

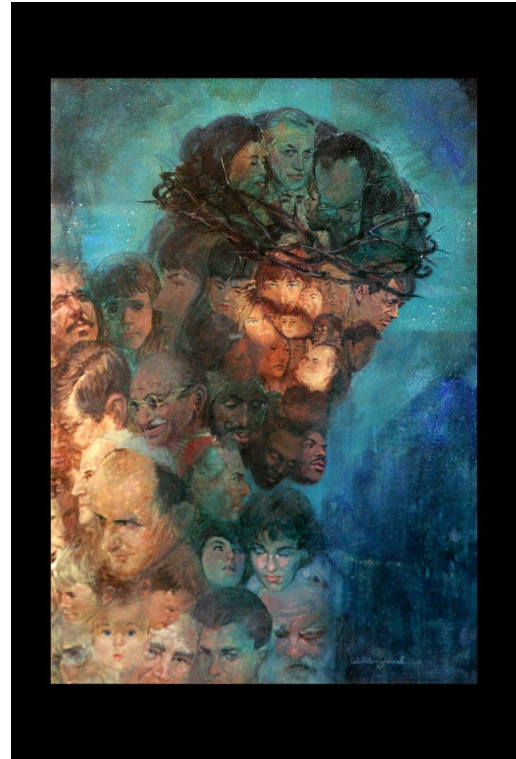
Publication Date: October 19, 2020

Reflection Date: October 25, 2020 - 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Love of God and Neighbor

The [First Reading this week](#) from Exodus ends with God saying “**I am compassionate**”. God is compassionate about the oppression of aliens, the wrongdoing of widows and orphans, lending money to the poor and charging interest, taking a neighbor’s cloak as a pledge and not returning it to him by midnight because it is all he has to keep warm. If any of these actions happen, “God is Compassionate” and will hear the cries of all of the oppressed.

In the Gospel, Jesus is asked by the Pharisees “Which commandment in the law is greatest?” Jesus responded: “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment and the **SECOND IS LIKE IT**. You shall love your neighbor as yourself!” They are not separate commandments. In loving my neighbor, I am loving God! In our neighbor we see something of God: God’s creature, God’s image and likeness, and if we love God, we must also love his image, the work of God’s hands. In one of our first religion classes as children we were assured that we were all made to the image and likeness of God. Sr. Helen Prejean says that in the worst person you can always find something good. That good is where God is.



A question posed in many spiritual reflections is: Who is my neighbor? During this time in History, we are extremely aware of who is our neighbor – the immigrants who are looking for a place of safety, those who are being discriminated against through killings, profiling, religious beliefs, those kept captive by poverty, abusive relationships, and trafficking. Oscar Romero once said in a homily, “*My soul is sore when I learn that our people are tortured, when I learned how the rights of those created in the image of God are violated.*” These are our neighbors! Sr. Helen Prejean, advocate against the Death Penalty expressed, “*I saw the suffering and let myself feel it...I saw the injustices and was compelled to do something about it...*” The two greatest commandments about love lead us to action. Let us join with one another in expressing our love and living service to God through our compassion and be able to say with God: “**I am compassionate!**” Jesus affirms that love of God and love of our neighbor are essential to life.

Sr. Marge Wissman, OSF
FAN Board Member

Suggested Action:

Read Matthew 25:31-46 and pray over what we need to do to really fulfill the two greatest commandments. This passage gives you the roadmap to be with God forever.

Suggested Petitions:

God, help me to understand that loving you is loving my neighbor. We pray...

God, remind me often Who are my neighbors? How do I treat my neighbors? We pray...

Prayer:

God of Light, shine on us;

God of Peace, dwell in us;

God of Might, protect us;

God of Love, enfold us;

God of Wisdom, enlighten us.

Let us go out as your witnesses

to share the good news of your love

Amen.

Plan Now to Host 'Roses in December' Gathering

December 2nd marks the 40th anniversary of the martyrdom of the "Roses in December" martyrs (*pictured*), Dorothy Kazel, OSU, Maura Clarke, MM, Ita Ford, MM and Jean Donovan who were brutally murder by the U.S.-supported Salvadoran military



for their ministry and dedication to those living in poverty. They were called "subversives" because they accompanied refugee families who had fallen victim to the escalating violence and oppression that eventually led to civil war. [Read more about them here.](#)

[LCWR](#) and the [SHARE Foundation](#) invite women religious especially to celebrate the gift of these four women and remember all of those who dedicate their lives to working for justice in El Salvador and throughout the world. Please plan now to host a prayer vigil, evening of conversation and story-telling, retreat, or other gathering in your communities, parishes or educational institutions.

The hope is to commemorate the lives of the Roses in December martyrs by hosting 40 remembrances in 40 cities to mark the 40th anniversary. The SHARE Foundation is collecting brief descriptions of local events. Send details to jose@share-elsalvador.org to be counted among the 40.

This **updated [Roses in December toolkit](#)** is available to help with organizing your event. The toolkit includes the story of the four women; background on El Salvador; many ideas for celebrations, prayer services, action and advocacy; and a list of resources.

Oppose Lowest Refugee Admissions in US History

The administration has [proposed](#) a Presidential Determination (PD) of a new all-time historic low of 15,000 for Fiscal Year 2021. Since taking office, this administration has enacted to dismantle and destroy the U.S. refugee



resettlement system, betraying the U.S.'s legacy as a global humanitarian leader. For nearly four decades, the annual goal has averaged 95,000 refugees.

The current report from the State Department indicates the number could be 15,000, but is not the final Presidential Determination; by law the administration must consult Congress before setting the FY 2021 refugee admissions goal. **There is still time to put pressure on the administration to set a robust admissions goal.** The [Interfaith Immigration Coalition](#), of which FAN is an active participant, has [developed this toolkit](#) to help you plan your rapid response actions. Use it to help plan virtual actions and events, post on social media and write letters to the editor.

Franciscans in Wisconsin Host *Listening and Loving Through the Political Storm*

The Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration (FSPA) along with the Franciscan Spirituality Center in La Crosse, WI are hosting a series of events on [Listening and Loving Through the Political Storm](#). On October 21, 28, and November 11, the sisters will engage in civil discourse during these unprecedented and challenging times.



LISTENING & LOVING THROUGH THE POLITICAL STORM

OCT. 21, 28 AND NOV. 11

To register visit fscenter.org
or call 608-791-5295



The themes of the sessions are:

1. Loving Your Neighbor Who Votes Differently Than You on Oct. 21st
2. Untying Knots on Oct. 28th
3. Post-Election Listening Session on Nov. 11th

FSPA president, Eileen McKenzie encourages, "Examine the issues. Examine your values. Examine your hearts. We are all called to faithful citizenship. It requires discernment, prayer and civil discourse."

You must register for each session separately. Find [more information and registration links here](#).

New Program on Sacred Food, Air, Water

FAN has learned that two of our partner organizations have teamed up to create a new 3-part eco-justice series. Coming later this fall will be the second and third parts, *Sacred Air* and *Sacred Water* and released last week is the first part of the series, [Sacred Land: Food and Farming](#).

[Just Faith](#) and [Creation Justice Ministries](#) created this 8 session program to educate participants about destructive food production practices that lead to climate change, so that they can work together towards healthy and holistic ways of feeding themselves and their neighbors. [Learn more and register for the program by clicking here](#).



Webinar on Racial Justice in the Immigrant Rights Movement

As our country faces a national reckoning on race and anti-Black racism, a need for critical conversation centering on racial justice in the immigrant justice movement has emerged. Immigrant rights advocates, grassroots organizers, and activists are striving to address anti-Blackness and xenophobia within our communities and build transformational alliances across movements.



Now more than ever, immigrant rights funders are able to take affirmative steps to fully embrace, support, and advance racial justice and anti-racism work. [Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees](#), Four Freedoms Fund, and Rise Together Fund are hosting a [webinar](#) this **Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 3:30pm ET / 12:30pm PT**. Join us for an illuminating and engaging conversation with leaders from across the country organizing at the intersections of immigrant justice, racial justice, criminal justice and more. **Click here to [learn more and register](#).**

Invitation Deadline Approaching: Come to FAN's Annual Benefit Celebration!

Friends, 2020 has been a year like no other. Crisis after crisis after crisis. This is a moment calling for Franciscan values, for Franciscan witness.

This is a Franciscan Moment.

We invite you to [join the staff and Board of Franciscan Action](#)

[Network](#) on **Wednesday, October 28th at 7pm ET / 4pm PT from the comfort of your own home as we gather virtually**. Together, we will pray, we will celebrate the work we have accomplished as one Franciscan Family. We will be inspired by music and friends to vote with Franciscan values and to unite our energies in the coming months and years toward bold action of prophetic witness.

We are thrilled to have as our **keynote speaker for the evening, Sr. Iliia Delio, OSF**. In addition to our keynote, the evening will feature a number of musical acts as well as short reflections on each of our [2020 Franciscan Moment videos](#) from a diverse group of Franciscans and Franciscan-hearted individuals. You can [read more about them here](#).

Additionally, for certain ticket levels, we will host a pre-show conversation featuring **Fr. James Martin, SJ** and **Fr. Daniel P. Horan, OFM**. It promises to be a fun-filled evening. More importantly, join us to discern together how our Franciscan values speak to the nation's critical challenges. [Click here to reserve your ticket today!](#)

