

## For with God, NOTHING is impossible!

The [Solemnity of the Assumption](#) is somewhat challenging to understand through physics. In fact there is always some confusion.

I heard a story a few years ago from one of the Friars, who I lived with.

He asked if I had heard about the class of young children who was asked by their Religious Ed. Teacher, "Who can tell me what the Feast of the Assumption is all about?" Needless to say, there was a time of silence. Then one hand went up and responded, "It means that Mary was so holy that we assume she went to Heaven."



That student's answer, thinking deeply about Mary being so holy is why we celebrate this Feast today. Her holiness is shaped from being a first-century Galilean woman; she simply recognizes that God is doing great things in her and through her. She is the greatest sign of God working in our lives. That is the call that we hear today of becoming a disciple of the Lord. That nothing is impossible with God. God's work starts with our 'Yes.' Mary mirrors our destiny with God, if we can keep saying yes to God, we will be a part of the Communion of Saints.

The reading from Revelations gives us a glimpse of Heaven. The description of a "woman being clothed with the sun" who crushed the red dragon, reminds us that with hope we can overcome our fears, with faith we can welcome the stranger, we can feed the hungry and even allow God to change our hearts of stone into hearts of acceptance and act for those on the margins of our society.

For with God, NOTHING is impossible!

This week in our prayer time let us pray for those who need signs and wonders to believe. Pray that our life of Faith will be a sign and wonder.

Don't worry if you fall short, or that you're not where you think you should be in your prayer life. Be like Mary, believe, trust, and await God's grace and work.

Br. Paul Crawford, OFM Cap.  
FAN Board Member

### **Suggested Action:**

This week, meditate on these [21 Short Prayers for Trusting God](#). Find one that speaks to the moment you are in right now and use it daily.

### **Suggested Petitions:**

For mothers of all people, may they accept the Grace of God to lead their families with love. We Pray...

For all those who do not know their mother, may they have strong role models outside their families to learn from and emulate. We pray...

### **Collect Prayer (from Mass during the Day):**

**Almighty ever-living God,  
who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Mother of your Son,  
body and soul into heavenly glory,  
grant, we pray,  
that, always attentive to the things that are above,  
we may merit to be sharers of her glory.  
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**

## **Join Us this Month 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.



The link we had included in our newsletter last week had a glitch and we apologize for the inconvenience. **You can still register to receive information and links for the remaining dates by [clicking here](#).**

## **Take Action: Protect U.S. Asylum**

The dismantling of the US Asylum system has real impacts on the lives of people fleeing from violence and persecution. Our good friends at Hope Border Institute and Jesuit Refugee Service bear witness every day to the impact of [Title 42](#) on families and individuals seeking protection.



Border communities have the capacity to welcome asylum seekers and are ready and eager to support them, but the Title 42 ban prevents this from happening.

Please join us in speaking out on behalf of those who seek our protection. [Send a message](#) to President Biden and your members of Congress now, urging them to restore access to asylum for all.

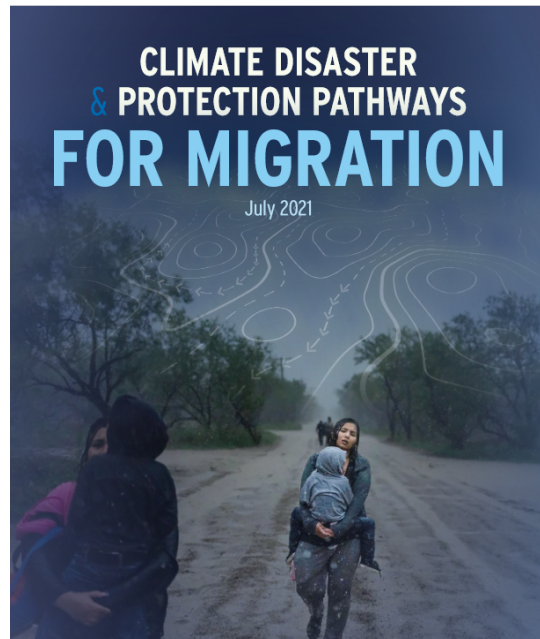
## New Report: “Climate Disaster and Protection Pathways for Migration”

Our good friends at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) announced the release of their new report, “[Climate Disaster and Protection Pathways for Migration](#).”

Across the globe, the effects of climate change-related disasters are exacerbating humanitarian crises and driving individuals and families to leave their communities and ways of life. For the millions of climate-displaced persons who will cross borders for safety or livelihood, there is currently no dedicated, specific legal or policy framework under U.S. or international law that affords lasting protection.

This report reviews existing mechanisms for, and the possible expansion of protections for persons displaced by climate change-related disasters. It includes formal recommendations to the administration for how the U.S. might create legal migration pathways for those displaced by sudden- or slow-onset climate disasters.

Download the [full report by clicking here](#) and a one-page summary is accessible by [clicking here](#).

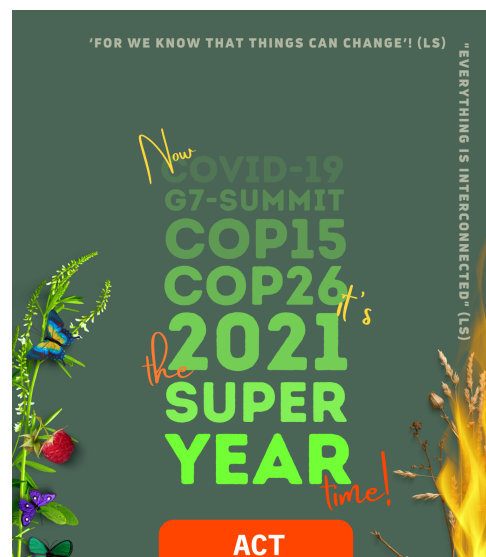


## Take Action: Sign the Petition for Healthy Planet, Healthy People

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.

## Sign Up for 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.



## Save the Date: Franciscan Action Network Annual Gala Benefit

We hope you will **save the date** and plan on joining the staff and board of Franciscan Action Network at our annual gala **Thursday, October 7th at 7:30pm ET (4:30pm PT).**

We are excited to announce that attendance will be **all virtual** again so that folks from all over the country can join us to celebrate.

Last year's event was a great success and we are gearing up for another fun evening. Won't you join us?

Watch our [website](#) for more information.

