

Publication Date: June 1, 2020

Reflection Date: June 7, 2020 - Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Mend your Ways, Encourage one Another

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[Trinity Sunday](#) celebrates the divine mystery of the unity in diversity that is our God. Father, Spirit, and Savior are separate in their charisms but united their singular divinity.

The Trinity, which is a mystery of divine unity in diversity, surpasses all understanding.

Yet, does Second Corinthians, this Sunday's second reading, offer a glimpse into the heart of that unity? St. Paul writes there...

“Brothers and sisters, rejoice.
Mend your ways, encourage one another,
agree with one another, live in peace,
and the God of love and peace will be with you.”



Throughout the COVID-19 crisis in past weeks we were moved by glimmers of light in the darkness, when folks came together to support one another. Firefighters lining up outside a hospital to applaud the medical workers... Poignant videos of mixed choirs of every race, gender, age, and creed joined to sing of grace, hope, healing, and blessing... Such grace-filled moments were surely reflections of the divine unity that is the Trinity.

It is saddening, then, to note the eruption of divisiveness around us as virus fears begin to moderate. We see political leaders even seizing on issues of public health to re-stoke culture wars for polarizing partisanship. And, most tragically, we see the division of racism re-emerging in all its ugliness, once again ending black lives. It is heartbreaking to see the sublime moments of unity and solidarity of a few weeks ago now eclipsed by those who would divide us against each other.

On this Trinity Sunday, then, let us pray for the grace to bear witness to the divine mystery that the Holy Trinity represents – its unity in diversity. Let us be inspired to reject those who stoke hatred and division. Let us reflect on the inspired words of St. Paul to mend our ways, encourage one another, and to live in peace.

O most Holy Trinity, Undivided Unity, Holy God, Mighty God, God Immortal be adored.

Stephen Schneck
FAN Executive Director

Suggested Action:

This week, take a few minutes each day to say a special prayer for unity in these challenging times.

Suggested Petitions:

May each of us live as reflections of the love of God in harmony, peace, and fellowship of the Holy Spirit. We pray...

May unsettled hearts believe in the eternal mercy of God, through Jesus and with the support of the Holy Spirit. We pray...

Collect Prayer:

**God our Father, who by sending into the world
the Word of truth and the Spirit of sanctification
made known to the human race your wondrous mystery,
grant us, we pray, that in professing the true faith,
we may acknowledge the Trinity of eternal glory
and adore your Unity, powerful in majesty.
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

National Day of Mourning and Lament

To recognize and mourn more than 100,000 recorded deaths due to COVID-19 in the United States, the Franciscan Action Network invites you to join us in an interfaith National Day of Mourning. United with interfaith leaders we ask our elected officials to **observe Monday, June 1 as a [National Day of Mourning and Lament](#)**, a time marked by moments of silence, lowering of flags, interfaith vigils and prayers, ringing of bells, and civic memorials.



On June 1st, use social media to post [prayers](#) and laments, names, photos, and tributes to those who have died of COVID-19. Use the hashtags #DayofMourning, #Lament100k

Let's unite in prayer to honor our sisters and brothers who have died, and remember especially those who suffer the most during this crisis: the elderly, communities of color, the impoverished, native communities, those in detention and prison, and those without health insurance or a livable wage. May God of Life bring healing for all. #DayofMourning, #Lament100k

Happy 5th Birthday Laudato Si!

The Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development is happy to announce a [Special Laudato Si' Anniversary Year](#) from 24th May 2020 – 24th May 2021.



We hope that the anniversary year and the ensuing decade will indeed be a time of grace, a true Kairos experience and “Jubilee” time for the Earth, and for humanity, and for all God’s creatures. The anniversary year opened with Laudato Si’ Week 2020, and will proceed with several initiatives, realized in partnership and with a clear emphasis on “ecological conversion” in “action”. We invite everyone to join us.

The urgency of the situation calls for immediate, holistic and unified responses at all levels - local, regional, national and international. We need, above all, “a peoples’ movement” from below, an alliance of all people of good will. As Pope Francis reminds us, “All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.” (LS, 14)

[Click here for more information](#) including a special [anniversary guide](#) with lots of wonderful formation materials.

This Week: Asylum in the Era of COVID-19 Webinar

The Interfaith Immigration Coalition, of which FAN is an active member, is hosting a webinar on [Detention Releases and Protecting Asylum](#) in the era of COVID-19 on **Wednesday, June 3rd at 4pm ET/ 1pm PT**.



As people of faith, we cannot allow people to die in jails, prisons, and detention facilities, or be deported, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Now is the time for action! Please join this webinar to find out what we can do as faith communities to prevent family separation, family detention and protect asylum seekers.

Please [RSVP Here](#) and a link for the webinar will be sent to you.

New Prayer-Song in the Time of Covid-19

Sister Julie Ann Sheahan, OSF of the [Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity](#) in Wisconsin [shared with us](#) news of a new song written by Michael Joncas and recorded by St. Paul’s Nativity Parish’s music group, “*Spiritu*.”



Michael Joncas, the St. Paul priest, theologian and prolific composer of

liturgical music including "On Eagle's Wings," wrote and published "[Shelter Me](#)" in spring 2020 in response to the global shared experience of COVID-19. Members of Spiritu recorded it from the shelter of their homes.

[Click here to listen](#). In this dark and difficult time, we wish you the shelter of God's peace.

Catholic Mobilizing Network Sign-on Action

The [Catholic Mobilizing Network](#) sent out an action alert email recently urging signatures on a statement of solidarity with our brothers and sisters battling COVID-19 in prisons all over the county. Please see their message [here](#):



As Catholics, we are called to respect the dignity of all human life, regardless of the harm one has suffered or caused. That means we cannot simply stand by when COVID-19 behind bars could mean a de facto death sentence.

Today, Catholic Mobilizing Network and a host of national Catholic entities released a joint [Statement of Solidarity: A Catholic Response to COVID-19 Behind Bars](#) calling attention to the devastating impacts of the coronavirus pandemic among those living and working in U.S. prisons, jails, and detention and reentry centers.

I invite you to add your name to the Statement to convey a message of unity with those battling this crisis behind bars:

[Add Your Name to the Statement of Solidarity](#)

With more than 2.3 million people incarcerated nationwide, the novel coronavirus has wreaked havoc on those inside. **As of May 13, more than 25,000 individuals living or working in these facilities have tested positive for COVID-19. Hundreds have died.**

In the midst of this crisis, Pope Francis has reminded us that there are no "throwaway lives." Please take action now to [stand in solidarity](#) with our brothers and sisters battling COVID-19 behind bars.

Wear Orange this Friday, June 5th for National Gun Violence Awareness Day

In 2013, 15-year-old Hadiya Pendleton was shot and killed in Chicago. After her death, her friends and family wore orange to honor Hadiya and the hundreds of Americans killed and wounded by gun violence every day. Every year since then, to coincide with Hadiya's birthday on June 2, gun violence prevention groups work to continue their efforts by [wearing orange](#) on the first Friday of June and the entirety of that



weekend.

Even though we can't gather together in person this year, FAN staff will be joining gun violence prevention groups nationwide on **June 5** to [#WearOrange](#) for National Gun Violence Awareness Day. We encourage you to join us.

Take a photo of yourself wearing orange and post it on social media using the hashtag, [#WearOrange](#). You can also use a special [#WearOrange virtual background](#) on Zoom.

New Vera Resources: Protecting Immigrant Justice Amid COVID-19

FAN works with many varied social justice organizations in our work. The [Vera Institute of Justice](#) is one of these organizations. Vera works to drive change and to urgently build and improve justice systems that ensure fairness, promote safety, and strengthen communities.

Recently, Vera announced the creation of a new website [Immigrant Justice and the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), hosting a compilation of resources and information for the public, advocates, attorneys, government officials, and other stakeholders. Some of these resources include:

- [COVID-19 Guidance Brief](#)
- Support Universal Representation [Fact Sheet](#)
- [Survey](#) Exploring Attitudes Government-Funded Attorneys in Immigration Court

We invite our members and friends to check out the rest of resources on [Vera's website](#).

