

Publication Date: November 11, 2019

Reflection Date: November 17, 2019 - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Holy Grace will Prevail

The passages from the [readings this Sunday](#) have been described as the twin forces of holy terror and holy grace that are in a full-on scrimmage, competing for the souls of those hearing this messianic prediction. In the first reading, Malachi gives a doomsday message that the wicked will be purified as in thrown into a blazing fire. Their pride and arrogance will be reduced to ashes. But on the other hand, for those who serve God, there will be a different kind of heat. They will experience something like healing rays from the sun – lifting the human spirit and bringing everything to life.

In the second reading, Paul speaks to the Thessalonians of his concern not to be a burden or to be pampered, but instead work for the things they offer him. Paul has an expectation that his followers will follow his example and serve others in the community.

In the Gospel, the community is questioning if they are near the end of time. Jesus tells them that they should not be deceived by those claiming to know the day and hour as well as the event that will bring the final end to a climax. Yes we will have serious conflicts and natural disasters but they are not pointing to the end of time. Jesus tells us that we need to be confident and faithful through all tribulations because anyone who follows Jesus will continue to be objects of persecution by many. We are told not to worry at this time because he will give us the wisdom and strength that we need. What we suffer will all be a signal to the coming of the end of time. For now it is not the end of time, but one day at a time.

Thus as we walk this “journey into God”, we may always be juggling holy terror and holy grace but by walking with Jesus, and Jesus walking with us, holy grace will always prevail.

Sr. Marge Wissman, OSF
FAN Board Member

Suggested Action:

Pope Francis has named the Thirty-Third Sunday in ordinary time as the World Day of the Poor. On this day, let us reach out to those most in need. Let us live our waiting with commitment stepping out of certainties and comfort and stepping into vulnerability.

Suggested Petitions:



That on this World Day of the Poor, we pledge to do an act of kindness during this Thirty third week of ordinary time. We pray...

That we will always remember that we are God's instruments to alleviate the suffering of those in poverty. We pray...

Prayer:

Let us take our example Saint Francis and his witness to authentic Poverty. Francis kept his gaze fixed on Christ and was able to see and serve him in the poor. We pray that we can change history and promote real development by hearing the cry of the poor and commit ourselves to ending their marginalization. This we ask in the name of Christ.

Amen

St. Clare Pledge: Call Your Representative and Urge Commitment to No Ban Act

Last week, [reports](#) surfaced that the Trump Administration is discussing an expansion of the Muslim Ban by increasing the list of countries from which entrance to the United States is blocked.

The [NO BAN Act](#) is proposed legislation which would repeal all versions of the Muslim, asylum, and refugee ban in addition to limiting a President's authority to create a ban in the future. Even if your Congress member has signed on to the NO BAN Act, we are asking that they reaffirm their commitment.



As your [St. Clare Pledge](#) this week, [make a call](#) or [write a letter](#) to your Representative and ask that s/he sign on or reaffirm their commitment to the NO BAN Act.

Home is Here March Arrives in Washington, D.C. Tomorrow

The core marchers of the "[Home is Here](#)" march will be arriving in Washington, D.C. tomorrow, November 12th, as the Supreme Court begins to hear the case on DACA and begin proceedings to determine the fate of the program.

According to a [post](#) from day 9 on the website, the core marchers have been



recently “experiencing both cheers of support and people yelling not-so-nice things at us, but we are determined to meet hate with love!” The group has put together a [new video](#) that highlights stories of impacted DACA members. We encourage you to [watch their progress](#) on the website.

If you are in the DC Metro area, please come [to welcome them tomorrow](#). FAN will join the marchers, Ignatian Solidarity Network, university students, Justice for Immigrants and more when we meet at Columbus Circle to pray the Rosary before walking to the Supreme Court building. [Join us](#).

Final Chance to 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.

In October the FAN staff participated in a



[multi-faceted discussion](#) with survivors of gun violence at the Washington National Cathedral. We left 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](#).

Sign the Petition in Support of the Climate Equity Act

Routinely, communities of color are more likely to live near coal-power plants and toxic sites, greatly increasing health risks caused by pollution. Historically, even landmark environmental laws have failed to adequately protect frontline communities from polluted air, toxic water, and more. As the climate crisis continues, these communities will continue to bear the brunt.



The [Climate Equity Act](#) was introduced to ensure that frontline communities have a seat at the policy making table and that nobody gets left behind when creating new environmental laws. Frontline communities are those that have experienced systemic socioeconomic disparities, environmental racism, and other forms of injustice.

We must hold Congress and the Executive Branch accountable in federal climate and environmental action as well as giving advocates a seat at the table. [Click here to sign a petition to help ensure protections for communities impacted by environmental racism.](#)

Join the Election Security Day of Action This Week

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.



[Join activists across the country on November 13th as we take action to secure our elections.](#)

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](#).