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Reflection Date: August 11, 2019 - 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time | Feast of St. Clare of Assisi

Where Is My Treasure?

Faith without fear is a strong theme in [this week's readings](#). Abraham, Sarah, and many generations are held up as models who “did not receive what had been promised but saw it from afar and acknowledged themselves to be strangers and aliens on earth...” And “All died in faith.” Today, as this country and the world struggles with a migration crisis, it is good for us to remind ourselves that we are all migrants, all sojourners, in our time on Earth. As we sojourn, a critical question for each of us is “What do I treasure?” Critical because Jesus teaches “Where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.” That is, your purpose in life, what gives you meaning and happiness.



We have myriad examples of people who knew where their treasure was and allowed it to direct their hearts. Clare of Assisi, whose feast is August 11th, is a shining example of one who knew at a young age where her treasure was and gave herself wholeheartedly to living it with faith, not receiving papal approval for her Rule of Life until she was dying.

It is not hard to find examples today. An elderly neighbor spends every moment caring for her beloved husband who is sinking deeper into Alzheimer's. Parents of a mentally disabled young woman surround her with love, support, and opportunities, with unrelenting patience. Catholics deeply concerned about the inhumane conditions in which immigrant children are held in detention [gather](#) in the nation's capital to pray and call for the administration to stop the inhumanity. Seventy women and men, religious and lay, are arrested in an act of nonviolent civil disobedience. A young mother writes an [inspiring article](#) explaining why she brought her 3 year old son to join the Catholic Action.

These are some of my experiences of people whose hearts compel them to do what they do because they know where their treasure lies. I suggest that the treasure is even more than a husband, a daughter, or immigrant children. God's presence in their hearts guides them to do the right, true, loving thing. You have examples of your own. Include yourself. Be encouraged with Jesus' promise: “Do not be afraid... for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom.”

Sr. Marie Lucey, OSF
FAN Associate Director

Suggested action:

Reflect on your status as a migrant, a sojourner on Earth. What do you treasure?

Suggested petitions:

For all migrants that they may find a safe and welcoming place to call home. We pray...

For all people of faith, that our greatest treasure is the pearl of great price. We pray...

Prayer: St. Clare of Assisi

**I pray you most gentle Jesus, ...
Give me a lively faith, a firm hope, and perfect charity,
so that I may love you with all my heart,
and all my soul, and all my strength.
Make me steadfast in good works
and grant me perseverance in your service,
so that I may please you always.**

Amen

Honor the Feast of St. Clare by taking the St. Clare Pledge

Just as St. Clare steadfastly devoted her daily life to prayer within the convent, letting herself be enfolded by Love which enabled her to say "...It is no longer I that live, but Christ that lives in me. I am secure in the Lord. I can look out, now, through the Lord's eyes. I can see the world as he created it, in his mercy, I can see my sisters and brothers with his love...", we too can grow to be enfolded by Love to see the world and our brothers and sisters through Christ's eyes.

This year, as part of our prayer, we invite our members and friends to [add on a simple phone call](#) from within our "convent"/home, to our representatives in Congress interceding on behalf of our God's divine family and creation. Aside from personal visits, **constituent calls is the most effective way of influencing our policy makers who work for us and are happy to hear from us.** With steadfastness, like St. Clare's, our weekly 5 minute extension of prayer can make a difference for Peace and Goodness in this sacred space and time God has invited us to be a part of.



In **celebration of St. Clare of Assisi this August 11th**, we invite you to [sign on to the St. Clare Pledge and commit to contacting Congress each week](#). We have put together some resources to help you choose a topic and find your elected officials' contact information. Please consider honoring St. Clare by taking the [St. Clare Pledge](#).

Watch the Root Causes of Forced Migration Webinar

In March of this year, FAN's Director of Advocacy, Sr. Maria Orlandini [traveled to Honduras](#) with 72 faith leaders 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.

Last week, Justice For Immigrants hosted [this webinar](#) where the delegates shared their insights on the trip and offer a report on the situation that is currently ongoing in the region. Sr. Maria is a presenter on the webinar. The group [published this report](#) of their findings.



The slides and recording of the webinar are on the [Justice for Immigrants webpage](#).

Another Tragic Shooting Spurs Petitions and PSA's

In the wake of yet another tragic shooting -- this time at a community festival in Gilroy, California -- the pattern of shock, mourning, anger, and despair feels like déjà vu. As we try to make sense, yet again, of the stagnancy of our government, an email from a group called SumOfUs came across my inbox.

[SumOfUs](#) is a global advocacy organization and online community that campaigns to hold large corporations accountable on multiple issues, including gun violence. Their email contained an [article from the New York Times](#) which outlines how big banks and credit card companies could effectively confront this issue even when Washington won't

With a rallying cry to find some "good in the world", the folks at SumOfUs have developed a [petition](#) urging Visa to do their part to help curb gun violence by reporting excessive, erratic gun and ammo purchases to law enforcement. If you've ever gotten a fraud alert from your credit card then you already know how easy it is for credit card companies to spot and investigate suspicious activity. **We urge our members and friends to [take action and sign the petition](#).**

Additionally, we want to let you know about a new organization called [Our Next 4 Years](#). Our Next 4 Years is staffed by over 300 volunteer animation professionals (Oscar and Emmy winners and nominees among them) who have banded together to create animated public service announcements "countering the regressive policies of the current administration." They have created [this video](#) urging a federal ban on weapons of war. FAN institutional members the [Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia](#) were a sponsor of the project. We urge you to watch and share it in your networks and on social media.

say **NO** to
#WeaponsOfWar.



Rise for Refuge Actions Fight Against Zero

Admissions Reports

Last month, [reports surfaced](#) that a refugee admissions ceiling of **zero** is being considered for fiscal year 2020.

Eliminating refugee resettlement to the U.S., despite facing the largest displacement crisis in global history, would be immoral and completely opposite of our beliefs as well as having grave, long-term implications for the future. Lowering the refugee admissions ceiling any further than the 2019 historic low of 30,000 is unacceptable.



This past weekend, [We Are All America](#) saw events in 27 cities across the country in support of those those fleeing violence, persecution and climate disaster. Read more about their platform and mission [here](#).

Done with Detention Campaign Would Freeze Growth of Detention Camps

Coinciding with the reintroduction of the [Detention Oversight Not Expansion](#) (DONE) Act by Sen. Kamala Harris (D-CA) and Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA), Freedom for Immigrants launched last week an [interactive map of U.S. immigration detention](#) as part of the new Done with Detention Campaign. The map highlights history of expansion, ICE contracts, bond statistics and more. We encourage you to educate yourself and others using these resources.



Additionally, United We Dream has been asking allies to hold vigils and protests outside Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) office nationwide. We learned last week that [multiple Jewish organizations](#) have partnered to coordinate an effort Jewish vigils and protests to take place on their holiday of [Tisha B'Av](#) (August 10-11, 2019), demanding an end to immigrant dehumanization. Similar to our Catholic day of Action, the Tisha B'Av events are billed as a public demonstration "that the Jewish community will not turn its back on refugees arriving in our country and our immigrant neighbors already here." We congratulate our Jewish friends and wish them success in their efforts!

Columban Center Launches Campaign Calling for a 100% Clean Energy Economy

This June, Pope Francis declared that the



world is in a “climate emergency.”

In answer to this declaration, the [Columban Center for Advocacy](#) has launched a campaign which is a pledge to advocate for a 100% clean energy economy. They are asking people of faith to meet with their Members of Congress during the August recess to urge them to support a federal response to climate change that puts the US on a path towards a 100% clean energy economy by 2050.

When folks take the [pledge](#), they receive our “100% clean energy economy toolkit,” which includes talking points on the issue, social media guidance, town hall questions, a guide for how to meet with your Members of Congress, and other resources. [Pledge here](#) to advocate for a 100% clean energy economy.

Christians Against Christian Nationalism Campaign

The Franciscan Action Network (FAN) takes our Christian faith seriously. It’s disturbing to see our faith distorted not only in the news and headlines, but by everyday Americans promoting the dangerous ideology of Christian nationalism.

That’s why we have signed on as an endorser from across the ecumenical spectrum in support of a movement of [Christians Against Christian Nationalism](#).

People of all faiths and none have the right and responsibility to engage constructively in the public square. Patriotism does not require us to minimize our religious convictions.

Click here to [read the statement](#) and we urge you to consider [signing on](#) and allowing your name will appear publicly alongside other Christians from around the country, committed to protecting not only the good name of our faith, but to protecting those at risk of harm from Christian nationalism.

CHRISTIANS
AGAINST
CHRISTIAN 
NATIONALISM

Tell Congress to Declare a Climate Emergency Now

Since the [National Climate Emergency Declaration](#) was released, activists like you have signed up for more than 110 office visits to ask Representatives and Senators to sign on to the Declaration. Fantastic! **Join us in a follow up call in drive this week!**

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.

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 to continue. First, we encourage you to educate yourself by reading this [declaration fact sheet](#). **Then, call your Representative using this hotline: 202-915-5634. It will ask you to type in your ZIP code and you will be immediately connected to your Rep's office.**

If your Representative has already signed on, contact your Senators at this hotline: 202-915-3748 - or by [going to this link](#).

If you haven't yet, we urge our members and friends to [sign the petition](#) showing your commitment to solving this crisis.