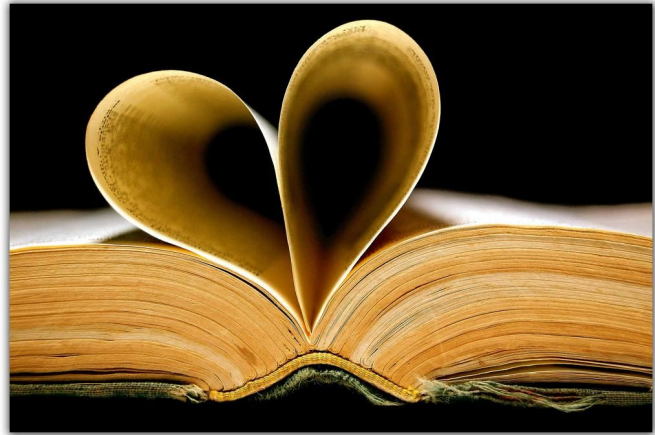


God's Gift to All

In the [first reading this week](#) we hear such a familiar discussion or debate in regards to how one is "SAVED." In the Gospel, Jesus is preparing us for what is to come or perhaps more importantly how the Church, the community of believers, needs to understand and see the work of God on earth in our midst, in and through the gifts of unity and more importantly through the Power of the Holy Spirit.



So, the first reading is a summary of the first embrace of differing opinions in the Church about how God is working in our current situations. That gathering is called the First Council of Jerusalem. The conversion outside of the Jewish community, of the "others" brought about some different opinions.

Needless to say, people were not of one mind on this issue. In fact, both sides had very strong opinions, which caused disagreements. Sound similar? It might have been the first, but as we know, not the last.

Throughout the history of the followers of Jesus, there have been times of great discussion and debate. Even today, the voices within the Church are at times diverse on Policy and Practices. But we need to be true to the Gospel, where we hear that in loving Jesus, we keep His word. His word, His gift to all, to love one another, in spite of our opinions, differences, attitudes, and policies and practices.

For if we can listen to each other and still accept our differences, then the Holy Spirit can empower us to see a New Heaven and a New Earth, and perhaps we can then "build that city on a hill!"

Br. Paul Crawford, OFM Conv.
FAN Board Member

Suggested Action:

This week, contemplate your answer to these questions: Am I praying for those that I disagree with to be blessed by God's love? How can I embrace the "leper, enemy, opponent" in my life?

Suggested Petitions:

May our hearts be open to accept with grace and humility all differing opinions. We pray...
May our response to those differing opinions be one of love and respect. We pray....

Collect Prayer:

Grant, almighty God,
that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy,
which we keep in honor of the risen Lord,
and that what we relive in remembrance
we may always hold to in what we do.
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 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](#).



Sign the Petition: Tell Congress to Tackle the Climate Crisis Now

The Climate crisis is a global threat and our faith calls us to action. The current administration dangerously continues to deny the issue, claiming the science isn't real.

In response to the U.S. being pulled from the Paris Agreement, Congress has introduced



the [Climate Action Now Act](#) -- legislation that would prohibit the Trump administration from using any funds to withdraw from the agreement and require the administration to submit a detailed plan to Congress on how the United States will meet its climate obligations. The House passed this legislation on May 2nd and now it heads to the Senate.

We must recommit to the goals of Paris Climate Agreement if we want to ratchet down carbon pollution and stave off the worst impacts of the climate crisis. We urge our members and friends to [sign the petition to Congress: Tackle the climate crisis and pass the Climate Action Now Act](#).

Parliament of World Religions Launches Climate Action WebForum

Last week, we were made aware that the [Parliament of World Religions](#) has two upcoming initiatives and we wanted to make sure our members are informed. Please see below:



The Climate Action Program at the Parliament of the World's Religions invites you to join them for their upcoming webinar series, Faith and Climate Webinar Series, and the launch of their Climate Action WebForum.

[Faith and Climate Webinar Series](#): The Parliament's Climate Action Program and the Security and Sustainability Forum are working together to produce a new webinar series early next month. The Faith and Climate webinars will bring faith leaders and climate activists from all sectors and faiths together to address our increasingly urgent and collective responsibility to act on behalf of the natural world and all humanity to change the catastrophic impact we are having on our planet. [More information here](#).

[Climate Action WebForum](#): The Climate Action Program is also launching a special "[WebForum](#)" page on the Parliament's website to provide background about the Faith and Climate Webinar Series and begin a discussion of webinar topics ahead of time. The WebForum will feature a lead essay by a panelist from the upcoming Faith and Climate webinar, with written responses from other panelists and invited experts from the field, as well as comments and questions from readers. Each WebForum topic will include background information about the specific webinar topic, with links to further reading in anticipation of the webinar itself.

Johns Hopkins Offers Online Gun Violence Prevention Course

Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research received a grant to offer high school and college youth access to [courses on gun violence prevention](#) (GVP) research taught by some of the world's leading GVP researchers. They have developed a massive open online course (MOOC), available this month through [Coursera](#) to help learners



understand relevant legal issues and effectively use the most relevant data. Learners will gain an understanding of the interventions with the greatest impact on gun violence and common concerns and arguments made about gun policies. [Click here for more information.](#)

In related news, last week, [Everytown for Gun Safety](#) sent out notice of the reintroduction of the Disarm Hate Act– legislation introduced by Congressman David Cicilline (D-RI) and Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) that would prohibit people convicted of misdemeanor hate crimes from possessing or purchasing guns. [More information here.](#)

FAN Accompanies RCUSA Advocacy Day Participants to Congressional Meetings

Last week, the [Refugee Council, USA](#) sponsored their Advocacy Days, where about 300 advocates, refugees, service providers, and local members of advocacy groups converged on Capitol Hill for two days of congressional visits urging support for refugee resettlement. After several briefings and trainings to prepare for the visits, participants engaged in 170 congressional meetings on behalf of refugees.



Through FAN's membership on the steering committee of Justice for Immigrants/USCCB, two FAN staff members volunteered to accompany groups on their congressional visits. Sr. Maria Orlandini accompanied a group from Virginia, while Sr., Marie Lucey (*pictured, far right*) went with a group from Utah. Members of the state delegations shared personal stories and made several asks of Representatives and Senators: increase the number of refugee admissions in 2020 from its historically 2019 low of 30,000 to 75,000 and support programs with adequate funding; support the GRACE Act and the No Ban Act. Information on these points and much more can be [found here](#).

Sisters Maria and Marie agreed that they felt privileged to share the day with sisters and brothers who shared their stories of being refugees and gratefully resettled in this country where they now live productive lives.

FAN Calls On President Trump to “Go Back to the Drawing Board” on Immigration; Stands With Immigrants and Refugees

After the Trump Administration last week announced a new immigration plan with family visas greatly reduced and no mention of Dreamers, FAN released [this statement](#), urging they “go back to the drawing board.”

Also, last week, partners from MoveOn, United We Dream, the Families Belong Together



Alliance, the Center for Popular Democracy, and others [erected](#) America's iconic Statue of Liberty in Columbus Circle outside of Union Station to allow passers by to express their solidarity with immigrants and refugees.

FAN's staff members went to take "selfies" with the statue to visually join in the event and demonstrate that Franciscans and Franciscan hearted people eagerly welcome immigrants and refugees.

Internships with the Franciscan Action Network (FAN) Now Open for the Summer

Are you a current college student or recent graduate interested in faith and social justice? Do you want to lift up the voice of Franciscans in the public square? Join us and [intern with the Franciscan Action Network \(FAN\)](#) for the summer!

FAN's Internship Program is a 2-4 month educational and professional development experience that introduces you to faith-rooted advocacy, community organizing and church engagement. You will learn about the role of faith in public life, and how we use advocacy and activism to translate Catholic Social Teaching principles into action. Based at the Franciscan Monastery, you will be welcomed into the family of Franciscans and Franciscan-hearted people. [Click here for more information](#) and requirements.



To submit an application send your resume and cover letter to info@franciscanaction.org.