

From Darkness to Light, From Death to New Life!

As I reflect on our [readings for Easter Sunday](#), I am acutely aware of the fact that this reflection will be sent out and possibly read on the Monday or in the days leading into Holy Week.

This awareness is important because we cannot begin to understand the depth and profound gratuitous gift of new life in the Resurrected Christ unless we are willing to open our eyes, our hearts and our minds to the suffering and Crucified Christ. As we enter into the Paschal Triduum we enter into the experience of the suffering of Christ Jesus who was betrayed, arrested, denied, beaten, scorned, ridiculed, and put to death. The Triduum, the Paschal Mystery, is not individual events or rituals but one flowing movement of God's gracious outpouring of Crucified Love that breaks the bonds of suffering and death to offer new life, new hope and the promise that the Christ who was raised from death will come again.



Let us enter this week and remember the presence of the suffering Christ in our sisters and brothers who have been abused and betrayed by the clerical leaders whom they trusted. Let us recognize those who have been betrayed and imprisoned into the darkness of human slavery and trafficking. Let us acknowledge the suffering Christ in the men, women, and children arrested at our southern border and denied the right to seek asylum and refugee status. Let us look upon the suffering Christ in those scorned, ridiculed, and beaten because of the color of their skin, because of the clothes they wear, the way they pray and express their faith or their human sexuality. Let us truly see the dying and crucified Christ in all those who have lost their lives from violence, hatred, and shootings in schools, at concerts, in movie theaters, in churches, mosques and synagogues. This is the Body of Christ suffering and dying in our midst and in our world today.

Our culture, our society, our self-centeredness continues to create an environment of distrust, hatred, and fear. Is this really any different than what Jesus encountered in his final days? Yet God continues to pour out forgiveness, mercy, and reconciling love and invites us to recognize and to work for the unity, goodness, and healing of the Body of Christ in our world. Only then will we begin to understand the gift of Resurrected Love and the promise of One Spirit that flows through and unites all people and all creation. May we be willing to embrace the darkness of pain and suffering and be the light and the hope of Christ's presence and resurrected love for others!

Margaret Magee OSF
Member of the FAN Board

Suggested Action:

During the special masses and services of this Holy Week, deeply contemplate the pain and suffering of Jesus and find time to be silently attentive to any response you feel from the Spirit.

Suggested Petitions:

May the love of the risen Lord permeate our hearts and seep in to everything we do, we pray...
For all those struggling with their faith, may the story of the empty tomb strengthen their conviction in God, we pray...

Collect Prayer

**O God, who on this day,
through your Only Begotten Son,
have conquered death
and unlocked for us the path to eternity,
grant, we pray, that we who keep
the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection
may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit,
rise up in the light of life.
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

Take Action: Sign Petition to Repeal the Ban with NO BAN Act

Last week, the [NO BAN Act](#) was officially introduced by Sen. Chris Coons in the Senate and Rep. Judy Chu in the House. FAN joined over 300 religious leaders and organizations in signing on to a [letter to Congress](#) calling for its passage.

The [NO BAN Act](#) will not just repeal the current Muslim, asylum, and refugees bans, it will also limit the ability of future administrations to ban people based on their religion or where they come from. As people of faith, we are called by our sacred texts and faith principles to love our neighbor, accompany the vulnerable, and welcome the stranger.



We urge our members and friends to [join us in urging Congress to support the NO BAN Act](#).

Take Action: Urge your Senator to Support the

Paycheck Fairness Act

The House of Representative passed the Paycheck Fairness Act just in time for Equal Pay Day on April 2nd. Now, the bill moves on to the Senate.

Take this opportunity today, Tax Day, to [contact your Senators and urge their support for the Paycheck Fairness Act](#), which would close loopholes in the Equal Pay Act, combatting wage discrimination and strengthening workplace protections for women.

On average, women lose out on over \$10,000 each year because of unequal pay. That's \$10,000 that could be spent on groceries, childcare, healthcare, and education. [Urge your Senator to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act](#).

VICTORY!
WE CAN DO IT – AND WE DID IT.



The U.S. House of Representatives just PASSED
The Paycheck Fairness Act!

Wishing our Jewish Friends a very Happy Passover

This year, the Jewish celebration of Passover begins at sundown on Good Friday.

On Passover, Jews around the world celebrate a foundational moment in their story: the Exodus from Egypt. This narrative of slavery to liberation informs conversations about what a just society must look like, including love for the immigrant. Acutely aware of their history of forced migration and the Biblical imperative to love the immigrant, many Jewish communities are deeply committed to immigrant justice work. The [Interfaith Immigration Coalition](#) developed a one-page resource with links to use during Seder and to learn more about the Jewish imperative to care about immigration. [Look for it here](#).



In a spirit of unity and peace, the staff of the Franciscan Action Network would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Jewish friends and neighbors a very blessed Passover feast. "Chag Sameach!"

Save the Date: Calendar for Fall 2019 Holds Two Notable Events

FAN staff have recently been made aware of two notable events taking place this September.

First is the **Campaign Nonviolence week of action** for peace, racial justice, economic equality, and environmental healing from **September 14-22**.

- Last year, over 2,660 marches, rallies, workshops and other public events took place in all 50 states and 25 countries. This year we will build on this growing



movement by bringing all of our issues together in the same week, calling with one voice for a nonviolent culture that works for everyone. We urge our members and friends to join us to deepen and broaden the vision, power, and practice of nonviolent change. Get more information (and see some of FAN staff at last year's march in Washington, DC) on [Pace e Bene's website](#).

Second is the **105th World Day of Migrants and Refugees** which will be observed on **Sunday, September 29, 2019**.

- The theme chosen by Pope Francis this year will be "It is not just about migrants" and the vatican's [Migrants & Refugees Section](#) is mounting a communication campaign offering monthly reflections, information and multimedia materials, from a variety of viewpoints, to promote a deeper understanding of the theme. We urge our members and friends to make use of the [multitude of resources available](#) and plan an observance in your community.

Join us Tomorrow: Justice for Immigrants' Monthly Webinar

We hope you can join us for the next JFI webinar, "*A Better Way Forward: Rethinking Immigration Enforcement*" tomorrow, **Tuesday, April 16th at 3:30 PM Eastern / 12:30 PM Pacific** when students from the Keogh School at University of Notre Dame present their comparative research on migration enforcement systems.

On the webinar you will learn about how countries deal differently with similar immigration enforcement situations.

Login: bit.ly/RethinkEnforcement

Dial-in: (917) 338-1451

Passcode: 992869#

We hope you'll take this great opportunity to learn how different countries deal differently with similar situations.

A Better Way Forward: Rethinking Immigration Enforcement

Tuesday, April 16th, 3:30 pm

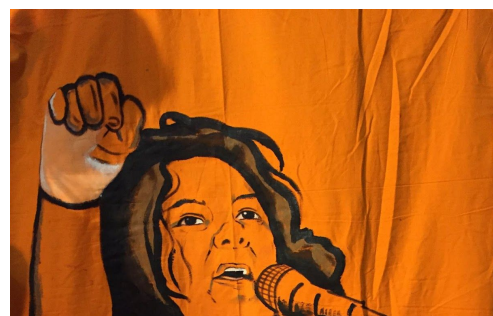
Please join us for a webinar that will focus on the findings of a research team from the University of Notre Dame, who examined migration enforcement mechanisms along the US/Mexico Border, in Germany, and in Greece. It's an opportunity to learn how different countries deal differently with similar situations

 **JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS**  **UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME**

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Call your Representative and Urge Support for the Berta Cáceres Act 2019

Representative Hank Johnson (GA-4) and 43 Cosponsors have [reintroduced](#) the Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act (HR1945). Originally introduced in 2016, two months after the assassination of beloved Honduran Indigenous and feminist leader, Berta Cáceres, the Act was met with immediate and broad support including the AFL-CIO,



the Sierra Club, and over a hundred other faith, labor, environmental, and human rights organizations.

The bill demands that all U.S. aid to Honduran security forces must cease, and the U.S. must vote 'no' on all loans from multinational development banks to Honduras until the Honduran government has met several conditions. FAN's own Sr. Maria Orlandini made a [recent trip](#) to Honduras and saw first hand how the U.S. policies have negatively impacted the Honduran people.

We urge our members and friends to **call your Representative's office at (202) 224-3121** and ask to speak to the foreign policy aide. Here is a sample script to use:

"My name is _____. I am a person of faith and a constituent from (your town/city) in (your state). I am calling to ask Rep. _____ to co-sponsor H.R. 1945, The Berta Cáceres Human Rights in Honduras Act calling for a suspension of U.S. security aid to Honduras until human rights violations committed by the Honduran security forces cease. Has Rep. _____ seen this bill? Can I count on him/her to sign on?"

Check to [see if your Representative was a cosponsor](#) and if so, call their office to thank them. Be sure to [let us know](#) how your call went.

2020 Census Resources from Faith in Public Life

There is a lot at stake with the 2020 Census. From the possibility of a citizenship question to other additional barriers, it will take all of us to make sure every community is counted. **Faith leaders are trusted messengers and will be critical in helping to spread the word.**

[Faith in Public Life](#) has released their newest 2020 Census materials to help parishes and communities engage in conversation.



- [Census Sabbath Flyer/Bulletin](#): Distribute these flyers as bulletin inserts, put it in a powerpoint, or just print to hang around the congregation-- whatever makes most sense for you!
- [Faith Census Toolkit](#): This toolkit provides some background information on the census, it's importance, and how faith communities can spread the word.
- [Info Session Powerpoint](#): This short presentation can be used anywhere and by anyone! It's important that we are all aware of the importance of the census, the implications of an undercount for our communities, and how we can get involved.

Find more information and resources on [FIPL's website](#).

TODAY: Webinar on Climate Change from

Franciscan Perspective

The JPIC Office of the Order based in Rome is offering a webinar on Climate Change from a Franciscan perspective to be held on **Monday, April 15 at 2pm Eastern / 11am Pacific**. [Join the webinar by clicking here](#).

This webinar will serve to:

- Help you to gain a deeper understanding of the implication of climate change from the scientific perspective and Franciscan tradition.
- Offer examples of creative actions to address climate change at the individual and institutional levels.
- Challenge and inspire you to become a more effective instrument of God's peace and healing for Earth's Community of Life.



Attendees will hear from:

[Br. Keith Warner, OFM](#), a Franciscan Friar in the St. Barbara Province and a practical social ethicist in the Franciscan tradition. He works extensively to advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the spirit of *Laudato Si'*, and has recently collaborated with the California Bishops to prepare a pastoral statement on the fourth anniversary of the document. **Dr. Danny Richter**, Vice President of Government Affairs at [Citizens' Climate Lobby](#), an international grassroots environmental group that trains and supports volunteers to build relationships with their elected representatives in order to influence climate policy.