

Publication Date: June 24, 2019

Reflection Date: June 30, 2019 - Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

---

## I will follow you wherever you go

The [readings this week](#) are not speaking about the usual things we talk about.

In fact most of Sacred Scripture's language is gently potent. But biblical texts are not usually wordy, nor do the biblical characters really elaborate their feelings. Words are offered to be pondered, measured and considered and most importantly to be responded to. In other words, to have us reflective upon their meaning in our lives and more especially in the times we live in.



Take the first reading, the prophet Elijah came to anoint Elisha to take his place as God's prophet. Elisha's reply to his summing the role was a desire to first say goodbye to his family and then respond to God's anointing. But Elijah calls him to "Go back again; for what have I done to you." Elisha understands, and slaughters his animals, cooks them and feeds them to his people.

It is for this same reason why Jesus in this week's Gospel rejects the question asked by James and John as they passed through the Samaritan village. The choice of following Jesus is a personal one and each individual is responsible for the choice that they have made.

Saying yes to God's call in our lives is always a difficult choice. Many times that call comes to us to drop what is good, and to do something different. It is always a difficult choice and may always remain an inner struggle in our lives. But the good news is that, in the midst of our struggles God walks with us and calls us to follow Him wherever He goes.

Br. Paul Crawford, OFM Cap.  
FAN Board Vice President

### **Suggested Action:**

This week, ponder this question: What is holding you back from fully embracing God's call in your life?

### **Suggested Petitions:**

For all Christians, may we "live by the Spirit" and allow God's calling to become our hearts' desire. We pray...

May every heart be opened to live as Jesus lived and hold a deep desire to follow the way of the Lord. We pray...

### **Collect Prayer:**

O God, who through the grace of adoption  
chose us to be children of light,  
grant, we pray,  
that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error  
but always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth.  
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

## FPL Launches Catholic Women Lead Video Series

Our friends at [Faith in Public Life](#) (FPL) have informed us of a new video campaign -- [Catholic Women Lead](#) --- which features the powerful and prophetic voices of Catholic women from across the country.

From John Gehring, Catholic Program Director:  
*Catholic women's leadership is critical to renewing and reforming our church. We need more women at tables where decisions are made and represented in positions of power. I'm grateful for the Catholic women I know --- university presidents, theologians and activists -- who make vital contributions to our public life and our church, challenge us and strengthen my faith.*

We encourage you to explore [Catholic Women Lead](#) and be sure to share this with your network.



## Jenn Budd, Former Border Patrol Agent Pens Open Letter to Former Colleagues

Truth-telling takes courage. Because we know this, we offer this [open letter from an ex-border patrol agent](#) to her former colleagues.

Jenn Budd is a former border patrol agent turned immigrant rights activist who has written powerful testimonies of her time working U.S. Customs and Border Protection in San Diego from 1995 to 2001. In this latest offering, she calls on her former colleagues to resign in protest just as she did. She says we as a country have a "decades-long obsession with our deadly enforcement-only policies" and calls CP agents "enablers" by the actions they



make which result in death.

We urge you to read, pray on, and share this [powerful piece](#).

## Racial Healing Workshop Offered by Ntianu Garden Center for Healing and Nature

The Ntianu Garden: Center for Healing and Nature is pleased to offer a two-day [Racial Healing Workshop](#), on Wednesday, August 14, and Thursday, August 15, 2019. This workshop is designed for leaders and those working on racial healing for communities and organizations.



Participants will improve their skills and gain an increased understanding of key Racial Healing concepts, including the ABCs of Racial Healing (Affirmation, Belonging and Consciousness Change), Racial Hierarchy, Bias, Healing, and explore how to design effective racial healing circles.

The workshop will be held at The [Ntianu Garden](#): Center for Healing and Nature, located in Fort Washington, Maryland, near the National Harbor and will be conducted by Dr. Gail C. Christopher. For more information and to register [click here](#).

## Save the Date: *Nuns Healing Hearts* Photo Exhibit at UN in July

Ten years ago the Catholic Church created a network of religious sisters throughout the world to combat the scourge of human trafficking and slavery, one of the greatest moral challenges of our time. This network, called [Talitha Kum](#) celebrated their anniversary in May at the Vatican, where Pope Francis officially launched the [Nuns Healing Hearts](#) campaign.



[Nun Healing Hearts](#) is a photographic exhibition taken throughout the past year, showing images of hope, daily gestures of sisterhood, and encounters of caring for wounded dignity. The exhibit will be traveling to 5-6 countries throughout the coming year. In the U.S., the exhibit will **be in New York at the United Nations, hosted by the Vatican Mission, on Monday, July 29 and Tuesday, July 30** (World Day Against Trafficking in Persons).

We urge all interested to come to New York to honor and celebrate the work being done by sisters throughout the world to counter human trafficking and the heal the hearts of survivors.

## 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

This week 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.

