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Reflection Date: August 1, 2021 - 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

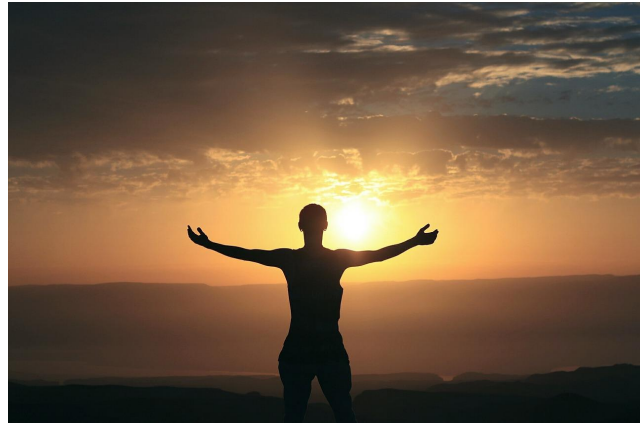
Manna from Heaven isn't good enough for me

Image by [Avi Chomotovski](#) from [Pixabay](#)

We people are an ungrateful lot. Whatever God blesses us with, it's never enough.

David becomes King and has many wives. Is this enough? No, of course not! He "had" to have the wife of Uriah the Hittite, going so far as to have him killed in battle.

The tribe of Israel, as they were fleeing Egypt, weren't much better. In [this week's first reading](#), they were starving, so they complained to God. God provided them with Manna, fresh food every day, a blessing from heaven. Were they satisfied? Was this good enough? No, of course not! They "had" to have meat too and God, knowing our frailty and weakness, provided quail to the people.



Christians sometimes feel superior to the Jews after reading these stories but honestly, given that a command, no, more than that, a requirement, that all who follow "The Way" remain united, settle their squabbles, support and help and share with each other, always being of the ONE body of Christ – well, we broke that one long ago. Now there are literally thousands of separate denominations – it's as if the body of Christ has been chopped up into little pieces and each of us claiming that theirs is the real thing and everybody else is "wrong". Really, can any mature adult take such silliness seriously?

The plain fact is that we people are pretty much as weak as David, as demanding as the Israelites, as immature as the squabbling early church Christians. We are like the people who were fed in the miracle of the loaves and fishes and wanted more, more, more..... How about we listen to what Christ said to those who wanted merely physical bread and realize that Christ, the bread of life, is enough. Believe. Love. Let God alone judge. Treat every person as your neighbor. That is good enough for me.

I leave you with this Franciscan blessing as we each now go into the world as Christ's arms and feet to feed our neighbours with the bread of life.

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

By Gordon Kubanek, TSSF
FAN Supporter

Suggested Action:

This week, take time to sit and meditate on the words of the Franciscan blessing shared in the reflection above.

Suggested Petitions:

For all those who face food insecurity on a daily basis, we pray...

For hearts to be open to the word of God that we have a firm foundation of faith, we pray...

Collect Prayer:

**Draw near to your servants, O Lord,
and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness,
that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide,
you may restore what you have created
and keep safe what you have restored.
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

We the People Ride for Common Good Immigration and Border Practices

We the People are essential and foundational to understanding the United States. We are a country made up of its people. We come from many places. *We The People* are a multitude. And we must be committed to staying that way. Immigration is a foundation of America.



From September 10 to November 14, 2021, border, community, and virtual bike rides will be held to call for a Common Good approach to our nation's immigration and border practices.

Immigration is a human story. The [We The People Ride](#) is a story-telling effort. We will meet the people who live on the border, serve one another on the border, those who work along the border, and those who have the best way forward for our immigration and border practices. Learn more and get involved by [clicking here](#).

Webinar: Citizenship for All - Faithful August Recess Advocacy

Please join the [Interfaith Immigration Coalition](#) for a **webinar tomorrow, Tuesday July 27th** to learn how you and your faith communities can take action during August recess and urge congress to take bold, humane and timely action for all 11 million undocumented immigrants. In the coming weeks, there will be many opportunities to ramp up pressure on the administration and Congress to include citizenship for Dreamers, TPS holders, and essential workers, including farm workers, in the next recovery package/reconciliation package.



When: Tuesday July 27th at 5pm ET/ 4pm CT/ 3pm MT/ 2pm PT

RSVP here: bit.ly/IICfaithfulaugust

As a direct result of our organizing and pressure, Senate Budget Chairman, Sen. Bernie Sanders, included a pathway to citizenship for essential workers, farmworkers, DREAMers, and TPS holders in a budget resolution that could eventually be included in the FY22 budget reconciliation. **The time is now to push for Congress to deliver on promises made to undocumented immigrant communities.**

The month of August is a critical moment for faith communities to act alongside directly impacted immigrants' groups and leaders, immigrant rights organizations and allies.

Take Action: Sign the Petition for Healthy Planet, Healthy People

2021 is a Super Year for global meetings related to caring for our earth - there are two United Nations summits coming up where world leaders have the power to act boldly to care for creation.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, we have been reminded that "everything is interconnected." Catholics are [asking](#) the leaders of these global gatherings to urgently align national and global commitments with limiting warming to 1.5°C at most, and no more biodiversity loss that's harming the present and future of our common home. Get [more information about the campaign here](#).

It was recently announced that Pope Francis will attend the [United Nations Climate Change Conference](#) (COP26) in Glasgow in November if his health permits. **Let us aim to gather as many petitions as possible to honor this course.** [Click here to sign and share the Healthy People, Healthy Planet petition.](#)

The goal is to collect 500,000 signatures on this petition before COP26, so please [sign and share](#) with your networks.



Announcing Faiths 4 Climate: A Global, Multi-Religious Action

Franciscan Action Network has joined a multi-faith initiative with our good friends at GreenFaith called [Faiths 4 Climate](#).

With most governments failing to meet the climate goals set six years ago, and investments in fossil fuel projects increasing since the Paris Climate Accord, we recognize a lack of leadership and commitment to reversing the trends that are destroying the planet. On October 17th and 18th, two weeks before the UN climate talks, people of diverse religions will rise together to send a clear message to governments and major financial institutions that their actions are against our religions. [Take action by clicking here](#).

[Join us and take action where you live](#). Plan to hold a public action at your place of prayer calling for decision-makers to act and gather outside of local, regional, and national governments and finance institutions en masse to deliver our demands to officials.

Together, we will show the world that people of faith are not going to stand idly by in the face of climate injustice.



Webinars: Human Trafficking Concerns Relating to Unaccompanied Minors and the Environment

The World Day against Trafficking in Persons is July 30, 2021. To commemorate the date, the John J. Brunetti Human Trafficking Academy at St. Thomas College of Law will host an in-depth [conversation](#) of the challenges surrounding unaccompanied minors as it relates to human trafficking.

Click here to [register to attend](#) on July 30 at 10am ET (7am PT). This event is free and open to the public with registration.

After an influx of unaccompanied minors into the United States, the Office of Refugee Resettlement faced a historic number of referrals with over 20,000 children in care in May of 2021. During this Webinar, distinguished panelists will share their perspectives and firsthand accounts of the challenges surrounding unaccompanied minors as it relates to human trafficking.

[We hope you will join us](#).

Additionally, [The Freedom Fund](#) is exploring the nexus between human trafficking and environmental destruction. At a webinar on September 7, 2021, a spotlight will be placed on labor abuses in the fishing industry and its intersection with environmental degradation. You may register for **Turning the Tide: Breaking the cycle of overfishing and labour abuses** by clicking [here](#). Please pay attention to the time as the hosts are in London.



