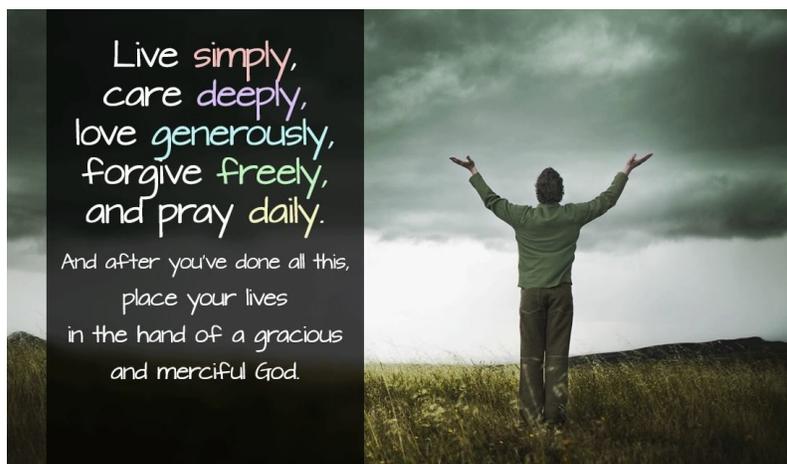


Publication Date: August 20, 2018

Reflection Date: August 26, 2018: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time:

We cannot turn away!

Much in our readings for this [Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time](#) call us to deepen our relationships, widen our attentiveness, and expand our compassion and kindness. This is a call to be more deeply committed in our living and in our relationships with one another and with God.



Joshua gathered all the people of the tribes of Israel, especially naming the elders, the leaders, the judges, and the officers. He was direct in his question to the people. "If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve..." Joshua goes on to name the many gods whom the people once followed. He stirred their memory. "Our God...brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, out of a state of slavery. God performed those great miracles before our very eyes and protected us along our entire journey." Joshua called them to remember and wanted their firm commitment to be faithful to God's covenant.

Paul's letter to the Ephesians is often misunderstood with its call for wives to be subordinate and submissive to their husbands. We need to remember the culture and the context in which this letter was written and not get caught up in its language, which today is oppressive and domineering. Rather, let us focus on Christ's coming to dwell within our humanity as God's action of love and a desire to be one with all people and with all of creation. God did not create humans to have power over creation. So we are called to dwell in love and in relationship with one another and with all of God's creation.

In the gospel we are reminded that the way of Christ, the way of Crucified Love, is not an easy road. It is a life that calls for deep commitment. It calls us to experience life in ways that are profoundly meaningful. We hear that for many of the disciples, who traveled with Jesus and the apostles, the way became too difficult. They left and returned to their former way of life. Jesus then asked those closest to him, the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?"

This is always the question we must ask in our own commitment to the way of Crucified Love, especially with the challenges before us today. Living attentively and faithfully means that we cannot turn away from the truth of the destruction and deterioration that we are inflicting on our Sister Mother Earth. We cannot turn away from the harsh and callous policies that separate immigrant infants and children from parents who are seeking asylum and a better way of life for themselves and their children. We cannot turn away from the apprehension and fear that many children, teens and families face as they prepare for another school year without changes that

are needed in our policies on gun control that would protect them and allow them the safety and peace they deserve.

Living each day, faithfully and attentively, is a call to speak out, to advocate for change and to work for justice. Our Franciscan call to ongoing conversion challenges us to change our ways and our attitudes, so that we may effect change and promote deeper connectivity among all people and all of creation. Let us not turn away! Let us truly live our Spirit and Life!

Sr. Margaret Magee, OSF
FAN Board President

Suggested Action:

This week, deeply contemplate your faith and what effort you are willing to put in to acting it out in society.

Suggestion Petitions:

May our hearts be open to receive the courage and strength we need to follow the Crucified Christ and live a faithful, attentive life. We pray...

May all those suffering from injustice and oppression be filled with the grace and love of God. We pray...

Collect Prayer:

**O God, who cause the minds of the faithful
to unite in a single purpose,
grant your people to love what you command
and to desire what you promise,
that, amid the uncertainties of this world,
our hearts may be fixed on that place
where true gladness is found.
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

Registration Is Open for FAN's 10th Anniversary Award Benefit

Since 2008, the Franciscan Action Network has been organizing people of faith to stand up for those who are marginalized. Despite a limited budget and small staff, FAN has been successful in bringing a Franciscan voice to the national conversation about the moral values of our country. We are happy to be celebrating our [10th Anniversary at our award benefit](#) this



year.

This fall is especially significant as we wrap up a year of celebrations when we gather on November 15, 2018 for our annual award benefit. We will honor three very special organizations with whom we partner on a regular basis: [CASA](#), [NAKASEC](#) and the [Interfaith Immigration Coalition](#). These groups work hard every day to advocate with and support our immigrant and refugee brothers and sisters. Their message of welcoming the stranger and caring for those in need aligns perfectly with FAN's mission, and we are honored to be able to uplift their work.

Please register to attend this fun-filled evening by [clicking this link](#). We look forward to celebrating with you. If you are unable to attend, we invite you to support our honorees by sponsoring the event. There is more information about sponsorship [online](#).

Campaign Nonviolence Week One Month Away

Pace e Bene is a Franciscan-based organization that has been spreading spiritually-grounded nonviolence for three decades by organizing action, publishing books, and leading workshops, including for FAN in its early days.

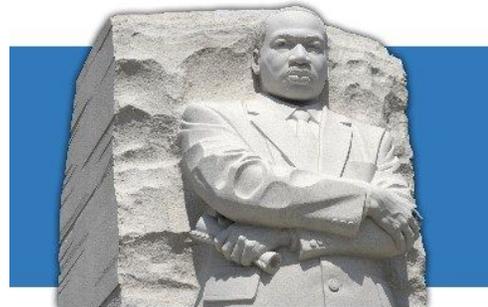
Now Campaign Nonviolence, a project of Pace e Bene, is busy organizing [a dramatic wave of 2,000 public actions](#) in all 50 states and around the world September 15-23 for a culture of peace and nonviolence.

As a Campaign Nonviolence endorser, FAN encourages people everywhere to join or organize a local march, rally or vigil as part of this Week of Nonviolent Action. [Click here to see the list of events and to add your own](#).

On the threshold of the pivotal Congressional elections, we will march to sharpen the stark historical choice before our nation and world: *More policies of violence and injustice—or a new course of nonviolence, justice and peace?*

From coast to coast we will mark the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's martyrdom; connect the dots between war, poverty, racism and environmental destruction; and publicly take another important step in the journey toward a more nonviolent society.

The centerpiece of the Campaign Nonviolence Action Week will be a **silent march on Saturday, September 22nd in Washington, DC from Dr. King's Memorial to the White House**, where we will summon ourselves, our communities and our government to reject violence and to enshrine nonviolence at the heart of our policies and practices. Some of us will deliver this call by taking nonviolent direct action. We will prepare for this event by gathering the day before on the International Day of Peace for training, reflection and sharing. Please consider acting locally and then joining the march in Washington. [Click here for more details](#). For more information, please visit [Campaign Nonviolence Week of Actions](#) or contact



**CAMPAIGN NONVIOLENCE NATIONAL
CONVERGENCE, MARCH, & ACTION**

September 21-22, 2018, Washington, D.C.

**Nonviolence or Non-Existence:
Choose Nonviolence!**

Ryan Hall at Pace e Bene at info@paceebene.org.

New Report Calls for Review of TPS Decisions

The [Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.](#) (CLINIC) and other legal, humanitarian and human rights organizations have been tracking irregularities in the Trump administration's decisions to cancel the protections of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for hundreds of thousands of people in addition to abnormalities in the way these decisions have been implemented. Their new report shows mounting evidence that calls into question the validity of these decisions and further investigation is warranted.



CLINIC is calling for Congress and independent investigators to thoroughly review the administration's handling of all TPS decisions to pursue justice for the more than 300,000 TPS holders and their families who are facing upheaval of their lives. You can read the report in its entirety [here](#).

Faith Communities are Praying for Refugees

We live in a time when an unprecedented 68.5 million people are displaced around the world, including more than 25 million refugees - the highest number in recorded history. With global need at its highest, troubling [news articles](#) have revealed that the administration is planning to further dismantle the refugee resettlement program, with reports indicating a new low of 25,000 refugees or even less. This reduction would follow this year's already historically low goal of 45,000, of which we have [only resettled 18,327 to date](#).

As people of faith, we join others from many faith traditions in a [week of prayer for refugees](#) starting yesterday, August 19th to show the solidarity of the faith community with refugees and to highlight the importance of the resettlement program.

Here are examples of how to join:

- Post written prayers for refugees on social media, faith-based blogs, newsletters, bulletins, and websites -- including the hashtag #Pray4Refugees.
- Ask your community or church to offer prayers in their weekly services.
- Invite a refugee to speak at a worship service, vigil, or special event.



There are many more suggestions along with prayers, liturgies and litanies in this [Pray for Refugees Toolkit](#). We urge our members and friends to join in this week of prayer for refugees.

Feast of St. Francis Program Available

The Catholic Climate Covenant has announced that the 2018 Feast of St. Francis Program, "[Who is My Neighbor in a Climate-Threatened World?](#)" is now available.

Every October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis (FOSF) celebrates the saint who saw all created beings as his brother or sister. Inspired by this example, [Catholic Climate Covenant](#) produces a free 90-minute catechetical program to help parishes, schools, and faith communities explore how they can better care for creation and the poor.

[Click here](#) to gain access to the Feast of St. Francis resources. Remember that the Feast of St. Francis Program can be used on October 4th or any date of your choosing.

