

Publication Date: July 22, 2019

Reflection Date: July 28, 2019 - 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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## Prayer in Action

The readings for this [Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#) are deeply reflected in the responsorial psalm, "Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me." It's interesting though that when people focus on prayer they are often drawn to today's gospel passage and Jesus' teaching his disciples to pray.

As we listen to the gospel we can observe some other important things. First, we hear that Jesus himself was praying off in a certain place. The scriptures tell us that Jesus did this often. On this occasion we hear that some of the disciples were watching, observing. They asked, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples." The disciples were aware of John the Baptist and his disciples, probably how they lived, preached, prayed and worshiped.

Jesus shared the words that are so familiar to us. Words that cross denominational boundaries. Yet, his teaching on prayer does not stop there. He continues to instruct his followers with messages of prayer in action. Persistence, hospitality and generosity are also qualities of prayer.

May our prayer lead us to greater participation with Divine Love which is lived with a commitment to those who are poor, those who are oppressed and those who are marginalized. Let us be confident that God always hears our prayer and calls us to be images of Christ's incarnate love, mercy and generosity to others.

Sr. Margaret Magee, OSF  
FAN Board Member

### **Suggested Action:**

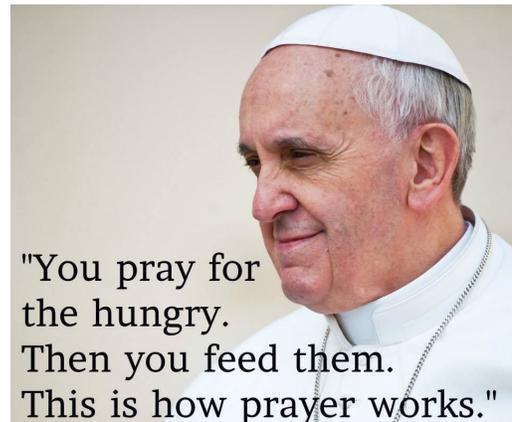
While praying the Lord's Prayer this week, open your heart to ways God is calling you to action in your community. Research food pantries and social outreach groups in your area to which you may contribute.

### **Suggested Petitions:**

Continuously open our hearts to your message of love, mercy, and generosity. We pray...  
Allow us to be moved to action upon hearing your call. We pray...

### **Collect Prayer:**

**O God, protector of those who hope in you,  
without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy,  
bestow in abundance your mercy upon us**



and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide,  
we may use the good things that pass  
in such a way as to hold fast even now  
to those that ever endure.  
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

## Franciscans Speak Out for Immigrants and Risk Arrest During Catholic Day of Action

We want to thank all of our members and friends who reached out to us last week about our day of action. Your prayers of support were felt among the 70 arrested and the hundreds gathered to rally at the Capitol. See some photos of the event on [Facebook](#) and [here](#). We heard from Franciscans all over the country who are turning their faith into action:

- **Gene Roman in the Bronx** sent a letter to his elected officials and the White House asking that the administration stop detaining immigrant children.
- FAN Institutional Members, the **Holy Cross Sisters in Wisconsin** are taking out a billboard in their town depicting a family behind a fence with the words, "With liberty and justice for all" printed. It's slated to post in August.
- **Franciscan friars and friends** joined [Lights for Liberty vigils](#) all over the country on July 12th to say "Enough!" to the inhumane treatment of our migrant sisters and brothers in detention camps. Here are [photos](#) from Phoenix, Santa Barbara, CA and Douglas, AZ.
- **The Poor Clares and Carmelites in Italy** sent an open letter to the Italian President and Prime Minister "to give voice to our brothers and sisters migrants fleeing from war, persecution and famine..." [Read the letter here](#)
- Several **U.S. Catholic bishops** sent us [statements of support](#) for our day of action.
- FAN board president, **Fr. Mike Lasky** was with **Conventual Franciscan Friars** in formation at our southern border. They [spoke to some sisters and brothers](#) through the new border fence west of El Paso.



We must continue this wonderful momentum for our sisters and brothers at our southern border. Here is a very partial list of more action coming in the near future:

- **July 23rd:** This week, the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness will host a webinar on [Faithful Response to U.S. Detention and Asylum Policies](#). Click to register.
- **August:** Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) asking for [100 advocates to "drop-by" or visit congressional offices](#) during the August Congressional recess. Members of Congress tell us that **meeting with advocates has pushed them to redefine their positions on a number of issues.**

- Watch for information on an upcoming **St. Clare Pledge** you can take to make a commitment to calling your elected officials.

We urge you to check our [website](#) often for more information and updates.

## Take Action: Sign up to Host or Attend a Voting Rights Vigil

August 6 is the 54th anniversary of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. In June 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court's *Shelby County v. Holder* decision served to gut the VRA, giving individual states the ability to pass a wave of new restrictive voting laws that disproportionately impact people of color.

This August 6th, activists across the country are mobilizing to demand action. [Sign up to host or attend an event](#) calling for the restoration of the Voting Rights Act.

Voter ID laws, gerrymandering and voter purges are just a few of the barriers voters have encountered in the 20 states that have passed restrictive voting laws. Protecting the right to vote for every citizen is critical to a functioning democracy, which is why passing the Voting Rights Advancement Act (HR-4) to fix the Supreme Court's ruling is a major priority.

Join us on August 6, the anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, by hosting or attending a VRA Vigil in your community. [Find an event near you.](#)

SHINE A LIGHT



FOR DEMOCRACY

## Join Catholic Climate Covenant for a Webinar on Implementing Laudato Si'

[Laudato Si' and the U.S. Catholic Church conference](#) held June 27-29 at Creighton University was the first of three biennial conferences to convene, equip, and inspire current and potential leaders who can more robustly implement *Laudato Si'* and its climate change teaching into many ministries and institutions of the U.S. Catholic Church.

The Catholic Climate Covenant invites you to be a part of the next steps. [Register for a webinar](#) on **July 30th at 2pm ET / 11am PT** to learn more about the conference outcomes and how you can contribute to the integration of *Laudato Si'* in your parish, school, religious community, or Catholic institution. [Click here to register.](#) Everyone who registers will receive a



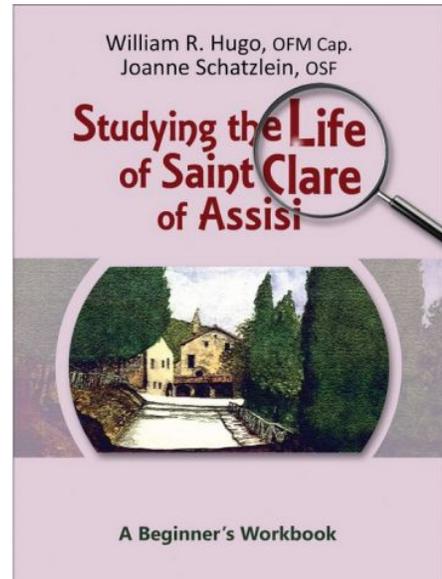
**LAUDATO SI'**  
AND THE U.S. CATHOLIC CHURCH  
A Conference Series on Our Common Home

recording of the webinar.

## New Publication: Studying the Life of Saint Clare of Assisi

FAN was recently made aware of a new publication, [Studying the Life of Saint Clare of Assisi](#), by William Hugo, OFM Cap. and Joanne Schatzlein, OSF.

Published by [New City Press](#), this one-of-a-kind resource helps readers discover St. Clare through a series of crisp chapters that first teach about the sources for St. Clare's life and writings and then apply that knowledge to manageable topics from her life. The book provides also an important introduction to feminine spirituality and religious life options for Medieval women and has been successful with high school graduates and Ph.Ds. It works for anyone who wants to do a guided study of the life of St. Clare of Assisi using primary sources. Those benefiting from this unique approach include Franciscans of all kinds, especially those in formation programs, students of medieval or female spirituality, historians of religious life, women and men working in Franciscan ministries, former pilgrims who have visited Assisi, and anyone wanting to learn how different people in the history of the Church responded to its changing circumstances.



"*Studying the Life of Saint Clare*" helps readers understand the Franciscan intuition in ways that move beyond St. Francis of Assisi. [Order your copy here.](#)

## Job Opening: FAN Seeking New Executive Director

Like the work we do? Think you'd like to work with us?

The Franciscan Action Network is currently seeking an [Executive Director](#) to grow and forward its mission: *Inspired by the Gospel of Jesus, and the example of Saints Francis and Clare, the Franciscan Action Network (FAN) is a collective of Franciscan voices seeking to transform United States public policy related to care for creation, poverty, human rights, and peacebuilding.* The Executive Director will provide leadership for the organization with a focus on fundraising, public relations, community engagement, programming and fiscal management.

Franciscan Action Network



Resume and cover letter should be sent to [jobs@franciscanaction.org](mailto:jobs@franciscanaction.org) and include the words "Executive Director" in the subject line. See the [full job description and qualifications](#) on our website. **Deadline for applying is by September 15, 2019.**

## Last Chance to Take Action: Urge Congress to End

## Private Prison Tax Breaks

The [images](#) of the deplorable conditions in which migrant children are being held seem to keep coming. Many migrants at our southern border are being detained in private prisons which, under current law, are rewarded through tax breaks.



For-profit institutions have every incentive to keep their beds full so they can get future contracts. The more people imprisoned, the higher the profits. In order to lower operating costs, these facilities cut corners, hiring fewer employees and paying and training them less, which often results in higher rates of assaults and in-fighting. Because of the crackdown on unauthorized immigration through its "zero tolerance" policy, the Trump Administration has created a boom for the private prison industry.

Under current laws, private prisons receive special tax exemptions because they are considered real estate investment trusts (REIT's). A [new bill](#) proposed by Sen. Ron Wyden would strip the private prison industry of this ability. FAN has partnered with several other organizations in this a [petition](#) urging an end to tax breaks for private prison companies.

Take action today and [sign this petition to demand Congress put an end to private prison tax breaks](#).