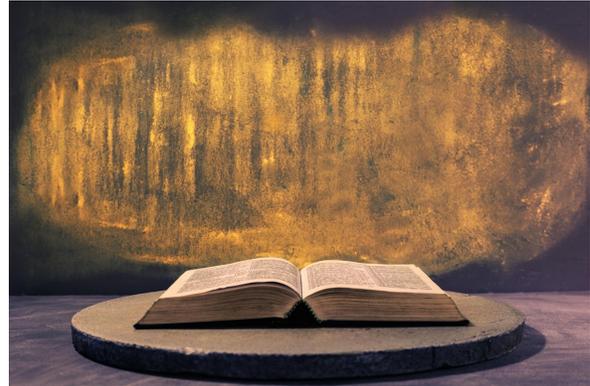


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Reflection for: October 28, 2018 – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Have Pity on Me”

I always liked the passage from [this week's Gospel](#) of Mark. At different times in my life I felt like the blind man at the side of the road shouting, “Jesus, have pity on me!” What I like about it is the persistence of the blind man that does not allow himself to be intimidated by the rebuke of the apostles, telling him to be silent. But he kept calling out all the more, annoying everybody, I am sure. But Bartimaeus was desperate. He wanted so much to see and he considered Jesus passing as his chance to finally be heard and healed. I wonder how long he had been sitting by the roadside begging? He was certainly not going to let the passing of Jesus go in vain and miss his chance for a better life.



Do we have the determination of Bartimaeus in our asking, in our begging to Jesus to have pity on us?

Jesus, Son of David have pity on us when we are so blind not to see that putting children and families in cages is not the human thing to do.

Jesus, have pity on us, when we are so blind to believe we are safer and stronger if we demean the other, the one who seeks help and refuge from unspeakable situations of violence.

Jesus have pity on us, when we are so blind not to see that our own policies create situations of unrest and fear.

On a personal note, do I allow myself to be distracted or discouraged, telling myself that nothing will change anyway, that God will not pay attention to me?

Today in our world and particularly our nation it is so easy to get overwhelmed or discouraged by what is surrounding us. It seems that the rich and powerful have more and more their fill while the people who are poor and dispossessed loose on all sides. Earth is used and abused and we seem not to care what kind of world we are handing down to our children. Is this really the way it has to be?

The Gospel tells us that Jesus heard and stopped and directed the blind man, “Courage, get up, Jesus is calling you.” I challenge myself and all of us to hear these words addressed to each one of us, knowing that our faith tells us that Jesus does hear us. Maybe what has been asked of me is to fine tune the hearing in my heart. Do I do my part? Do I cry out loud enough? Do I speak out with courage and even desperation against injustice, against what I deem harmful and immoral? Do I do my civic duty and go to vote or do I just sit quietly by the roadside?

If I do speak out then the reading of Jeremiah confirms my conviction that God will hear. The Lord heard the cry of the Israelites in exile and “The Lord has delivered his people, ...I will bring

them back...I will gather them...they shall return...they departed in tears but I will lead them to brooks of water... for I am a father to Israel”. Like our ancestors, we too need not to be afraid but do our best in encouraging one another to trust because “The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.”

And God will not let us down NOW.

Sr. Maria Orlandini, OSF
FAN Director of Advocacy

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, and the common good. Read and share ["A Call to Holiness: A 2018 Guide for Voters," found on the FAN website.](#)

Suggested Petitions:

For all people who cannot see both physically or spiritually, that the light and comfort of Christ shine on them. We pray...

For people in exile that they may be able to return to their homeland with joy. We pray...

For all of us that we may open our hearts to compassion and mercy. We pray...

Prayer: Saint Pope Paul VI

God of peace, we bless you and we thank you because you have sent us your beloved Son, Jesus, making him the Paschal mystery, the architect of all salvation, the source of all peace.

Open yet more our hearts to the needs of all our sisters and brothers, so that we may be better able to build a true peace. Remember, Father of mercy, all who are in pain, who suffer and die in the cause of a more just world. For the people of every race, of every tongue – may your kingdom come: your kingdom of justice, of peace, of love, and may the earth be filled with your glory.

Amen

We Must Continue to Speak Out Against the Keystone XL Pipeline

An alliance of Indigenous People, ranchers, farmers, and climate activists succeeded in stopping the Keystone XL Pipeline project once. A federal judge ordered a new review of the pipeline's impacts and the reports are that the flaws in the pipeline are still bad for the climate, the environment, and our waterways. Public comment is open now through November 8th. We urge our



members to [tell the State Department that the KXL pipeline is still a disaster for the climate](#).

KXL would transport over 800,000 barrels per day of tar sands oil from Alberta, Canada through the US to the Gulf of Mexico, jeopardizing the health, water, and environment of countless communities and sovereign Indigenous Nations along its path. As people of faith, we must continue to [speak on behalf of God's wondrous creation](#). A federal judge ordered a new review of the pipeline's impacts and reports are that the flaws in the pipeline are still bad for the climate, the environment, and our waterways. [Submit a comment today](#).

Additionally, the Catholic Climate Covenant is hosting a timely webinar this week, on **Tuesday, October 30th at 3pm ET / 12pm PT**: the [Root Causes of Climate Change: Understanding Extractive Industries and their Impacts](#). [Register here to attend](#). Franciscan Sister Joan Brown, Director of New Mexico Interfaith Power & Light will be one of the presenters.

Sponsor a Vowed Religious or 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!

Take Action: Make a comment on Public Charge and Flores

Last week, we made you aware of two important proposals currently open for public comment. The first is proposed changes to regulations regarding the implementation of the terms of the [Flores Settlement Agreement](#), the 1997 legal settlement that governs the conditions of children held in **immigration detention**. These proposed regulations would [remove key safeguards](#)



and lead to the long-term detention of children, as well as long-term family detention. Additionally, it would also end existing requirements that facilities holding immigrant children, including family detention facilities, be state-licensed.

The second is Department of Homeland Security's proposed rule to expand the definition of what it means to be a **public charge**, which would reshape who we welcome as newcomers to our society.

We urge members to make comments on both these important issues. The public comment process is an example of our democracy at work. It is an effective way to push back against proposed policies that go against our Franciscan Values and our faith. To help with education, Justice for Immigrants has put together this helpful [backgrounder](#) on public charge and hosted a [webinar](#) last week on commenting. Additionally, our friends at CLINIC Legal have prepared two comprehensive toolkits to guide you through the comment process. You can download the [Public Charge toolkit](#) and the [Flores Toolkit](#) here. Finally, the Interreligious working group on Domestic Human Needs (DHN) has this [helpful resource](#) on housing programs in the public Charge proposed rule.

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.

A Must Read: Serving the Separated Report

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office of Migration and Refugee Services (USCCB/MRS) and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), released a [report](#) last week which documents the work of Catholic and Lutheran agencies who assisted the Administration with reuniting separated families during the month of July.

The report highlights the work that was undertaken by Catholic and Lutheran partners on the ground and gives a unique data point regarding the separated and reunited families. You can [download the report here](#).



Download the Interfaith Power and Light Cool Harvest Kit

Harvest time is approaching, our tables are bountiful, and soon we will bring together our loved ones in celebration. In celebration of World Food Day last week, let's celebrate sustainable food choices. Aligning with the [Living the Change](#) campaign, we encourage our members to have some fun while learning about ways to make meals more sustainable.



Our friends at Interfaith Power and Light have developed the [Cool Harvest kits](#), which offer some simple ways to reduce your carbon “foodprint” and host low carbon events with your friends and family. [Download your Cool Harvest kit here](#). you can test your knowledge of which foods are planet friendlier by taking the "Eat Low Carbon" quiz to see how much a carbon footprint your food choices have.

A new study out of Oxford has shown that without concerted action, our planet will not be able to support the way we currently grow and eat our food. Celebrate a healthy harvest and planet by downloading the [Cool Harvest Kit today](#).

Brady Center Report Explores Link Between Domestic Violence and Guns

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and in keeping with our Franciscan Value of consistent ethic of life, we bring your awareness to a [new report](#) released last week from the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

The report, titled "[Beyond Bullet Wounds: Guns in the Hands of Domestic Abusers](#)"

explores the connection between domestic violence and guns. It features stories from several victims and family members, illustrating the impact of domestic violence and guns, and offers many statistics behind domestic violence as well as ways to take action and save lives moving forward.

Download [Beyond Bullet Wounds here](#).

Brady Campaign



To Prevent Gun Violence