

I have come...so that the blind shall see

Image by [Tobias Dahlberg](#) from Pixabay

It's very hard for you and I, or anyone of this time and age, to accept a Miracle. We all love to hear about a Miracle but when it comes down to it, we are more like "doubting Thomas" then we are someone like [Blessed Solanus Casey](#) (a Capuchin) who not only relied on a Miracle but expected one. Our power of logic and reason tilts us toward the need to provide proof. In fact even the Church has rules that rely on proof of an act of God (Miracles) before the Church says it was a Miracle.



Please, I am not saying that trying to prove God's intervention or action is bad. It just seems to be part of our nature to look at everything else before we accept that God has done a great thing. But at the same time, I have to admit that it tends to be part of our nature to blame bad things on God not doing something. I am speaking to our questioning why would God allow something or cause something that is horrible.

The Miracle in [this week's Gospel](#) echoes these beliefs. Many thought the blind man was faking it so that he could eat and live without working for what he needs daily. Why does this part of the story sound so much like some of our discussions when it comes to helping others with food, or programs to assist them onto a level playing field?

Solanus Casey on the other hand encourages us all to expect God to work and move in our lives. In fact his life challenged us to thank God ahead of time! To expect God to answer our needs and our prayers.

So, today we are challenged and are given a choice.

Will we be like the Pharisees of old and let the letter of the law rule and use that to *not* embrace, to pray and *not* take action, to *not* feed the hungry, to *not* work for justice? Or will we be like Blessed Solanus Casey, thanking God for His work in our midst *by what we do* personally to those who are on the margins of our society?

Br. Paul Crawford, OFM Cap.
FAN Board Member

Suggested Action:

Take a moment this week to recognize God's working in your life. Let your actions with the poor and marginalized in your community be a prayer of thanks to the Lord for the blessings in your life.

Suggested Petitions:

Look into each heart and grant us the courage to act out of the love which Jesus taught. We pray...

May our eyes be washed and opened to the Miracles in our lives. We pray...

Collect Prayer:

**Oh God, who through your Word
reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way,
grant, we pray,
that with prompt devotion and eager faith
the Christian people may hasten
toward the solemn celebrations to come.
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

Franciscan Action Network 2019 Annual Report

The Franciscan Action Network (FAN) is proud to share news of the past year's successes in our [2019 Annual Report](#). We encourage all of our Institutional and individual members and other members of the Franciscan family to take a moment to read through it as it describes the important work that our staff and Board do to bring a Franciscan voice to the public sphere.

FAN engages in public life with prophetic witness to the charism of Saints Francis and Clare. Always conscious of the support we get from religious communities representing all the orders of Franciscan life, we work to advance laws and policies that reflect the values we are held to as stated in Matthew Chapter 25:34 - feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the ill, and visit the imprisoned.

Amidst the divisive political, economic, and social environments of today's world, we cling to our [mission](#) and proudly point out the distinctly Franciscan identity which is the basis of our foundation. We keep this in mind as we build and grow relationships and look toward sustaining our Franciscan voice, both in D.C. and across the country, well into the future.

We are constantly aware of and grateful for the prayers and financial support of all our members. We hope you will continue to partner with us, through your prayers, financial contribution, and activism.



Join in: Digital Week of Action in Solidarity with

Dreamers

Amidst increasing concerns over the spread of the coronavirus, this week which was initially planned as a week of Action in Solidarity with Dreamers has morphed into a **Digital Week of Action**. Each day we hope that you will engage online with the following themes:



Monday, March 16: Educators Digital Day

Tuesday, March 17: Uplifting the Families of DACA Recipients Tweetstorm

Wednesday, March 18: #Faith4DACA [Facebook Live Vigil](#)

Thursday, March 19: : Amplifying Black, AAPI, Queer and Trans Voices

Friday, March 20: Home Is Here Digital

The [Interfaith Immigration Coalition](#), of which FAN is a member, will host a [Facebook Live Vigil](#) this **Wednesday, March 18th at 12pm ET / 9am PT** where DACA recipients and a few faith leaders will speak to our moral call to be in solidarity with Dreamers. We hope you will join us.

FAN Delivers 150,000 Signatures to Congress in Support of No Ban Act

Last week, FAN was proud to be present at the delivery of more than 150,000 signatures to the office of Rep. Judy Chu (*pictured*) calling for the House to pass the National Origin-Based Antidiscrimination for Nonimmigrants Act. Also known as the [NO BAN Act](#) (H.R. 2214), the legislation would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion and eliminate the Trump administration's ongoing travel ban.



The House was supposed to vote on the NO BAN Act last Thursday, but needed to temporarily delay the vote to pass an emergency stimulus package to address the coronavirus epidemic.

While this is disappointing, we are keeping up the pressure on our elected officials. We need to make it clear that the House must pass this important bill upon their return from recess this week. If you haven't already, please, [add your name and share this petition far and wide](#).

Democracy for All Amendment Call-in Day March 19th

Pope Francis calls on each of us to "meddle in politics" and we interpret this concept as a requirement that all Americans must have an



equal say in the public square. However, working against this ideal is the impact of big money.

The corrosive influence of big money in politics impacts all of us. It prevents our voices from being heard and incentivizes elected officials to respond to political donors over everyday people. The influence of big money in politics has become so severe that a **constitutional amendment** has become the only recourse for addressing this existential threat to the health of our democracy.

The Democracy For All amendment (H.J. Res. 2) is the leading amendment proposal to get big money out of our political system and it already has 214 Co-Sponsors in the House of Representatives. **This Thursday, March 19th is a [call-in day](#)** focusing on those Representatives who have not yet co-sponsored the Amendment. **Join us in calling on your Representative to support the Democracy For All Amendment.**

We must confront corruption, and put the power of our democracy back in the hands of the American people. [Urge your Representative to support the Democracy For All Amendment.](#)

Begin Planning for Laudato Si Week May 16-24

Pope Francis has [invited](#) all of us to contemplate what kind of world we want to leave to the next generation. His invitation to all of us is to join in a global campaign celebrating the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si and take action in response to the ecological crisis.



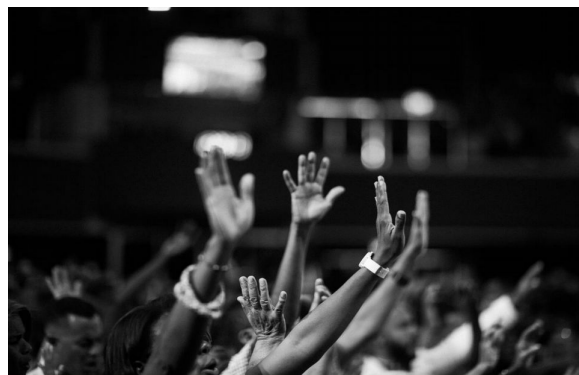
We urge all our members and friends to take the next step in your Laudato Si' journey. Commit to an ambitious action that grows your response to "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." There are suggested ideas on the [Laudato Si Week website](#), but you're welcome to take any action that is inspired by the encyclical and builds community by caring for God's wondrous creation.

We hope you will join us and [share what your action will be.](#)

Another Resource for Faithful Census Weekend

Last week we made you aware of [Faithful Census Weekend](#), happening March 27-29. During that time, communities of faith across the country will lift up the 2020 Census in their houses of worship.

As a leader of the Faithful Democracy coalition, FAN is happy to present another tool for people of faith to use to help ensure that every person in your community is counted. This month's chapter of "Unheard Voices", the bi-monthly toolkit looking at issues of voting rights and good governance, is focused on the [2020 Census](#). Find previous chapters of Unheard Voices on our [website](#).



This chapter is designed to equip people of faith with resources, messaging, and action steps to help them to ensure that everyone is counted in the 2020 Census. 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. [Download the chapter here](#).

We encourage our members and friends to consider taking action during Faithful Census Weekend. We must assure everyone is counted regardless of race, faith tradition, immigration, or economic status.