

## “Little girl, I say to you, arise!”

[Talitha Koum](#) – Little girl, I say to you, arise! --Is the name the UISG ([International Union of Superiors General](#), the worldwide organization in Rome of leaders of institutes of Catholic women religious) has given to the organization's efforts to end human trafficking. It is an appropriate name if we want to bring someone back to life, as Jesus did in this week's Gospel story. God has created people for good and wants us all to have a good life, the theme that runs through the Scripture readings of [this Sunday's Liturgy](#).



In the Gospel, Jesus does not accept death as the final say. In fact, he ignores the report of the death of the little girl and, inviting the parents to have faith, he calls the girl back to life. But his care is not over. He goes even further in showing his desire for a good life for her, inviting the parents to give her something to eat, presuming that she would be hungry, and food is a sign of normalcy and comfort. Having food to eat is a sign of a good life, something that all of us are entitled to by being created with the dignity of the children of God. Even on his way to Jairus' house, Jesus had restored the woman who touched his clothes to her own dignity of being freed from her illness, which the text says lasted for twelve long years. Jesus's mission is giving life, restoring life.

Do I take to heart the same mission? Is restoring life what I do, no matter the situations or conditions?

We have a daunting mission. So many people are struggling physically, emotionally, spiritually. Their life is not even close to being restored. Their life is not what God wants for them, but this is the mission of those who take the message of Jesus seriously.

The Second Letter to the Corinthians is inviting the Christian community to excel also in using their abundance to come to the help of those in need. Our world is so in love with money! I wonder what it will take to be able to reach a point where money is used for the good of ALL, to give life, to restore life. What can we do when even the proposal of \$15 an hour for minimum wage can cause so much division, yet it would help so many people to have a better life? It seems that some of our elected leaders are more content in taking care of those among us who have a lot, and not so much as the letter says "...your abundance at the present time should supply their needs."

I conclude with a question that has been on my mind in the past few days: How would we all be different if Jeff Bezos would use his astronomical wealth for the good of all by providing a good and just life for his workers, fighting diseases in countries that do not have the means by themselves, building housing for those who cannot afford a rent with their salaries, instead of going to space because he doesn't know what to do with all his money? What would the poor

people of Honduras be able to do with just one of his billions? How to awaken the sense of taking care of each other?

Jesus reminds us daily that we are our sisters' and brothers' keeper.

"Little girl, I say to you, arise!

Sr. Maria Orlandini, OSF  
Director of Advocacy

**Suggested Action:**

Sign the petition to protect seafarers by [clicking here](#).

**Suggested Petitions:**

For people who are trafficked either for sex or labor, that the world may unite to bring human trafficking to an end. We pray...

That people with wealth may be generous in answering the needs of people with little means. We pray...

**Collect Prayer**

**O God, who through the grace of adoption  
chose us to be children of light,  
grant, we pray,  
that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error  
but always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth.  
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**

## **Register Today for our next Webinar: The Covid Vaccine - A Franciscan Perspective**

As part of our commitment to promote the Covid-19 Vaccine and equity in distribution, Franciscan Action Network has planned a panel discussion for **Wednesday, June 30th at 7pm ET (4pm PT)**. We hope you will join us for "[The Covid Vaccine: A Franciscan Perspective](#)."

We are excited to announce **His Eminence, Cardinal Sean Patrick O'Malley, OFM Cap.** will join us, offer our opening prayer, and give us his theological perspective. Additionally, we have a vaccine manufacturing expert, the Director of Global Infectious Diseases from Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, and the head of mission and



ethics for the Franciscan hospitals of Florida. [Read more about our distinguished panelists by clicking here](#). The panel discussion will be moderated by our own Stephen Schneck and we will invite questions from the attendees.

[Click here to register for “The Covid Vaccine - A Franciscan Perspective.”](#)

## For the People Act: Join in Week of Action

This is a critical week for democracy: the Senate will take a procedural vote on the [#ForthePeopleAct](#) as early as tomorrow. This is an important step to advance the bill before it can pass into law. **You can still make your voice heard** --call your Senator now and urge them to vote YES on the [For the People Act](#) (S.1)



This week, we need to be loud and clear that passing S.1 is necessary and is the right thing to do to safeguard our democracy for future generations. A strong push now will let Senators know that we are watching and that we will not be deterred by a filibuster.

We urge you to **call your Senator TODAY at 1-888-885-1748** and urge them to advance S.1 the For the People Act. Democracy deserves a vote.

## Webinar: Friday, June 25th for Day of the Seafarer

This Friday, June 25th is the Day of the Seafarer. Through the [Solidarity With Seafarers](#) campaign, Franciscan Action Network and our colleagues from the Coalition of Catholic Organizations against Human Trafficking (CCOAH) are committed to raising awareness about the plight of seafarers and the dangers they face.

Over 1.5 million seafarers work on ships that bring goods and medicine to ports in the United States and around the world. Their work is critical to our personal and economic health. **On Friday, June 25 at 12p ET (9am PT)**, CCOAH and along with Stella Maria and AOS-USA will host a webinar: [The Price They Pay for Our Wellbeing](#) to learn about the critical role played by the men and women who work on the water and hear their stories of danger, loneliness and resilience. [Click here to register](#).



Here are more resources to help you learn more about the campaign:

- **Resources for faith communities** including prayer intentions, bulletin inserts, social media shareables, and more in the [Solidarity with Seafarers Toolkit](#).
- **Great article about the Solidarity with Seafarers** Campaign published by the Global Sisters Report
- **Take action** to protect the rights of seafarers by [Signing this Petition to Walmart](#)

asking them to join the [Neptune Declaration](#).

## Take Action: Urge Congress to Address Childhood Hunger

The [Food Research & Action Center](#) has been working to eradicate poverty-related hunger and undernutrition in the United States for 50 years. The need to expand the reach of the Summer Nutrition Programs this year is more important than ever as communities continue to respond to the impacts of COVID-19 on food security, education, and the economy. Here are two pieces of legislation that would allow more low-income communities to provide more frequent summer meals year-round.



The [Summer Meals Act of 2021](#) would ensure low-income children across the country have access to the nutrition they need during the summer months, when they lose access to healthy school meals.

The [Access to Healthy Food for Young Children Act](#) would support healthy nutrition for children in child care through strengthening the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

[Click here](#) to urge your Members of Congress to address childhood hunger by supporting these pieces of legislation.

## Disappointing to Hear Administration Tell Guatemalans “Don’t come.”

The [Hope Border Institute](#) publishes the Frontera Dispatch, a weekly analysis of immigration updates from a uniquely borderlands perspective. Last week's [issue](#) was filled with multiple responses to the disappointing pleas of “[Don’t come](#)” from Vice President Kamala Harris while in Guatemala.



The publication offered an alternative thought process that migration is not a problem to be managed, "...but a sign of relationships to be established, reconciled, healed, and a possibility for mutual transformation...". Additionally, it pointed out consequences of deterring people and how our dysfunctional immigration courts are linked to WWII and Hitler's propaganda adviser.

We encourage our members and friends to use the [Frontera Dispatch](#) as a resource for honest reporting on our borders. [Sign up to receive it in your email inbox](#).

Additionally, we urge you to read on our [blog page this written account](#) of stories observed by Charlotte Willenborg and Tim Sullivan who are Affiliates of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration as they accompanied Sister Joyce Blum, FSPA to the border.

## Afghan Allies Need Protection as the U.S. Plans to



## Withdraw Troops

The way we leave Afghanistan will be an enduring mark on our nation's history. We must [honor our commitments](#) to the #Afghans who saved so many American lives. We cannot abandon them - we must evacuate them to safety in the U.S.

17,000+ #Afghans who served alongside American soldiers as translators, engineers, security guards, embassy clerks, and cultural advisors saved American lives and were promised a pathway to safety. Many have been targeted and killed because they helped the U.S. mission in Afghanistan. They and their families will be in even greater danger when U.S. troops fully withdraw from Afghanistan in the coming weeks. [Take action by clicking here.](#)

## Recording Available: Final Fratelli Tutti Discussion

On June 16, 2021, Franciscan Action Network hosted our final panel discussion in our [series on Fratelli Tutti](#) on the topic of Governance and Politics. You can view the recording here: [https://youtu.be/sLVA\\_XqHD04](https://youtu.be/sLVA_XqHD04)

We welcomed the author of "Five Steps to a Positive Vision of Politics", **Amy Uelmen** and associate professor of moral theology at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, **David Cloutier**. The panel discussed how the parable of the Good Samaritan should influence our thinking of governance and politics and how we can formulate a politics that communicates through "real dialogue."



Due to technical difficulties, our Zoom room limited the capacity to 100 people. We are sorry for this inconvenience and hope you will [watch the recording](#).

We will continue to host the recordings of all four discussions on [this page of our website](#).