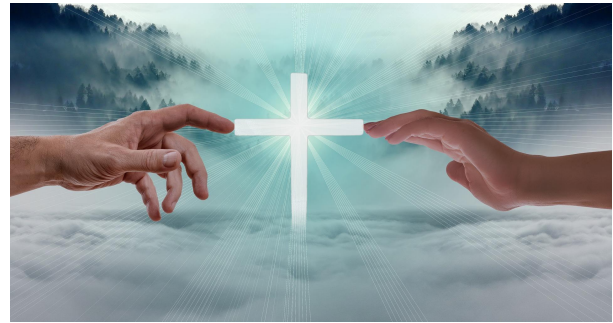


To Trust is to Have Faith

Image by [Gerd Altmann](#) from [Pixabay](#)

It is often easy for one to have doubts and hard to demonstrate trust or full piety in someone or something. For many of us, doubt is something that can hinder our faith in God and can cause us to stray away from him. Whether it's a death in the family or being disappointed by one's own work, doubt can have us rethink God's influence over our lives. However, we are not called to have doubts, nor should we let those moments challenge our belief in God, as [Proverbs 3:5-8](#) outlines:



“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence do not rely; In all your ways be mindful of him, and he will make straight your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes, fear the Lord and turn away from evil; This will mean health for your flesh and vigor for your bones.”

As Proverbs says, we must always “trust in the Lord with all our hearts” in order for our paths to be straightforward, clearing ourselves of any doubt. [This week's Gospel](#) touches on this very theme when Jesus says to those who questioned him coming down from heaven, “I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die.” ([Jn 6:48-50](#))

By saying this, Jesus affirms to us that he is the Son of God and that it is through him that we can achieve salvation from our sins. All he asks us to do in return is to trust in him with our joys, sufferings, successes, failures, etc.

Some may find it easy to trust in God whenever positive things happen in our lives. For instance, if I prayed for a friend applying to law school and he or she eventually got in, my trust in God at that moment would seem like it had paid off. However, what if something traumatic happens to us and we're supposed to “trust” in God and hope for the best? Are we supposed to rethink God's influence over our lives? Are we supposed to lead a life filled with doubt? Even if we're called to not let those moments challenge our belief in God, how can trusting in him be the answer to our problems?

To answer these questions, Pope Francis, in his Angelus from August 9, 2020 [stated](#), “Having faith means, in the midst of the storm, keeping your heart turned to God, to his love, to his tenderness as a Father. Jesus wanted to teach this to Peter and his disciples, and also to us today, in moments of darkness, moments of storms.”

To trust in God means to have faith in him, and it is that faith that keeps our hearts turned towards him. By demonstrating faith in him, God grants us the strength to get us through those tough moments in life, and also the gratitude to rejoice in our accomplishments and successes.

Fernando Cordova
FAN Summer Intern

Suggested Action:

Read this [article](#) from the National Catholic Register and meditate on how Pope Francis calls us to “trust God in every moment, especially in the hour of trial and turmoil.”

Suggested Petitions:

For all people struggling through life’s challenges, may they keep the words of Proverbs 3:5-8 in mind always. We pray...

For anyone who doubts God’s presence in our lives, may we come to know deeply the love God has for all of us. We pray...

Collect Prayer:

Almighty ever-living God,
whom, taught by the Holy Spirit,
we dare to call our Father,
bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts
the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters,
that we may merit to enter into the inheritance
which you have promised.
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

Introducing Our Newest Staff Member, Sr. Louise Lears, SC

The staff and board of the Franciscan Action Network are excited to welcome Sr. Louise Lears, SC to our staff who will begin working with us on creation care policy.

Sister Louise Lears is a [Sister of Charity of Cincinnati](#) and a native of Baltimore with a passion for justice rooted in Gospel values. She has a Master’s in Theology from St. Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore and a PhD in Health Care Ethics from St. Louis University. Sr. Louise has ministered as a hospital chaplain, medical ethicist, adjunct faculty in several universities, and a Congregational Leader for eight years with the Sisters of Charity. Experiences in Cuba, Guatemala, and El Salvador opened her eyes and her heart to the



needs and hopes of people most often left out.

[Send Sr. Louise a welcome message by clicking here.](#)

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Commemoration Vigils Aug. 6-9

To commemorate the 76th anniversary of the devastating U.S. nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the [Dorothy Day Catholic Worker](#) will hold vigils in Washington, D.C. on August 6th and 9th.

We remember and pray for the victims of these unspeakable atrocities, and call on the nation to repent for the sin and work to bring about total disarmament and nuclear abolition. We do this in solidarity with imprisoned and other members of the [Kings Bay Plowshares](#), and with other actions taking place around the U.S. and worldwide.



The theme for actions this year is "In the Presence of All Who Perished: Remembrance in the Age of the Ban Treaty" and their purpose is two-fold: to note that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) has shifted the conversation about nuclear weapons from military and policy considerations to the humanitarian and environmental impacts of nuclear weapons; and to elevate the voices of those who have witnessed the destructive power of nuclear weapons—hibakusha, pacific islanders, downwinders. For more information [click here](#).

Join us Mondays in August for "Pathways Prayers for Citizenship"

[Join with faith partners](#) from around the country for prayers for citizenship **each Monday during the August Congressional recess from 12p-12:30p ET (9a-9:30a PT).**

We will gather electronically to share prayers for pathways to citizenship, hear testimonies from DACA & TPS recipients, farmworkers, and essential workers, and receive resources for actions that you and your faith community can use each week to urge long-awaited opportunities for citizenship for immigrant friends, neighbors, and congregation members.

Register to receive information and links for one, or all four dates, [by clicking here](#).



Immigration Updates from Interfaith Immigration Coalition

Here are the latest updates from the [Interfaith Immigration Coalition](#):

Urge Congress to Pass a Path to Citizenship

Facing a [partial termination of DACA](#), we need citizenship now more than ever. [Email](#) and [call](#) Congress to demand citizenship, and sign up for “[phone-dogging](#)” to make calls every Wednesday from 2-3 PM ET now through the end of September.

IIC Co-Chair Peniel Ibe Shares Urgent Need for Citizenship

"People migrate because of many root causes and push factors... It's less about where people are going and more about what they are fleeing." Peniel Ibe, IIC Co-Chair and Policy Coordinator at [American Friends Service Committee](#), highlights the need for citizenship on the Interfaith Voices podcast. [Listen to the episode here](#)



New Report on Title 42 Expulsions and their Impact

Physicians for Human Rights is publishing a new investigation “[Neither Safety nor Health: How Title 42 Expulsions Harm Health and Violate Rights](#)”, based on interviews we conducted in Tijuana and Ciudad Juarez at the end of May 2021. The report outlines the consequences of the Title 42 expulsions, plus the physical and mental health impact on asylum seekers.

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](#).

Native American Boarding School Initiative Update

Photo credit: [Corbis via Getty Images](#)

Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland recently [announced a Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative](#) to provide a comprehensive review of the troubled legacy of federal boarding school policies that forced Native children to “assimilate” to American culture. Her goal is to address the unspoken



traumas resulting from this painful portion of our history.

The recent discovery of hundreds of Native childrens' remains found in unmarked graves in Canada prompted the investigation which will consider the "generational impact" of the schools as well as "promote spiritual and emotional healing".

Many communities of women religious have been involved in the research of the schools as well as making reparations. For example, LCWR's Global Concerns Committee recently published *Resolutions to Action*, "[Native American Boarding Schools](#)," which examines the grave harm perpetrated on children and families and offers a reflection on the moral obligation to acknowledge past cooperation in running the boarding schools so as to repent and begin the healing process.