

Publication Date: June 18, 2018

Reflection Date: June 24, 2018: Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

Speaking Truth to Power

Speaking Truth to Power is a Biblical Tradition, calling for personal and corporate penance and change, that never ends well.

There really isn't a lot known about John the Baptist, except, as Luke writes about in [this week's Gospel](#), that John was conceived in a miraculous manner and that his parents were Zachary and Elizabeth. We also know that when Mary the Mother of Jesus heard about Elizabeth's unexpected pregnancy, the child in her own womb leaped for joy.



In the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, God is pleased by David, "a man after my own heart; he will carry out my every wish." (Acts 13:22) So John, coming from the house of David, is bestowed the role to "proclaim a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel" (Acts 13:24) and to baptise Jesus, proclaim Jesus as the Saviour and to rebuke Herod for his public sins.

We all know how John the Baptist's life ended. He like so many of the prophets of the Old Testament, as well as Jesus, said yes even to the point of death to do God's will and to call for repentance and change of lives, hearts and society.

May we all take time this week to meditate and accept God's call to us to share the Good News, never counting the cost and never wavering to embrace those who agree and even disagree with us. For we may be the only Gospel that people see in their lives.

Br. Paul Crawford, OFM Cap.
FAN Board Member

Suggested Action:

Spread the Good News to members of Congress this week and take action on climate and immigration issues. (Further details below)

Suggested Petitions:

For all those who speak truth to power; may they be filled with faith that never waivers. We pray...

For all those in power; may their hearts be open to see as God sees, hear as God hears, and love as God loves. We pray...

Collect Prayer (From Mass during the day):

O God, who raised up Saint John the Baptist

to make ready a nation fit for Christ the Lord,
give your people, we pray,
the grace of spiritual joys
and direct the hearts of all the faithful
into the way of salvation and peace.
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

Take Action: Join World Refugee Day National Call-in Week

As [World Refugee Day](#) approaches this week, we join with other faith organizations in a national call-in week. It is critical that Members of Congress and the administration hear their constituents support for refugees, decry record-low refugee arrivals, and call for robust refugee resettlement in the United States. We urge our members and friends to take action this week by calling your Members of Congress.



[Click here](#) to call your 2 Senators and 1 Representative between June 18th-June 22nd and urge them to do everything in their power to see the administration resettle at least 45,000 refugees in 2018 and commit to resettling at least 75,000 refugees next year.

Here is a sample script: *"I'm your constituent from [CITY/TOWN] and a person of faith. I urge you to support the U.S. refugee resettlement program. I strongly oppose President Trump's continued Muslim and refugee bans, as well as the all-time low cap on refugee admissions. I urge you to do everything in your power to see that the administration resettle at least the 45,000 refugees they have set as the cap for 2018 and see the administration commit to resettling at least 75,000 for 2019. Resettlement is a core American legacy that allows the world's most vulnerable refugees to rebuild their lives in safety and dignity. My community welcomes refugees, and I urge you to reflect the best of our nation's values by supporting the refugee resettlement program."*

We urge our members and friends to take action and offer again the Interfaith Immigration Coalition [Faith Community toolkit](#) and the Justice for Immigrants' [World Refugee Day Toolkit](#).

Take Action: We Must Speak Out Against Family

Separation

Families are the foundation of our communities, and as people of faith, we know the importance of family unity. Right now, the administration is shamefully separating parents from their children at the U.S. border, in an effort to deter parents from attempting to illegally cross the border. Since this 'zero tolerance policy' began being enforced, hundreds of children have been ripped from their families: 658 kids in a two-week period alone. No one benefits when families cannot be together. FAN released this [statement](#) last week in response. Some members of Congress see the cruelty in these separations and [introduced](#) the Keep Families Together Act. We applaud this effort.



Last week faith advocates organized a national day of action, but we don't want it to stop. It is critical that we continue to make our voices heard and tell our elected leaders to stop family separation and protect family unity. Here are some ways to take action, courtesy of [Church World Service](#):

- **Call Members of Congress:** [Click here](#) to be connected to your 2 Senators and 1 Representative. Here's an example of what to say: *"I'm your constituent from [CITY/TOWN], and [as a person of faith], I urge you to support policies that protect and unite immigrant and refugee families. The administration is detaining and prosecuting parents, and forcibly separating them from their children. I value the sanctity of the family and believe Congress should act to bring families together, not keep them apart. I call on you to do everything in your power to stop family separation. Congress should increase oversight over the Department of Homeland Security and urge them to end unjust policies. Congress should cut funding for harmful immigration enforcement that separates families."*
- **Amplify on Social Media:** [Click here](#) for a digital media toolkit with sample social media posts and graphics. Use the hashtag #FamiliesBelongTogether.
- **Write Opinion Editorials** for Local Media Outlets: [Click here](#) for a template op-ed.
- **Sign the Petition:** [Click here](#) to sign the petition and demand that families belong together.

Take to the Streets with the Poor People's Campaign

A little over one month ago, we helped launch the most expansive wave of nonviolent civil disobedience in U.S. history with the [Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival](#).

Members of the campaign continue to risk arrest with poor people, clergy and advocates demanding policies that lift up the poor in this country. We know our actions are getting elected leaders' attention because every week,



scores of people committing nonviolent civil disobedience with the campaign get arrested in state capitals from coast to coast.

Our leaders are trying to keep us quiet because they don't want anything to change.

But they can't keep us quiet anymore. [On Saturday June 23, people are busing into Washington, D.C. for a massive rally on the National Mall, and we want you to be there.](#)

We need you to show up and let politicians know there are consequences to undermining access to the ballot box, destroying healthcare and the social safety net, and slashing wages. [RSVP on Facebook](#) or send an email to [let us know](#) if you'll be there.

Save the Date for the Season of Creation and other Climate News

Last week, Pope Francis [spoke](#) to the heads of some of the world's largest oil companies, including Exxon Mobil and BP. He told them, "Progress has indeed been made. But is it enough? Will we turn the corner in time?"



SEASON OF CREATION

Our faith gives us hope and strength to solve the challenges we share. We invite you to join Christians around the world in celebrating the [Season of Creation](#) from September 1st through October 4th.

The Season of Creation is an annual celebration of prayer and action for creation. Culminating on St. Francis' feast day, October 4th, the annual Season of Creation celebration was created by our friends and partners at the [Global Catholic Climate Movement](#). Each year sees an increase in people around the world joining together as one to preserve our common home and protect those who share it. We urge our members and friends to plan on joining us in celebrating the [Season of Creation](#).

We also want to make you aware of the [Global Climate Action Summit](#) taking place in San Francisco, CA this September. The Summit will bring leaders and people together from around the world to "Take Ambition to the Next Level." It will be a moment to celebrate achievements but also to deepen worldwide commitments and accelerate action. You can learn more about the summit [here](#).

Finally, FAN is involved in the promotion of the [Catholic Climate Declaration](#) being hosted by the Catholic Climate Covenant. If your community or institution has not yet signed, please urge them to do so at [this link](#). We want to show the world in a strong unified voice that Catholics are Still In the Paris Agreement.

Take Action by June 19th: Leave Comment Opposing Offshore Oil Drilling in the Arctic

The [Bureau of Land Management](#) is accepting comments from the public as it takes the initial steps toward opening the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to off shore oil drilling. Drilling would have a devastating impact on the ecosystem as well as on the indigenous Gwich'in tribe who lives on the land.



The comment period is open until tomorrow, June 19th. Comments can be sent by any of the following methods:

Online: [Click this link](#)

Email: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Let the Bureau of Land Management know that you oppose opening the Refuge to drilling and that you stand with the Gwich'in People.