

Corpus Christi: “Could be...”

Catholic Christians are asked to accept much on faith: Trinity, three Persons in one God; Word made Flesh in the womb of a virgin; Resurrection of Jesus from the dead; the real presence of Jesus Christ in bread and wine, Corpus Christi, Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Mysteries beyond human reason, not verified by scientific facts, but accepted by a God-given gift of faith. It is a gift that can be tested by doubt and questioning during one's lifetime.



On this [feast of Corpus Christi](#), the readings remind us that Jesus gave himself to us not as a Host in a monstrance, but as Bread, food to be eaten in order to nourish and transform us. I recall with gratitude a story shared by a priest several years ago. During a Liturgy when members of the province were gathered, the provincial presided. When all the priests had received Communion, a disheveled, probably homeless man who had sat in the back of the chapel, shuffled up. When the priest held up the Host and said “Body of Christ,” the man paused, then nodded and responded, “Could be.” The priest gave him Communion.

In moments when we cannot say “Amen” with strong conviction, “could be” is a sufficient act of faith, acceptable to an understanding and loving God. “Body of Christ,” an infant in a virgin's womb; “Body of Christ” risen from the dead; “Body of Christ,” the whole of Creation; “Body of Christ,” in bread to be eaten so I, too, can be Christ in the world. Amen! Or on days when faith trembles, “could be.”

Sr. Marie Lucey, OSF
FAN Associate Director

Suggested action:

Reflect on the physical and spiritual hungers of the world. How do you feed them?

Suggested petitions:

That the Body and Blood of Christ may strengthen us to help feed the hungers of the world. We pray...

That our Amen to the mysteries of faith may be strengthened. We pray...

Prayer by Pope Francis:

**Being a Christian isn't just following the commandments,
but means being in Christ,
thinking like him, acting like him, loving him;
it means letting him take possession of our lives**

and change them, transform them,
free them from the darkness of evil and sin.

Amen

This Week: Take Part in the National Call-in for World Refugee Day June 20th

As a member and supporter of the Franciscan Action Network (FAN), we probably don't need to remind you: everything is connected.

This is never so true as when we see the strong link between forced migration and human trafficking. Recognizing this connection, the U.S. Catholic Sisters against Human Trafficking (USCSAHT) have prepared a [comprehensive tool kit](#) for World Refugee Day that includes a backgrounder, prayers, stories, an action page and much more.



We, along with USCSAHT are inviting members and friends to honor the strength, courage, and resilience of refugees on **Thursday June 20th, World Refugee Day**. Join in the **national Call-in day**. Find the call-in number and a sample script [here](#).

Moms Clean Air Force Hosts a Play-in for Climate Action

Around the world, our children are already leading the charge to climate safety. They're [walking out of their classrooms](#), sending a powerful message to world leaders that they will not give up when their future is on the line.

On July 11th, the [Moms Clean Air Force](#) is hosting their sixth Play-In for Climate Action in Washington, DC. More than a typical protest, the Play-In for climate action celebrates the power that moms hold to create a better, safer world for all children. We know that children can't — and shouldn't — sit still, so the traditional *sit-in* has been swapped for the more family-focused *play-in*. The day will include kids' activities, music by Latin GRAMMY Award-winning children's musician, Mister G, and exciting speakers, as attendees deliver a public message from families across the country: it's time to get serious about climate change.



Get [more information and register to attend](#) here.

Mark the Shelby Anniversary: Support the Voting

Rights Act

June 25, 2019, marks six years since the *Shelby County v. Holder* decision, which gutted the Voting Rights Act, subjecting millions of voters to discrimination and disenfranchisement.

The Leadership Conference coalition and its allies around the country will mark June 24-30, 2019 with a Shelby Week of Action to push Congress for action to restore the Voting Rights Act. They have developed

[this Toolkit](#) which includes Message

Guidance; Social Media Guidance; Event Planning Sample and Checklist; Sample Media Advisory; Sample Action Email Language. **We urge our members and friends to join in the effort by posting some social media and writing letters to the editor of your local paper to raise awareness.**

We must stand together to end discrimination in voting nationwide, and to ensure that every vote counts.



People of Honduras Need our Help: Appeal for Radio Progreso

In March of this year, FAN's Director of Advocacy, Sr. Maria Orlandini [traveled to Honduras](#) with 72 faith leaders, including 20+ sisters, to listen and learn from the people of Honduras. The goal of the delegation was to try to better understand the root causes of forced-migration. They wanted to see what it was that was driving so many Hondurans from their homes.

The generosity of the staff at [Radio Progreso](#) made it possible for the

delegates to meet with community leaders fighting for human rights, and the right of families to live in dignity. They promised to continue to accompany the Hondurans in their struggle for democracy. The situation in Honduras is critical and Radio Progreso is in need of new sound equipment for the Radio so that they can continue to speak the truth and expand their reach to a larger audience.



The [SHARE Foundation](#), one of the co-sponsors of our "Root Causes Pilgrimage" is [leading our efforts to raise \\$10,000 for the equipment](#). We encourage our members and friends to consider making a donation and sharing this information and link with your networks of friends and online. Every message of solidarity, every dollar raised helps save lives in Honduras.

June is Gun Violence Awareness Month

As part of our mission to work for peace, FAN continues to advocate for gun violence prevention legislation that will translate to a safer society. To that end, on June 7th, the staff participated in [Wear Orange Day](#), which we promoted on social media. Did you wear orange too? Send us a picture at info@franciscanaction.org and we'll be sure to share!



We lift up this [article in National Catholic Reporter](#) which mentions the work done by the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia (who are FAN members) who took a corporate stand on behalf of gun safety reform as a community. As Sr. Kate O'Donnell, OSF states in the article:

"I believe if Jesus, the epitome of nonviolence, walked our earth today he would not hesitate for one minute to speak to the issue of gun violence," she said. "Unfortunately, this kind of preaching seems to be silent in our church as a whole."

Finally, we highlight that our friends at the [Friends Committee on National Legislation](#) will host a dialogue on gun violence prevention with Peter Murchison, who became a GVP advocate after losing his nephew in the Sandy Hook shooting. Anyone interested in joining the conversation **in-person at the Quaker Welcome Center or online this Thursday, June 20 at 8:00am Eastern / 5:00am Pacific**, please [register at the appropriate link on this information page](#).