

Publication Date: September 16, 2019

Reflection Date: September 22, 2019 - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

---

## “You can not serve both God and...”

Besides the [readings this week](#), the Church in the United States also celebrates Catechetical Sunday. It is a time to promote our Faith’s teachings and a time to ask the Blessings of God upon those who stand up, in our local community to teach our Faith to the newest and perhaps the youngest members of our community.



So, the final verse of this week’s Gospel calls us to discern that even our good intentions can have some conflicting motivating factors. "You cannot serve both God and mammon." LK 16:13. Perhaps we need to keep asking ourselves, what are our motivations? Or, as the Gospel puts it so well, who are we serving?

Most motivation comes from our own needs and wants or even at times our hopes. After all, God created a very complex being when we were created.

Our times, as well as the history of the Church, show us far too well how self interest is the root of much of our sin and even overflows into our Faith life.

So, this week let us listen to the parable of the Steward and take to heart and examine our service, and proclaim as to who are we serving. Let us all pray that we acknowledge that it is the Lord, the Prince of Peace, the One who feeds the hungry, the One who welcomes the stranger, and the One who forgives us again and again. For that One alone deserves our service.

Br. Paul Crawford, OFM  
FAN Board Vice President

### **Suggested Action:**

This week, deeply contemplate your service to others and be honest with yourself as to the reasoning behind it. Pray God will soften your heart to those who need help.

### **Suggested Petitions:**

For all those who are poor or in need. May they find the comfort and care of God in those who serve them. We pray...

For all those who serve others selflessly. May their hearts be filled with the grace and compassion of Christ. We pray...

### **Collect Prayer:**

**O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law**

upon love of you and of our neighbor,  
grant that, by keeping your precepts,  
we may merit to attain eternal life.  
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

## Faith Leader Delegation to Honduras Publishes Final Report

The delegation of 75 faith leaders who visited Honduras in March of this year have published this [final report](#) of their findings. The trip was made to understand the root causes of migration, to witness in solidarity with the people of Honduras in their struggle for justice, and, upon returning to the United States, to work to effect needed U.S. policy changes. FAN's Director of Advocacy, Sr. Maria Orlandini was among the group. Read her [reflection of the trip here](#).



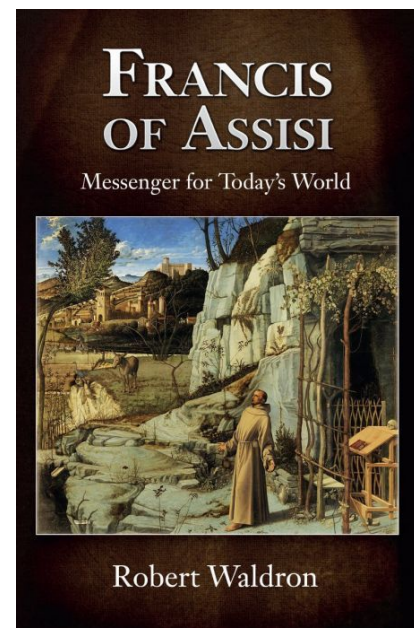
Within the [final report](#) you may find of particular interest the Stories of Honduras, U.S. Weapon Sales to Honduras, and Contemporary Honduras. In addition, the report contains a User's Guide that is valuable in navigating the report and highlighting how different sections of this resource can best be used. [We hope you find it useful](#).

## New Book: *Francis of Assisi: Messenger for Today's World*

New City Press has published a new book by award-winning author, Robert Waldron titled, [Francis of Assisi: Messenger for Today's World](#). Mr. Waldron offers us a Francis of Assisi who speaks to us of the twenty-first century, a Francis with whom modern people can identify. The book serves as an introduction to the life of the world's favorite saint. The author explores Francis from three perspectives: biographical, psychological, and aesthetic.

From the introduction: "...if we pay attention to Francis's life and his spiritual message, in our time we will see with different, rinsed eyes, and we will find in him the message uniquely meant for us."

The book includes a Study Guide that encourages the reader to go more deeply into understanding Francis's life; thus, it can be used in both high school and college classrooms. Click here for [more information and to place an](#)



[order](#). The book is due to be published on Oct. 4th, Francis' feast day.

## Will you be Joining a Climate Strike this Friday?

A [scientific report](#) released last week by the Monitoring of the Andean Amazon Project (MAAP) reveals critical overlap between deforestation of the Amazon and fire alerts. Over 100,000 acres of the Brazilian Amazon were cleared of forest earlier in 2019, and then burned in August. Several time-lapse videos contained in the report show dramatic clearing of huge swaths of land, followed by the smoke from fires. When the Amazon burns, the consequences are often devastating because the ecosystem evolved for millions of years without fire. Experts [say](#) recovery could take "hundreds of years we don't have."



[This is why we strike](#). 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.

If you haven't yet signed up to join a climate strike in your area, [sign up now](#). [Let us know where you are](#) and we will try to connect you with other Franciscans.

Our friends at GreenFaith and Interfaith Power and Light developed this [Faith Leader Toolkit for you](#) to help you get involved with the Climate Strike and organize your faith community. Inside, you'll find a checklist & creative ideas for how to make your local strike event successful. Additionally, the good people at 350.org have developed this [toolkit on strike safety](#) to ensure your strike is safe and welcoming for everyone.

One suggestion for dual participation: After your Climate Strike, invite your friends and family over for a [Living the Change Supper](#) in your home or at your place of prayer or worship. Developed by Living the Change, these suppers are delicious plant-based meals that bring people together to talk about why they care about climate change and why behavior change is one important part of our response. [Download the Supper Guidebook](#) to help you plan.

## Register to Ring Bells in a Franciscan Call for Peace

The Franciscan family in Belgium reached out to us directly to tell us about their effort to [ring bells for peace](#) on October 4th at 2pm, "the hour of the Friday Prayer of Muslims. In commemoration of the 800th anniversary of the inspiring meeting of Saint Francis of Assisi and Sultan Al Kamil of Egypt, with this ringing of bells we want to express solidarity and worldwide connectedness."

Franciscan Call 4 Peace

LET US RING OUT PEACE TO THE WORLD



Additionally, this effort includes an invitation to religious communities to come together with other communities of another religion to simply meet each other in peace. In different Belgian cities, Muslims and Christians will come together to meet each other. Already [170 actions in 13 different countries worldwide are registered](#).

We invite all our members and friends to participate. More information can be found at the website: [www.franciscancall4peace.org](http://www.franciscancall4peace.org)

## Now is the Time for Living the Change

During the second annual [Time for Living the Change](#) (September through December 2019), people around the world will come together in locally-organized religious, spiritual, and multi-faith gatherings to work on transforming their own lives as one response to the climate emergency. We are #LivingtheChange, and we invite you to join us.



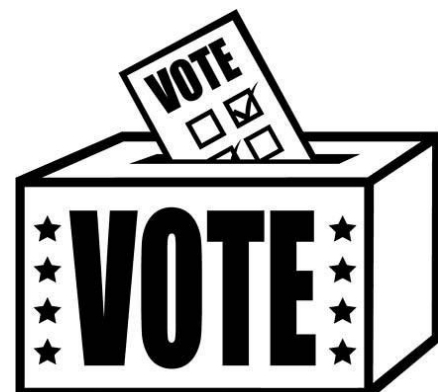
This is the season for renewing and reinforcing our personal responses to the climate emergency, as well as making new changes that reflect our deepest values. **We know that when we share an experience with others, we become more committed, learn from each other, and develop the ability to become ambassadors for the changes we've adopted**, thus widening the impact of our own individual lives. This link between personal and community transformation is at the heart of [Living the Change](#).

Behavior change alongside institutional and systemic changes is necessary in order to prevent truly catastrophic impacts from climate change. We know that everyone can make a difference. Individual change at a large enough scale helps create institutional and systemic change by shifting cultural norms, by affecting consumer demand, and by sending signals to business and political leaders. We urge our members and friends to join in this commitment to [Living the Change](#). Be sure to check out the great resources on the [website](#), including an event organizers toolkit and much more.

## Tomorrow: Join an Action and Support Federal Funding to Secure our Votes

Without a paper trail, our voting system is extremely vulnerable to hacking and foul play. The entire national security community agrees that election interference is a genuine threat unless Congress acts. Yet, the Senate has failed to move forward with critical election security funding for states.

Right now, due to popular outcry, there is a chance to win funding in the next Congressional appropriations bill to secure our elections by replacing election machines with





paper ballots. **Tomorrow, September 17th, a nationwide day of action** to secure our elections will see events happen all over the country in support of this funding. [Join and event near you](#). Help is especially needed in these states: KY, SC, NC, TX, ME, AZ, CO, IA, GA, KS, AR, MT, and LA.

The House recently passed legislation that would allocate \$600 million to states so that they can update electronic voting equipment with systems that use verifiable paper ballots. **We need your help to get the Senate to follow suit.** [Click here to join an event on Sept. 17th.](#)

## National Rally in Washington, D.C. to End Gun Violence

September 25, 2019 is the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims. On that day, a coalition of survivors of gun violence and gun violence prevention groups are organizing the [National Rally to #EndGunViolence](#) on the West Lawn of U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. to pressure Congress to pass gun safety laws and FAN staff will be attending.



We are asking everyone to wear ALL black, to symbolize our country mourning ALL of the lives taken by gun violence. If you are not able to join us in Washington, D.C., we encourage you to join us on social media. [Click here for instructions](#) on uploading photos on yourself wearing black and using the hashtag, #EndGunViolence.