

Learning to Let Go

This week's [Gospel reading](#) for me creates a bit of a dilemma. Do I take this message literally or metaphorically? But still, I struggle...

Jesus spoke in stories and metaphors to convey the powerful and deep meanings of his message. By doing this, we can challenge ourselves to explore the profound levels of meaning in the Gospels as we grow in our faith and understanding.



This Gospel Reading is still challenging. In what ways do I need to give up my attachments to people, places and things? Being typically American, things mean a lot to me and sometimes become more important than even myself. When this happens in my life, I know things are out of balance. Sometimes I become aware of this in very painful ways. My challenge is to find the balance I need to be okay. How do I let go of those things that are not that important?

Jesus shows how letting go of these things can bring us all to a better place. Many times I find myself holding on and being forced to let go of the thing I want. When I do let go, I have found myself blessed in ways I could not imagine.

An example of one of these letting go experiences is the Friar's Camp on Raquette Lake. I had been in charge of it for several years. The Friars told me we were giving it up in 1992. I had to let go. A group of people organized and set up a small nonprofit organization to help preserve the 100-year-old church that was on the property. This organization has been a wonderful blessing for the community on Raquette Lake. I have met many wonderful people. I have been part of the fundraising and restoration of the church on Long Point on Raquette Lake.

I let go of something that was very important to me. In many ways, the blessings came in ways I could never have expected. I have made some good friends. I have helped create an organization that continues to help build community on the lake. We have helped preserve a wonderful historic treasure, the Church of St. William's on Long Point, for future generations. When we do let go, we allow God to do amazing things.

Being the stubborn sort, I have lots of examples in my life where I learned to let go. Some of these were painful, some not so painful. However, every single time, blessings come in ways I never expect. All I can do is be forever grateful.

Br. Edward Falsey, OFM Conv.
FAN Director of Solidarity Tables

Suggested Action:

Take an honest look at your life and see if God is calling to let go of something. Pray about it and ask God for the strength to do His will.

Suggested Petitions:

For all those who struggle to let go of those things which may be harmful or detrimental. May they find the strength they need to let go through the trust and love of God, we pray...

May we find the healthy balance between our love of God and material things that allows us to live our lives as God intends, we pray...

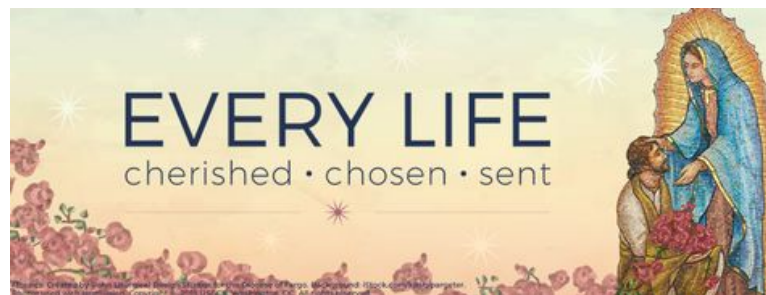
Collect Prayer:

**May your grace, O Lord, we pray,
at all times go before us and follow after
and make us always determined
to carry out good works.
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

October is Respect Life Month: Resources Available

Because the Franciscan Action Network (FAN) supports a consistent life ethic which permeates all the issues we address, we offer the following links to several resources for your use during Respect Life Month.



The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has a theme this year for [October 2018: Every Life: Cherished, Chosen, Sent](#). Their resources include a bulletin quote for each Sunday and intercessions. Also, Catholic Mobilizing Network offers this [2018 Respect Life Month Toolkit](#) which has a pro-life prayer service, prayers of the faithful in both English and Spanish, as well as social media resources.

[Catholic Mobilizing Network](#) has developed a National Catholic Pledge to End the Death Penalty, which can be found on their website, [here](#). We encourage all members to sign or if your community would like to sign collectively, please contact Emma Tacke at emmat@catholicismobilizing.org.

Finally, if you are looking for general information, we invite you to look at the [Consistent Life Network](#), which is "a network of organizations and individuals committed to the protection of life, which is threatened in today's world by war, abortion, poverty, racism, the death penalty and euthanasia. We believe that these issues are linked under a 'consistent ethic of life'.

Pax-Christi DC Metro Baltimore Needs our Help

Did you know that two-thirds of the US discretionary budget now goes to military-related spending? Those are your tax dollars paying for weapons and war, rather than human needs.

Our friends at [Pax Christi Metro DC-Baltimore](#) are taking action. They intend to run a full-page ad in the National Catholic Reporter again this year, calling for the right of all those morally opposed to war to direct all of their federal income tax to non-military purposes. It's a matter of respect for human dignity; of conscience and religious liberty. You can see the [full text of the Ad here](#).



To accomplish this ad, they need our help. If you're able, we invite our members to support this add with a [donation to Pax Christi Metro DC-Baltimore](#) to help cover the publication cost.

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.

"A Call To Holiness" Catholic Voters Guide

Recently, we made you aware that the staff of FAN joined several other Catholic organizations based in DC to develop a [voters guide](#) for the upcoming mid-term elections in November. **We wish to stress**

*"A good Catholic meddles in politics."
Pope Francis*

the importance of voting, and to assist members in addressing questions based on Catholic Social Teaching to those running for public office in both parties. As Franciscans, we support a consistent life ethic which believes in the sanctity of all human life, and that the most effective way to reduce abortion is to address poverty. We also looked at all the issues listed in this guide within the same consistent life ethic.

We encourage our members to download and use this guide, "[A Call to Holiness](#)," in town meetings, candidate forums, and other ways to communicate with candidates in preparation for voting on November 6th. The guide can also be used with friends, neighbors and family members as we encourage each other to be informed Catholic voters.

We are happy to announce that the guide is now available in [Spanish](#). You are invited to [download the 2018 voters guide](#) from our website. [English version](#). [Spanish version](#).

In Wake of Las Vegas Shooting 10 States Have Banned "Bump Stocks;" Now Being Reviewed Federally

One year after the deadly shooting in Las Vegas, which was accomplished using a 'bump stock', 10 states have passed bans or restrictions on the devices. A bump stock is a simple device that attaches to semi automatic rifles, which normally shoot one round per trigger-pull, to speed up the firing rate faster than would be possible using your finger.

While states like [Connecticut](#) have bans already in effect, the Department of Justice has [confirmed](#) that a proposed rule to ban the manufacture, importation, and possession of bump stocks was sent to the Office of Management and Budget for review.

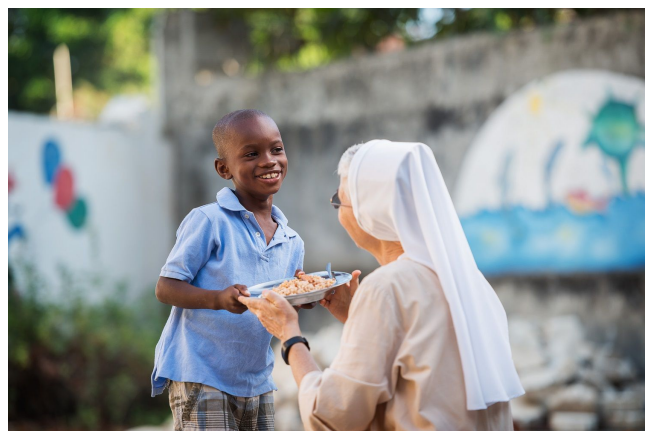


We applaud these measures that we consider critical steps in the effort to reduce the threat of gun violence in our country.

Felician Sisters Dedicate New Mission Complex in Haiti

This week, the [Felician Sisters of North America](#) will dedicate their new mission complex in Jacmel, Haiti. The Felician mission serves hundreds of people daily with programs that include a mobile clinic, food program, after school tutoring, computer lab, peer mentoring, and spiritual formation.

Two Felician sisters arrived in Haiti in 2012 in response to the needs of the



thousands of people affected by the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that hit the country in 2010. Eight years later, many people remain displaced and struggle to find food, shelter, medical treatment, and clean water. This new complex allows the sisters to feed more than 100 children a day and continue their diverse programs which empower the Haitian people.

The Sisters are now working on expanding their programs to serve young mothers. Congratulations, Sisters and keep up the great work!

Marriott Workers Say “One Job ought to be Enough to Live On”

In advocating for human and workers rights, we invite our members to be aware of a current campaign among Marriott hotel workers called, "one job ought to be enough to live on." Please see the information below from our friends at [Unite Here](#):

Far too many hotel workers have to work two or even three jobs to make ends meet. Some endure chronic pain due to overwork. Some face unsafe working conditions, or live in fear of getting laid off. That's why thousands of workers at Marriott hotels have begun a campaign to fight for one job that's enough to live on, one job that is safe and secure. I am writing to you to ask you to stand with thousands of Marriott hotel workers as they begin this campaign.



More than 8,300 union Marriott workers in Boston, Detroit, Honolulu, Maui, Oakland, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose and Seattle have voted to authorize strikes at their hotels. Click on the link to see the at-risk hotels: (<https://www.marriotttravelalert.org/at-risk-hotels/>).

We ask you to honor their strike. And we ask you to stand with them on the principle that “one job ought to be enough to live on”. In Baltimore, Philadelphia and San Francisco, non-union Marriott hotel workers are in the midst of organizing campaigns. Again, we ask you to respect their organizing efforts. Finally, we are asking you to decline the so-called “green choice” program whenever you stay at a Marriott hotel or any other hotel brand. These “green choice” programs create dangerous workloads for some housekeepers while slashing the hours of others.

How can you show your support for these Marriott workers?

1. Sign the One Job Should Be Enough Pledge:
<https://www.marriotttravelalert.org/sign-the-pledge/sign-as-an-individual?source=CK>
and Button Up!
2. Honor the workers' strike vote and avoid hotels on that list. Reach out to Carrie Sallgren at 202-661-3680 or csallgren@unitehere.org to protect your event from unexpected labor disputes or strikes.
3. Where new organizing efforts are public, button up, meet with workers and call on the management to respect the workers' organizing rights and their call that one job should be enough. Contact Carrie Sallgren to protect your event from unexpected

