

Publication Date: October 28, 2019

Reflection Date: November 3, 2019 - 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Greatness of the Lord is Mercy on All

I cannot help but wonder what must have been in Zacchaeus' heart to prod him to make a fool of himself, a grown man, to climb a tree in order to take a glance at Jesus passing by. Don't we wish sometimes that we too may have the freshness of his enthusiasm for Jesus? Zacchaeus was on the way to conversion. He was moved by what he heard about Jesus and he wanted to see and hear for himself. He was not disappointed; Jesus invited himself to his house, to the utter confusion and disbelief of the people who thought they knew how to deal with a "sinner."



The [reading](#) from the Book of Wisdom this week can help us once more to grasp how God deals with Zacchaeus, with us, and with the whole universe. "Before the Lord the whole universe is as a grain from a balance, or a drop of morning dew come down upon the earth. But you have mercy on all, because you can do all things; and you overlook people's sins that they may repent." (Wis 11:22-23)

Pope Francis says, "I think — and I say it with humility — that this is the Lord's most powerful message: mercy." To help us reflect on mercy he designated 2016 as the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. Mercy is the language that God speaks and Jesus showed it to us. We see it at work with Zacchaeus. Jesus sat at the table with him, and listened to him and the future plans he had for his life, letting salvation flow in him.

How do we deal with sisters and brothers sinners like us? Do we believe that, like for Zacchaeus, there is always a way to redemption, that it is always possible to start anew, to raise ourselves up?

We seem to live in a mean world, a selfish world, where thinking of myself and what I get out of a given situation for my own benefit and self-aggrandizement, look like the norm. There appears to be very little space for mercy, including in our incarceration and immigration systems.

Yet, if we want to live a life worthy to be called life, and live in the kind of nation we proclaim to be, we need to heed to the words of Psalm 145 and use them as our guide: "The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness. The Lord is good to all and compassionate toward all his works."

Sr. Maria Orlandini, OFS
FAN Director of Advocacy

Suggested Action:

- Think of who around you may be most in need to be shown mercy and act on it.
- Spend some time listening to someone who may need someone to talk to.

Suggested Petitions:

For those who struggle to find new meaning in life, that they may be touched by God's and our mercy. We pray...

That as a nation we may be guided by compassion and mercy, especially in our immigration policies. We pray...

Collect Prayer:

**Almighty and merciful God,
by whose gift your faithful offer you
right and praiseworthy service,
grant, we pray,
that we may hasten without stumbling
to receive the things you have promised.
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

#HomelsHere March for DACA and TPS Headed to Washington

On Saturday, October 26, [NAKASEC](#), [Make the Road New York](#), the [NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs](#), and others kicked-off the "Home is Here" march in Battery Park New York. They are now making their way to Washington, D.C. to demand that the Supreme Court rule on the right side of history by defending DACA and that Congress pass a permanent legislative solution to protect TPS.



Marchers continue on a [path to DC](#), arriving by November 12th, when the Supreme Court will hear the case on DACA and begin proceedings to determine the fate of the program.

Even though the march has begun, there are several ways to support the march:

- Sign up to join the march [here](#)
- Commit to in-kind donation support (such as food, equipment, or lodging) [here](#)
- Monetary donations can be made [here](#)

More information about the march can be found on the [Home is Here website](#). We urge all our members and friends along the [proposed route](#) to keep an eye out for our friends along the way and help out wherever possible.

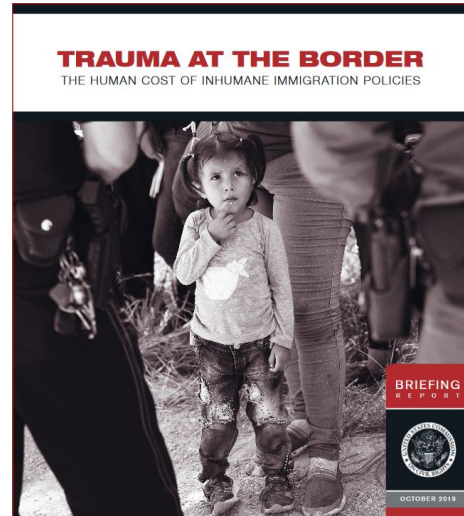
Additionally, the Ignatian Solidarity Network has launched [Prayers of Hope: Defend DACA](#), a campaign offering resources to help organize a vigil, advocate and other ways to show support leading up to and on Nov. 12th. [Click here for more information.](#)

Trauma at the Border: Report from U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

Last week, the independent, bipartisan U.S. Commission on Civil Rights released [Trauma at the Border: The Human Cost of Inhumane Immigration Policies](#). The report highlights testimony received from asylum seekers, legal experts, and other witnesses to the impacts of changes in immigration policy at the southern border. It focuses on the separation of thousands of migrant children from their parents, and the housing and medical care provided to asylum seekers and other immigrants while detained.

The report concludes that the impact of separating immigrant families and indefinite detention is widespread, long-term, and may inflict irreversible physical, mental and emotional trauma. Despite an Executive Order purporting to stop family separation, there remain credible allegations that family separations continue. The Commission also heard directly from immigrant detainees who confirmed traumatic experiences as a result of enduring inhumane conditions at detention facilities and cruel treatment by Department of Homeland Security (DHS) personnel.

The Commission majority voted for key [recommendations](#), which begin on page 125 of the report. We encourage our members and friends to continue advocating on behalf of our immigrant sisters and brothers in alignment with these findings.



JFI National Migration Week 2020 Webinar

Join [Justice for Immigrants](#) (JFI) for a webinar this week to learn about next year's National Migration Week. Attendees will hear more about the celebration, resources that will be available and hear ideas for planning an event at your parish or diocese.

The webinar will be held **Wednesday, October 30, 2019 at 2pm Eastern / 11am Pacific.**

Login: <https://bit.ly/2Mnzlwk>

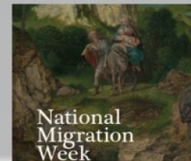
Phone: (267) 279-9000

Passcode: 367794#

JFI Webinar: *National Migration Week 2020*

Wednesday, October 30, 2019 at 2 PM Eastern / 11 AM Pacific

For nearly a half century, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week, which is an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking.



Join us in this webinar to learn more about the celebration, resources that will be available, and hear ideas for planning your diocesan or parish event.

Login: <https://bit.ly/2Mnzlwk>

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We encourage our members and friends to join in the discussion.

Urge your Rep. to Co-sponsor Bill Banning Assault

Weapons

Assault weapons, like the AR-15, are the weapon of choice for mass shooters in America because they are uniquely lethal. This was the style of weapon used in Odessa, Dayton, Gilroy, Aurora, Parkland, Poway, Orlando, Las Vegas, Tree of Life Synagogue, Sandy Hook, Umpqua Community College, Waffle House, Sutherland Springs, and San Bernardino. These weapons have one purpose: to kill as many humans as possible in the shortest amount of time. There is no reason a civilian should have a military style weapon like this.

say **NO** to
#WeaponsOfWar.



There's already a [bipartisan bill](#) to ban assault weapons, but it needs more support from legislators to pass the House. We just need 5 more representatives to sign on as co-sponsors! [Take a moment to write to your Representative](#) urging they sponsor this important legislation.

The vast majority of Americans, including gun owners, support common-sense gun safety legislation such as this. Click here to [see if your Rep has already sponsored](#) the legislation. If s/he has, adjust the letter to be one of thanks.

National Catholic Reporter Announces New e-Newsletter: EarthBeat

Last week, we were advised that National Catholic Reporter's popular Eco Catholic e-newsletter will be rebranded EarthBeat Weekly. You can [sign up for EarthBeat Weekly](#) here. If you already receive Eco Catholic, you do NOT need to sign up again.



[EarthBeat Weekly](#) is an online reporting project that tells stories of faith and climate change. EarthBeat will offer content such as daily reflections to provide opportunities to celebrate the Season of Creation, September 1 through October 4 as well as Small Earth Stories, where readers share stories about specific ways they respond to climate change in day-to-day life, told in a photo and 150 words.

Additionally, EarthBeat will offer a free events calendar featuring upcoming conferences, talks and webinars related to faith and climate change. Readers will be able to post events directly to the site.

[Sign up for EarthBeat Weekly](#) here.

Please Pray for South Sudan and for Peace

Last week, the FAN staff was sent an [urgent request for prayers](#) for the people of South Sudan.



The request came from Sister Joan Mumaw, IHM who is the President and Chief Administrative Officer of Friends in Solidarity, Inc. [Friends in Solidarity](#) is a collaborative ministry supporting the people of Africa, especially South Sudan, through capacity building initiatives. Through their efforts in training teachers, health care professionals and pastoral teams on the ground, they are able to see the fear and uncertainty in the eyes of those they minister to.

We request our members and friends please add South Sudan and the peace process to the list of intentions for which you pray. You can find [prayer resources here](#).

Election Security Day of Action Nov. 13th

We are at a pivotal moment for the security of our elections, and we have faced unprecedented attacks on our democracy.



Earlier this year, democracy advocates organized dozens of events, and made thousands of phone calls, calling on Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and the Senate to fund election security efforts. They responded with an announcement of \$250 million in funding - which election security experts warn is barely a drop in the bucket compared to the number of vulnerable voting machines in our country that are in urgent need of being replaced.

Local leaders are needed to join the national day of action on November 13th by hosting an event in your community. [Sign up to host an event here](#)

We need to ensure that election security funding is passed in this upcoming appropriations, to ensure states receive the funds before their primaries. Our democracy depends on the public's faith in our elections. Let's work together to restore integrity in our democracy. We urge all our members and friends to [join in the day of action Nov. 13th](#).