

Water and Living Water

Image by [Sasin Tipchai](#) from Pixabay

The [scripture for this Sunday](#) talks about the importance of water, acceptance, and forgiveness.

In the First Reading and in the Gospel, water is a need but becomes so much more. When the Israelites arrive at Rephidim, they find there is no water. They complain to Moses that they will perish without water and again on this journey they express that they are sorry they left Jerusalem. Not to complain would have been an opportunity to express their faith in God whose goodness they had experienced over and over again on this passage out of Egypt. Once again God responded to their complaint. Moses struck the rock with his staff and water flowed generously. Are we faced with situations that give us an opportunity to express faith in God?



In the Gospel Jesus is sitting near Jacob's well when a Samaritan woman comes along to get water. Jesus asks her to "Give him a drink". She was shocked, for Jews did not speak to Samaritans. She was shocked again when Jesus knew of her several marriages. Jesus tells her that he is the living water and slowly she begins to understand who Jesus really is. In addressing Jesus, she moves from "Sir" to "Prophet" to "Messiah". She leaves her water jar and goes to her village to tell the others about this man who gives living water. They believe her and return with her to listen to Jesus. They ask him to stay with them and even though they are Samaritans, he does not hesitate. Jesus responds to people as he encounters them and shows no prejudice or judgments.

Sr. Marge Wissman, OSF
FAN Board Member

Suggested Actions:

When you are at a social gathering, try to talk to someone of a different culture.
Always be aware of the value of water and what a gift water is.

Suggested Petitions:

May we be open to hearing the voice of God when we encounter others. We pray...
May we think like Jesus and not bend Jesus' hard teachings to make discipleship more comfortable for ourselves. We pray...

Reflection:

Being a Christian isn't just following the commandments, but means being in Christ, thinking like him, acting like him, loving like him; it means letting him take possession of our lives and change them, transform them, free them from the darkness of evil and sin.

-Pope Francis

St. Clare Pledge Action: Urge Congress to Pass the NO BAN Act

Three years ago, when the travel ban targeting immigrants from seven predominantly Muslim countries was initiated, FAN began [speaking up](#) about the injustice. Discrimination against Muslims or any type of discrimination on the basis of religion is distinctly un-American.



In 2019, Franciscans all over the world remembered and celebrated a special meeting which happened 800 years earlier. During the 5th Crusades, an itinerant preacher from Assisi, Italy named Francis crossed battle lines and risked his life to seek an audience with the Egyptian Sultan and Muslim, Malik al-Kamel. The Sultan in turn, risked his own life by granting Francis an audience. The two built a relationship of profound respect and ended up as life-long friends.

This story of Muslim-Christian relationship drives the desire in Franciscans to seek justice for our Muslim sisters and brothers. **Congress has the power to stop the injustice against Muslims.** The [No BAN Act](#) would end the Muslim Ban and ensure that no future president can abuse their authority and ban people for discriminatory purposes. As your [St. Clare Pledge](#) this week, we urge our members and friends to [sign this petition urging Congress to pass the NO BAN Act](#).

Take Action Tomorrow: National Call-in Day for Asylum Seekers

The U.S. asylum system is under attack. This administration has blocked families and children seeking protection and instead is delivering them to life-threatening dangers. All people have the legal right to seek a safe place to call home, and seeking asylum is protected within U.S. and international law. We must [demand that our Members of Congress defend our values and decry these policies](#).



Tomorrow, March 10th is a national call-in day to tell Congress we must welcome asylum seekers and restore protections for them. This [toolkit](#) provides you with access to 1) a click to call Congress alert with sample language; 2) social media posts and graphics to share; 3) and support for writing and submitting letters to the editor to your local paper.

We urge our members and friends to [join in these actions](#) and make our faith voices heard.

Franciscan Solidarity Table Exhibits at Global Solidarity Conference in Dayton

Last month, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Mission and Catholic Social Action Office along with Catholic Relief Services, the University of Dayton, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society hosted a [Global Solidarity Conference](#) with the theme, "For I Was Hungry...". Breakout sessions were on topics such as Catholic Social Teaching, Promoting Global Solidarity, and Living Mercy at Home.

Jim Myres, OFS is the moderator of a newly formed [Tri-State Franciscan Solidarity Table](#) in the Cincinnati area. Jim attended the conference and was given a space to set up a table and offer information about the Solidarity Table. Attendees included students from UD and young adults from parishes in the Archdiocese. He was able to offer an introduction to Franciscans and the special charism we enjoy.



Thanks so much for your enthusiasm and passion, Jim!

Take Action to Support DACA Recipients

The Supreme Court is expected to make their decision on the future of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) between now and the end of June. Thousands of DACA recipients are in danger of losing their status and in danger of deportation. We need faith communities to support DACA recipients and prepare to take action.



Here are several ways to support our DACAmented friends:

- Join the Interfaith Immigration Coalition [#Faith4DACA Webinar](#) - Action to Support DACA on **Tuesday, March 10th at 4pm ET/ 1pm PT**. Click [here](#) to register
- Join the [#HomeisHere month of action campaign](#) during March. This digital campaign is designed to lift up DACA recipients on social media and help to protect DACA recipients and all undocumented immigrants.
- Sign the [#Faith4DACA Petition to the Senate on Protections for Dreamers](#). This petition reflects the desire of the faith community for permanent legislative solutions

that do not compromise priorities for immigrant communities.

United We Dream has put together an informative video to share the [Top 5 Things You Need to Know about DACA](#). We encourage you to watch and share it.

Caring for Creation: Celebrate Earth Day at 50 and Laudato Si Week

As Franciscans, we hold a special place in our heart for our Mother Earth. We see our God reflected in her beauty and remember the necessity of a balanced ecology.



This year we join in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and the 5th anniversary of *Laudato Si*. We have heard from many of our member communities about actions that are being planned to join the national celebration.

Many resources have been made available and we share these with you:

- The Catholic Climate Covenant's [Earth Day 2020](#) educational program is available for download. The program is a free, one-hour educational program designed to complement both anniversaries together.
- Pope Francis released a video calling on all Catholics to celebrate [Laudato Si Week](#) May 16-24, lifting up the 5th anniversary of the encyclical. We urge our members and friends to be part of this global collection of Catholic actions. [Click here](#) to find resources for celebrating and a form to submit your events and activities.
- If you're looking to join a local event or program, check out the [Catholic Climate Project Calendar](#) or the [Earth Day Network's Map of events](#).

Continue to [let us know](#) about the events and actions happening in your community. As we get closer to these special anniversaries, we will highlight the Franciscan participation.

Join Faithful Census Weekend March 27-29

From March 27-29, communities of faith across the country will lift up the 2020 Census in their houses of worship during [Faithful Census Weekend](#).



This nationwide movement leverages the unique position faith leaders have as trusted messengers to encourage census participation. Faith leaders can powerfully communicate the message that responding to the 2020 Census is an act of faith that shows your love for neighbor because an accurate count ensures access to quality schools, hospitals, roads and services that make a difference in people's lives.

We encourage our members and friends to consider taking action during Faithful Census Weekend by committing to sharing a sermon or a bulletin announcement in your faith community. [Find resources and the digital toolkit here.](#)

March Stop Trafficking Newsletter Names Companies that Perpetuate Sexual Exploitation

No mainstream entity should profit from or facilitate sexual exploitation. Unfortunately, many well-established brands, companies, and organizations in America do just that. The [March Stop Trafficking newsletter](#) highlights the National Center for Sexual Exploitation's annual list of entities they deem worthy to name and shame.



You can access the [March issue of the Stop Trafficking Newsletter](#) here. If you have missed any of the past newsletters, you can find them on our [website](#).

Villanova University Announces Online Training of Immigrant Advocates

FAN has a policy against advertising programs however an exception was made for VIISTA as it is specifically designed to help provide legal assistance for refugees.

The [Villanova Interdisciplinary Immigration Studies Training for Advocates](#) (VIISTA) — is a new, 100% online interdisciplinary educational program that trains students to become immigrant advocates ready to serve migrants and refugees. Designed by an interdisciplinary team of leading faculty, lawyers, and NGOs, VIISTA revolutionizes education about the law by educating legal advocates, akin to nurse practitioners in health care.



VIISTA is the first university-based online certificate program to train immigrant advocates. Graduates will be eligible, under existing regulations, to apply to become Department of Justice “accredited representatives,” non-lawyers authorized to provide low-cost legal representation to migrant and refugee families. [Click here to get more information and apply.](#)