

Publication Date: September 10, 2018

Reflection Date: September 16, 2018: [24th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#):

---

## Praying Through Action

How much does our faith mean to us? [This week's readings](#) talk about faith, works, and carrying crosses.



In our society today we are bombarded with information. The 24-hour news cycle pelts us with stories of immigrant children separated from their parents and lying in detention centers, leaders in the Catholic church abusing the faithful and then covering it up, the

possibility of our tax dollars being used by schools to arm teachers; world news, business news, politics, health and pop culture. There are times when I just get tired of all the news. I want to act like an ostridge and stick my head in the sand until it goes away. At times like this, I want to go, sit in church, say the prayers, take my communion and go home, feeling fulfilled by that effort. But inevitably, it's not enough. I always end up feeling restless and more troubled.

In the second reading this week, James bluntly speaks about having faith without works. Faith without works "is dead" he says. Simply going to church services, saying the prayers, and taking communion doesn't fulfil the demand. In order to fully practice our faith, we must go out and "give the necessities of the body" to those in need. We must care for our brothers and sisters in our communities. Dorothy Day says it this way: "I really only love God as much as I love the person I love the least." Think about that for a minute.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells his Disciples of his future suffering, death and resurrection. When Peter, in a very human way, rebukes him, Jesus snaps at him and offers his own blunt statement: "Whoever wishes to come after me, ...must take up his cross". In today's vernacular, Jesus is telling us we can not just talk the talk, we also must walk the walk.

What can just one person do, you might ask? Try not get overwhelmed. There are so many issues of importance today; Climate, immigration, gun safety, healthcare, peacemaking. I encourage you to choose one. Find something that sparks passion in you. Do some research and see what issues keep you thinking. Once you find that issue, look for a way to get involved. Talk with others in your community about that issue and find others who feel the same way you do. Much like practicing our faith in community, surrounding ourselves with people of similar thinking gives us strength and validation of our ideas. When we act on our faith together, we can make an enormous difference.

Janine Walsh

FAN Communications Coordinator

### **Suggested Actions:**

Research one issue that makes you passionate and find a way to get involved.

### **Suggested Petitions:**

For all Christian people, that we may feel the burning desire to act out our faith in the public square, we pray....

For all those who are suffering in some way. May they know the love of God and feel his presence, we pray....

### **Collect Prayer:**

**Look upon us, O God,  
Creator and ruler of all things,  
and, that we may feel the working of your mercy,  
grant that we may serve you with all our heart.  
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**

## **Take Action: Urge Congress to Repeal the Muslim Ban**

In January 2017, people rushed to the airports and the streets when the Muslim Ban, the first of many racist actions committed by the Trump administration, was announced. Today, families are STILL being torn apart and hurt by this ban every day. We can't let this disgraceful act fall off our radar in the chaos of this presidency. [Sign this petition today.](#)

In a decision that will forever stain our history and the legacy of the U.S. Supreme Court, our nation's highest court ruled in favor of this ban. [Now Congress can end it by defunding it.](#)

Congress is back in session and there are bills in each house which would "block the implementation of certain presidential actions that restrict individuals from certain countries from entering the United States." Call on your elected officials and tell them to repeal the ban by co-sponsoring either [HR 4271](#) or [S 1979](#). Members of both parties agree: this Muslim Ban is blatantly unconstitutional and offensive. [Tell your members of Congress](#) to #RepealTheBan.

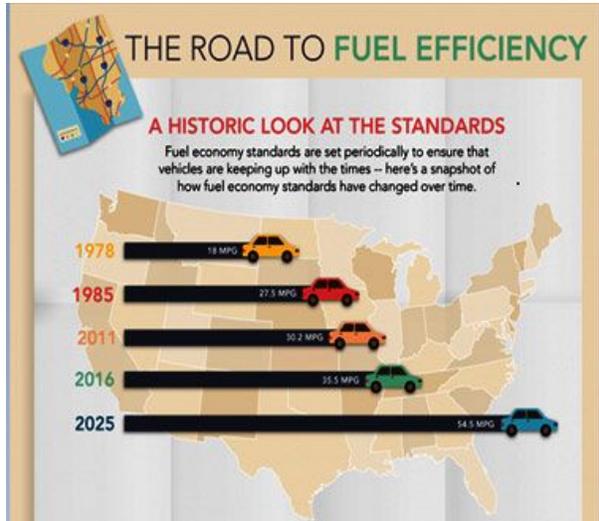


## **Submit A Comment: Stand up for Clean Car**

## Standards

America's clean car standards are in the line of fire. Last month the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Transportation teamed up on a [proposal to gut standards](#) that deliver the safe, clean, fuel-efficient cars that our families want and need.

The existing clean car standards play a crucial role in addressing climate change and reducing air pollution. The standards are in place already and they're working. As people of faith who care for all of God's creation, we can not allow them to be rolled back. Read a [statement from FAN](#) about this proposal here.



We invite our member to make a unique comment about the devastating effects this will have on our environment and reasons we as Franciscans want to see this proposal defeated. Comments must be original in order to count. Please [click here to submit your comment](#).

## Season of Creation Begins with Walking Event in Assisi

Our friends at the Global Catholic Climate Movement shared with us a report on the start of the [Season of Creation](#). During the Season of Creation, thousands of Christians worldwide unite to pray and act as one on behalf of our sister, Mother Earth.



To celebrate the annual Day of Prayer for Creation, an ecumenical prayer service was held in Assisi, the city of St. Francis. Leaders from across Christian traditions came together in a two-day event to pray for our common home. They issued a joint declaration, available [here](#), calling for people around the world to celebrate the season in prayer and action.

The event culminated with leaders and pilgrims alike taking the first steps of a pilgrimage along "The Way of St. Francis." (*Pictured*) This event reminds us that with St. Francis, we ask God to make us "instruments of peace" for creation and the vulnerable sisters and brothers who share it.

We invite our members to take a walk this week, meditating and praying for those who have experienced climate vulnerability. There are prayers and more resources in the [Season of Creation celebration guide](#). Check out the [map of events](#) all over the world and join one as you are able. Remember the [Global Climate Action Summit](#) begins this week. Keep the

participants and Summit in your prayers as people from all over the country make their own commitments to reduce emissions and address climate change.

## The Dream Riders have finished the #Journey2Justice

After 36 days and 1,784 miles, the Dream Riders arrived in San Diego and finished the [#Journey2Justice bike tour](#) on September 5th, the one year anniversary of President Trump rescinding DACA. Watch the [livestream of the closing rally](#) here.

On the journey, young people visited 33 cities and spoke with over 1,000 community folks about the importance of full citizenship for all 11 million undocumented immigrants and 35,000 intercountry adoptees.



The Journey to Justice Bike Tour may be over, but [NAKASEC](#) & their affiliates' campaign for [#Citizenship4All](#) has only just begun. These inspiring young people will continue organizing, mobilizing, and amplifying the message for a pathway to citizenship and basic human rights for all non-citizens. We wish to congratulate the Dream Riders and vow to stand with them in solidarity as we continue to work on our broken immigration system and citizenship for all.

## Nuns on the Bus Hits the Road for Tax Justice

NETWORK's [Nuns on the Bus](#) are hitting the road again in October — for the first time in two years — to hold members of Congress accountable for their votes on the 2017 Tax Bill and the many attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

The Goal: To tell the truth about the Tax Policy and to hold elected officials accountable for their votes. [Nuns on the Bus](#) will use the 2018 midterms to focus electoral energy on reasonable revenue for responsible programs. They will discuss the connections between voters' participation in the midterm elections, their elected officials' votes, and these harmful policies. They will carry what is learned from voters across the country to President Trump's resort at Mar-a-Lago.



Find more information about the [Nuns on the Bus tour here](#).

## Wendy's National Week of Action in October

Recently, the [Student/Farmworker Alliance](#) announced their plans for a national mobilization: "[Pulling Back the Curtain on Wendy's](#)" is a **National Week of Action from Oct. 22-28**. Mark your calendars and join forces with students and youth to grow the urgent call for fair food in Wendy's supply chain.



From their website:

*"Earlier this summer, caving to massive pressure generated by the Fair Food movement's national boycott, Wendy's announced its decision to move the vast majority of its tomato purchasing away from the Mexican tomato industry to U.S. and Canadian greenhouses by year end. But we, as young people and steadfast allies to the CIW, are far from being fooled by Wendy's new tomato sourcing strategy."*

[Click here](#) to find out ways to participate in the National Week of Action.

## Take Action: Tell ALEC Companies to Stop Funding Bigotry

Major companies like UPS, AT&T, and Comcast are funding bigotry through their membership in the [American Legislative Exchange Council](#) (ALEC) -- a secretive corporate lobbying group that pushes harmful legislation through state houses.

By being members in ALEC, major companies are giving right-wing extremist David Horowitz a platform to spread his racist, homophobic, anti-Muslim, and sexist rhetoric. In his keynote speech last month at ALEC's annual conference, Horowitz made extremely hateful comments about women, LGBTQ people, people of color, and the Black Lives Matter movement.



This is unacceptable. We must [hold corporations accountable](#) for the dangerous groups and tactics they secretly fund. Over the last few years, we have been able to push over 100 major companies to cut ties with ALEC due to its extreme agenda and anti-democratic operations. [Sign this petition](#) to UPS, AT&T, Comcast, and other major companies to STOP funding bigotry and [STOP funding ALEC](#).