

## Doing Something New

Lent is often thought of as the time when we fast and give up stuff, like junk food or coffee. We spend time in repentance and sacrifice as we reflect on the real meaning and purpose of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. In [this week's second reading](#) from Philippians 3:8 it says: "For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having any righteousness of my own based on the law but that which comes through faith in Christ."

I remember as a kid being told that I had to give up something for Lent. I would sit around with my brothers and sister and my cousins and we would all declare what we were giving up. Then we would spend Lent keeping each other in check. Making sure we didn't cheat. The author of the letter to the Philippians tells us we have to give up everything to become one with Christ. The letter is pretty clear, it is not through following the law or through our self proclaimed righteousness that we find Christ. Rather it is living in Christ. It is not through worshipping at the foot of the Cross, but by taking up the Cross.



One of our FAN staff members, Sr. Maria, just returned from spending a week in Honduras. She shared about seeing the most horrific poverty and hunger. Maria heard stories about small farmers having their land stolen by wealthy landowners and they left with their families to starve. When they try to make their way north they are met with hostilities and accusations of them being terrorists, rapists, and drug smugglers. In the U.S., we hear our political leaders making statements and chanting phrases demonizing and dehumanizing these children of God, our brothers and sisters. Can we really be living in Christ while brothers and sisters live in such conditions?

This week's first reading from Isaiah says: "Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago consider not; see, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" In Matthew 9 it says: "Nor do they put new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined." Twentieth century visionary, Buckminster Fuller said: "In order to change an existing paradigm you do not struggle to try and change the problematic model. You create a new model and make the old one obsolete." Maybe for Lent, we should consider giving up our old ways, our existing paradigm. Maybe instead of giving up junk food or coffee, we should be part of the creation of something new. St. Angela of Foligno, a 13th century Franciscan mystic, said: My soul in an excess of wonder cried out: 'This world is pregnant with God!' Wherefore I understood how small is the whole of creation- that is, what is on this side and what is beyond the sea, the abyss, the sea itself, and

everything else- but the power of God fills it all to overflowing.” Imagine being part of building a new creation, a new Earth pregnant with God, being a mirror of God, and overflowing with God. What would that new creation look like for you? What would it look like for the people of Honduras? Have courage, for in Matthew 28:20 Jesus says: “I am with you always...”

Patrick Carolan  
FAN Executive Director

**Suggested Actions:**

Read the [first reading from Isaiah 43](#) again and pray on it. Consider what would a new creation look like for you.

**Suggested Petitions:**

May we strive every day to create heaven on earth in everything we do, we pray...

In thanksgiving for the mercy God shows us each day, we pray...

**Collect Prayer:**

**By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God,  
may we walk eagerly in that same charity  
with which, out of love for the world,  
your Son handed himself over to death.  
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**

## **Easter Week Opportunity: Earth Day Option to Take Action**

This [Earth Day](#) falls on Easter Monday. What a wonderful opportunity to begin to think “outside the tomb” about caring for our common home. We hope you are considering taking action this Earth Day! Here are some suggestions and resources:

Catholic [Earth Day resources](#) from Catholic Climate Covenant  
Christian [Education and worship materials](#) from Creation Justice Ministries

The [Arbor Day Foundation](#) recently announced the launch of its [Time for Trees initiative](#), a



commitment to plant 100 million trees in forests and communities worldwide by 2022 – the 150th anniversary of Arbor Day. More information is available at [arborday.org](http://arborday.org).

Our friends at the Global Catholic Climate Movement are bringing together Catholic institutions from around the world to divest from fossil fuels and reinvest in sustainability. [Read more about it here.](#)

Finally, if you or your community is ready to personally commit to divesting, FAN has learned of an investment company that strives to be environmentally conscious. Founded in 2014, [Terra Alpha Investments](http://Terra Alpha Investments) LLC (Terra Alpha) is a global public equities manager leveraging financially material environmental data to better inform their investment process. Their portfolio which consists of companies with fundamentally sustainable business models, attractive valuations, and business practices, is meant to provide investors with superior long-term, risk-adjusted returns. Learn more at [www.terraalphainvestments.com](http://www.terraalphainvestments.com)

## Take Action: Contact your Legislators and urge they Support the No BAN Act

The House and Senate are both set to introduce similar bills in their respective chambers called the [National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants Act](#) (NO BAN Act). The NO BAN Act will end the Muslim Ban and the scourge of religious discrimination in immigration by helping fix Immigration and Nationality Act loopholes. Religious liberty and equal treatment under the law are not partisan issues and we need to encourage Congress to move on this civil rights legislation.



Current co-sponsors of the bills are as follows:

### Senators:

Coons (D-DE), Feinstein (D-CA), Van Hollen (D-MD), Blumenthal (D-CT), Markey (D-MA), Harris (D-CA), Durbin (D-IL), Warren (D-MA), Murray (D-WA), Leahy (D-VT), Menendez (D-NJ), Klobuchar (D-MN), Booker (D-NJ), Cardin (D-MD), Kaine (D-VA), Schumer (D-NY), Shaheen (D-NH), Hirono (D-HI)

### Representatives:

Chu (D-CA 27th), Nadler (D-NY 10th), Lofgren (D-CA 19th), Omar (D-MN 5th), Tlaib (D-MI 13th), Carson (D-IN 7th), Beyer (D-VA 8th), Khanna (D-CA 17th), Jayapal (D-WA 7th), Norton (D-DC), Schakowsky (D-IL 9th), Rose (D-NY 11th), Espaillat (D-NY 13th), Gomez (D-CA 34th), Dingell (D-MI 12th), Rush (D-IL 1st), Cardenas (D-CA 29th), Smith (D-WA 9th)

By supporting the NO BAN Act and having hearings and mark-ups on the bills, Congress will send a message to the country that discrimination is not acceptable and must stop. We encourage you to **call your representatives and senators who are not represented here using the Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121** and ask them to support the NO BAN Act in their respective chambers.

## Fr. Mike Lasky, OFM Conv. Named as New FAN President

The Board of the Franciscan Action Network is pleased to announce our new president, [Fr. Mike Lasky, OFM Conv.](#)

Fr. Mike is from the [Our Lady of the Angels province](#) and currently serves as their Chairman of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission. Previously, he has worked as Regional Director for the Americas, of Franciscans International (FI), in NY and Parish Administrator and Campus Minister of Newman Student Center Parish, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Fr. Mike joined FAN's board in 2014 and served as vice president for the last 4 years. We are excited to see where Fr. Mike will lead our organization.

## Last Chance: Join FAN at Ecumenical Advocacy Days

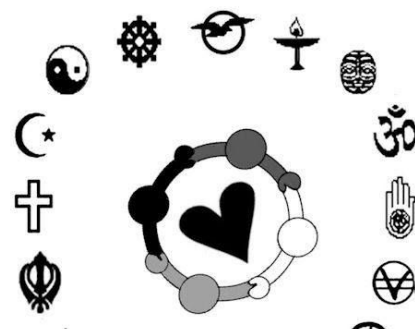
The staff of FAN is getting excited for [Ecumenical Advocacy Days](#) (EAD) this weekend. The significance of this conference cannot be understated. We gather at a time in which people of faith and conscience are again called to stand in the prophetic stream of those who have come before us, those who were not afraid to stir up #GoodTrouble for the sake of God's kingdom.



Please [let us know](#) if you will be coming to EAD. We will again be hosting a meeting on Friday afternoon of all Franciscans in attendance. Check the hotel schedule for the room location.

## Sr. Ginny Welsh, OSF/T to Receive the 2019 Heroes of Compassion Award

On April 7th, the [MultiFaith Council of Northwest Ohio](#) will host their 18th Annual MultiFaith Banquet, where they will honor several [Heroes of Compassion](#), including Sr. Ginny Welsh, OSF/T. The MultiFaith Council provides community leadership and facilitates programs that draw together diverse faiths and foster mutual respect, friendship and cooperation in service to the region. Their vision is to be a significant force and model of multifaith





collaboration by addressing critical issues that meet regional needs and by enriching the cultural fabric of the area. Toledo, Ohio area members can [register for the event here](#).

This year's banquet includes site tours, meditation, faith stories, youth discussion, Heroes of Compassion, a catered meal, and Keynote by Dr. Johnathon Ross who will share his thoughts on Healthcare for All: A Moral Issue.

We want to extend our wishes of congratulations to Sr. Ginny and all the recipients of the Heroes of Compassion Award!

## Help Stop Human Trafficking in the Maritime Industry: Join Labeling for Lent Campaign

During Lent, Catholics eat fish to be in greater solidarity with men, women, and children in need. This includes caring for those catching our seafood, many of whom are victims of exploitation and human trafficking. Join the Coalition of Catholic Organizations against Human Trafficking (CCOAH) in the 2019 Labeling for Lent Postcard Campaign. [Order free postcards](#) for your parish or community to sign, urging Costco to continue fighting slavery at sea and to inform consumers about their progress.



Here are some resources to help in educating your parish or community about the realities of the maritime industry:

From the [U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking: Slavery at Sea](#)

From CCOAH:

1. [One page flyer on Trafficking at Sea](#)
2. [Blog: Choose to Help Abolish Slavery in the Seafood Industry](#)
3. [Image: How Slave Labor Feeds the Seafood Supply Chains](#)

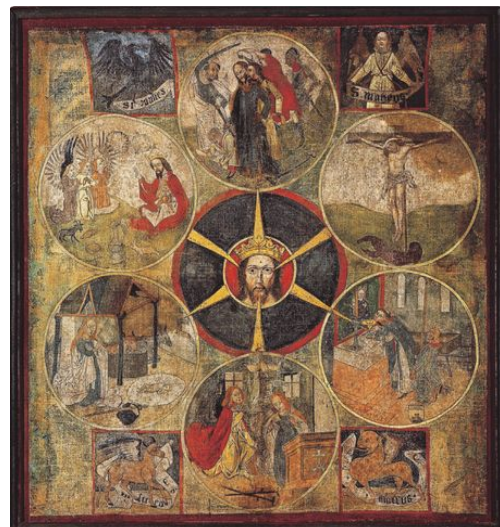


## Franciscans International Lenten Reflection

Franciscans International developed a short [reflection](#) on "The Works of Mercy and Human Rights" based on the "Mandala" of Saint Nicolas de Flue. *(Pictured)*

This "Mandala" was created in the 15th Century based on the insights of Saint Nicolas of Flue (1417-1487), who was canonized shortly after the Second World War and proclaimed Patron Saint of Peace.

The images of the mandala are sequenced according to the pleas of the "Our Father." Its structure is that of a wheel which symbolizes the passing of time, and



the history of the world and of humanity. God, the Unmoved Mover, is the center of the wheel and at the same time takes part in the different scenes. Through God's action, history of the world becomes that of salvation. However, humans are not just the "objects" of salvation. They take active part in salvation, as "subjects," with their acts of mercy.

You can [download the reflection here](#). We share it with you in the hope that it provides a source of spiritual nourishment for you and your community on your Lenten journey.

## Take Action and Make a Call Today: Where Are the Refugees?

The administration has set the lowest refugee admissions goal in the history of the resettlement program – at just 30,000 – and is not even on track to meet that goal. In Washington, DC, advocacy groups are gathering at the Capitol tomorrow, April 2nd for an [action to restore and protect the refugee program](#). If you live in the DC Metro area, we encourage you to support this action and join us.

If not in DC, you can still support our refugee brothers and sisters by **making calls to congress at (202) 224-3121**. People of faith must hold the administration accountable to protect refugees, asylum seekers, and families seeking protection. Here is a sample script:

*"Hello, My name is \_\_\_\_ and I'm a person of faith and your constituent from [CITY/TOWN]. I am outraged that the administration has set the lowest refugee admissions goal in the history of the resettlement program – at just 30,000 – and is not even on track to meet that goal. Resettlement is a core American legacy that allows refugees to rebuild their lives. I urge you to do everything in your power to see that, at the very least, the administration meets this year's admissions goal and commits to resettling at least 75,000 refugees in FY 2020. I also urge you to affirm the right of all people to seek asylum and protection, and see that the administration welcomes asylum seekers and respects family unity. To do otherwise violates U.S. and international law. My community welcomes refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants, and I urge you to do the same."*

