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Reflection Date: October 27, 2019 - 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Lord Hears the Cry of the Poor. Do We?

It is always a good and important practice to sit, read and reflect on the readings for the upcoming Sunday celebration of Eucharist. In this way we are not hearing the readings for the first time as we gather for Mass, rather earlier in the week we create the space within us to ponder and allow the scriptures to dwell, to speak to our hearts and to call us to conversion. Our readings for this [Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#) are especially important as they call us to a deeper understanding of God's justice.

Clearly, we hear the words of Sirach, "The Lord is a God of justice...who hears the cry of the oppressed." After this first reading, many of us will join in singing the familiar and popular hymn, "The Lord hears the cry of the poor, blessed be the Lord." In the gospel, none of us will likely identify ourselves with the Pharisee and his prayer, 'O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity.' We want to believe that we are on the right side of justice, living with a conscious care for those who are poor, for the dignity of all people and that we are working and advocating against environmental injustices and for the care and protection of our Sister, Mother Earth. But are we doing enough?

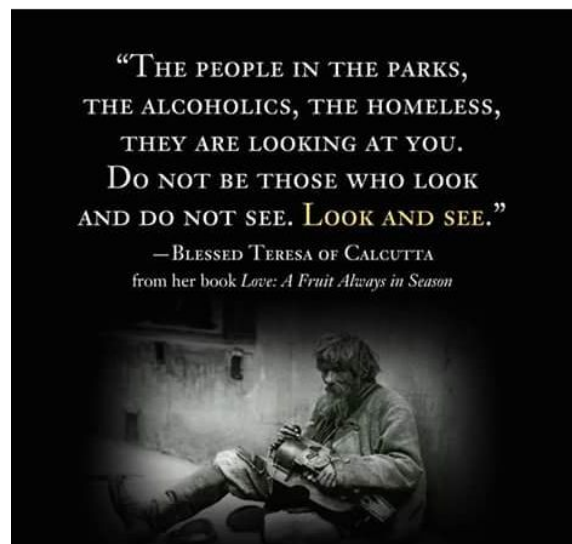
Have we attuned our ears and our hearts to hear the cries of the people most affected? Have we heard the cry of Greta Thunberg, the 16 year old Climate Activist from Sweden, as she [spoke](#) during the United Nations Climate Action Summit in New York City? Greta's cry for climate justice is clear!

We need to hear and be attentive to the cries and voices of those most affected. Recently, I read the book, [Climate Justice: Hope, Resilience and the Fight for a Sustainable Future](#) written by Mary Robinson, the former President of Ireland. In this book she shares the stories of individuals from around the world who represent those people most affected by environmental pollution, greed and injustice and how they are working for change and creating hope for a sustainable future. I invite you to read and to hear these voices and their cries for justice for the poor and those most vulnerable and endangered in this climate crisis.

May God give us the strength and courage to be on the side of justice, mercy and love for all people and to work more diligently for the protection and care of our Common Home.

Sr. Margaret Magee, OSF
FAN Board Member

Suggested Action:



Watch [Greta Thunberg's speech](#) at the recent Climate Action Summit at the United Nations and make a commitment to act. We suggest marking your commitment on the [Living the Change](#) website.

Suggested Petitions:

For the strength and courage to be on the side of justice. We pray...

For all those whose voices are not heard, may they be comforted by advocates who have the courage to speak on their behalf. We pray...

Collect Prayer:

**Almighty ever-living God,
increase our faith, hope and charity,
and make us love what you command,
so that we may merit what you promise.
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: Urge your Representative to Support Democracy for All

Big Money interests have overwhelmed the political process. The Supreme Court has made the problem exponentially worse through *Citizens United*, dismantling what's left of our country's campaign finance laws. The [House](#) and [Senate](#) have both introduced legislation that will limit the influence of wealthy special interests in elections and establish that corporations do not have the same rights as human beings.



These bills are collectively known as Democracy for All Constitutional Amendments.

We urge our members and friends to take action:

1. **Today is a National call-in day** to ramp up cosponsors for the #DemocracyForAll Amendment to overturn Citizens United. As your [St. Clare Pledge](#) this week, we urge you to **make a call to your representative now: (202) 224-3121** and [let us know how it goes](#).
2. [Sign this petition](#) demanding Congress over turn Citizens United and end the unlimited amounts of political spending that influence our elections.
3. Use this [online tool to write a Letter to the Editor](#) in support of the Democracy for All Amendments to restore the ability of Congress and the states to enact common sense campaign finance regulations.

Citizens United provides more power to wealthy corporations than regular American voters.

We must have common sense rules for the raising and spending of money on elections to advance political equality for all Americans.

FAN Joins Other Faith Groups to Advocate for Refugee Resettlement

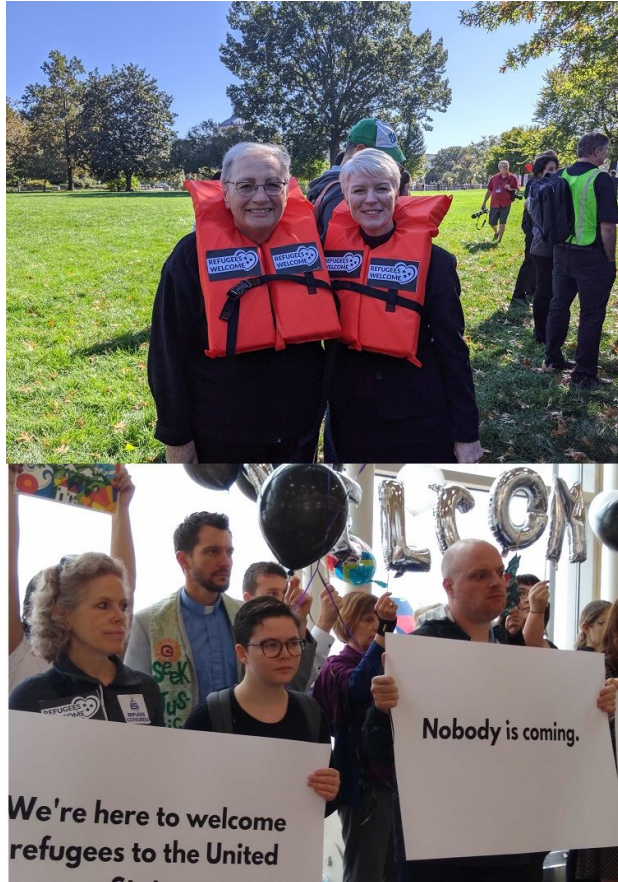
This week, the FAN staff participated in two separate events in Washington, DC to rally against the historically low refugee resettlement cap of 18,000 and advocate for higher goals.

On Tuesday, faith groups organized a [protest on the steps of the Capitol](#) where 18 people (representing the 18,000 cap) wore life vests (*top*) representing the life-saving refugee resettlement programs that have been desecrated by this administration. [Click here to watch the video.](#)

On Wednesday, faith groups gathered at Washington Reagan Airport (*bottom*) to recognize the refugees who will NOT arrive in the U.S. next year because of proposed cuts to the U.S. refugee program. [Watch the video here.](#)

Right now, there are two identical bills in the House and Senate called the [Guaranteed Refugee Admission Ceiling Enhancement](#) (GRACE) Act. These bills would uphold America's long bi-partisan tradition by establishing an annual refugee admissions level of no less than 95,000, restoring refugee admissions to their historic norms. We urge our members and friends to continue to [call your Representative and urge their support](#) for the GRACE Act.

Our policies should reflect compassion, not discrimination or rejection.



Brother Coyote Offers Insight on Border Wall's Affect on Sacred Sites

FAN Friend, [Gary Paul Nabhan](#) (Brother Coyote, OEF), is an agricultural ecologist, ethnobotanist and writer whose work has focused primarily on the desert Southwest. He is considered a pioneer in the local-food and heirloom seed-saving movements.

Br. Coyote recently contacted us to let us know about efforts from a diverse interfaith



coalition of faith leaders and tribal members along the southern border. The coalition has been participating in listening sessions from natives and others concerned about the construction of the wall desecrating sacred sites, burial and ceremonial grounds in addition to national parks and wildlife refuges along the border.

Click here to [read Br. Coyote's blog](#) on our blog page.

Vote Common Good Launches Love in Politics Pledge

The good people at [Vote Common Good](#) have let us know about a new initiative they have launched called the [Love in Politics Pledge](#). This pledge calls faith-filled voters to support candidates who pledge to conduct themselves in their public and political lives in ways of love consistent with [1 Corinthians 13](#).

From their website: *As people of faith, we do not seek to elect only those who believe as we do. We believe that our faith calls us to advocate for the common good for all.*

For that reason, we will elect leaders who commit to an ethic of love in their public and political lives.

[Find out more and sign the petition here.](#)

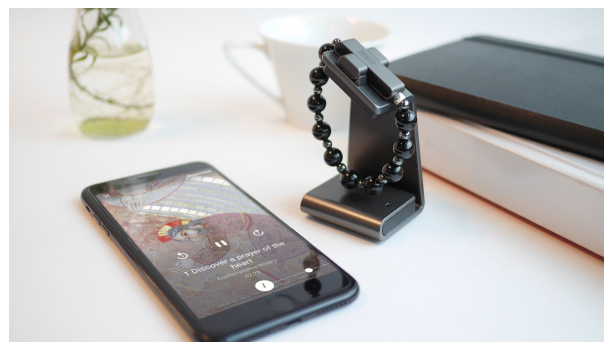


Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network introduces Click To Pray eRosary

Last week, the [Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network](#) launched a new device that pursues a clear purpose: to pray for peace in the world. It's called the [Click To Pray eRosary](#).

The [Click To Pray eRosary](#) is an interactive, smart and app-driven device that serves as a tool for learning how to pray the rosary. It can be worn as a bracelet and is activated by making the sign of the cross. It is

synchronized with a free app of the same name, which allows access to an audio guide, exclusive images and personalized content about the praying of the Rosary.



This unique device serves as a technology-based educational tool to teach the young how to pray the Rosary, how to pray it for peace, and how to contemplate the Gospel. [Find out more here.](#)

Take Action: Sign Petition Demanding Dignity for Detained Migrants

More than one million immigrants [arrive at U.S. borders every year](#), many escaping violent or threatening situations in their home countries. These people of God arrive to U.S. detention centers that are just as damaging as the violence-prone countries many are fleeing. Currently, many detention centers are housed in privately owned prisons, which means that the first view of the U.S. granted to immigrants is from behind bars.



As people of faith we are called to advocate for humane treatment of all people, especially those who are being persecuted. For this reason, FAN has partnered with other allies in a petition urging Congress to enact humane treatment for asylum seekers and immigrants. We urge you to [sign on by clicking here](#).

This legislation would implement a shift from detention to alternative housing arrangements for immigrants awaiting court decisions. Community-based supervision programs allow immigrants to live independently, and outside of detention centers. Please take a moment and [sign the petition demanding dignity for detained migrants](#).

Start Planning One Today: Vigil to End Gun Violence

It's no longer *if* someone we know will be directly impacted by an act of gun violence, but *when*. Urban violence, domestic events, suicides, mass murder and accidents cause more than 100 gun deaths every day. Houses of worship must prepare for the potential of violence within their walls, respond compassionately to trauma in our communities and reclaim our communities as places of safety and sanctuary for all God's children.

This month, in Washington, DC, the FAN staff will participate in a [multi-faceted discussion](#) with survivors of gun violence at the Washington National Cathedral. We expect to leave this discussion challenged, inspired and moved to act. We will also join in the National Vigil to End Gun Violence in December, which serves to anchor all the vigils and events across the nation.



We urge all our members and friends to [register to host a vigil or an event](#) in your town or city. To facilitate your planning, download the [2019 National Vigil Toolkit](#). There is [more information here](#).