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## The Power of Faith and Perseverance

*Image by Kathysg from Pixabay*

The [readings for this](#) Sunday call us to recognize the power of faith and persistence despite circumstances that appear to be hopeless. Jesus encountered people who, despite the odds against them were persistent in their request of him. The Gospel shows us that after many spoken exchanges, the Canaanite woman persisted with faith and Jesus answered her request to heal her daughter. Faith can clearly bring power to the powerless.

Today we are especially experiencing these two trials of faith and persistence. First we experienced the Coronavirus that has taken so many lives and kept many sick for long periods of time and that has made our health care workers extend themselves to the verge of collapsing. Even though most of us realize that we will never get back to what is normal, we continue to persist with faith by being careful to not become ill or to make someone else ill, to support our neighbors, to listen to the experts and follow their advice.



Also we are persisting with faith in uniting with those who are asking for equality, something they have pursued for 400 years and are still lacking in so many facets of life. In the first reading of Isaiah, God tells us that “all who keep the Sabbath free from profanation and held to my covenant, them I will bring to my holy mountain and make joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and sacrifice will be acceptable on my altar, for my house shall be **a house of all peoples**”-not just certain people!

There are many well-known people who persisted with faith, to whom we can look for inspiration: **Nelson Mandela** who was arrested and convicted of conspiracy against the government and spent 27 years in prison, never ceased in his persistence to free his country from Apartheid; **Martin Luther King, Jr.** who persistently and with faith worked to attain racial equality for Black people; **Mother Teresa** who worked tirelessly with and for those on the margins in India; **Dorothy Day** who worked for justice in our country; **Oscar Romero** who persisted to work for the people of El Salvador; **John Lewis** who told us to make “good trouble” consistently for equality. And so we “move on” persistently with faith!

Sr. Marge Wissman, OSF  
FAN Board Member

**Suggested Action:**

Poet David Whyte asks: How can you live NOW such that your future self, and all who come after you, will look back with gratitude? How, in other words, can you become NOW the blessed saint of future memory? Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr., Mother Teresa, Dorothy Day, Oscar Romero, John Lewis and all others who persisted in faith to work for equality have become the blessed saints of future memory. This week, contemplate if your life actions will make you a blessed saint of future memory.

### **Suggested Petitions:**

That we will persist with faith as the Canaanite woman did, and not be discouraged if an answer does not come quickly, we pray...

That we will always persist in living the second great commandment "Love our neighbor as ourselves" no matter who they are, we pray...

### **Prayer:**

**Let us pray as the persistent faith filled Canaanite woman requesting Jesus to cure her daughter;**

**Following the example of this persistent and faith-filled woman, Jesus, I beg you to heal this great land;**

**Following the example of this persistent and faith-filled woman, Jesus I beg you to heal racism of all kinds;**

**Following the example of this persistent and faith-filled woman, Jesus I ask you to heal hatred toward Black, Brown, and people of all races.**

**Following the example of this persistent and faith-filled woman, Jesus give us More Mercy, More Justice, More Love, Peace, Harmony and Systemic Change.**

**Amen! Amen!**

## **Honor the Feast of St. Clare by taking the St. Clare Pledge**

Just as St. Clare steadfastly devoted her daily life to prayer within the convent, letting herself be enfolded by Love which enabled her to say "...It is no longer I that live, but Christ that lives in me. I am secure in the Lord. I can look out, now, through the Lord's eyes. I can see the world as he created it, in his mercy, I can see my sisters and brothers with his love...", we too can grow to be enfolded by Love to see the world and our brothers and sisters through Christ's eyes. To learn more, we invite you to [listen to a talk](#) given by Franciscan Sister Ilia Delio, OSF at Franciscan Mission Service.

This year, as part of our prayer, we invite our members and friends to [add on a simple phone call](#) from within our "convent"/home, to our representatives in Congress interceding



in favor of our God's divine family and creation. Aside from personal visits, **constituent calls are the most effective way of influencing our policy makers who work for us and are happy to hear from us.** With steadfastness, like St. Clare's, our weekly 5 minute extension of prayer can make a difference for Peace and Goodness in this sacred space and time God has invited us to be a part of.

In **celebration of St. Clare of Assisi this August 11th**, we invite you to [sign on to the St. Clare Pledge and commit to contacting Congress each week](#). We have put together some resources to help you choose a topic and find your elected officials' contact information. Please consider honoring St. Clare by taking the [St. Clare Pledge](#).

## Virtual Commemoration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

FAN staff used the 75th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as a call to [recommit](#) ourselves to advocate for a world free of the threat and tyranny of nuclear weapons.

Joining our friends from numerous peace organizations, FAN participated in a virtual event on Saturday, August 8th to reflect on the devastation these weapons caused and threat of nuclear weapons in our world today. A powerful moment of silence was observed for 214 seconds representing the 214,000 people who died during these attacks. FAN staff created and submitted our own Peace Ribbon that had photos of all the things we as a staff could not bear to think of as lost forever: family, creation, sunsets, our beloved pets. You can see it on our website [here](#). We also received a peace ribbon photo from FAN Members the Clinton, IA Franciscans (*pictured*). Peace ribbons submitted from many others were collected [online](#) and shared both on the virtual meeting and on the [Peace Ribbon Facebook](#) page.



Additionally, the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity sent us this [Hiroshima blog post](#) they developed in commemoration. It contains three links: a visual to see, a story to read and a song to hear. We invite you to read through it and reflect on each message.

## Have you Been Counted? Census Collection Ending Early: Sept. 30th

The Census Bureau said it will **end the 2020 census count one month early** on September 30th in order to meet the year-end deadline. This could have severe consequences for the vulnerable populations, which have already been [hobbled by the pandemic](#) that has made door-to-door data collection unsafe. Nearly 70 percent of U.S. households have responded to the census so far, but that's only about





half of those who were supposed to receive mailings with instructions on how to respond on their own.

The Coalition on Human Needs has a [letter-writing action campaign](#) to Congress urging they work to protect the integrity of the Census. **Write to your Members of Congress today.**

A rushed Census will harm every state in our country. As a direct result of the difficulties of trying to conduct a Census during a pandemic, there are low responses in virtually every city and state. If the counting time period is cut short, communities most in need of resources to improve quality of life and standards of living will be chronically underfunded for the next decade.

We urge our members and friends to be sure you've [filled out the census](#). Copy this information to email your community, friends, and family to make sure everyone is counted.

## Hold Companies Accountable for our Environment

Costco advertises itself as an ethical and eco-friendly company for its consumers. Yet a closer look at Costco's products tells a very different story. The truth is being revealed by an environmental organization called [Mighty Earth](#), whose main goal is to hold companies accountable to environmental standards to protect mother Earth and her climate. Mighty Earth has revealed that [Cargill](#), one of Costco's main suppliers, is responsible for massive deforestation in the Amazon and around the world. There is a better way to do it, yet Cargill has delayed adopting environmental and humane standards for their products and Costco has refused to stop buying from Cargill.



On July 29th the unrest came to life as two FAN interns, Lennon and Nolan Karma, led a mini protest in Southern California at their local Costco (*pictured*) spreading awareness about the issue and calling on the big box store to cut ties with Cargill. This was part of a movement organized by Mighty Earth, in which dozens of Costcos across the U.S. were met with protests about Costco's hypocrisy: claiming to be environmentally friendly while continuing its connection to Cargill's environmental destruction. To top off bringing attention to the issue, fifty brave activists, conscientiously wearing masks, marched on the home of Cargill's CEO in Minnesota to protest this, saying "We'll be back". The message delivered: Cargill must uphold its promise to not deforest anymore new sites in 2020, which they continually fail to do and if they continue, Costco must cut ties with them.

How can you help? Go to [costco.com](https://www.costco.com) click 'feedback' (blue tab on the right side of website) and leave a comment (because Costco managers read these personally) about how you refuse to shop at Costco if they continue to buy from environmentally destructive companies like Cargill. To take further Action: [Sign this petition](#) calling on Costco to cut ties to Cargill.

## Write Letters of Encouragement to Families in

## Detention

After COVID-19 was confirmed in family detention centers, a federal judge ordered ICE to release all children in its custody. As that battle continues in the courts, the families languish in detention centers, uncertain of their future.

Immigration justice advocates [tell us](#) that 53 families in the Dilley, Texas family detention center have been detained for over 100 days, and 35 of those families have been there for over 300 days. They are urging support of these families with a letter-writing campaign whereby supporters can send a letter to a family ensuring them that they are not alone. Find [more information here](#) about what to include in the letter and where to send it.



## Persistently Take Action to Support Dreamers

*Ringling bells for DACA justice*

Recently, the Trump Administration released a [memo](#) that undermines the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and continues the attacks on Dreamers and undocumented young people. The announcement sidesteps last month's U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) decision, which ruled that the Trump administration did not provide adequate justification to rescind DACA in 2017.

DACA has provided temporary protection from deportation and the ability to work and pursue education to almost 800,000 people who came to the U.S. as children. Over 200,000 DACA recipients are currently serving on the frontlines of the pandemic, working to protect the health and safety of Americans across the U.S. as we confront COVID-19. Despite their many contributions to our communities, DACA recipients, undocumented youth, and their loved ones are once again facing the threat of the program ending.



The Interfaith Immigration Coalition (of which FAN is a member) released a [statement](#) calling for Congressional action and we echo this insistence. We urge our members and friends to continue calling your Members of Congress in support of DACA recipients. You can call the **Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121** and use this sample script:

*"Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, I'm part of Franciscan Action Network and your constituent. I'm calling today to ask [Representative/Senator NAME] to support Dreamers by rejecting President Trump's termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. DACA recipients are on the frontlines of the Coronavirus pandemic in our hospitals and as essential workers in many other fields. Now more than ever, Congress has a moral obligation*

*to pass permanent protections and solutions for all young immigrants without expanding detention, deportation and border militarization that further harm immigrant communities. Please do all you can to support and protect them. Thank you for your time and attention. Peace and all good."*