

“Blessed are they who have not seen and yet have come to believe”

For too many, a miracle in today's current climate and culture and time seems to be a special effect or some type of emotional reaction in a story. We are, for the most part, returning to a time where self comes first, the age of Thomas the Apostle, of needing to see to believe.



Look around in Church this Sunday. The pews have more room and space than last week. There's more parking in the lot and the even the flowers in the Church seem to be different than last week, when their newness and sweet smell made the Church seem so alive and new. Yes, Easter has come! Now what? Where is the difference in our hearts and more especially in our lives?

The Spanish have a great proverb that fits [this Sunday and its readings](#) so well. It is, “Establish your reputation and go to bed.” This speaks to us about the difficulty in changing what people know of us.

Too many of us know this proverb in a personal way. No matter what happens in our lives, we are looked at by those who know us, or more importantly who *think* they know us, as what we were known by our relationship in the past.

Thankfully, it's very different with God! For us, God is the Lord of many chances.

During Lent, I spent time each day reading short daily stories of men and women whose lives were touched and changed by God's love and Grace. Many of whom are called Saints and even more whose lives and experiences touched others and brought them to the Lord.

In every life, it was not so much what they said, but it was always what they did for others. Today's miracles are the lives that embrace, encourage, support, and accept those whom our society overlooks or more so looks away from out of fear or confusion. These are the miracles of today that will lead the doubting into believing.

Br. Paul Crawford, OFM Cap.
FAN Board Member

Suggested Action:

Meditate on this question: As we imagine Jesus's miracle, what are the challenges in trying to understand and believe the reality of God's acting in history?

Suggested Petitions:

May continued participation in the paschal mystery deeply affect the hearts of all the faithful. We pray...

For all those struggling with poverty, violence, sorrow, and disease; may the risen Lord strengthen and uplift them in their time of need. We pray...

Collect Prayer:

**God of everlasting mercy,
who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast
kindle the faith of the people you have made your own,
increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed,
that all may grasp and rightly understand
in what font they have been washed,
by whose Spirit they have been reborn,
by whose Blood they have been redeemed.
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 Season Opportunity: Earth Day Option to Take Action

Today is not just Easter Monday, but also [Earth Day](#). We are reminded of 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 or at some point during the Easter season. Here are some suggestions and resources:

The [Earth Day Climate Prayer](#) **today at noon in your time zone**. Across the nation, people of all faiths will join their voices together to pray for action on climate change. [Add your name and join us in prayer](#).



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](#).

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.](#)

FAN's Jason Miller Speaks at Chapman University on Franciscan Advocacy

Last week, FAN's Director of Campaigns and Development, Jason Miller was invited to speak at Chapman University in Orange, California. He presented about [FAN's work](#) on social justice and Franciscan advocacy and activism to three classes in the peace studies department as well as the Newman Catholic Club.



Jason was excited to meet people who go to a local Franciscan parish and hear of their interest in setting up a solidarity table. It is through the [Franciscan Solidarity Tables](#) that we are all able to work on justice issues through a lense of Franciscan spirituality. If you're interested in setting up a Solidarity Table in your community, [send Jason an email](#) to set up a call for more information.

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

The [NO BAN Act](#) was officially introduced recently 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.

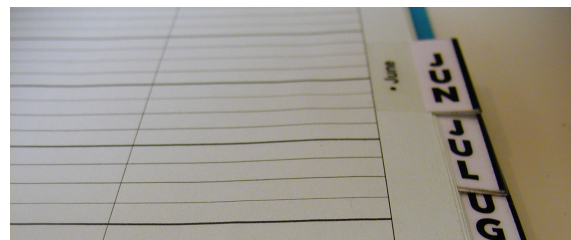


We urge our members and friends to [join us in urging Congress to support the NO BAN Act](#).

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.

Take Action: Sign Petition to Close the Homestead Child Detention Center

The U.S. government is currently holding over 2,000 child migrants, many of whom have been separated from their families by U.S. immigration officials, in a detention center in Homestead, Florida. Most have fled violence and poverty in Central America and are seeking asylum in the United States.

Instead of being released to family members or other sponsors, many are spending weeks or months in inhumane detention. And because Homestead is an emergency influx center, children are not protected by agreements that ordinarily ensure licensing and other standards are met. We urge our members and friends to [sign the petition](#) to stop immigrant child detention today.



After last week's decision by Attorney General Barr to deny a asylum seekers a bond hearing to argue for their release, we increase our [efforts to speak up](#) for those attempting to escape violence and poverty in their home countries.

All children deserve to live in safety and peace. It's time to reunite children with their loved ones. [Sign the petition today](#).

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](#).

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.