

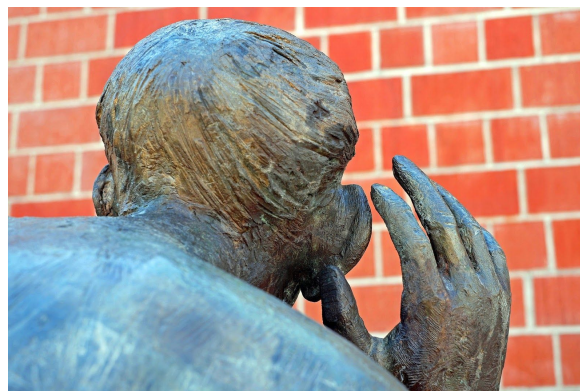
Publication Date: June 15, 2020

Reflection Date: June 21, 2020 - 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Spreading the Message of God to Those with Hardened Ears and Hearts

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The [readings](#) during these past weeks have shown how prophets and apostles accepted their mission to preach the word of God to hardened ears and hearts. And now so must we!



In the first reading this week, Jeremiah was distressed by the hushed voices of those who were his friends but were now plotting against him. Suddenly Jeremiah's outlook shifts from lament to rejoicing: "But the lord is with me like a mighty champion, my persecutors will stumble, they will not triumph." St. Oscar Romero compared Jeremiah's prophetic work to that of the church in El Salvador, the work of calling out "whatever would enthrone sin in El Salvador's history, calling sinners to be converted." During a Sunday morning homily, he said to the people: "If you live out a Christianity that is good but that is not sufficient for our times, that doesn't denounce injustice, that doesn't reject the sins humankind commits, so as to be accepted by those classes, then you are not doing your duty, you are sinning, you are betraying your mission. The church is here to convert humankind."

We are faced with many issues but the one that God is asking us to help people face right now, even though it has been going on for 400 years, is Racism. What takes us so long? In our preaching, bodily harm is not the worst thing that can happen to us, harm that penetrates to the inner person, heart and soul, is what is lethal. I believe if we trust in God, we will be spared the threats against the heart and soul. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said: "We all have to repent in this generation not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people, but for the silence of the good people. Human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless efforts of all willing to be co-workers with God..." Even though Dr. King meant this in regards to Racism, it applies to all the issues we want to overcome today. And it is a long list that I am sure you can put together yourself.

Like Jeremiah, Oscar Romero, and Martin Luther King we will find strength to accept the mission to share the word of God in the Eucharist and in the community that surrounds us and we will experience conversion. We can be people of the light if we open our ears and our hearts!

Sr. Marge Wissman, OSF
FAN Board Member

Suggested Action:

During the week, pray for someone with whom you disagree on important social and political issues. Whether a public figure or someone you know personally, ask God to bless them with happiness, wisdom, an open mind and heart, and clarity to know God's will.

Suggested Petitions:

That all will be called to renewed dedication and courage to speak out against injustice, we pray...

For all those who suffer from any form of injustice, we pray...

Prayer by Oscar Romero

Lord, help me not to be afraid of conflicts that arise from following you. As I deal with the personal and social tensions that come from standing up for your word of peace and justice, remind me that I am called to be your faithful witness – not judge, jury, and executioner. Let me always act with humility and nonviolent love for all, confident in the ultimate victory of mercy and reconciliation.

Amen

Take Part: World Refugee Day Events

According to the [United Nations](#), every minute 20 people leave everything behind to escape war, persecution or terror. The COVID-19 pandemic and the recent anti-racism protests have shown us how desperately we need to fight for a more inclusive and equal world: a world where no one is left behind. This week, we mark World Refugee Day on June 20th and take the opportunity to educate and advocate for these vulnerable people. Below are several events of note.



- The [Interfaith Immigration Coalition](#) will host a **Faith Community Virtual Town Hall** for World Refugee Day on **Thursday, June 18th at 2pm ET/ 11am PT**. Together, national and local leaders will discuss how faith communities can continue to support refugees during these difficult times, best practices for how to do effective co-sponsorship and/or build welcome teams for arriving refugees, how to be in solidarity with refugees during COVID-19, as well as how racial injustices often impact resettled refugee communities. [Please RSVP here](#) and the link will be sent to you to join the webinar.
- We urge you to [take action by signing this national faith letter](#) declaring that this Administration's detention and deportation policies during COVID-19 violate our faith values. Full text of the letter is [available here](#).
- The Trump administration is [proposing a new regulation](#) that would make it exceedingly difficult for migrants to claim asylum in the United States. A working group

with the Interfaith Immigration Coalition has developed this [comprehensive two page document](#) on current U.S. asylum policies which we offer as reference for those who work to welcome these children of God.

- Also on **Thursday, June 18th at 2pm ET / 11am PT**, [Jesuit Refugee Service/USA](#) will be hosting a [virtual event](#) via Facebook Live and YouTube to commemorate World Refugee Day. Experts will discuss the current situation on the US-Mexico Border, the impact of current policies on asylum seekers in Mexico, and what we can do to ensure our system of asylum stays intact even during a global pandemic. [RSVP here](#).

[Every Action Counts](#) in the effort to create a more just, inclusive, and equal world.

Learn and Reflect: Just Faith Racial Justice Program

We are living in a time ripe with opportunity for significant social change. Since the senseless murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, many people of faith are speaking out for change, [writing statements](#) and [taking action](#) in the streets.



[JustFaith](#), an ally of FAN, has a mission to form, inform, and transform "people of faith by offering programs and resources that sustain them in their compassionate commitment to build a more just and peaceful world." Since 2001, over 50,000 people have completed a JustFaith Ministries program allowing small faith communities to explore critical current issues.

As we seek to transform ourselves and deepen the conversations we are having with our sisters and brothers of color, we encourage you to explore JustFaith's [Racial Justice Series](#) of programs. Connecting faith and racial equity, these programs have topics including Exploring Power and Privilege, Embracing Truth, Justice and Restoration, and Changing Systems and Structures. [Click here for more information](#).

Supreme Court Decision on DACA Could Come this Week

In the midst of the continued uncertainty of the global COVID-19 pandemic and the unrest in our nation due to the institutionalized white supremacy and racism against Black lives and communities of color, **DACA recipients continue to await a Supreme Court decision** that could change their futures. The justices will decide whether to uphold the highly successful program or put immigrant youth at risk of deportation. **Sources report we may hear this decision this week.**



- Sign up for the campaign to ring church bells, planned for noon in local time zones on the DAY AFTER a decision is rendered. [Find more information and a link to join here](#).

- Continue to **contact Congress at U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121** urging automatic extensions of work permits and protection from deportation in the next COVID-19 relief bill for DACA and TPS holders.
- Because of this uncertainty, DACA recipients are encouraged to consider renewing their DACA protections now. [Find more information here.](#)

As always, we persist in our advocacy and prayers for our immigrant sisters and brothers.

Join Virtual Screening of Suppressed: The Fight To Vote

Every election year, thousands of people of color are denied their right to vote due to tactics such as purged voter lists and voter ID laws. This year, with the COVID-19 pandemic threatening our elections, voter suppression could become even worse—unless Congress takes action.



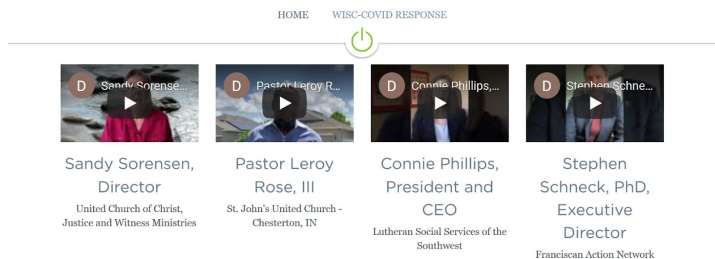
On [Juneteenth](#) this Friday, June 19th, our partners at [Friends Committee on National Legislation](#) (FCNL) will host a virtual screening and discussion of the film "[Suppressed: The Fight To Vote](#)," which explores the voter suppression tactics used by Brian Kemp in the 2018 Georgia gubernatorial election. [Register here to attend this event.](#)

The film will be screened at 6:15 p.m. EDT (3:15 p.m. PDT), with a discussion directly after at 7 p.m. EDT (4 p.m. PDT). The panel will be led by José Woss, FCNL's legislative manager on criminal justice and election integrity. You must [RSVP to attend.](#)

After watching, we encourage you to **take action by contacting your Senators to urge funding needed to make the November elections safe for all voters.** When we see what happened [last week at Georgia's primaries](#), we are reminded of the need to continuously make our voices heard.

Dozens of Faith Groups Call for Immediate Senate Action on COVID-19

Last week, dozens of faith leaders from across the religious spectrum released a [series of videos](#) urging the Senate to rise to the moment and pass their own version of the HEROES Act designed to further handle the COVID-19 pandemic.



Communities of faith are concerned that the longer into the summer the Senate goes without acting, the more people will suffer as benefits expire and states are forced to impose severe budget cuts, leaving those deeply impacted by the COVID-19 economic impacts with little to no safety net.

[Watch](#) FAN friends Ann Scholz with the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), Sr. Simone Campbell with NETWORK Lobby, Maurice Bloem from Church World Service and our own Steve Schneck. [Watch and share these videos](#) on social media and keep calling on your Senators to remember all people in future relief and recovery legislation.

This Saturday: Poor People's Campaign Digital Moral March

Rally in Washington, D.C., May 2018

This Saturday, June 20, 2020 the [Poor People's Campaign](#) will **unite online in the largest digital gathering of poor, dispossessed and impacted people, faith leaders, and people of conscience.** We hope you have signed up to [join us in the Poor People's Campaign: A National call for Moral Revival](#).



In a powerful [video](#) invitation to the gathering, Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, one of the campaigns' national co-chairs, describes the need “to lift the voices and faces of poverty in the midst of a pandemic for a massive historic online gathering that will embolden us, strengthen us and prepare us to fight for the type of society we know we so badly need and deserve.” The program will include the stories, solutions and songs of movement leaders and artists.

We know that the coronavirus is awakening many to the political and economic crises that have long been buried under the surface: before COVID-19, nearly 700 people died everyday because of poverty and inequality in this country. Franciscan Action Network supports the Campaign's call that a moral fusion movement is necessary to not just weather this storm, but to transform the nation. **We encourage you to [sign up to participate in spreading the word](#).**