

Publication Date: July 2, 2018

Reflection Date: July 8, 2018: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Time for 'prophets'

On the [14th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#), when the times are anything but "ordinary," the scripture readings draw attention to prophets. Prophets with a capital P come to mind: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and other Hebrew Prophets; John the Baptist; Jesus himself who, pained at the lack of acceptance in his hometown, declares "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place...."

God raises up prophets in times of crisis. Their mission is not to predict the future but to remind the people, especially those who govern, that God is present in the political and social crises of the time and demand that policies and laws must be in accordance with God's will and desires. "Thy kingdom come, they will be done on earth as it is in heaven," we pray so often in the prayer that Jesus gave us. If we pray these words sincerely, can we possibly see God's will in the separation and detention of immigrant families, in tearing children away from their parents, closing doors to refugees, declaring "not wanted here" to people from majority Muslim countries, enacting legislation to cut food stamps and harm God's creation while bloating the military budget?

So, where are today's prophets? There are many lower case "p" prophets if we see with God's eyes, and they may include the face in your mirror. Prophets in every age, no matter what the historical crisis, share two things in common: they speak truth to power, reminding the community that God's desires prevail over political expediency, and they suffer. If I hesitate because I am too small, too weak, to speak with a prophetic voice, I can pray with Paul: "Therefore, I am content with weakness, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

Sr. Marie Lucey, OSF
FAN Associate Director

Suggested Action:

"One of the most calming and powerful actions you can do to intervene in a stormy world is to stand up and show your soul. Struggling souls catch light from other souls who are fully lit and willing to show it." - Clarissa Pinkola Estes

Consider the ways in which you are, or can be, a small "p" prophet. Believe that you are strong in Jesus Christ.

Suggested Petitions:



With gratitude for today's prophets and martyrs, especially Archbishop Oscar Romero who will be canonized in October, let us pray. . .

That we may accept the challenge to speak with a prophetic voice in this very disturbing time, let us pray. . .

Prayer -US Catholic Bishops

God of justice, open our eyes to see you in the face of the poor.

Open our ears to hear you in the cries of the exploited.

Open our mouths to defend you in the public square.

Remind us that what we do to the least ones, we do to you.

Amen.

Save the Date for FAN's 10th Anniversary Award Celebration

This year, the Franciscan Action Network continues to celebrate our 10th Anniversary. We hope you will save the date for our annual award celebration where FAN's board and staff will honor several of our friends from our partner immigration advocacy organizations.

Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served and music will be provided by [The Carolans](#), an Irish/Folk Music group.

When: Thursday, November 15, 2018

Time: 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Where: St. Francis Hall Washington, D.C.

Tickets: \$100/person (discount available for vowed religious)



We hope you can join us to support, honor and uplift the great work of [CASA](#), [NAKASEC](#) and the [Interfaith Immigration Coalition](#).

Take Action: Muslim Travel Ban Upheld by Supreme Court

In a disappointing ruling by the Supreme Court last week, the travel ban from several Muslim-majority countries remains in tact. FAN staff [attended a rally](#) at the Supreme Court building in Washington, DC as the announcement was made public.

Many organizations and advocates issued statements in opposition, [including FAN](#). The USCCB, Catholic



Charities USA, and Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC) filed a [friend-of-the-court brief](#) before the Supreme Court advocating that the travel ban be struck down as a violation of the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment.

FAN has reinforced our commitment to continue working and advocating for our Muslim friends. Our partners at FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) sent us this [action alert](#) to call on Congress to reverse this immoral policy. We urge our members to [take action](#) immediately.

Franciscans and People of Faith Caring for Migrants at Border

Fr. Tom Smith, OFM, Conv. who runs the [Holy Cross Retreat Center](#) in Las Cruces, NM has housed 500 migrants since Nov. 2016. This [past week](#), he and another priest requested access and offered to provide pastoral care to those in the Tornillo, TX detention center but were not allowed entry. Fr. Tom spoke later that evening at a rally. You can [read his remarks here](#).



We are hearing of more great work being done by people of faith on behalf of family unity. The Sisters of Good Shepherd, Maryknoll and Columban Missionaries as well as other Catholic activists are in El Paso fighting the family separation injustices. [Read more here](#). The Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word offer this handy [one-page document](#) with five ways to get involved in supporting immigrants and refugees. The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) have sent out a request to [urge Congress](#) to reject legislation that expands family detention. We urge our members to respond in some way.

The work of Fr. Tom and others along the border is so powerful. We hope you are as inspired as we are and commit to continue to act on behalf of our immigrant sisters and brothers.

Franciscans Join Prayer Service at ICE Facility in Ohio

Sister Jane Blabolil, SSJ-TOSF was one of four Franciscan sisters (*pictured, far right*) who attended an Interfaith Prayer service at an ICE Detention facility in Independence, Ohio last week.

The service brought together approximately 200 people representing the Buddhist, Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths. The service closed with a prayer, then participants joined in singing "We shall Overcome" and saying the phrase "We see you, we love you, we stand with you" to those in



the detention center.

We are always thrilled to see Franciscans taking action for our immigrant sisters and brothers. If your community has been involved in some way please [let us know](#) about it.

“Apple Forecast” Documentary Available to Watch on FAN Website

In 2014, FAN was contacted by Kathryn Smith Pyle, a Sundance Institute Fellow and documentary filmmaker. Dedicated to grassroots development and giving voice to marginalized communities, often through community media projects, she asked if FAN would be willing to host on our website her short documentary about the need for immigration reform, called “[Apple Forecast](#).” After seeing it, we were proud to accommodate her.

Four years later, it is even more valid and relevant.

[Farm Labor](#) is Kathryn’s independent documentary film project in support of comprehensive immigration reform. It explores stories of family farms and hired farm laborers through short films, links to current events, and partnerships.

We invite you to watch Kathryn's short film "[Apple Forecast](#)" and keep having conversations about comprehensive immigration reform.

