

## Empowered by the Holy Spirit

“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, ‘Peace be With You’. (John 20:19) When the disciples were together again in one room, it was not a peaceful scene. As [related in Acts](#): “And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were,” followed by tongues of fire which parted and settled over each of them and each one in the room spoke in a different language that all understood. “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit’s coming was not one of peace, serenity, and calm. In fact, the Jews who heard the noise and heard them speak in different tongues wrote them off as bewildering and probably drunk.



But at that moment the disciples were empowered by the Holy Spirit to preach about Jesus and resist those who misjudged and dismissed them. With the coming of the Holy Spirit, the disciples found strength, joy, and pride in preaching and upholding the life and prophecy of Jesus.

Why should we be surprised when we receive the same destiny as the disciples? If our destiny is to bring peace and justice to this world, are we willing to work against the injustices of unequal pay, denial of the gifts of women, lack of health care, racism, denial of rights and compassion for the refugee and immigrant population, compassion for the poor, care of the earth and the many more injustices? By receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit – fortitude; knowledge; piety; awe, wonder and fear of the Lord – we are strengthened to end the injustices. Every time we are confronted by an injustice, we know we can handle it because we know we are not alone. Today as we say “Come Holy Spirit” let us be aware of what we are asking for. Can we live up to and embrace the destiny that is ours?

Sr. Marge Wissman, OSF  
FAN Board Member

### **Suggested Action:**

Pentecost Sunday is the celebration of the Birthday of the Church. Let us move into the new church year willing to respond to the challenges that come our way when we say, “Come Holy Spirit.”

### **Suggested Petitions:**

May we call on the Holy Spirit to infuse us with the gifts of the Spirit, we pray...

May we listen to the Holy Spirit in times when we are challenged to do the just action, we pray...

**Prayer (from Sequence):**

**Come, Holy Spirit, come!  
And from your celestial home  
Shed a ray of light divine!  
Come, Father of the poor!  
Come, source of all our store!  
Come, within our bosoms shine! ...  
O most blessed Light divine,  
Shine within these hearts of yours,  
And our inmost being fill!**

**Amen. Alleluia.**

## **As Intern Michael Specht Continues his Journey, We Pause to say: "Thank You!"**

For the last year, the staff of Franciscan Action Network (FAN) have welcomed the assistance of our intern, Michael Specht, who is a postulant of the [Franciscan Interprovincial Postulancy - Holy Name College](#) and [Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province](#). Mike's enthusiasm and willingness to step in where needed were wonderful blessings to all of us.

Mike will continue his journey to becoming a professed Franciscan in Santa Barbara, CA. As we joined with the outgoing postulants last week they prayed for our ministry:

"Where the people of God suffer injustice, may the Franciscan Action Network speak prophetic truth to power:

Response: God of Love Help Us to Serve!"

Amen!

He will be greatly missed and we wish him and all the postulants continued blessings of Peace and All Good!



## **Take Action: Use these World Refugee Day Resources**

As we approach World Refugee Day on June 20th, our friends at [Refugee Council, USA](#) have developed a [comprehensive toolkit](#) which outlines the top 4 ways to help protect refugees



and restore the U.S. resettlement program. Throughout the month of June, we are joining RCUSA in asking people to take action in one of the following ways:

1. **Share your message on social media!** Use #WRD2019 in all postings. Sample posts are in the [toolkit](#).
2. **Host or attend a local World Refugee Day event**, Journey Sabbath, or prophetic action. [We Are All America has a map](#) where you can register your event, or find out what is going on in your area.
3. **Participate in our National Call-in Day on Thursday, June 20th.** [Click here](#) for calling tools and a sample script.
4. **Advocate for local Refugees Welcome resolutions** from your state and local policymakers. Resources available in the [toolkit](#).

Throughout this month, we come together to celebrate the courage and resilience of refugees and their contributions to U.S. communities.

## **Wear Orange: National Gun Violence Awareness Day This Friday**

On January 21, 2013, Hadiya Pendleton, a high school student from the south side of Chicago, marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade. One week later, Hadiya was shot and killed on a playground back in Chicago. Soon after this tragedy, Hadiya's childhood friends decided to commemorate her life by wearing orange, the color hunters wear in the woods to protect themselves and others.

June is Hadiya's birth month and 5 years ago, a broad-based coalition asked people nationwide to join in what Hadiya's friends started for the 1st National Gun Violence Awareness Day. **We invite our members and friends to join in the 5th National Gun Violence Awareness Day on June 7th. Wear orange and demand a change.**



Organizations and communities can [sign on here](#) to participate and host an action. Get more information and find events near you at [Wear Orange](#). FAN staff members will join in a powerful event on the grounds of the [Washington National Cathedral](#), where the façade will be lit up in orange at 8pm on June 7th, in honor of National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

## **Take Action: Continued Calls are Needed in Support of Dream Act and American Promise Act**

Last week, the legislation marking up the [American Dream and Promise Act](#) passed out of the House Judiciary Committee. Amid the administration's multiple attempts to end various pro-immigrant pieces of legislation, such as



Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Temporary Protected Status (TPS), and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED), these bills will provide not only necessary protections, but also a clear pathway to citizenship for the affected populations.

Advocates for this type of legislation have been working to provide information about Dreamers to showcase the benefits they provide to our communities. Just last week, the Center for American Progress released [State-by-State fact sheets](#) containing detailed data on the demographic and economic impacts of immigrants eligible for protection under the Dream and Promise Act. [Find your state's fact sheet here.](#)

We urge our members this week to stay attentive and **continue to call House members at 202-225-3121 and ask them to support the Dream Act and American Promise Act**, urging a path to citizenship for both current DACA recipients and TPS holders.

## As Spring Turns to Summer, We Continue to Care for Our Common Home

As people of faith and spirit, we are deeply grateful for the Earth. Yet we know that nature is out of balance and feel a moral responsibility to respond. We want our lives to reflect our values, avoiding excess and embracing simplicity. FAN continues to support the [Living the Change](#) campaign, where individuals can make personal commitments to live more sustainably. Make your commitment and share it on social media using the hashtag, #LivingTheChange to encourage others to do the same. Additionally, we offer information on more climate care events below.



June 18th, 2019 marks the fourth anniversary of the release of Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home* and momentum is building in the U.S. Catholic Church. The Catholic Climate Covenant is hosting a [webinar on Tuesday, June 11th 2019 at 3pm ET / 12p PT](#), where they will share the good news of what has happened as well as what lies just ahead so, together, we can build on these efforts. [Register here](#) even if you can not attend in person and you will receive a recording of the webinar.

Millions of [school strikers](#) have shown us they're serious about climate action and on Friday, May 24th, the youth challenged adults: Will you join us? We urge our members and friends to **save the date for a global [week of action for the climate](#) from Friday, September 20 to Friday, September 27, 2019**. FAN staff members are talking with organizers at [350.org](#) to plan a way for the faith community to be involved in this global week of action. Stay tuned for more information.

## Bread for the World's 2019 Advocacy Summit

Bread for the World's [2019 Advocacy Summit](#) is scheduled for Monday, June 10 and Tuesday, June 11, 2019. This year's theme is "Better Nutrition,





Better Tomorrow" and advocacy efforts are focused on urging Congress to pass legislation that will accelerate progress on global nutrition.

The Advocacy Summit offers a unique opportunity to come together with advocates from across the country to communicate personally with members of Congress and their staff in Washington, D.C. Studies show that one-on-one-communications between constituents and their members of Congress often cause a tipping point that results in lawmakers supporting a bill.

For [more information or to register, click here](#).