

Publication Date: July 20, 2020

Reflection Date: July 26, 2020 - 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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## Conforming to the Image of Christ

Our readings this [Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#) invite and challenge us to examine ourselves, to look in the mirror and consider how we are being transformed and conformed into the image of Christ. This is the challenge of the gospel. Living the gospel is not about getting to heaven or ensuring our salvation. Jesus proclaimed that the Reign of God is in our midst, it's within us, it is around us, it's in the very air we breathe and in the elements of life that nourish and sustain us. Do we not perceive it?



I love the wisdom of Solomon that we hear in our first reading. Many times in scripture we read of God speaking through dreams. In Solomon's dream God says, "Ask something of me and I will give it to you." What a message of love and generosity! How would we respond?

For Solomon it wasn't for long life, riches or conquest over enemies, rather he desired a listening and understanding heart. Oh, that this would be the desire of all people today. We would be, we could be, the unbreaking love of God, visible and made manifest in our broken and suffering world. Do we not perceive the possibility? Imagine what the world would look like if everyone manifested the love of God.

Paul confidently writes, to the Romans and to each one of us who profess Christ, that we know all things work for good for those who love God. He reminds us that we are already connected, immersed and saturated in the good and the love of God. Why do we not yet perceive it?

The Kingdom of God is greater than the greatest treasure and finer than the finest pearls. It is the life, the goodness, justice and beauty that God creates. It is in the face, in the eyes, in the hearts of every living being, regardless of the color of their skin, the beliefs and the faith they profess, the country of their birth or the persons they choose to love. Let us be open to perceive and allow this truth to change and transform our lives, our relationships and our world. Let us be conformed and embody the incarnate love of Christ. It's about time!

Margaret Magee OSF  
FAN Board Member

### **Suggested Action:**

Take a few minutes to read and reflect on this brief piece from the Nome Static newsletter: [What is the difference between change and transformation?](#)

### **Suggested Petitions:**

For the humility to embody the love of Christ in all our interactions so we can conform ourselves to see as God sees. We pray...

For open hearts and minds so we can recognize God moments in our lives. We pray...

### Collect Prayer:

**O God, protector of those who hope in you,  
without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy,  
bestow in abundance your mercy upon us  
and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide,  
we may use the good things that pass  
in such a way as to hold fast even now  
to those that ever endure.**

**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

## Enthusiastic Attendance of Virtual Asylum Week of Action

In response to the latest attempts by the Trump administration to end asylum protections, last week FAN staff members Sr. Marie Lucey and Sr. Maria Orlandini joined lawyers, human rights groups, and other faith-based organizations in a week of actions to defend it.



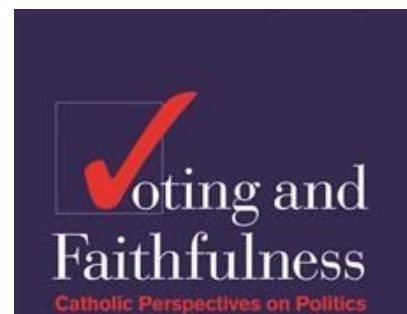
Over 400 constituents from forty-five states and the District of Columbia [participated](#) in virtual legislative visits with over 125 congressional offices, calling on members of Congress to #SaveAsylum. Also, given just thirty days to respond to a massive anti-asylum proposed rule, these same organizations collected over [10,000 comments](#) of opposition through CLINIC Legal's interfaith portal.

Thank you to everyone who participated and amplified!

## Webinar: "Help! What's a Catholic Voter to Do?"

Civil and canon lawyer, Nicholas Cafardi will offer a virtual presentation on **Thursday, August 6th at 7pm ET / 4pm PT** entitled, "Help! What's a Catholic Voter to Do?"

Hosted by the [Association of Pittsburgh Priests](#) and Pathways to Lay Leadership the presentation hopes to assist Catholic voters in applying the teachings of our faith to the



act of voting.

His talk is based on his contribution to the recent book "[Voting and Faithfulness](#)," which he also edited and in which authors of 15 essays discuss the riches of church teaching that a faithful American Catholic should consider in order to inform his or her conscience before they vote.

The event is free and open to interested participants. To register for the event go to [www.associationofpittsburghpriests.com](http://www.associationofpittsburghpriests.com) and click on 'Register Now', fill in all the information required, and you will receive a link to participate on August 6. For more information and questions, contact Fr. John Oesterle at 412-232-7512 or [johnoesterle2@gmail.com](mailto:johnoesterle2@gmail.com)

## Three-Part Webinar Series on Native American Boarding School Era

The [National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition](#) (NABS) was created in 2012 to develop and implement a national strategy that increases public awareness and cultivates healing for the profound trauma experienced by individuals, families, communities, and Tribal Nations resulting from the U.S. adoption and implementation of the [Boarding School Policy of 1869](#).



While their focus is on Indigenous people, they [state](#) (in a very Franciscan way) their belief that "all beings are related – and that our ability to thrive is directly tied to the health and safety of all."

Beginning Wednesday, July 29, 2020 NABS will host a [three-part webinar series](#) exploring the ongoing legacy of the U.S. Indian Boarding School era. Part 1 will introduce the work they have done to lead the pursuit of understanding and addressing the ongoing trauma created by the US Indian Boarding School policy. Part 2 will review records and histories of Indian Boarding Schools in California and part 3 will share valuable context for one boarding school which now serves as a museum.

We encourage those interested in this issue to [click here for more information and to register](#) for one or all three webinars.

## Webinar for World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

[Justice for Immigrants](#) and the anti-trafficking campaign of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops will host a webinar on **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, July 30th at 1pm ET / 10am PT.**

Participants will hear directly from local and



