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Reflection Date: May 6, 2018: [6th Sunday of Easter](#)

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## “God Shows No Partiality”

God’s love accepts the sinner and our love embraces their journey to change their lives and accept forgiveness from God. The difference between a Saint and a Sinner is one stopped trying to change and, of course, the other keep at it.

On one of our recent Vocation Discernment Weekends, one of the young men told me he was interested in our community because of the many Saints. It brought to my mind a saying that we have in the community that yes, we might have many Saints but that is because living in community has made it possible. So, we are a community of Saints and more so a community that helps make Saints through our living together.



Acceptance and Repentance are the building blocks of our Christian lives. Peter says it so well in the [first reading](#) this week, that God has no partiality, and it was because of that gift that the early Church was seen as being so different, intriguing, and called out to so many as a light of hope and a place of welcome and caring for all who walked into their meetings and services. The recent release of ‘Paul, Apostle of Christ’ shows so clearly how the Christian Community embraced all and reached out to all in Jesus’s name. It’s all about relationship and acceptance and welcome.

So here’s a few things we can all try to improve in our lives and more especially in our local Church.

First: Let us truly try to love one another. To go beyond just saying our prayers, performing our services, but to make a stronger effort to reach out and talk to someone we do not know or do not know well that we are at Church with.

Secondly: Let someone share their story with you. If we are too busy to listen, we are too busy doing something that takes us away from building the Church through building relationships.

Finally: Let God love you! I know, it’s hard to realize that God really and truly loves you. But He does.

If we keep trying to do these three things, we can help Christ transform our society and touch the hearts and lives of others in Jesus’ Name.

Br. Paul Crawford, OFM Cap.  
FAN Board Member

### **Suggested Action:**

Take one of the suggestions in Br. Paul's reflection and make an effort this week to follow through on it.

### **Suggested Petitions:**

For all those who feel excluded because of race, creed, color, sexual orientation, or other determinate. May we reach out to "the leper" with the hands of Christ and show mercy and love, we pray...

We pray in thanksgiving for the ever-present, far reaching love of God, we pray....

### **Collect Prayer**

**Grant, almighty God,  
that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy,  
which we keep in honor of the risen Lord,  
and that what we relive in remembrance  
we may always hold to in what we do.  
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**

## **FAN Calls on the Supreme Court to End the Muslim Ban**

Last week, FAN [stood in solidarity](#) with our Muslim sisters and brothers before the Supreme Court of the United States during oral arguments for Trump v. Hawaii in protest of the "Muslim Ban" at issue in that case. A coalition of Christians, Jews, and Muslims, as well as people of various races and backgrounds demanded the Court to take a dramatic stand against the racial discrimination.



Speakers noted that past Congresses and Presidents have apologized for the institutional segregation and discrimination our country has imposed on minorities, including African-Americans, native-Americans, and Asian-Americans. The Supreme Court has never apologized for their previous rulings that upheld such discriminatory policies. Much attention was given to our "Catholics for Justice" signs as we stood with fellow advocates from national Catholic advocacy organizations based in D.C. and a wide variety of interfaith partners including the United Church of Christ, who was kind enough to take our photo. We were even able to give a few interviews on site, including with [EWTN News Nightly](#).

FAN continues to demand the Supreme Court to take dramatic action against blatant fear-mongering and discrimination against Muslims and will continue to stand in solidarity with all Americans, including refugees who are escaping war and persecution in their home countries and are in search of their version of the American Dream.

## Bishops Support USA Act; Urge Action for DREAMERS

Last week, the USCCB Committee on Migration mailed an alert that the Chairman, Bishop Joe S. Vásquez sent a [letter to the House of Representatives](#) urging their support of H.R. 4796, the Uniting and Securing America (USA) Act of 2018. While Bishops still prefer the DREAM Act, this legislation provides a path to citizenship for Dreamers and focuses on greater border security through digital technology rather than establishing physical barriers which require significant funding.



We urge you to make your voice heard and fill out this [Action Alert](#) from Justice for Immigrants that lets the House of Representatives know of your support for the USA Act and the Dream Act and that we need legislative action NOW.

## 10th Anniversary of Postville, Iowa Immigration 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 as on April 5, 2018, an immigration [raid at a meat packing plant](#) in rural Morristown, Tennessee resulted in the detention of 97 people.

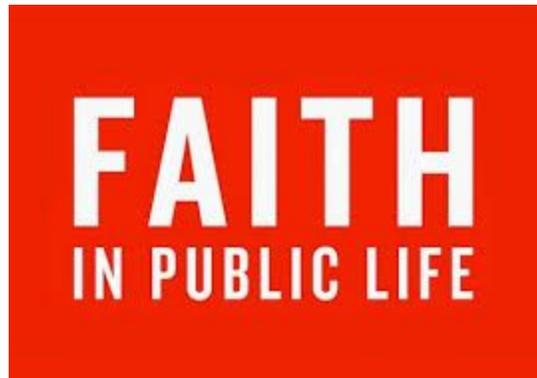
The [Sisters of St. Francis in Clinton, IA](#) will observe the tenth anniversary of this event as a SUMMONS; a time to once again call out for just, humane and comprehensive immigration reform. On May 11th, they will gather at St. Bridget Church in Postville, Iowa, for an Interfaith Prayer Service,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

## Webinar: Stand for SNAP: Protecting Food Assistance for Families

Our friends at [Faith in Public Life](#) sent us this alert last week:

In less than two weeks, the House of Representatives will vote on a Farm Bill that, in its current form, would cut crucial food assistance for up to 2 million Americans, including poor working families, seniors and people with disabilities. It's cruel.



But we can stop them. It's time for people of faith to speak up for our values and our neighbors. That's why Faith in Public Life is holding [an emergency webinar on May 1st at 2:30 p.m. EDT](#) outlining the impact of proposed cuts to the SNAP program, moral messaging on the issue and action steps we can take right away.

You can [register here](#). [Please join us](#).

## Living the Change Launches Campaign for Personal Commitment to Combat Climate Change

FAN is an implementing partner working in coordination with GreenFaith and other partners on a campaign called [Living the Change](#). The campaign is a faith-driven, evidence-based initiative designed to address the growing environmental challenges we face.



During COP23 in Germany, a multi-faith statement was delivered with pledges to "[Walk on Earth Gently](#)." From connections made at the time, this global community of religious and spiritual institutions grew, coming together to embark on a journey toward compassionate, simple, sustainable lifestyles.

In the fall of this year, two major events will take place to elevate these ideals and gather pledges from like minded people to join in the journey. We invite you learn more by visiting [www.livingthechange.net](http://www.livingthechange.net) and follow them on social media at:

- **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/livingthechange>
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/LivingTheChangeTogether>
- **Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/livingthechangetogether/>

Also, check out the "[Living the Change](#)" [YouTube channel](#) where you can find 12 video interviews and two short trailers.

## We Need Your Help With Our Next Documentary Collaboration

Recently the Franciscan Action Network has partnered with producer Helen Young to fundraise for her film, "[The Nuns, the Priests, and the Bombs.](#)" The film follows a community of nuclear disarmament activists (plowshares), including Sr. Megan Rice, who are willing to endure long prison sentences, and even risk death, because of their deeply held conviction that nuclear weapons are immoral and illegal.



We believe this film can play a role in educating our communities on this pressing national and global issue and pray it can serve as a catalyst for action. To that end, we have started a fundraising [page on Crowdrise](#) (a non-profit fundraising website) and we are reaching out for your help to kick off this project. A portion of all donations made will be contributed to the defense fund for the plowshares group arrested in Georgia after they penetrated America's so-called "Fort Knox of Uranium."

Please spread the word and [share this page with your networks](#). If you are interested in hosting a screening this film, please [contact us](#).

## Join Us: Catholics Are Still In Campaign and Webinar

Last week, the [Catholic Climate Covenant](#) launched a new nationwide campaign, 'Catholics Are Still In' to garner the U.S. Catholic community's support for climate action. As a partner, FAN helped develop the [U.S. Catholic Climate Declaration](#), which expresses the Catholic imperative to protect and promote human life and human dignity, especially among the poorest and most vulnerable peoples, by protecting our common home and acting on climate change.



[Read the declaration here.](#)

**Learn how you can participate in the Catholics Are Still In campaign by joining a webinar on Thursday, May 3rd at 1pm ET/ 10am PT. You will learn:**

1. Why we created the Catholic Climate Declaration
2. How it is related to the We Are Still In campaign
3. What our next steps will be, and
4. How you can help enlist Catholic leaders to sign the declaration

[Register for the webinar here.](#) We hope you can join us.

## Unconscionable: Temporary Protected Status for Citizens of Nepal Terminated

Last week, the Department of Homeland Security and the Trump Administration [announced](#) that it is terminating the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program for Nepal. The termination will take effect June 24, 2019. TPS protects individuals and families who would otherwise be in harm's way in their countries of origin and requires a careful assessment of country conditions.

Nepal was designated with TPS in June 2015 following a deadly 7.8 magnitude earthquake that displaced millions and destroyed 750,000 homes, 57,000 classrooms and 900 health care facilities. The earthquake struck less than 50 miles from the capital of Nepal, which is home to about 25% of Nepal's entire population.

Many advocacy organizations issued statements denouncing the termination, [including FAN](#). Clinic Legal has a [report](#) giving an overview of conditions in country since the earthquake and outlining the need for an extension.

We continue to urge Congress to fix this injustice by creating permanent pathways to citizenship for all displaced people.

