

## Jesus Sends us Forth with the Help of the Holy Spirit

At the time of the [Ascension](#), Jesus said to his disciples, “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem throughout Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth”. Then he was taken up into heaven. Two men in white garments stood beside the disciples and asked them why they were just standing there looking up to the sky. They were chiding them for just standing around and not moving on to do the work that Jesus left them to do. But the disciples still doubted, felt a void, saddened and frightened, having to move into the unknown without the human Jesus, departing from the comfortable. It was so much easier when Jesus was with them.



The Ascension was the context for sending forth the disciples. Jesus promised them that he would not leave them alone but would send the Holy Spirit. Jesus was sending them into the unknown when he told them that their call was universal (to the ends of the world). They did receive the Holy Spirit as Jesus had told them they would and were finally able to go to the “ends of the world” courageously and boldly preaching and living the message of Jesus.

The disciples throughout the centuries have passed this call onto us. The Holy Spirit also goes with us. Jesus does not leave us alone. When have you had to step out of your comfort zone to stand up for a justice issue? Were there times when it was hard to speak out because you were afraid of what people would say or that they would disagree? Did you feel Jesus’ presence? Through his passion, Jesus offered the ultimate instruction on the humility and love of God. With his resurrection appearances, Jesus touched our lives by announcing peace, forgiveness and the Holy Spirit. Now it is our turn to speak and act for Jesus – live out what he taught us and is still teaching us. We have to be humble, brave enough to say it, believe it and live it!

Sr. Marge Wissman, OSF  
FAN Board Member

### **Suggested Action:**

We have been commissioned by Jesus; we are the ones who teach from now on that God is in our midst, we are the ones to touch the lives of others with the healing power of God’s presence. Let us answer this commission!

### **Suggested Petitions:**

That I may teach and heal someone today through God’s presence, we pray...  
That all may strive to be courageous and willing disciples of Jesus, we pray...

## Prayer from Ephesians 1:17-23

**“May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of God. May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to God’s call.”**

**Amen**

## Join us Tuesday for Our Laudato Si' Week Webinar

On the heels of our successful [virtual gathering](#) of Franciscans for Ecumenical Advocacy Days, the staff of FAN is proud to announce our plans for a Laudato Si' Webinar in celebration of the 5th anniversary of the encyclical's release. We hope you will join us **Tuesday, May 19th at 3pm ET / 12pm PT**. [Please click here to register](#).



We are excited to have our very own executive director, Stephen Schneck be our speaker for this webinar. The topic will be the Franciscan inspiration that informs the encyclical and how it resonates in a special way with Franciscan hearts, motivating us to action.

Help us celebrate this encyclical's powerful message and invitation of a Franciscan response. Join us on Tuesday, May 19th. You must [register to join the Zoom webinar](#), however we will livestream it on our [Facebook page](#) as well.

## Ghost Guns and the Increase in Gun Violence

Recently, the news program *60 Minutes* hosted a segment on ghost guns. Many Americans don't know about ghost guns because they are designed to avoid all gun laws, untraceable and unserialized, and available to buy without a background check.

Ghost guns are “do-it-yourself” firearms that are assembled from kits easily purchased online. A video series from the Giffords center, “[Closing Loopholes: The Truth About Guns](#),” offers a succinct explanation on the components of ghost guns and why they are so dangerous.

Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund released “[Untraceable: The Rising Specter of Ghost Guns](#),” a new report highlighting the fastest-growing gun safety problem facing our country.



A group of 15 Senators led by Senator Richard Blumenthal [introduced](#) the Untraceable Firearms Act which would prohibit the manufacture and sale of firearms without serial numbers. In the coming weeks, [Giffords](#) will continue releasing material that gives experts, policymakers, and the public a deeper understanding on the existential threat ghost guns pose.

The Brady Campaign has developed [this action](#) urging the ATF to take immediate action to address the unregulated ghost gun market. We urge our members and friends to sign on by [clicking here](#).

## OFM JPIC Webinar on Migration in Time of Covid19

On **Thursday, May 21 at 9am ET / 6am PT** the OFM JPIC Office will host a [webinar](#) on the migration crisis and a call of solidarity in the time of COVID19. The seminar will focus on how the pandemic brought to fore the problem of systematic economic and racial inequity.

Presenters include: Br. Julian Jagudilla, OFM who is Director of the Migrant Center of New York; the Right Rev. Antonio N. Ablon, Bishop of the Diocese of Pagadian; and Br. Angelito Cortez, OFM who is JPIC Coordinator for the East Asian Conference. The panel of presenters along with the “voices on the ground” will speak on how the pandemic displaced migrants in the U.S.A., Europe and Asia.



[Click here to register](#) to join and it will also be available to watch live on their [Facebook page](#).

## Write Your Senators: Support Funding for USPS

As we have shared with you, we are faith partners with the Democracy Initiative which is supporting the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) and National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) in their [efforts](#) to secure \$25 billion in emergency federal funds for the United States Postal Service (USPS) in the next COVID relief bill. As a next step in this campaign, we urge our members and friends to **show your support on Social Media**.

All you need is a marker, piece of paper and your phone. On **Tuesday, May 19th**, please take a picture of yourself holding a sign that shows your support, like the one shown here. Post the picture on Twitter using the hashtag #SaveThePostOffice and tag the Democracy Initiative group (@unite4democracy). It's that simple!



Additionally, we encourage you to **send an email to**



**your Senators** urging them to support the USPS with \$25 billion in COVID relief funding. The Democracy Initiative organizers have created [this simple tool](#) to quickly send a pre-written letter to Senators. Only the information necessary to send the letter to the correct Senators is required, and *none of your data will be captured for anyone's use*. **It is especially important for Senators in the following states to be educated on this: AZ, CO, WI, KY, ME, MO, TX, WY.**

## Just Faith Ministries Offers Advocacy Webinar

Our friends at [JustFaith Ministries](#) have announced they will be hosting a free one-hour video-conferencing event every two weeks that highlights how we can make a difference, even as we are limited by sheltering in place and social distancing.

On **Thursday, May 28, at 7p.m. ET / 4p.m. PT**, JustFaith will talk with Matt Gross, Director of Organizing for Bread for the World, discussing "[The Importance of Advocacy during the Pandemic](#)."



We invite those interested to [click the link to register](#) as space is limited.

## Updated Fact Sheet on TPS and COVID-19

Photo by Getty/NurPhoto/John Nacion

In the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, FAN and other immigration advocates want to remind our members and friends to remember our sisters and brothers who are TPS holders.

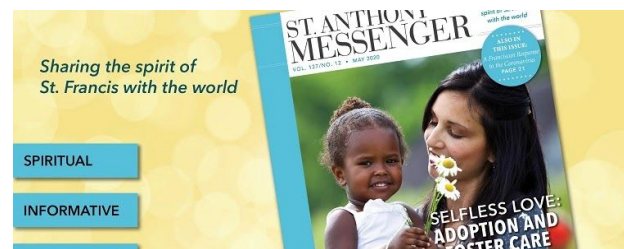
This [fact sheet](#) contains data from the Center for American Progress on the number of TPS holders working in health care and other sectors deemed essential. There are also links to news stories featuring personal anecdotes of TPS holders across the country and other stories.



As more stimulus and relief packages are debated in Congress, we must remember these essential workers and provide for their well-being.

## Franciscan Media Link to Subscribe: St. Anthony's Messenger Magazine

[Franciscan Media](#) is the organization behind America's longest-running Catholic magazine, St. Anthony's Messenger. Brought to you by the Franciscans of St. John the Baptist Province, St. Anthony's Messenger is inspiring reading for the



modern Catholic whose beliefs are steeped in a rich, abiding tradition. The May issue contains an article written by former FAN executive director, Patrick Carolan.

Through their many outreaches, Franciscan Media aims to help people seek the transformative love of Jesus and to provide their audience with the resources to share the Good News of Jesus. [Click here](#) to begin receiving St. Anthony's Messenger directly to your home.

## Maryknoll Faithful Voting and Global Concerns Guides

To help voters prepare for the upcoming U.S. elections, our partners at the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns are releasing two-page global issue briefs as part of a series called [Faithful Voting and Global Concerns](#). Many of these issues and the inspiration behind them align with FAN's mission.



From the Maryknoll Website:

*Inspired by the gospel and Maryknoll*

*missioners' commitment to stand with vulnerable communities around the world, we urge U.S. citizens to consider the issues raised in these briefs and to vote to advance the cause of peace, social justice, and the integrity of creation.*

To see the complete set of briefs, [click here](#).