

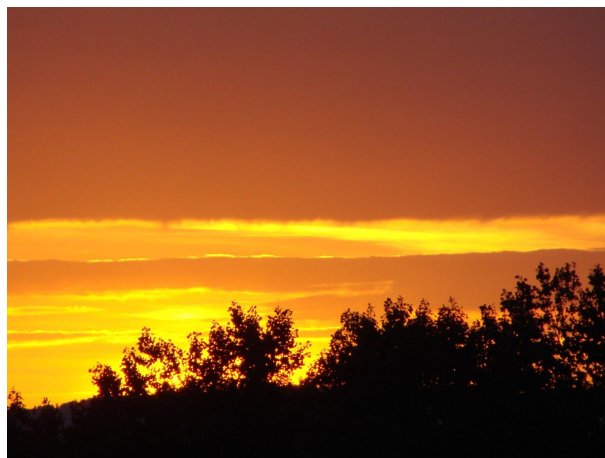
Publication Date: August 12, 2019

Reflection Date: August 18, 2019 - 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

I Have Come to Set the Earth on Fire

This [week's Scripture](#) should sound familiar to us. There are within it many quotes that we have heard or have shared in our lives, and more especially in sharing our life or story of our Faith with others.

In the first reading from the prophet Jeremiah, we see how God's Word in a 'Public Forum' or to people in power can be harsh. In fact, God's Word to us can be very challenging, personally. For the call to look at ourselves or how we are living and what we are doing in light of God's call can bring about that dreaded need to change that none of us are ever happy to hear.



I remember in my early days of formation, being told that if I ever really wanted to know God's will, or call in my life, to pray and then do whatever came to mind that I would *not* want to do. It's still true today for me. Thus our journey always gets us where we need to go, but it might be a little rocky along the way.

In Hebrews we are encouraged to continue in running the race, to endure and to be faithful to the call of God in our lives. To put aside anything that would distract us or slow us down, knowing that we will get there in God's time, and might even see a miracle along the way.

In the Gospel of Luke we hear about division, fire, and disputes between family and friends. Sounds kinda like the news and all that is happening in the world and within the Church.

But let us not be like those who did not like what Jeremiah was saying. For the Prince of Peace is talking about the Presence and the Power of the Holy Spirit which will overcome in God's Name all for the Glory of God's Kingdom.

Instead, let us hang on, accept, share our lives and hearts for we know that God indeed has a plan. For His Will shall be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

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

Suggested Action:

This week, pray for those who give up and can not trust that they may be inspired to try again and to find support along the race.

Suggested Petitions:

For all Christians, that we have the courage to trust in God's call in our lives and do His will. We pray...

For all those in despondency, may they hear God's voice and be enlightened to continue on with faith that their struggles will end. We pray...

Collect Prayer

O God, who have prepared for those who love you
good things which no eye can see,
fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love,
so that, loving you in all things and above all things,
we may attain your promises,
which surpass every human desire.
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

This Week's St. Clare Pledge Senate Ask: Gun Violence Prevention

As we continue mourning the shooting deaths in El Paso and Dayton, FAN and our friends at the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) released [this statement](#) calling for immediate legislation on gun violence and a national examination of conscience. Thoughts and prayers are not enough. **We must take action.**

As a way to act on our faith, FAN developed the [St. Clare Pledge](#) as a way to commit to taking 5 minutes per day to call our elected officials. If you're unfamiliar with the pledge, please see our [website for more information](#).

Back in February, the House of Representatives passed bipartisan legislation ([H.R. 8](#)) that would establish new background check requirements for firearm transfers between private parties. The Senate has made no move to call for a vote on this or any significant gun violence prevention legislation. We urge our members and friends to use your St. Clare Pledge time this week to [contact your Senators](#) and demand they act on gun violence legislation.

Additionally, if you or someone you know is a gun violence survivor, the Everytown Survivor Network has an effort in place to elevate the voices of survivors through an open letter to the Senate which urges immediate action. Please share this [Gun Violence Survivor Open Letter](#) for signatures.



Save the Date - FAN Annual Award Benefit: Nov. 7th

Many of you may have heard by now that our intrepid leader of the past 10 years, Patrick Carolan will retire as Executive Director at the end of the year. In order to celebrate this momentous occasion, **we are honoring him with the FAN award at our annual benefit on November 7, 2019.**

Patrick has lived this organization, nurtured and grown it so well, we want to send him out with a bang! We hope you will save the date and [consider joining us in Washington, DC.](#)

Beer, wine, and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served and dress is casual. There will be auction opportunities and lots of fun. [We hope you can make it.](#)

Thursday, November 7, 2019
6:00pm
St. Francis Hall Washington, D.C.
Tickets: \$100/person
(discount available for vowed religious)



Stop the Inhumanity and End Child Detention campaign continues

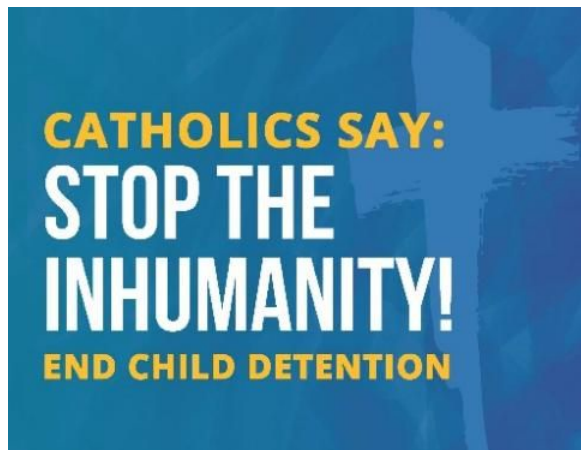
FAN was an active participant in the successful [Catholic Day of Action](#) to end child detention and strongly urges all our members to be involved in the [ongoing campaign](#) in whatever ways are possible. Last week we were all horrified by the [ICE raids in Mississippi](#) which left many children and babies crying, frightened and homeless. While we cry out against this cruelty, we also keep our attention on children held in detention at the border.

[Catholics Take Action for Immigrant Children](#) is designed to keep up the momentum and

deepen the organizing, as we propose various options for weekly actions to increasingly take more risks. The campaign includes a call for prayer and weekly local actions, beginning this month. You may participate in any of the following ways:

- **Weekly prayer:** Every Monday, join in a day of personal prayer on behalf of the children detained at the US border.
- **Parish prayer:** ask pastors to include this after weekend Masses.
- **Community vigils:** hold local prayer vigils, perhaps on the same day each week, inviting Catholics from across your town to gather in prayer and public witness. Please [send us pictures of any vigils.](#)

There is [more information and resources here.](#) We encourage all our members and friends to continue to challenge family separation and [let us know what you are doing.](#)



Center for Biological Diversity Releases Map

Showing Borderlands in Peril

Last week, the [Center for Biological Diversity](#) released a new [interactive story map](#) focused on now-imminent border wall construction in Arizona, California and New Mexico. Among other things, the map totals up the mileage of planned wall through federally protected lands, broken down by land designation and provides snippets on individual species that would be harmed by planned construction.



More than 650 miles of barriers already exist along the border. These walls, fences and barriers cut through sensitive ecosystems, disrupt animal migration patterns, cause catastrophic flooding, and divide communities and tribal nations. Many agree that a new wall will do nothing to stop migration but it will destroy habitats, threaten wildlife, and further militarize the borderlands, all while ripping communities apart.

We encourage you to explore the [website](#) and share this information with your networks.

Horrors in Honduras Continue: Bus full of Students Tear Gassed

Last week, we heard from a participant in the sping [delegation to Honduras](#) that the situation in that country has not improved.

On the evening of August 6th, police in Honduras attacked public bus for no apparent reason. The bus was filled with students from the University in San Pedro Sula leaving their night classes and heading home to El Progreso. The police threw tear gas into the bus and there was no way to get out except climb out the windows. One of the students on that bus was the sister of a teacher the delegation met while in Progreso. Watch a [video of the incident](#) here.



The repression of the corrupt and unconstitutional government of Juan Orlando Hernández continues. **It is well past time for our government to withdraw its support** and stop arming the military and security forces. Urge your members of Congress to support [H.R. 1945 Berta Caceres Human Rights in Honduras Act](#). The act would suspend United States security assistance to Honduras until such time as human rights violations by Honduran security forces cease and their perpetrators are brought to justice.

Our friends in Honduras have asked us to shine a light on the horrors being perpetrated by the Honduran government on its people. **Please share this information widely** and make

sure your members of Congress know that you care about the people of Honduras.

Take Action: Join Strike With Us Campaign for Climate

Climate change is the biggest threat to the future of our lives, country, and world. Following in the footsteps of [youth all over the world](#), a campaign called [#StrikeWithUs](#) has started to organize climate strikes to take place all over America. On September 20th, three days before the UN Climate Summit in NYC, young people and adults will strike all across the US as part of a global [#ClimateStrike](#) to demand transformative action be taken to address the climate crisis.

FAN is helping to coordinate the faith community and promote participation. As part of our [Living the Change](#) commitments, let's sign up to participate in a climate strike near us.

The campaign is still in early stages of planning, but we urge our members and friends to check the interactive map to find a strike near you. If you don't see one, consider hosting your own strike. Be sure to [sign up for updates](#).

