not welcoming the stranger, if racism is alive and flourishing, if we are destroying God’s wondrous creation?

Peace and All Good,  
Patrick Carolan  
FAN Executive Director

### **Suggested Action:**

This week, read [Matthew 25:35-40](#) and find a way to live out this Gospel passage in your community.

### **Suggested Petitions:**

May we examine our hearts and yearn for the Lord's bountiful forgiveness, we pray..  
May all those who have suffered the injustice of racism be healed through the grace of God, we pray...

### Collect Prayer:

**May your people exult for ever, O God,  
in renewed youthfulness of spirit,  
so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption,  
we may look forward in confident hope  
to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection.  
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**

## Franciscan Family Gathers at A.C.T. to End Racism Rally in D.C.

FAN was proud to [take part](#) in A.C.T. to End Racism rally in Washington, DC last week. FAN prayed in ecumenical unity with thousands of faithful from the Abrahamic traditions and other believers in order to denounce racism on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s



assassination. The three-day event calling the faithful to **Awaken, Confront, and Transform** was sponsored by the National Council of Churches. It began on April 3, 2018 with an [ecumenical gathering](#) at [St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Washington, D.C.](#)

Events resumed Wednesday morning at 7:00 a.m. with a [Silent Prayer Walk from the MLK Memorial to the National Mall](#), where an interfaith prayer service preceded a rally to end racism. The prayer service commenced with a [Teletron video](#), which included interviews with FAN's very own Patrick Carolan and Sr. Marie Lucey.

[The call to action continues today and beyond.](#) "We must respond as a people of faith in a way that is genuine, compassionate and with truth. As believers in the Risen Christ, we are fully aware of the importance of reconciliation, redemption, and renewal. Our prayers must translate into action on behalf of those who have been victims of benign neglect and willful hatred. May this be the time!", Most Rev. David P. Talley, Bishop of Alexandria, LA and Chair, Subcommittee for Catholic Campaign for Human Development said in a [joint press release](#) issued by a number of Catholic organizations.

You can take a concrete step today by challenging the mass incarceration of people of color.

Help lift people up rather than lock them up by [contacting Congress via this link](#) urging an end mass incarceration. Another opportunity for follow up education is to watch "[America Inside Out](#)." This new documentary series from Katie Couric looks at some of the recent manifestations of racism including the events that took place in Charlottesville, VA, in August. The series will be shown on National Geographic Channel beginning April 11th.

## On Water and Faith: Ministry Training in NYC

Across religious and faith traditions, water holds special significance. Water purifies and cleanses, makes sacred and gives life. It binds communities through ceremony and tradition, reminding all of its intrinsic value and communal worth. However, right now, the cycles of water that give life to our planet are in distress due to climate change, mismanagement, and pollution.



Center for  
Earth Ethics

**UNION**



The Climate  
Reality Project®

Our friends at the the [Center for Earth Ethics](#), in partnership with the [Climate Reality Project](#) have developed a Minister Training to train, support, and empower faith leaders to better address the ecological crisis in their own communities. The training will be held **May 31st - June 2nd at [Union Theological Seminary](#) in New York City**. To Learn more, visit [centerforearthethics.org/water](http://centerforearthethics.org/water).

The conference will cover a wide range of topics including, the role of faith leaders in protecting access to water, the theology of praxis: water in our faith practices, the science behind water systems, and more. Applications are open for the 2018 program and the deadline is April 20, 2018. there is a nominal fee to help offset cost of materials and meals. To apply, visit [centerforearthethics.org/water](http://centerforearthethics.org/water), for any questions, email Genie Cooper at [ECOoper@CenterForEarthEthics.org](mailto:ECOoper@CenterForEarthEthics.org)

As our faith traditions call us to remember the sanctity of water, so too do they call us to care for those who need it most.

## View The Film "The World Is My Country" For Free

*Please see below information on a free screening of "The World is My Country" from our friends at [Citizens for Global Solutions](#). The film is the true story of World Citizen # 1 Garry Davis and his adventures in discovering the key to how we can take back our power to build a sustainable world of peace, justice and freedom.*

For one week only, Friday April 13 through Friday April 20, 2018, you can view a [preview of the riveting film "The World Is My Country" for free](#). Before the film is released to the public! This film opened to a sold-out audience and standing ovation at CGS-sponsored World Premiere at the Minneapolis Film Festival. It will be available, free,

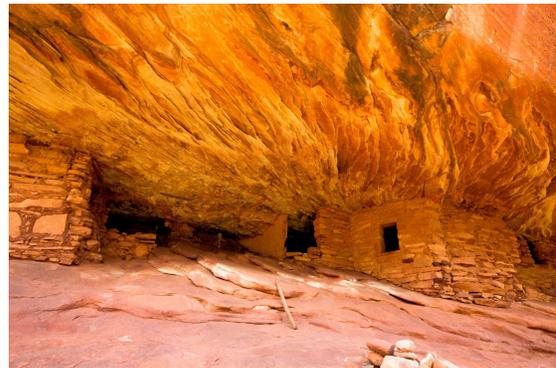
on-line, in a special password-protected site for Citizens for Global Solutions worldwide – but just for one week.

Film director Arthur Kanegis is making this Film Festival Screener available to you so you can consider helping to raise funds for the rights to the historical footage so they can release the film worldwide. Post this on social media, forward it in your newsletters and invite others to sign up for the free week as well!

To pre-register [click here](#) to receive an email link with the secret code at the start of Free Screening Week April 13 -20.

## 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.

## Save the Date: April 25th No Muslim Ban Ever Rally at Supreme Court

On April 25, 2018, the Supreme Court will hear arguments in *Hawaii v. Trump* to decide whether the latest Muslim Ban - which permanently bans nationals from six Muslim-majority countries - violates federal law as an overreach of a president's authority and our constitution because it discriminates against a particular religious group.

FAN has signed up as a co-sponsor of an [rally on April 25th](#) outside of the Supreme Court. When the first version of the administration's Muslim Ban went



into effect last year, thousands of us flooded the airports and streets to protest. Since then, numerous federal courts have largely rejected each iteration of these bans and directly affected communities have fought back.

Now it's time to have a visible, strong presence outside of the Supreme Court so the justices and the American public will see the concern, not just of the Muslim community, but of those of us who support and advocate for all people regardless of religion or country of origin. We hope you can [join us](#).