

Who is on Our Doorstep?

In reading [this Sunday's Gospel](#) about the rich man and Lazarus I was reminded of another story I read about a man who, when going to his office everyday, noticed a ragged looking child sitting outside the building begging. This irritated the man who asked God everyday why God did not do something about this. One day he heard God's answer: "I did do something, I created you!"



I do not know if this man acted on God's message or not. We do know that the rich man in the Gospel was enjoying his wealth and paid no attention to those suffering and perhaps did not even know that Lazarus was on his doorstep.

Are we aware of who is on our doorstep? Or do we see them and act like we didn't, and really wish we hadn't seen those suffering? We need to also heed the caution that Amos gave the chosen people in the First Reading. Amos cautioned the people against a false sense of security. That if they think God expects nothing more of them because they are the chosen people, they are mistaken and this complacency can lead to ruin.

That is exactly what happened to the rich man for when he died he was sent to the "netherworld where he was tormented". Lazarus died at the same time but was taken by the "angels to the bosom of Abraham". When the rich man begged Father Abraham to warn his five brothers, Abraham answered: "They have Moses and the prophets, let them listen to them."

Who or what has God placed in our path to warn us – the beatitudes, the commandments, the Social Justice Principles, modern day prophets, and those suffering - God places these in our path to warn us to notice injustices. We are challenged by the reality that it is hard to be giving in a society where having is deemed more important.

Sr. Marge Wissman, OSF
FAN Board Member

Suggested action:

Reflect often on God's reply to the office worker: "I did do something, I created you." Does God say that to us and do we hear it?

Suggested petitions:

That we may always be aware of all the messengers and messages of grace God sends us often, we pray...

That we may not recognize too late that we did not hear God's message, we pray...

Prayer: (Quote from Martin Luther King Jr.)

“We will have to repent in this generation, not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence of the good people. Human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless efforts of all willing to be co-workers with God, and without this hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the forces of social stagnation. We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right.”

Pray and Advocate on the World Day for Migrants and Refugees

September 29th is [World Day for Migrants and Refugees](#), celebrated by the Church each year since 1914. Pope Francis has chosen for the 2019 theme, “It is not just about migrants.” In his message he explains why it is also about us “in a prosperous society.” He says it is also about our fears, our charity, our humanity, our inclusion, our putting the last in first place.



Our challenge today is to not be complacent in comfortable circumstances, but to respond to Pope Francis’ challenge to “welcome, protect, promote and integrate” migrants and refugees. May God not say to me, or to you, “Woe to the complacent!” (Am 6:1a)

We urge all our members and friends to join an event, say a prayer, take an action for World Day of Migrants and Refugees. There is material on [this webpage](#) for you to download, use and share... to help overcome fear with hope!

Join us for our Third National Catholic Action for Immigrant Children

Images of immigrant children separated from family and detained in unsanitary, unhealthy conditions have outraged the nation. The faith community has decried this treatment of immigrant children and families not only as a violation of human dignity and rights, but also contrary to religious teachings and the sacred call to care for all people. We say loudly and clearly Stop the Inhumanity!

In El Paso, TX on Saturday, Oct. 12th from 3pm-7pm, people from around the country will be joining Hope Border



Institute and the Latinx Catholic Leadership Coalition in solidarity as they lift up their local concerns about the immigration system, access to asylum, and racism. We will renew and amplify our call for this Administration to end the abuse, trauma, and detention of migrant children. The event will include prayer, ritual, and a call to action and risk by Catholic leaders. Anyone from around the country is invited, even those who are not Catholic. Click here to [RSVP to come to El Paso](#).

You are also invited to join us for a Teach-In, [Jornada por la Justicia](#), from October 11-13, 2019. Organized by Hope Border Institute and the Latinx Catholic Leadership Coalition, the teach-in will be a three-day gathering of a powerful network of Catholic Latinx organizers, labor leaders, scholars and activists to make real change through concrete action. It will feature workshops, leadership tools, strategy sessions, coalition building, nationally recognized speakers and direct public action. **Those at the teach-in will be joining us for the Oct. 12th public action.**

If you can't make it to El Paso, please consider attending or registering a [local solidarity action](#).

Take Action: Sign Petition urging Senate to Act on Climate Change

The [Catholic Climate Covenant](#) has launched a campaign during the Season of Creation which FAN has joined on as a participant. By providing opportunities designed to inspire Catholics who may have never before expressed concern about climate change, we hope to create an unprecedented collaborative effort across the US Catholic community to generate a resounding Catholic call to climate action that Congress and American society will hear.

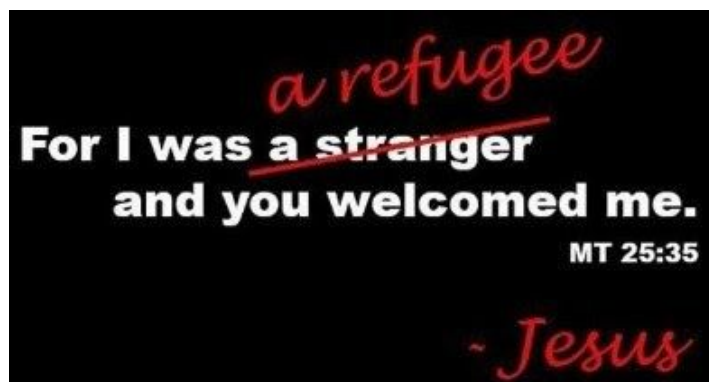


To that end, we urge all our members and friends to [sign this petition](#) calling on the Senate to act on climate change. Once you've signed, **please share the petition with others**. Your faith voice is needed to uplift our shared moral responsibility to care for our common home.

Take Action: Make a Call for Refugee Resettlement

Last week, the administration held a meeting to discuss plans for the refugee admissions goal for Fiscal Year 2020, with some officials previously **proposing resettling zero refugees next year**. This would [decimate](#) the bipartisan refugee resettlement program and follows FY 2019's historically low goal of 30,000.

The administration has already been



dismantling the refugee resettlement program and is [considering](#) granting authority to states and localities to deny refugee resettlement in their communities, undermining U.S. law and violating our nation's commitment to welcome the most vulnerable refugees. **As people of faith who care about refugees, we must call for a robust refugee admissions goal of 95,000 in FY20 and prepare for a rapid response as soon as we hear how many refugees the administration plans to welcome in FY 2020.**

By law, the administration must consult with Congress by the end of September, prior to setting the refugee admissions goal, which means it is critical our elected officials hear from us. [Click here](#) to see a full list of House and Senate Judiciary Committee Members, who are in charge of consulting with the administration. As your [St. Clare Pledge commitment](#), we urge our members and friends to make calls to your Members of Congress urging a robust refugee admissions goal of 95,000. [Phone numbers and a sample script can be found here](#).

For more ways to take rapid response action, please check out this Rapid Response Toolkit from our friends at Church World Service: <http://bit.ly/PDRapidResponseToolkit>.

Poor People's Campaign Kicks off “We Must Do M.O.R.E.” Tour

The [Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival](#) announced last week a 9-Month, 22-State tour called “[We Must Do M.O.R.E.](#)” The tour kicked off in El Paso, TX September 16-18 and will continue to stop at various cities until May of 2020. The goal of the tour is to demand the implementation of the campaign's [Moral Agenda](#) and call all people of conscience to engage in deeply moral civic engagement and voting that cares about people, the environment, and peace.



From their [website](#):

Rather than through the limited framework of left or right, we will draw on our deepest constitutional, religious and moral values to challenge both political parties to address an economy that isn't working for most of us. Systemic racism is dangerously impacting our democracy from voter suppression to denial of immigrant and indigenous rights. The reality of 140 million people who are poor or low-wealth and just one \$400 emergency away from being poor — and who represent every race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, and political party and account for 43.5% of the people living in the richest nation in the world — is a moral crisis.

You can find more information and a [full schedule of tour stops here](#).

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.

Still Time to Get Tickets for our Annual Award Benefit

There is still time to [get your tickets](#) for our annual award benefit where we will honor and thank Patrick, our executive director for the past 9 years. Patrick epitomizes the characteristics we look for in our honorees: someone whose work reflects the values and charisms of St. Francis of Assisi while not a professed Franciscan. Patrick has lived and loved FAN, nurturing, growing, and building it in to the well-respected organization we are today.



We hope you can [join us on Nov. 7th from 6p-9p in St. Francis Hall in Washington, D.C.](#) Beer, wine, and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served and dress is casual. There will be auction opportunities and lots of fun.

If you're not able to make it, we invite you to consider [buying a ticket and donating it](#) back to someone who wants to come but can't afford the ticket price, like a religious sister. Please [let us know](#) if you have any questions. We hope to see you there.

Take Action: Contact your Representative and Urge a Vote on No Ban Act

Last week, the House of Representatives announced an historic hearing on the Muslim Ban will take place tomorrow, Sept. 24th. This will be the first ever hearing on the Muslim Ban and a first step toward a House vote on the NO BAN



Act ([H.R. 2214/S. 1123](#)). While FAN staff and Muslim advocates pack the hearing room tomorrow, we need you to [make your voice heard](#).

Since the Muslim Ban was first enacted, discrimination against American Muslims has skyrocketed while countless families remain separated, missing out on births, funerals, weddings and even necessary medical care. Congress has the power to end the Muslim Ban by [passing the NO BAN Act](#).

As a second [St. Clare Pledge commitment](#), we urge all our members and friends to [contact your Representatives](#) and tell them to pass the No Ban Act. America was founded on principles of religious freedom for all. We must end this discrimination against our Muslim sisters and brothers.