

I Choose Both

This [week's Gospel](#) is the familiar story of Mary and Martha. Several lessons can be derived from this modest story. It starts out simply, "Jesus entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him." (LK 10:38) My practical self yearns for more detail. How did this welcome happen? Did Martha happen to see Jesus and his disciples walking along and call out to Him? Would I ever have the courage to do such a thing?



The story continues with Mary sitting at Jesus' feet, listening to him speak, while Martha works hard as the hostess, making sure all her guests are comfortable. I imagine she recognizes the significance of this band of men and wants to impress them, offering fine food and drink. If I were in this situation, my own mind would have a constant nagging worry, wondering if they are (as the kids say today) judging me for any number of things: the cleanliness of the house, the quality of the food, the comfort of the chairs, etc.

Having hosted dinner parties in my past, I understand Martha wanting a bit of help from her sister. Putting together a satisfying meal for 15 is certainly much easier with assistance. However, when she approaches Jesus about it, he gently offers her the path to peace: "There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her." (LK 10:42)

One lesson I take away from this story is that all we need is Jesus. The state of our house, the quality of our food, all our possessions...these things don't matter. In my day-to-day life, if I listen to Jesus like Mary, and be grateful for what I have, that is all I need. However, I also feel that in society today, we must take the words of Jesus and turn them into action, like Martha. I am conscious of the promise of the psalmist, we "who [do] justice will live in the presence of the Lord." For me, I choose to do both.

Janine Walsh
FAN Communications Coordinator

Suggested Action:

Take time each day this week to listen to what God is calling you to act upon.

Suggested Petitions:

May we have trust in the Lord and listen to him, knowing he will not lead us astray. We pray...
May we take God's word to heart and allow it to positively affect our daily actions. We pray...

Collect Prayer:

Show favor, O Lord, to your servants
And mercifully increase the gifts of your grace,
That, made fervent in hope, faith and charity,
They may be ever watchful in keeping your commands.
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

Join us in DC for a Catholic Action for Immigrant and Refugee Children

Images of immigrant and refugee children detained in cages, separated from family members, and living in unsanitary, unhealthy conditions have outraged the nation in recent weeks. The faith community has decried this treatment of children not only as a violation of human dignity and rights, but also as contrary to religious teachings and the sacred call to care for people who are most at risk, especially children.



Figure 1. Overcrowding of families observed by OIG on June 10, 2019, at Border Patrol's McAllen, TX, Station. Source: OIG

FAN has joined multiple Catholic organizations and representatives in a [support action](#) calling for an end to the inhumane treatment of immigrant and refugee children and families by the U.S. government. [Click here for details](#) and to RSVP to join us.

We realize that not everyone can come to Washington, DC for this event and that's OK! Here is what you can do from home:

- **Keep us in Prayer**
- **Watch the action live on Facebook:** [Faith in Action](#) and [Faith in Public Life](#) will livestream
- **Plan a vigil in your community:** Watch out for a sample prayer service
- **Call your members of Congress:** Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121
- **Donate:** Help FAN continue to bring about social change by [making a donation](#)
- [Sign the Petition](#): to demand Congress put an end to private prison tax breaks.

For those considering coming to Washington who need, a **video conference civil disobedience training will be held TODAY, Monday July 15th at 5-6pm EST**. Here are the details to join:

Topic: Catholic Day of Action CD Training

Please click the link below to join the webinar via video:

<https://zoom.us/j/428663676>

Or by Telephone, using: +1 929 205 6099 or +1 669 900 6833 and enter Webinar ID: 428 663 676

If you can not attend the training, please [let us know](#) and we will send you the link to the recorded webinar.

FAN Staff Join Other Leaders in Saying: No War with Iran

FAN's own Sr. Marie Lucey, Jason Miller and intern Henry Estrada attended the press conference last week announcing the release of this statement of faith leaders against war with Iran. Here is a piece from our friends at Sojourners:

American church leaders are saying a clear and emphatic NO to a war with Iran. Diplomacy is the effective and necessary alternative to what would be a disastrous and indefensible war.



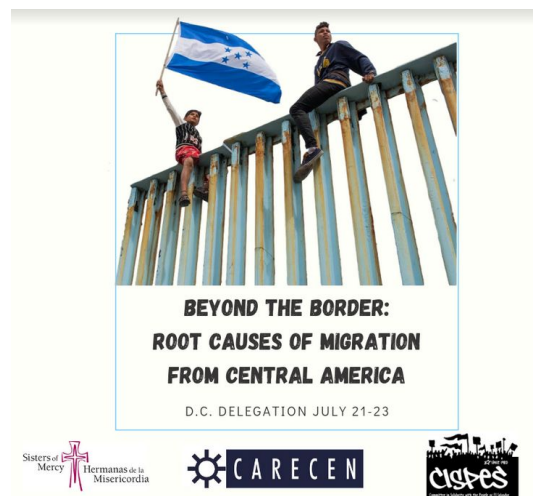
Nearly 200 church leaders have signed this essential statement embracing peacemaking over war making. They are now asking you to join them by signing on, giving the statement to your pastors and churches, sending it to your networks, and sharing it on social media. Make your convictions clear to a dangerous administration that War Is Not the Answer to Iran. Your signatures and all the others we collect together will be shared with media and with Congress, and used to tell the White House that we people of faith will not support the administration's war.

Sign, share, and act now. [READ THE FULL STATEMENT AND ADD YOUR NAME](#)

Take Action: Berta Caceres Human Rights Day of Advocacy

We wanted to make our members and friends aware of the [Berta Caceres Human Rights Act "Day of Advocacy"](#) coming up in Washington DC.

Over three days, from July 21-23, attendees will be trained with a workshop outlining the root causes of migration from Central American countries, which were gathered from the pilgrimage earlier this year. Additionally, folks will learn how to tell your story and participate in activities around how to speak to congress members and congressional staff. The visit will culminate with an advocacy day on Capitol Hill from 10am to 4pm on July 23rd.



We urge all interested to click here to register: <https://forms.gle/HudPRmwXiVZUoiHq5>

Sacred Resistance: Respond to Raids by Opening Our Doors

If there was ever a time to stand up in support of immigrants, it is now. As the administration began massive raids that will tear thousands of families apart we're calling on congregations to join in [Sacred Resistance](#) through opening up houses of worship as safe spaces for organizing and rapid response before, during or after enforcement actions.

The Sanctuary Movement has had broad support for years among faith communities, but now, advocates are calling on congregations to resist raids by opening their houses of worship publicly, and join the call for [#SacredResistance](#): a public list where local immigrants rights leaders and community members in need can find safe spaces in case of raids and deportations.



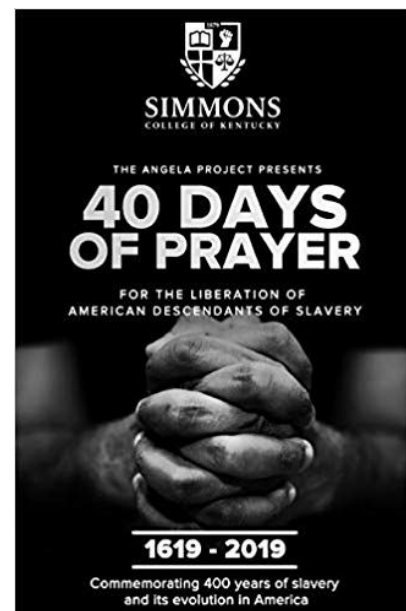
[Find more information and sign up your congregation or community of faith here.](#)

Additionally, we encourage you to sign this [petition from Faithful America](#) opposing these raids and reminding our administration that people of faith are called to welcome the stranger.

Commemorating the 400th Anniversary of Slavery in America

For the past three years [Simmons College of Kentucky](#), our nation's 107th HBCU (Historically Black College & University), has attempted to raise awareness on The 400th Anniversary of Black enslavement in the United States, which is this year.

Beginning July 12, 2019, and concluding August 20, 2019, we are inviting you to join a 40 day journey towards the momentous day that Angela, from Angola, became the first of 19 enslaved Africans to step foot on American soil. They have written a book titled, "[The Angela Project Presents 40 Days of Prayer for the Liberation of American Descendants of Slavery](#)", which gives for 40 days a personal account of an enslaved person describing the horrors of slavery which motivated them to escape on the Underground Railroad . In addition to this, each day during the 40 days, you will read facts about black history, and a declaration for justice.



On August 20, 2019, the day of culmination, they are asking black and white Churches across

this nation to gather together in observance of the 400th Anniversary of Black enslavement in America. They've also produced a [400th Commemoration Ceremony Book](#) that will serve as a program guide. We urge our members and friends to [become involved](#) in this historic commemoration.

Tell Congress to Declare a Climate Emergency Now

Last week, a [National Climate Emergency Declaration](#) was released. Announced by several Congressional leaders, the declaration expresses the sense of Congress that climate change is a national emergency and demands an "economically just and managed phase-out of oil, gas and coal to keep fossil fuels in the ground" as part of a "national, social, industrial, and economic mobilization of the resources and labor of the United States at a massive-scale to halt, reverse, mitigate and prepare for the consequences of the climate emergency and to restore the climate for future generations." The resolution has since gained the support of every major presidential candidate in the Senate and over 35 members of the House.

TELL CONGRESS TO DECLARE A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

★ Resolution Co-Sponsors July 11 | Day #3

Senator Bernie Sanders Vermont

Representative Earl Blumenauer OR-03

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez NY-14

Senate

- Kamala Harris (D-CA)
- Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)
- Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)
- Cory Booker (D-NJ)
- Joe Biden (D-DE)
- Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)
- Jeff Merkley (D-OR)
- Ted Liew (D-CA)
- Grace Napolitano (D-CA)
- Adam Schiff (D-CA)
- Brad Sherman (D-CA)
- Joe Neguse (D-CO)
- Joe Courtney (D-CT)
- John Larson (D-CT)
- Eliseo Melendez (D-OR)
- Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)
- Brad Schneider (D-IL)
- Jim McGovern (D-MA)
- Barbara Lee (D-CA)
- Janis Raskin (D-MD)
- Andy Levin (D-NH)
- Blaine Lueck (D-MN)
- Bennie Watson (D-NM)
- Deb Haaland (D-NM)
- Yvette Clarke (D-NY)
- Adriano Espaillat (D-NY)
- Brian Higgins (D-NY)
- Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY)
- Rick Lerner (D-NY)
- Grace Meng (D-NY)
- Jerry Nadler (D-NY)

House

- Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)
- Ro Khanna (D-CA)
- Barbara Lee (D-CA)
- Janis Raskin (D-MD)
- Andy Levin (D-NH)
- Blaine Lueck (D-MN)
- Bennie Watson (D-NM)
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Supporters

- A Community Voice
- Align NY
- Antiracism Alliance
- Catholic Environment Network
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Citizens Committee for Flood Relief
- Climate Justice at Boston College
- EcoEquity
- Extinction Rebellion
- Food & Water Watch
- Foundation for Climate Restoration
- Friends of the Earth
- Green Alliance
- Green Jobs
- Greenpeace
- Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy
- Henry County Rising
- John Jay College
- Justice Democrats
- Labor Network for Sustainability
- Mothers Out Front
- Movement Riders
- Old Change U.S.
- Progressive Democrats of America
- Public Citizen
- Southern Oregon Climate Justice Now
- Sunrise Movement
- The Climate Mobilization
- The Prince of Wales
- The Society of Fearless Geoscientists
- X3 Vermont
- 350.org

THE CLIMATE MOBILIZATION #CLIMATE EMERGENCY | Visit ClimateEmergency.US | Take action tinyurl.com/VisitYourRep

There is no more time for multi-decade solutions or small steps forward. If we don't act now, Earth could become uninhabitable in a matter of decades. This is exactly the momentum we need, but we must act now and **call on our representatives to step up and co-sponsor this resolution** to win. Educate yourself by reading this [declaration fact sheet](#).

We urge our members and friends to [sign the petition](#) showing your commitment to solving this crisis.

Solar Project in Washington, D.C. Announced

Last week, it was [announced](#) that Catholic Energies, [IGS Solar](#), Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington will partner to build the largest ground-based solar array ever developed in Washington, DC. This project was managed by [Catholic Energies](#) team and benefits Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Washington.

[Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington](#) (CCADW) will host the 2-megawatt system comprising more than 5,000 panels which will produce more than 2.7 million kilowatt-hours per year. That is nearly 100% of the current power requirements for CCADW's entire real estate portfolio. In addition, the project will include a five-acre pollinator meadow to support pollinator populations, such as bees and butterflies. About 650,000 pollinator and nectar-bearing flowering plants will be at



Catholic Energies
Conserve, Educate, Inspire

the base of the solar panel array.

We urge our members and friends to share this uplifting story.