

Publication Date: August 6, 2018

Reflection Date: August 12, 2018: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

I am the Living Bread

Why did Elijah want to die? In reading the chapter before and after the [first reading](#) for this week's Liturgy, I learned that he is running away from Jezebel who had threatened to do to him what was done to the prophets of Baal, and before them to all the prophets in Israel. Elijah is the only prophet left and is afraid for his life. So he runs away, leaves the servant behind, and walks alone into the desert for a day. Tired, hungry, and scared; he has had enough; he wants to end it here and now.

I have not yet experienced so much fear and anxiety to the point of wanting to die, but we too sometimes allow fear, anxiety, grief to take hold of us. Feeling overwhelmed, we think we cannot go on one minute more. This reading is definitely a comfort to us as we realize that God does not abandon us. Until our mission is done, however long or short that may be, something, someone will surely come to help us, and tell us to "get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you".



The journey of life is indeed sometimes a long and difficult one. We need sustenance of different kinds: material, moral, and spiritual. Jesus offers it to us when he says: "I am the bread of life...so that one may eat it and not die." We so need this food, as we need courage to continue to do the right thing, to make the right choices, keeping in mind those who are poor, oppressed, dispossessed, those who do not have a voice, those who are running for their lives, and continue even if we are afraid and frustrated, and for some even at risk of their lives. It takes trust in our convictions and firm belief that God's help will be there, to remain firm in following what our heart tells us is God's desire. "I sought the Lord and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears." Ps 34

It took a couple of promptings, but Elijah got up, ate and drank. Then, strengthened by that food, he walked to the mountain of God, Horeb, and on that mountain God spoke to him in a cave in a gentle breeze making clear to him his next steps.

For us, Paul's letter to the Ephesians leaves no doubt which are our next steps, as baptized people sealed with the Holy Spirit: "All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ." We surely need this message today. In our divided world, when doing the Christian thing is made more and more difficult by events of the day, we need to cherish the comfort of the Bread offered to us as a call to unity, to live in love.

Like Elijah we may need more than one prodding to wake us up and make us realize that we do not need to fear, that the Bread which comes down from heaven will be with us to nourish and sustain us in the journey of our own deserts. When fear and discouragement seem to take the joy out of life, let us repeat to ourselves "I am the Living Bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever". And so, we walk on!

Sr. Maria Orlandini
FAN Director of Advocacy

Suggested Actions:

In our divided country make some efforts to engage in a conversation or a meal with someone who may not agree with your choices.

Use this quote as a mantra this week: "I will not mistrust God, though I shall feel myself weakening and on the verge of being overcome with fear...I trust God shall place a holy hand on me and in the stormy seas hold me up from drowning." - St. Thomas More

Suggested Petitions:

For our country, that we may find ways to be united in caring for those who are in need of food, love, encouragement and welcome. We pray...

For world leaders, especially our president, that they may work to create peace and compassion among nations. We pray...

For parents looking for a better life for their children at our border, may we welcome them as brothers and sisters because we can and we must. We pray...

Collect Prayer

**Almighty ever-living God,
whom, taught by the Holy Spirit,
we dare to call our Father,
bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts
the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters,
that we may merit to enter the inheritance
which you have promised.
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 Mission Service Still Placing D.C. Service
Corps Members for 2018-2019**

Our friends at [Franciscan Mission Service](#) (FMS) celebrated a fantastic year with their [DC Service Corps volunteers](#). Pictured is a photo from their sending forth mass, celebrated by Fr. Joe Nangle, OFM. We know they will all do great things in their new adventures.



FMS is still recruiting a Program Associate and several direct service volunteers to join next year's class of DC Service Corps. The Programs Associate position specifically supports our Overseas Lay Mission program and is a particularly good fit for former international volunteers, transitioning back to the U.S. This year's Program Associate joined FMS after spending a year in the Dominican Republic. Individuals from a variety of backgrounds and majors thrive in the direct service positions.

Come work with FMS and their fabulous office staff, live in intentional community in a beautiful part of DC, deepen your faith, and become a part of this fantastic family. [Interested or know someone](#) who is? The FMS staff would love to talk with you. Please help spread the word about this fantastic opportunity.

Take Action: Demand Congress protect workers' rights, wages, and the environment

Too many Americans haven't seen a pay increase in years and can't find better-paying jobs in part because of corporate-rigged trade deals like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

The Trump administration has been renegotiating NAFTA for a year, and the deadline for a deal this year is approaching. The stakes could not be higher for workers and the environment throughout North America. That's why we've joined Public Citizen, Sierra Club, the AFL-CIO and more than a dozen progressive organizations to [make plain our demands for any NAFTA replacement](#).



We urge our members to take action and [sign the petition](#) to Congress: Any NAFTA Replacement Must End ISDS and Include Strong Labor and Environmental Standards.

NAFTA's lack of labor or environmental standards contributed to a reduction in wages in Mexico, where now wages are below those in coastal China. Under NAFTA, U.S. firms that outsource production to Mexico can pay industrial workers less than \$2 an hour and dump toxins with no penalty. In the United States, 951,000 jobs have been certified by the government as lost to NAFTA, with more being outsourced every week.

As representatives from Mexico, the United States and Canada rush to finish NAFTA

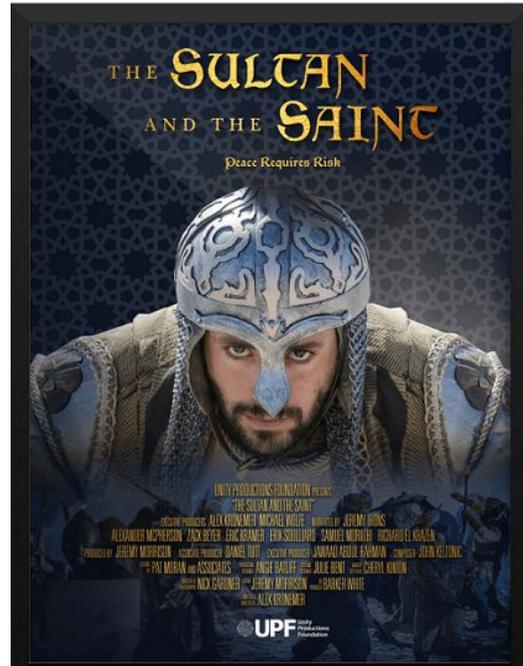
renegotiations, **we must fight for a deal that puts people and the planet above corporate profits.** [Add your name today.](#)

Sultan and the Saint Nominated for an Emmy Award

Our good friends at Unity Productions Foundation (UPF) shared some great news with us last week. [The Sultan and the Saint](#) has been nominated for an Emmy Award for Outstanding Lighting and Art Design.

“This is a great honor,” said Alex Kronemer, Director of the film and Co-Founder of UPF (with Michael Wolfe). “It could not have happened without an amazing group of Muslim, Christian, Jewish and Civic underwriters. Their joining together to fund this film about interfaith peacemaking is itself a major distinction in our divisive times. We are especially grateful to FAN for all of their leadership in helping us coordinate the dozens of film premieres across the country.”

Upon hearing the news, our own Patrick Carolan had this to say: “We are so excited for Alex, Michael and everyone at UPF. Over the past years, we have gotten to know these people well and all the hard work and effort put in to this film really shows the passion they have for accurately portraying what Franciscans have known: That the Muslim faith tradition is very peaceful and loving and aligns very closely with our own. We congratulate the whole UPF team and look forward to more opportunities to partner with them.”

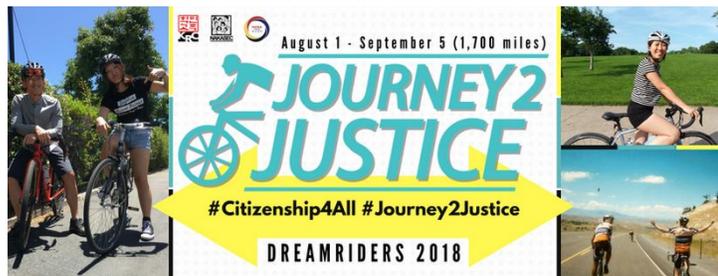


You can still [order a copy of Sultan and the Saint](#) on DVD from our website.

Updates on The Journey to Justice with NAKASEC

Our friends at [NAKASEC](#) sent us a few ways to keep updated on the [Journey to Justice](#) happening throughout August.

Here is a [video of the live kick off event](#), which happened August 1st in Seattle, WA.



The young Dream Riders have been getting interviewed in a short series called "J2J Q&A" where they are sharing their immigration story, why they are riding, and how folks can support them on their journey. [See some of those videos here.](#)

To keep seeing updates from the road, follow [NAKASEC's Facebook page](#) and be sure to follow NAKASEC on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) for even more updates. To make it easier to find posts, all social media will be marked with one or all of the following hashtags: #Journey2Justice #Citizenship4all #dreamriders2018

Good luck, Dream Riders, we are keeping you all in prayer!

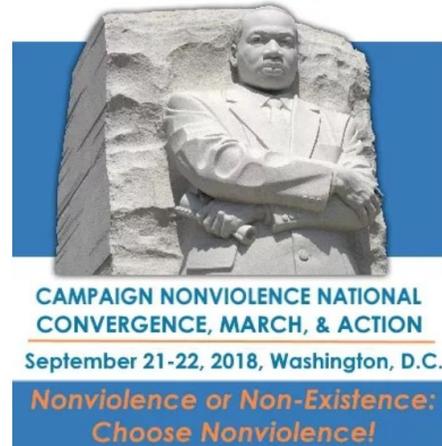
Save the Date: Campaign Nonviolence Week of Actions

2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. The night before he was killed, he told the crowd in Memphis, "The choice is no longer violence or nonviolence; it's nonviolence or non-existence."

Fifty years later, we are struggling more than ever between nonviolence or non-existence. Through the [Campaign Nonviolence National Week of Action](#) every September, tens of thousands of us have chosen nonviolence and taken to the streets to call for a new culture of nonviolence.

On Sept. 21, 2018, International Peace Day, join Campaign Nonviolence for an evening of reflection on five years of the Campaign and the next steps forward. The following day, Sept. 22, 2018, will see a rally at the Martin Luther King, Jr. monument at 9am ET and a silent march to the White House.

Find more information on these actions on the [Pace e Bene website](#), including speakers, schedule of events, and registration information. We hope you can join us during the week of actions this September.



Have you Planned your Season of Creation Event?

The [Season of Creation](#) is nearly upon us. It begins September 1st and continues through to St. Francis' Feast Day, October 4th. Our friends at the Global Catholic Climate Movement have developed a [celebration guide](#) to help organize an event during this year's Season of Creation. Whether you decide to plant a tree, march for climate justice, or hold a prayer service, your presence matters.



SEASON OF CREATION

The [Catholic Climate Covenant](#) has developed unique program this year which will explore the interconnection between immigration, refugees, and climate change. The program will be released this month and will include prayers, readings, a short video, and suggested activities

all with the theme, "Who is my neighbor in a climate threatened world?" [Reserve your copy here](#).

We urge our members to take advantage of these resources and begin to plan your event today. You can [register your Season of Creation event](#) here.

Immigration Webinars and a Refugee Action Toolkit

We shared with you last week that the Interfaith Immigration Coalition and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Justice for Immigrants campaign hosted a webinar on Family Separation and Engaging Congress during their August Recess. The webinar hit a participant maximum earlier than expected, so we offer the [video recording of the webinar](#) here. Additionally, the [Justice for Immigrants](#) website, the [August 2018 Toolkit](#), and the [End Family Separation Toolkit](#) have many resources to help you as you reach out to lawmakers over the next few weeks.



TODAY, the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Justice for Immigrants Campaign will be offering a webinar on Corporate Accountability and Alternatives to Detention on **Monday August 6th, 2pm EST/ 11am PST**. Attendees will learn about the system of profit around immigrant detention, including family detention, how to use economic leverage for more just U.S. policies, and more about alternatives to detention. [Register for this webinar here](#).

Finally, there is word that the President will reduce the number of refugees allowed to 25,000 in the 2019 Presidential Determination. We must continue to speak on behalf of those brave people who seek to escape war, poverty, and violence in their home countries. This [toolkit on Presidential Determination](#) was developed by the Justice for Immigrants campaign. It contains information and action steps for you to use when visiting your elected officials.