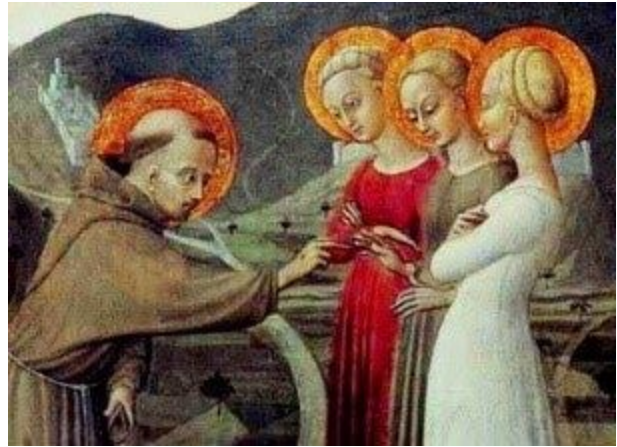


Walking in Holy Wisdom

Our readings for this [Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time](#) are filled with images and references of wisdom. The first reading from the Book of Wisdom gives us a wondrous image of Wisdom as a woman resplendent and unfading. Lady Wisdom is said to be available and recognizable to those who are alert and who seek her. However, the writer of the Book of Wisdom also acknowledges that Wisdom does not simply wait for those who seek her, “she makes her own rounds, seeking those worthy of her and graciously appears to them in the ways, and meets them with all solicitude.” These qualities of Lady Wisdom, qualities of graciousness, attentiveness and kindness flow through Wisdom from a God, who is a Trinity of Persons, filled with “supreme goodness...supreme communicability...supreme mutual intimacy.”¹



In the same way, Matthew’s gospel of the foolish and wise virgins is a call to be alert, to be prepared with oil in our lamps awaiting the bridegroom, for we do not know when he will arrive. “The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.” Francis of Assisi often struggled with the sense that the people he encountered daily had become drowsy, sleepy and unaware of the presence of God within them and around them. He desired to help them come awake, alert and to see and encounter the living and loving presence of God in their midst.

In this way, Francis himself, perhaps through his many conversion experiences, had become awakened and alert. His awakened religious imagination led him not only to live in strict poverty as a means of following Christ, rather his deep desire to know Christ led him to an encounter with Lady Poverty and an espousal relationship with her. We know that once awakened, Francis no longer saw Jesus Christ simply as a historical figure, written about in scripture and preached in homilies. Through Francis’ ongoing conversion he experienced Christ alive, who spoke to him through the cross of San Damiano, who was the babe in the manger in Greccio and who became vibrant through all the Brothers and Sisters in Creation. Francis’ desire was for everyone to also have this experience. For Francis and for each of us, this is what holy Lady Wisdom does, she awakens our slumbering drowsy souls to the brilliance of Divine Love and Light, the presence of Christ, who shines even in these dark times of the Covid pandemic and the pandemics of racial inequality, violence, health and economic disparities, and environmental destruction.

Let us together desire Lady Wisdom so that our slumbering and drowsy souls may be awakened in Christ. May this awakening give us the strength and the courage to speak out to

¹ Soul’s Journey into God, St. Bonaventure, Chapter 6, 2.

the injustices of racism, xenophobia and the inhumane treatment that keep people, especially children, imprisoned in cages. Let us walk in Wisdom. Let us be awakened!

Sr. Margaret Magee, OSF
FAN Board Member

Suggested Action:

This week, read [Chapter 6, verses 1-11 from the book of Wisdom](#) and meditate on the responsibility of rulers.

Suggested Petitions:

May we seek the Wisdom of God with all our heart. We pray...

May the Wisdom of God give us the courage to act justly on behalf of those who are treated unfairly. We pray...

Collect Prayer:

**Almighty and merciful God,
graciously keep from us all adversity,
so that, unhindered in mind and body alike,
we may pursue in freedom of heart
the things that are yours.
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

Approaching Election Day as Peacemakers

As faith leaders we need to ensure our congregations that we will all work to ensure that every vote is counted and that our streets are peaceful--no matter the outcome of the election or what happens in the aftermath of Nov. 3rd.

Last week, the [Mennonite Central Committee](#) (a valued partner with Interfaith Immigration Coalition, of which FAN is an active member) sent out a [newsletter](#) with a reflection on peacemaking and civil discourse as we approach Election Day. We believe in their message: "We cannot build up God's kingdom while tearing each other down. Only by finding ways to work together will we succeed in creating a better world--one brave step, one bold relationship, one small act of peacemaking at a time." We offer these resources and build on them in a spirit of peace.



Resources for peacemaking and nonviolence:

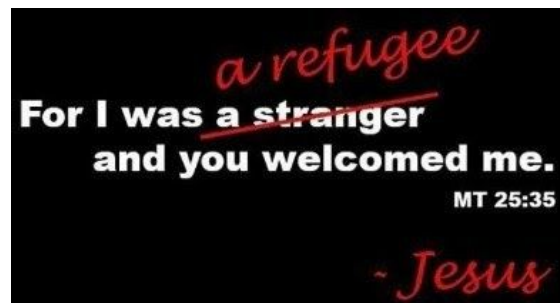
- Bystander intervention: [Mennonite Mission Network](#)

- Dialogue: [Having better conversations on divisive issues](#) (MCC Canada)
- Peaceful protests: [Nonviolence guidelines](#)
- Prayer walks and singing: [Peace prayer walk toolkit](#) | Hong Kong protests: [How Hallelujah to the Lord became an unofficial anthem](#)
- Polarization: [Beacon: Us and Them](#) | National Association of Evangelicals: [For the health of the nation](#)
- Protect the Results coalition: <https://protecttheresults.com/>
- Faithful Democracy's "Sacred Season of Voting": <https://faithfuldemocracy.us/resources/>
- Faithful America is [encouraging pastors](#) to preach about counting every vote and this [article from NCR](#), which has a Catholic focus, talks about a lot of these efforts.

Ultimately, voting is just a first step, and no matter what happens on November 3rd and in the days after we still must advocate for those on the margins. May we all strive to be peacemakers.

Take Action: Stand up for Refugees

As you may have heard, **the administration officially signed the refugee admissions goal for fiscal year 2021 at 15,000**—the lowest level in U.S. history—and is harmfully restricting refugee arrivals based on limited categories of persecution and country of origin, meaning even fewer than 15,000 refugees will actually be resettled.

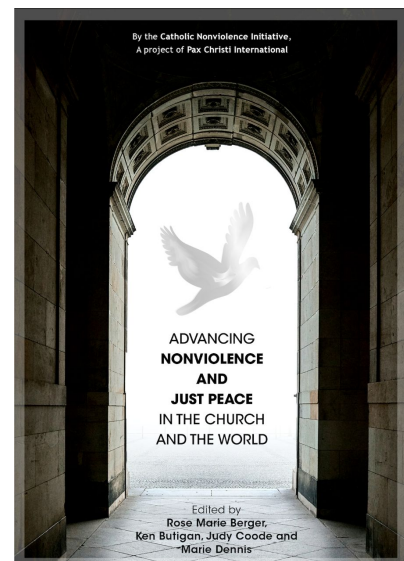


Our good friends at [Church World Service](#) have developed an [action alert](#) to urge Members of Congress to hold the administration accountable and to rebuild the resettlement program to historic norms. Please take a moment to call or write your elected officials. There are phone numbers and a sample script [here](#).

Pax Christi International Releases New Book on Nonviolence

A new book published by the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative project of Pax Christi International is the culmination of a three-year global conversation among church leaders, community organizers, activists, social scientists and theologians about how the Catholic Church might return to its Gospel nonviolence roots and transform the world.

Titled, [Advancing Nonviolence and Just Peace in the Church and the World](#), the book shares the experiences of on-the-ground nonviolent interventions, explores the scriptural, theological and historical foundations of nonviolence, reviews the most current social science on how nonviolence has been effectively employed, and outlines a vision for how the Church might embrace active nonviolence into every aspect of its life. [Click here for purchasing information](#).



Additionally, Pax Christi Metro DC's Peacemaker of the Year Event on Saturday, November 7,

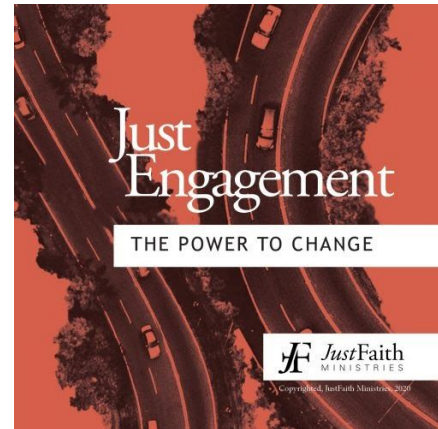
at 7 p.m. EST via Zoom will feature Mairead Maguire, winner of the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize and Marie Dennis. **Registration is free.** [Click here for more information.](#)

JustFaith Offers Information on Advocacy Module

Our friends at JustFaith are having an [information meeting](#) on **Thursday, Nov. 5 at 12p ET / 9am PT** on their advocacy module, *Just Engagement: The Power to Change*.

An 8-session program grounded in the Christian justice tradition, [Just Engagement: The Power to Change](#) equips small groups for advocacy and grassroots organizing, no matter what issue they decide to address.

The meeting will include an introduction to the program, a walk through of the session, information about how to use the topics to create your own program, and time to get your questions answered. You must [register to attend by clicking here.](#)



Conference: *The Infinite Within: Who We Are And What We Are Called To Be*

The mounting crises of our time show that we are exhausting our capacity to center our lives in the radiating power of God. We are called to be more.



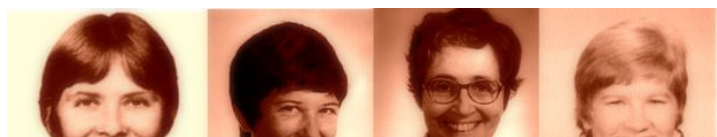
We are prodigal children of an infinite love. We have the capacity for a new world, and the energy for this world is already within us; it is the presence of God-Omega. We need to discover the vast inner layers of the human person, not merely to comfort ourselves in mystical depths, but to radiate out with the love from which we are made—to heal our world, save our planet, and bring justice to all.

The Center for Christogenesis has opened the [registration for their third annual conference, *The Infinite Within*](#), which will take place online December 4-8.

Speaking at the conference will be Ilia Delio, Cynthia Bourgeault, Barbara Brown Taylor, Rami Shapiro, and Catherine Keller. Six workshops will also be offered, on themes ranging from ecotheology and the climate crisis with Mark Wallace, to "Incarnational Engagement in Justice Work" with Alison McCrary. Find more information on speakers and schedules here: <https://christogenesis.org/conference2020>.

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 murdered 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.