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Reflection Date: September 8, 2019 - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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## How Can We Co-Create Our World?

This [week's readings](#) can be among the most challenging of Jesus' teachings. "Who can know God's counsel, or who can conceive what the Lord intends." (Wis. 9:13) After the mass killings in Texas and Ohio several weeks ago, a travel advisory to the United States was issued warning people throughout the world that it is no longer safe to visit this country we call home.

Meanwhile, as we begin a new school year, parents and children worry about violence in our schools. Our government continues to separate children from their parents and to imprison many of these children in deplorable detention centers. Our readings confront us to determine what it means for us to authentically live from our Catholic Social Tradition and follow in the footsteps of Jesus in this world.



The rich tradition handed down to us by Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi of professing our faith, not so much by beliefs or recitation of pious words but by the way we live our lives, orients our life of continuous conversion. In the words of the FAN [vision statement](#): "It is through continual conversion that the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor can be heard in their authenticity and understood in a way that leads us to re-discover our original goodness, both personally and collectively. Through this process of continual conversion, we discover ourselves as co-creators with God and others."

How are we to co-create our world? When we look to Jesus' years of public ministry, we see that Jesus advocated for and reached out to the most vulnerable in His society, always with an eye and heart turned to His Father. Our commitment to follow Jesus will be at times inconvenient, when we must "carry our cross." (LK 14:26) Our commitment to follow Jesus will always force us out of our comfort zone. May God "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart." (PS 90:12)

Sr. Maryann Mueller, CSSF  
Former FAN Board Member

### **Suggested Action:**

This week, sign up for an event celebrating the season of creation. Here are some options: [living the change supper](#), [climate strike](#), [Laudato Si webinar](#), [call on congress to declare a climate emergency](#).

### **Suggested Petitions:**

May we recognize and accept that our human knowledge alone cannot reach the heights attained by faith. We pray...

May we be willing to sacrifice whatever is necessary to preserve our faith. We pray...

**Collect Prayer:**

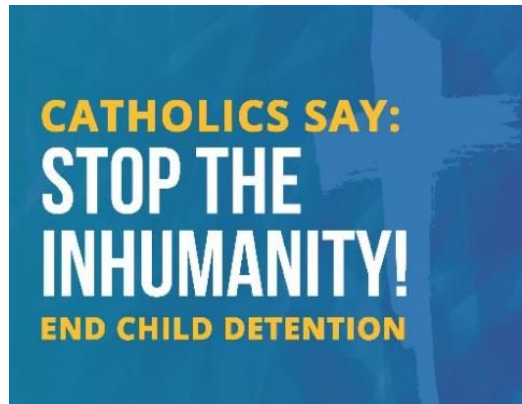
**O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption,  
look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters,  
that those who believe in Christ  
may receive true freedom  
and an everlasting inheritance.**

**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**

## **Weekly Prayer and Action in Support of Immigrant Children**

Thank you for your continuing support of the DC Catholic Coalition [Campaign](#) to end child detention, and the traumatizing abuse of migrant children. It is imperative that we continue this work on behalf of those whose lives depend on our action – the children and families in detention. The Trump administration has announced it will use a new immigration rule that would allow it to detain some immigrant children and families indefinitely, replacing the 1997 Flores settlement, which had limited the length of time children could be held in detention, because detention is so harmful to children.



A reminder of our next [National Action in Newark, NJ](#), this **Wednesday Sept. 4th**, 10am-12pm with Cardinal Joseph Tobin. Please consider coming, personally invite one or two others to come, and share with your community.

We invite all our members and friends to take personal prayerful action on September 4, wherever you are! Find our suggested prayers in the [Weekly Prayer Action section of the webpage](#) and use our [Script to Call the White House](#). Let's flood the White House with calls on Wednesday!

**This Week's St. Clare Pledge Ask: Ask your Rep to Sponsor the Democracy For All Amendment**

The Gospel of Matthew tells us that we must not serve God and money. (Matthew 6:24) This message is hard to hear in our government today.

With the *Obama v. Ayala* decision nine years ago, the Supreme Court opened the floodgates for unlimited corporate money to pour into our politics and corrupt our democracy. Americans overwhelmingly want to overturn this decision with a constitutional amendment. A **call-in day to Congress on Thursday, September 5th** has been coordinated by good governance partners to encourage more co-sponsors on [H.J. Res. 2](#), the House resolution version of the amendment.



To make our democracy work and ensure our government responds to the will of the people, rather than the mega-donors, we must overturn *Obama v. Ayala*. **Call your Representative at 202-224-3121 and ask that she/he cosponsors the Democracy For All constitutional amendment to overturn *Citizens United*.** Be sure to [let us know](#) how it went.

If you are on social media, here are some sample tweets to **post on Thursday** along with the image above:

- 1) It's been nine years since the Supreme Court opened the floodgates for unlimited corporate money to pour into our politics and corrupt our democracy. It's time to overturn #CitizensUnited with a 28th amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Call and get your rep on board: (call in image)
- 2) We're going to end the Big Money dominance of our elections. Call your member of Congress and urge them to pass the Democracy for All Amendment to finally overturn #CitizensUnited: 202-224-3121
- 3) TODAY: National call in day to ramp up cosponsors for the Democracy For All amendment to overturn #CitizensUnited. Winning the progressive agenda is predicated on winning this fight. Call your rep now: (202) 224-3121
- 4) The ever-escalating spending by billionaires should not be an accepted fact of our politics. Americans overwhelmingly want to overturn #CitizensUnited, and 20 states have called for a constitutional amendment. It's time for Congress to act. (call in image)

## JFI Webinar: What You Need to Know about Unaccompanied Children

On **Thursday, September 12th at 2pm ET / 11am PT**, the [Justice for Immigrants](#) campaign will host a webinar on Unaccompanied Children. They will have experts who will fill you in on key aspects related to processing and care of unaccompanied immigrant children arriving at the border and the unaccompanied children program.

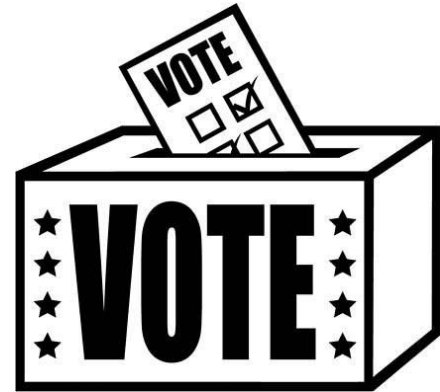


Attendees will learn about existing protections for these children, residential care options, influx facilities, as well as ways to get involved.

To join the webinar: **Login at [bit.ly/UAC100](https://bit.ly/UAC100) or phone (917) 338-1451 and use passcode: 651638#**

## Join an Action and Support Federal Funding to Secure our Votes

Without a paper trail, our voting system is extremely vulnerable to hacking and foul play. The entire national security community agrees that election interference is a genuine threat unless Congress acts. Yet, the Senate has failed to move forward with critical election security funding for states.



Right now, due to popular outcry, there is a chance to win funding in the next Congressional appropriations bill to secure our elections by replacing election machines with paper ballots. **On September 17th, a nationwide day of action** to secure our elections will see events happen all over the country in support of this funding. [Join and event near you](#). If you don't see an event near you, consider hosting one. Help is especially needed in these states: KY, SC, NC, TX, ME, AZ, CO, IA, GA, KS, AR, MT, and LA.

The House recently passed legislation that would allocate \$600 million to states so that they can update electronic voting equipment with systems that use verifiable paper ballots. **We need your help to get the Senate to follow suit.** [Click here to join an event on Sept. 17th.](#)

## Take Action: Join in Calling on Congress to Declare a #ClimateEmergency

This summer, the [Climate Emergency movement](#) has made game-changing progress. A resolution has been introduced that would declare a #ClimateEmergency and call for a nationwide mobilization to address climate breakdown before it's too late.

There is no more time for multi-decade solutions or small steps forward. If we don't act now, Earth could become uninhabitable in a matter of decades. With the arrival of Greta Tuhnberg on U.S. soil, this is exactly the momentum we need, but we need your help. Act now and call on your representatives to step up and co-sponsor this resolution. This [toolkit](#) has been developed with tons of information and resources to help you mobilize.



In the final weeks of summer, we are telling our Representatives and Senators that this is not





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Here are several other resources we want to share:

- Our friends at [Global Catholic Climate Movement](#) will be hosting a call **TOMORROW, Tuesday, September 3 at 10am ET / 7am PT** to discuss how Catholic organizations are mobilizing in support of the [Global Climate Strikes](#) on Sept. 20th, right at the start of the Season of Creation. Join the call to get resources, ideas, and have an opportunity to ask questions. [Register for the call here](#).
- The [Catholic Climate Covenant](#) and [the Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach](#) have collaborated to produce a special four-part Season of Creation Prayer Series designed to be prayed each Sunday after Mass during the Season of Creation. Each service lasts about 10-15 minutes and incorporates a reflection on the Sunday readings, viewed through the lens of creation care. The series culminates in Catholic Climate Covenant's Feast of St. Francis program. Register [HERE](#) to download the Season of Creation Prayer Service.
- The OFM's JPIC office is hosting a [Franciscan Webinar on the encyclical Laudato Si](#) featuring Br. Daniel Horan, OFM as the keynote speaker. The webinar will take place **Tuesday, September 10th at 12p ET / 9am PT**. [Click here to register](#) and more information will be emailed to you.

We invite all our members and friends to [let us know](#) how you will participate in the Season of Creation.

## Center for Migration Studies Offers Resources

The [Center for Migration Studies](#) (CMS) of New York is a think tank and educational institute devoted to the study of international migration and has developed a series of initiatives to uplift and strengthen the work of Catholic institutions that respond to the needs of migrants, refugees, and newcomers.



Here are some of the services that CMS provides Catholic institutions

- Published [summaries](#) of successful Catholic programs, campaigns and practices on immigrant protection and integration
- [Tā'æf} ÁM äæ](#), a weekly digest of news, faith, reflections and analysis of migration and refugee protection. Our weekly digest also provides migration policy and research updates. The Policy Update section is now available in Spanish.
- Detailed and geographically precise estimates on [undocumented and eligible-to-naturalize residents](#) in the United States. This data can allow programs, organizations, and parishes to understand the composition of their immigrant communities and tailor their work accordingly.
- [Publications](#) including [The Effects of Immigration Enforcement on Faith-Based Organizations: An Analysis of the FEER Survey](#) which analyzes how U.S immigration policies impact the work of Catholic institutions, programs and ministries that serve immigrant and refugee populations.
- [Reports](#) based on rigorous investigation and fieldwork. In 2017, CMS partnered Kino Border Initiative and the Office of Justice and Ecology of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States and released [Communities in Crisis: Removals and Their Human Consequences](#) which examines the characteristics of deportees and the effects of deportation.

To receive announcements about our upcoming events, publications, and research or to sign up for the Migration Update, you can subscribe at <https://cmsny.org/mailling-list/>.