

## When Roads Diverge

Image by [Arek Socha](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Every day we make small decisions: e.g. what shall I wear? What shall I have for breakfast or make for dinner? Will I make time to contact a sick friend, to take a walk, to pray? Sometimes we make bigger decisions: for whom shall I vote? Is it time to move? What courses shall I take? Is it time to retire? There are only a few times when we stand at a crossroads, faced with a choice that will change the directions of our lives. Such a decision was made by people in [this Sunday's Scripture readings](#).



Joshua gathers all the tribes of Israel and tells them “decide today whom you will serve,” and he proclaims the choice that he has already made: “As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” The people recall all that God has done for them and make the same choice. When Jesus puts to the Twelve the critical question of a life commitment, Simon Peter responds, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” His choice is made. Sometimes the Israelites and the Apostles waver from this commitment, but God never abandons them.

In our personal lives we have stood at crossroads, where Robert Frost stood in his well-known poem *The Road Not Taken*: “Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,” and our choice, like his, “has made all the difference.” Today, we as a nation are at a crossroads. Democracy is threatened, and as a people we must make a choice. Our foundational right and responsibility, the right to vote, is challenged. The wealth gap widens. The reality of the terrorist attack on the nation’s Congressional Capitol is denied by thousands. Hospitals in some states are filling to the breaking point, this time with mostly unvaccinated younger people.

On August 2nd (Franciscan Feast of the Portiuncula), when the Poor People’s Campaign arrived in the nation’s capital, two FAN staff members joined the large crowd (all masked). We heard Rev. Barber thunder that a choice must be made by each of us if our democracy is to survive. He referenced scriptural admonitions to say Yes or No, to be either Hot or Cold. This is not a time for Maybe, or to be Lukewarm. Our democracy is at stake. The roads diverge and each of us has to make a decision for our country. Will we decide as Joshua did? As Peter did?

Sr. Marie Lucey, OSF  
FAN Associate Director

### **Suggested Action:**

Reflect on the one or few choices you have made that have been life-changing. How did you come to a decision? What choice will you make as a U.S. American citizen to preserve our democracy and our intent to strive to be a more perfect Union?

### **Suggested Petitions:**

That all Americans will have free access to exercise their right to vote, we pray. . .

That God's Wisdom will guide us as we make critical personal and communal decisions, we pray.. .

### **Prayer for reflection by Bishop Ken Untener:**

**It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.**

**The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.**

**We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. . . .**

**We may never see the results,**

**but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.**

**We are workers, not master builders;  
ministers, not messiahs.**

**We are prophets of a future that is not our own.**

**Amen**

## **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 virtual attendance will be made available 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.



## **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](#).

## There's still Time to Join Us for "Pathways Prayers for Citizenship"

Last week, faith partners from around the country gathered to pray for citizenship for all. We invite you to [join us each Monday](#) during the **August Congressional recess from 12p-12:30p ET (9a-9:30a PT)** to hear powerful testimony and learn of ways to advocate for citizenship for all.

During these virtual gatherings we share prayers for pathways to citizenship and hear testimonies from DACA & TPS recipients, farmworkers, and essential workers. Attendees will 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.



**You can still register to receive information and links for the remaining dates by [clicking here](#).**