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Reflection Date: August 19, 2018: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

I AM

We live in an time of 'seeing is believing.' You can put just about any kind of phase or ask how to do something in to a search engine and there's a video for that. Now, I am probably the most frequent user of that gift. Just last week, I could not figure out how to put a plastic luggage tag on my suitcase for a trip, until I watched it on YouTube. To be honest, I use this method a lot, especially on technical issues.

In the [first reading](#) from the Book of Proverbs this week, we hear "To the one that lacks understanding ...come ...advance in the way of understanding."

In Ephesians we read, "Watch carefully how you live, not as a foolish person but as wise, making the most of the opportunity,..."

I might be off on this since I am not a Scripture Scholar, but as I reflect on this week's readings I can only remember three times in the bible when God uses the phase, "I AM".

The first time was to Moses when God replied after being asked for a name, "I AM" and then in this Sunday's Gospel, when Jesus tells the crowds, "I AM the bread of life." The final time was in Matthew 28:20 when Jesus says, "I AM with you always until the end of time."

May God reveal to us today as we gather around the table of the Lord, the greatest miracle of how the Eucharist makes us one. May we trust in the Lord to reveal to us what we need to know to continue to live a life of faith in our world today.

Br. Paul Crawford, OFM Cap.
FAN Board Member

Suggested Action:

This week, commit to deepen your faith by accomplishing small goals. Choose to read about the [saint of the day](#), take a [three-minute retreat](#), or sign up for a [daily prayer guide](#).

Suggested Petitions:

May our hearts be open to receive the gift of knowledge and faithful wisdom, we pray....
May we yearn for the grace and courage to make the most of our opportunities to spread the love of God, we pray...

Collect Prayer:



O God, who have prepared for those who love you
good things which no eye can see,
fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love,
so that, loving you in all things and above all things,
we may attain your promises,
which surpass every human desire.
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

The Latest on DACA on Family Separation

After a district judge in Washington, DC [ruled](#) that ending DACA was wrong, [United We Dream](#) sent out a notification blast to ensure all DACA recipients know they should **renew NOW if their DACA expires before 2020**. They have a support guide available with everything DACA recipients need at renewmydaca.com.

Justice for Immigrants has produced several informative documents and toolkits on several topics related to current immigration policies. We offer them here for your reference:

1. This FAQ document has comprehensive answers to top questions about the current [Catch and Release policy](#).
2. There are updates to previously released “**Five Ways to Stop Family Separation**” available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
3. Last week, we shared with you this [Presidential Determination toolkit](#). JFI will be hosting a **webinar about this on Aug. 21st**. We will share the registration details as soon as they are available.
4. Here are links to the [recording](#) and [Powerpoint slides](#) from last week’s webinar on private prisons, corporate accountability and detention.

Finally, the Interfaith Immigration Coalition has created this [video](#) which video urges viewers to take action while their members of Congress are home and directs you to the [August 2018 toolkit](#). We encourage you to [watch and share it](#) widely on social media using the hashtag #FaithfulCivicEngagement.



Make a Personal Commitment to Live the Change

We believe the Earth is sacred and that each of us has the responsibility to live in a way that helps preserve our common home for the wellbeing of all people today, as well as for all generations to come ... and we are honoring this belief by [Living the Change!](#)



We invite you to celebrate our shared planet together with us and - as part of this global, interfaith initiative - to [make a personal commitment to live more sustainably](#).

We are organizing commitments within three categories of behavior - transportation, energy use, and diet - which leading scientists have identified as the most important focus areas for sustainable behavior change.

These commitments are being made by diverse people representing many faiths, religions, and spiritual ways of life around the world, and will be presented collectively to high-level decision makers at the [Global Climate Action Summit](#) in San Francisco this September.

We urge all members to [make at least one personal commitment](#), and join us in celebrating and safeguarding the beauty of our common home!

Updates in Gun Violence Prevention

Last week, the [Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence](#) launched [End Family Fire](#), a national gun safety movement aimed at putting safety first, with a mission to promote responsible gun ownership. The campaign aims to put a name to the gun-related injuries that occur in or near the home. These incidents, known as Family Fire, kill or injure 8 children every day. We urge our members to [spread the word](#) about this important campaign on gun safety.



Two years ago, 2016 saw the first ever [Concert Across America](#) to end gun violence. It's mission to remember the tremendous loss of life that gun violence has cost our communities, that first year featured more than 5,200 artists at 350 musical events in 43 states.

This year, concerts are [taking place](#) from Sept. 20 to Sept. 30. The anchor event will take place in Parkland, Florida, on Sept. 30. This year's song is called "[Shine](#)." It was written by two students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school and is dedicated to all those lost, injured, and affected by the tragic shooting on February 14th, 2018. We urge our members to [participate in this year's concert](#).

Refugee Resettlement in the U.S. is at Dire Risk

Since taking office, the Trump Administration has launched ongoing attacks on refugee resettlement, from halting refugee admissions as part of his travel ban to nominating the virulently anti-immigrant/refugee Ronald Mortensen to lead the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration at the State Department.



Last year, the refugee admissions goal was set at 45,000 – the lowest level in U.S. history. Even more upsetting is that we are on track to resettle less than half that number. Now, the president has signaled his intention to reduce refugee admissions even further.

We are facing the largest global refugee crisis in recorded history, with more than 68.5 million people displaced from their homes, 25.4 million of whom are registered refugees. Refugee resettlement saves lives, encourages other countries to keep their doors open to people needing protection, and promotes regional stability and global security. With global need at its highest, we can not allow the continued systematic dismantling of our U.S. refugee resettlement program.

This **Wednesday, August 15 from 12p-12:30p ET / 9a-9:30a PT**, join the [Welcome 75k Refugees webinar](#) hosted by We Are All America. This webinar is a call to action where participants will learn about the [#Welcome75k Toolkit](#) and hear what you can do now to support this life-saving work. [Register here](#). *Dial in instructions will be provided upon registration.*

Join us as we Rise for Climate, Jobs, Justice on September 8

In exactly one month, we're joining the People's Climate Movement and partners from around the world, in bringing tens of thousands of people from across the country into the streets to show our elected leaders that we demand action on climate change.

Eight weeks later, millions more will take those demands to the polls, making Climate, Jobs, and Justice deciding issues in the midterm elections and beyond.



[Will you join us?](#)

Our planet, livelihoods, and democracy are under attack - it's time for bold leadership to reclaim our future. But to change everything, we need everyone: In the streets, at the ballot box, and beyond.

With the 2018 midterm elections fast approaching, now is the time to engage and mobilize our

communities for climate, jobs, and justice.

[Pledge to join](#) tens of thousands of people taking action to demand bold climate action on September 8th, and beyond.

Take Action: Sign Petition to end Privatized Prisons and Detention Centers

We just learned that the deadline for signatures on this petition was extended to TODAY, August 13th. If you haven't taken action yet, today is your last chance! Tell Congress to end privatized detention and incarceration centers. They are big business for private companies but the care they offer has been [reported](#) as negligent and abusive.

Between 2014 and 2018, the Office of Refugee Resettlement paid private companies [\\$3.4 billion](#) to house migrant children. Further, 44 percent of those companies face serious, well documented reports and allegations of child maltreatment.

In these centers children suffer from:

- Forced administration of psychotropic drugs
- Jail-like conditions with armed officers
- Physical abuse, sexual abuse and even death
-

[We need to demand Congress end privatizing detention & incarceration now.](#)

Another [\\$2 billion](#) is spent on adults facilities--more of which are being built to support the Trump administration's immoral immigration policy. These privatized detention centers are big money makers for the industry and are rife with physical, psychological, and sexual abuses, that include forced labor, inadequate medical care, and failure to respond to abuses suffered by detainees such as rape.

As people of faith, we can't allow the government, who is supposed to be representing our values, to continue to profit from the mistreatment of our immigrant and refugee brothers and sisters.

[Sign this petition to demand that Congress stop privatizing detention & incarceration centers that abuse thousands of immigrant children and families.](#)

We continue to advocate and work for fair treatment of all migrants and refugees seeking asylum and escaping war and persecution in their home countries. We will continue to advocate to remove the corrupting influence of big money in politics and how it influences our everyday life. We hope that you will act and stand with us on this important action.



