

Published: October 1, 2018

Reflection for: October 7, 2018 – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Right Relationship

The [readings this week](#) tell the wedding story. It is a beautiful story of two people coming together in love to make a commitment as it says in Genesis 2:24 “and the two of them become one flesh.” We understand what that means from a physical perspective but do we ever stop and think what it means from a spiritual perspective? When we form this spiritual bond where we become one flesh connected through love, we become connected through God, whether we like to acknowledge God or not. The two beings become like the Trinity, three beings connected and becoming one through love. Since God is love we are connected through God. As it says in Hebrews all things exist through God and God is perfect Love therefore all things exist through love.



St. Bonaventure taught us that the purpose and meaning of all of creation is relationship. If we exist through and in God then we have to be in relationship. First in right relationship with God. Sr. Ilia Delio, OFS so beautifully describes this relationship in her book *Making All Things New*; "Eucharist means being an active participant in the Cosmic body of Christ, a body evolving unto fullness, the Cosmic person, through the rise of consciousness and unity in Love." Then as Bonaventure teaches, we have to be in right relationship with all of God's creation, a relationship of love, not of power over, of abusiveness. St John of the Cross taught us that human desire is unlimited. The heart of the human being is not satisfied with less than Infinite. This infinite is clearly God himself. Our deepest human desire is a desire of God. When we turn away from God, we no longer consider God's creation and all that it encompasses as sacred. As a nation today we are so divided, so separated. Families cannot even come together without fighting and bitterness. We no longer consider ourselves as children of God and brothers and sisters.

This week the reading on the wedding story has special meaning to me. My daughter got married this past weekend. I was a proud father as I watched her walk up the aisle. I thought about how far she had come and how she had grown into a beautiful young woman. My daughter spent her early years in and out of foster homes. She had been abused as a child. My wife and I were foster parents and we took in Briana and her brother when she was nine. At ten, we welcomed them to our family through adoption. She is African-American, so she not only had to overcome her early years of abuse and moving from family to family, but she also had to overcome the racism she experienced as a teenager. I often share with people that I thought I understood racism until I became the parent of two black children; then I really understood racism. Her new husband is white. Just 19 years ago in South Carolina where they live, it was against the law for a black person to marry a white person. As I watched the two of them exchange their rings and share their love and joy for each other, I thought of this reading. I

watched the large gathering of folks who came to share this beautiful evening come together. Her biological parents were there as well as many of her biological cousins. We all gathered to share in their love. There were black, white and Latino, straight and gay, conservative and liberal, Christian, Jewish and Muslim. They were gathered not caring about race, color, sexual orientation, creed or political views. Just gathered sharing in love. I thought, 'this is what America should be.'

Peace and All Good,
Patrick Carolan
Executive Director

Suggested Action:

Meditate this week on your relationship with God through love of another.

Suggested Petitions:

For all married people, may they continue to grow in love with one another and in right relationship with God, we pray...

For all faithful people, that we may be transformed in to the love of God, we pray...

Collect Prayer

**Almighty ever-living God,
who in the abundance of your kindness
surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you,
pour out your mercy upon us
to pardon what conscience dreads
and to give what prayer does not dare to ask.
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

Faith Leaders Deliver 12-Foot Scroll to Ford Company

Last week, faith leaders in Michigan delivered a massive 12-foot scroll to the headquarters of Ford Motor Company with the names of over 1,000 faith leaders and 3,500 people of faith calling on Ford to support the Clean Car Standards.

This fall, [Interfaith Power and Light](#) will be meeting with Ford dealerships and



writing to the media to continue building the pressure on Ford Motor Company to stop their campaign to weaken the Clean Car Standards. If kept as they are, these standards will reduce climate pollution, save families money at the gas pump, and clean up our air. It's critical that we save these standards for the health and well-being of future generations.

We urge members to continue to [make a unique comment](#) about the reasons we as Franciscans support the Clean Car Standards. Comments must be original in order to count. Please [click here to submit your comment](#).

We Must Continue Working to End Gun Violence

While we applaud the shareholders of American Outdoor Brands, the owners of Smith & Wesson, who last week [voted in favor](#) of a resolution calling on the company's Board of Directors to issue a report about what the company is doing regarding gun safety and reducing gun violence, we also recognize there is much more to be done to end gun violence.

For those who work with High School students, [applications](#) are now being accepted for the Student Gun Violence Summit in Washington, D.C. October 19-21. Find more information [here](#).

December 14, 2018 marks the 6-year anniversary of the Sandy Hook tragedy.

By this December, over 600,000 Americans will be killed or injured by guns since the Sandy Hook shooting tragedy. We urge you to join the gun violence prevention community in our collective effort to continue to shine a light on the devastating epidemic of gun violence in our nation until Congress takes meaningful action to reduce gun deaths and injuries in our nation.

As a member of [Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence](#), FAN will participate in the annual national vigil service of mourning and loving remembrance for all who have fallen victim to the ongoing epidemic of gun violence in America on December 5, 2018 in Washington, D.C. We encourage our members to host a vigil or an event in your town or city. [Register your event](#) here and download the [2018 National Vigil Toolkit](#) to help you plan.



Take Action: Submit Comment on Border Wall

We often ask our members to submit comments about various topics to the government departments in which policies might be under review. This request is significant because the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is reaching out to us requesting comments.

The CBP is seeking input concerning the



construction of a levee/border wall system in the U.S. Rio Grande Valley sector. Based on feedback from earlier outreach, the CBP is extending the due date for comments to November 6, 2018. [You can find more information and documentation here.](#)

The CBP gave these guidelines about submitting comments:

"Comments should include data or information that could help inform CBP's analysis of potential impacts. Helpful Comments are fact-based, include links to data or research, and provide specific information concerning potential impacts to biological, cultural, and natural resources. If known, your response should include any state and local restrictions, permitting or other requirements that CBP should consider during project siting, construction, and operation."

All comments, questions, or concerns can be emailed to CBP at commentsenv@cbp.dhs.gov. Please include "FY18 RGV Border Construction Projects" in the subject title of your email. We encourage members to submit comments.

Take Action: Families Belong Together

We know that families belong together – and not in jail. But in recent months, we've seen the devastation wrought by the Trump administration's cruel immigration policies. Thousands of people funneled into a violent and inhumane detention and deportation system. And now, the Trump administration is working on a new plan to detain immigrant families indefinitely.



The proposed new rule would supersede a court agreement called the [Flores settlement](#), a decades-old agreement that limits how long children can be detained and requires standards of care for detention facilities holding children. We encourage you to [submit a comment by clicking here](#).

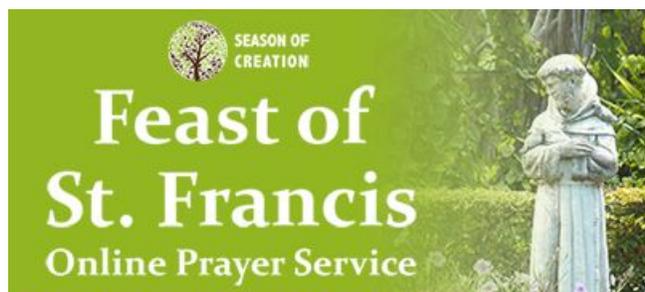
You are also welcome to participate in a timely webinar from Justice for Immigrants titled "[Commenting on Federal Rules Changes](#)" on **October 17th at 1pm ET / 10am PT**.

Staff from USCCB/MRS and JFI partner organizations CLINIC, Network and the Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach will present information that can help you prepare your responses to the proposed rulemaking on Flores and changes to re-defining public charge. [Information on joining the webinar is on this flier.](#)

Online Prayer Service for Feast of St. Francis

Our friends at the [Global Catholic Climate Movement](#) will host an online prayer service to celebrate the feast of St. Francis and the closing of the Season of Creation.

Yeb Saño, former lead climate negotiator



for the Philippines will be offering a reflection before he begins his 1500 km journey to Katowice, Poland for the next climate negotiations. Yeb will be joined by Christian and environmental leaders from around the world in prayer and reflection to celebrate the closing of the season.

Please join us on **October 4th at 9am ET**. [Click here to register](#). If you are not able to join the prayer service live, you are welcome to **register to receive a recording**.

Democracy is on the Ballot in 2018

No matter who is in office, we won't be able to get much done in a political system controlled by Big Money. Politicians won't be accountable to you and me if they're safe in gerrymandered districts. And our government can't reflect the people it serves when restrictive voting laws disenfranchise millions of eligible Americans -- particularly people of color.



That's why we hope you'll join us in [calling on EVERY candidate for Congress](#) this year to go on the record about the reforms that would make sure we all have a say -- because a democracy that works for everyone is absolutely essential to our mission.

[Tell your candidates to speak up for our democracy](#) -- then enter your address to see if yours already have. [PETITION TEXT](#): Voters deserve to know if you will fight for a better democracy. Please pledge to voters that you will work for a democracy that represents all of us.

Take Action: Demand Congress hold Secretary Ryan Zinke accountable

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has proposed gutting Bears Ears and Grand Staircase -Escalante National Monuments. He wants to massively ramp up oil and gas drilling off our coasts. And he's trying to slash protections for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Right now there are 14 federal investigations into Zinke's decision-making, misuse of funds, and potential corruption. We can't continue to allow the destruction of our wild places and communities for the benefit of private developers to the fossil fuel industry.



[Sign this petition](#) demanding Congress hold Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke accountable for his potential ethics violations. Even if it means calling for him to be removed from his position.