

Publication Date: December 14, 2020

Reflection Date: December 20, 2020 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

“Nothing is impossible for God”

Have you ever felt dumbfounded? Thinking back over my life and my history and relationship with God, I have to say ‘Yes’, whenever God spoke to me in my life. Why is that?

Because usually when God speaks, it is unexpected and will be life changing, if you say yes and struggle to be faithful to God’s Word. For God does work in all things and has made the impossible possible.

In [this week’s Gospel](#), Mary hears from God that she would have a child that is from the Heavenly Father.

With the current clash between Science and Nature, we can understand how the impossible can and would be challenging for Mary to accept and then expect.

But all things are possible through the Power of the Holy Spirit!

Political policy takes a lot of work to research, discuss and finally embrace a common bond. As part of civil society that can influence these policies, let us all pray and let God move in our midst with knowledge that in fact, God is in control and if we are open to being guided, our nation can be witness to the Holy Spirit doing seemingly impossible things for the good. But also pray that we as a people might come closer, share our interests and what we are, so as to mutually support each other in fraternal solidarity.

We pray for civility among our leaders and our families. We pray for the needs of the marginalized. We pray that we can become that great City on a Hill for all to see.

That Nothing is Impossible with God! “Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the Lord is with you.” (2 Samuel 7:3)

Br. Paul Crawford, OFM Cap.
FAN Board Member

Suggested Action:

This week, take a few minutes each day to pray this [Litany of Trust](#), from the Sisters of Life.

Suggested Petitions:

For all those who struggle with trust in the Lord, may the season of Advent bring peace to their hearts, we pray...

That each of us experience a childlike dependency on Christ, we pray...

Collect Prayer:



Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen

TODAY: RCUSA's Grassroots Advocacy Webinar

TODAY, Monday Dec. 14th at 12pm ET / 9am PT,
Refugee Council, USA (RCUSA) will be hosting its
next grassroots advocacy [webinar](#).

Discussion will be on national policy and advocacy
goals within resettlement and asylum spaces,
community priorities for the transition to the new
administration, and how to better integrate stateless
issues into our work. You must [register in advance for
this webinar by clicking here](#).

Following the webinar all slides, resources, and
recordings will be shared with registrants.



UPDATED Advent Devotion - Lighting the Candles: Journeys with Black Migrants

We have made you aware in past
newsletters of the availability of this
year's advent devotion resource from
the [Interfaith Immigration Coalition](#)
(IIC). FAN's own Sr. Marie Lucey and
Sr. Maria Orlandini contributed to
these materials as members of the
Holy Days and Holidays committee, which develops [resources](#)
with different themes for use at
various times during the year.



This week, we want to make you aware of [updates that have been included](#). There are
some new additions of resources and actions including a special invitation (noted on page 7,
Week Three) to join in a December 18th (International Migrant Day) "card writing party" led by
Black immigrant organizations. RSVP at www.bit.ly/LoveToBlackImmigrants.

[Find the most updated version by clicking here](#). May your holiday season—while different
this year in many ways—be richly blessed with love and God's grace.

Take Action and Learn about the Latest (Good and Bad!) Immigration News

There is a lot happening within the world of immigration and as one issue that falls within our mission of upholding human dignity, FAN works to support those actions and policies which mirror our mission. Here, we offer some of the most recent news.

First, a cause for celebration. The Trump administration attempted to end DACA beginning in 2017, but litigation in federal courts, including the Supreme Court, allowed DACA to survive, albeit in a somewhat wounded state. On Friday, December 4th, a U.S. District Court judge [ordered the restoration of DACA](#), opening the immigration program to new applicants for the first time since 2017.

Second, support for detained families. Through participation in the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, FAN and the interfaith community have been educating our networks on the imminent deportation of 28 children and their parents currently detained in the Berks County family detention center in Pennsylvania. During a week of action last week, FAN participated in uplifting messages on social media and urging PA residents to call Governor Wolf demanding he issue an emergency removal order on the center. Local residents in Berks County participated in a [drive-by rally and vigil](#) last week to show their support for detained families.

Third, an action alert from the USCCB. As part of welcoming our immigrant brothers and sisters, we must also remember them in any subsequent Covid-19 legislation. While the federal government has passed some assistance measures, immigrants and refugees have unfortunately been left out of all previous Covid-19 relief bills. This when immigrants and refugees continue to do jobs that are critical to keeping the country running. The Justice for Immigrants campaign has set up this [action alert to urge your senators](#) to include refugees and immigrants in any additional COVID-19 relief package. We invite you to take action.



Webinar-Responding to Family Separation: Lessons Learned and the Way Forward

The Justice for Immigrants (JFI) campaign will host a webinar this week: [Responding to Family Separation: Lessons Learned and the Way Forward](#) on **Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 3pm ET / 12pm PT.**

Presenters examine the consequences of family separation on immigrant families over the last half decade and provide recommendations to prevent family separation in the future. Participants will survey the scope of the problem, discuss their role in the reunification process, provide an update on the current status of family separation at the border, and provide recommendations as to what the Biden



Responding to Family Separation: Lessons Learned and the Way Forward

Administration must do to reunite and restore affected families as well as ensure family separation never again becomes US policy. Join by clicking this link: [Bit.ly/Family_Separation](https://bit.ly/Family_Separation)

Read and Take Action to Stop Labor Trafficking and Keep Kids Safe Online

As consumers we are all complicit in labor trafficking. The [December issue of the Stop Trafficking Newsletter](#) focuses on how we can use our buying power to help end labor trafficking.



Labor trafficking and forced labor generates an estimated \$150 billion in annual profits, involves nearly 25 million people worldwide, and is particularly prevalent in business supply chains. Catholic Social Teaching says everyone has the right to dignified work, but the social and economic vulnerability of individuals, workers and their families in many regions leads to forced labor and trafficking.

Please [click here to access the December issue](#). If you've missed any issues of the Stop Trafficking Newsletter, head to our [website](#) to find the archived issues from this year.

Action Alert: Keep kids safe online by [supporting the EARN IT Act](#), which seeks to address the egregious crimes of sexual exploitation and trafficking of children online. With children more frequently online since the onset of COVID-19 in March, incidents of child online exploitation have risen 126% according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Please [send a letter to your Senators and Representative to support the EARN IT Act](#) today.

Special Screening of 'Paper Children' Documentary

Most people agree that children deserve safety and protection. Children seeking asylum in our country are no exception. Yet right now families are facing unbelievable hurdles.



[Paper Children](#) is a 30 minute documentary about a family from Honduras that fled due to violence and their experience with the U.S. asylum system. Save the Children is having a [special screening](#) tomorrow night,

December 15th at 8pm ET / 5pm PT. The film screening will be followed by 30 minutes of post-screening discussion with the filmmaker and group advocacy action.

[Click here to RSVP.](#)

Virtual Christmas Retreat on Gospel Nonviolence

Catholic Nonviolence Initiative is pleased to share a special invitation to attend a [virtual Christmas retreat on Gospel nonviolence](#), sponsored by [Pax Christi International](#).

The retreat will take place Friday, December 18 at 10am ET / 7am PT and will be repeated later in the evening at 7pm ET / 4pm PT.

Please join us for prayer and reflection featuring an exclusive screening of “The Third Harmony,” a new film on the power of nonviolence, and brief presentations by Nobel Peace Laureate Mairead Maguire, Dr. Bernice A. King, and Rev. Emmanuel Katongole, as well as Mons. Bruno Marie Duffé, Dr. Alessio Pecorario and Fr. Joshtrom Isaac Kureethadam from the Vatican’s Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

[You can register directly by clicking here.](#)

