

Confidence vs Arrogance

I sometimes listen to the radio program “From the Top,” which offers a public platform for talented young musicians. In addition to enjoying their performances, I admire the confidence of these teenagers. Where does it come from? They work hard, love what they do (even though it demands sacrifice), and they thank the encouragement of others, especially their teachers and parents. Even though I am not young or highly gifted, can I still be a confident person?



In [this week's Gospel](#), James and John approach Jesus not with genuine confidence, but with a foolish, self-serving request which raises the ire of the other apostles. Jesus takes the opportunity to teach a lesson about arrogance. First, he chides the brothers for asking the wrong question, and then admonishes the apostles not to be like rulers who lord their authority over the people. If YOU wish to be great, you must serve others, teaches Jesus. Today, we have many examples of arrogance of “rulers” in our political and church worlds.

So, how am I to be humbly confident, but not arrogant, not lording my position, or education, or talents over others? The Gospel guides us. First, ask the right questions, not shallow, self-serving ones. Then learn that true greatness is serving, not my own ego or comfort, but the needs of others. Jesus reminds us that he “did not come to be served, but to serve.” When we put this lesson into practice, we can follow Paul’s advice to the Hebrews; i.e, to “confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy.” This is the spiritual confidence of one who has learned that true greatness lies in self-giving service to others.

Sr. Marie Lucey, OSF
FAN Associate Director

Suggested Action:

As you prepare to vote in mid-term elections, consider whether a candidate’s words and actions reflect a sincere desire to serve the people, serve the common good. [Use “A Call to Holiness: A 2018 Guide for Voters,” found on the FAN website.](#) Consider how you can share it with parishes, colleges, family, and friends.

Suggested petitions:

That we may be self-giving people and elect legislators who promote the common good. We pray...

That we may confidently approach God with our needs and concerns, We pray...

Prayer : St. Anthony of Padua

Lord Jesus, bind us to you and to our neighbor with love.

May our hearts not be turned away from you.

**May our souls not be deceived nor our talents or minds enticed by error,
so that we never distance ourselves from your love.**

Thus may we love our neighbor as ourselves with strength, wisdom and gentleness.

With your help, you who are blessed through all ages.

Amen

Sponsor a Vowed Religious or an Immigrant Neighbor to Come to FAN's 10th Anniversary Award Event

The FAN staff have been very busy planning our [10th Anniversary award event](#) on November 15, 2018 in Washington, DC. We are excited to wrap up this year of celebrations and 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.



We recognize the generosity of our members and realize that due to the distance, many of you may not be able to join our celebration in person. If you are not able to come, please [consider buying and donating a ticket](#) for someone who might not be able to pay the full ticket price. [Let us know](#) if you'd like to sponsor a sister, a friar, or an immigrant guest. We want to have a packed house to celebrate our friends and you can help us make that happen!

Together We Must Stand With Immigrant Families

On September 7th the Trump administration published proposed Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Health and Human Services Department (HHS) regulations to implement the terms of the [Flores Settlement Agreement](#), the 1997 legal settlement that governs the conditions of children held in **immigration detention**.



The proposed regulations would [remove key safeguards](#) and lead to the long-term detention of children, as well as long-term family detention. The proposed rule would also end existing Flores requirements that facilities holding immigrant children, including family detention facilities, be state-licensed.

Additionally, the administration is trying to keep immigrants out of the U.S. and penalize immigrants already here by drastically expanding how they define a “**public charge.**” A *public charge* is someone who is generally dependent on the government for subsistence, due to their inability to work and lack of other financial resources or support. There is detailed background information on this [action page from Greater as One](#).

Before they can make these changes, the administration must allow the public to comment on the proposed regulations in the Federal Register. Interested members can join a [JFI webinar](#) this week on **October 17th at 1:00 pm ET / 10:00 am PT** to learn about the government's rule making process and how to promote Catholic priorities into the process. [Register for the webinar here](#).

You can find more information from [Public Charge: Facts and Information](#), a webinar JFI hosted last week. Additionally there is a comprehensive list of resources at the bottom of the [Greater as One action page](#). Additionally, CLINIC also has a [Public Charge Mini-Toolkit](#) on their website with many more resources. While the public charge federal rulemaking can be somewhat complicated, it is a very important issue for immigrant families who reside in the U.S.

We urge members to make comments on both these important issues. Click here to [comment on the Flores Agreement \(due by Nov. 6th\)](#) and click here to [comment on Public Charge \(due by Dec.10th\)](#). Be sure to include personal stories of how these proposed regulations will affect you and your community.

Finally, we all know that several thousand unaccompanied and separated immigrant minors remain detained under the zero tolerance policy in over 60 facilities around the country. The Center for Human Rights is acting as class counsel and as such is able to appoint volunteer lawyers and paralegals to inspect detention facilities and to interview detained minors. They are recruiting volunteer lawyers, paralegals and interpreters to inspect specific detention sites on specific dates. To see a list of these sites and sign up to volunteer head to [Reunify.org](#).

Goods 4 Guns' National Gun Buyback Day December 15, 2018

John C. Wood II was a surgical resident at Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital in New York City when he was shot to death in a street-corner robbery after he left the hospital to buy a snack for his pregnant wife.

The [John C. Wood II Memorial Foundation](#) is led by community-based physicians whose careers are dedicated to improving the lives of their patients through defining and responding to health risks. Because gun violence is the major cause of 20,000+ suicides, 12,000+ homicides and 75,000 non-fatal injuries each year, gun violence is a serious risk to health. That is why the foundation began its' National Gun Buyback Day. This year's gun buyback day is December 15, 2018, the timing of which aligns with the [National Vigils and](#)



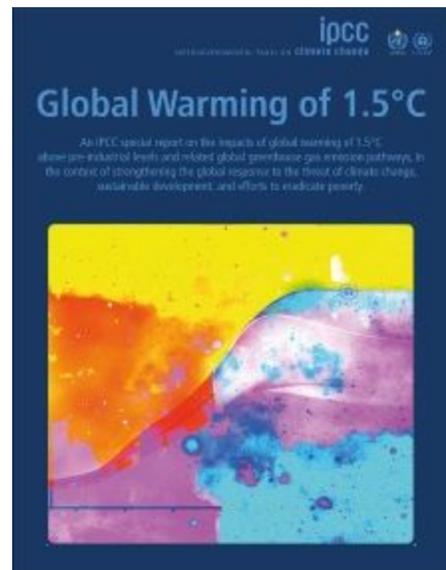
[Events to End Gun Violence.](#)

The Wood Foundation has two goals: to make [National Gun Buyback](#) day a nationally-recognized commemorative day highlighting efforts to reduce gun violence and to hold a gun buyback event in all 50 states. Interested members can find more information on their website, including [fact sheets](#) and resources to help you [plan a buyback](#) in your community.

IPCC Report Adds Urgency to Climate Conversation

This week, the UN's climate science body released a [report](#) on the world's global warming. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is made up of hundreds of volunteer scientist from every corner of the globe. Around every 7 years (the last was 2014) the IPCC gathers evidence and reports on the world's average temperature in an attempt to figure out where it will likely go in the coming years. Here is a [educational infographic](#) which describes the IPCC report.

Without a radical transformation of energy, transportation and agriculture systems, the world will hurtle past the 1.5 degree Celsius target of the Paris climate agreement before the middle of the century, according to the IPCC report. Climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming of 1.5°C. Our world is in grave crisis and will be as soon as 2040.



What can you do to help stop the crisis?

FAN along with multiple interfaith organizations have been advocating for an escalation of solutions by integrating personal commitments towards low-emission lifestyles with the [Living the Change](#) campaign. Have you made your [commitment](#) yet?

In addition to living sustainable lifestyles, we urge you to [Vote for Climate](#) in the upcoming midterm elections. Within the [voter guide](#) FAN helped develop with other Catholic organizations based in Washington, DC, there is a section on environment for use at town halls and candidate forums as it offers questions that can be posed to candidates. The guide is available for [download on FAN's website](#) in both English and Spanish. If you would like to help distribute the guide in your parish or community email FAN's Jason Miller.

Take Action: 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: 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 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.

