

## Be Doers of the Word, Not only Hearers

In [this week's gospel](#), God tells us to be doers of the word, not just hearers. In response to the Pharisees' questioning why the disciples weren't following the Jewish cleansing ritual, Jesus quotes Isaiah saying, "people honor me with their lips but their hearts are far from me." Do you honor God with only your lips? Is your heart far from God? Another way to think about it is with this question: Are you a hearer of the word or are you a doer?



I feel that most of my life I have been surrounded by people who are doers from the heart. I would hope that you are also. There is a national group I'm aware of called the Ministers of Praise. The group compiles prayers of special intentions as a way of including elderly people with limited mobility to feel like they are still doing something. It is their way of being doers from the heart. An anecdote from my own life is the story of one of our sisters who was 98 years old and called me to ask for the addresses of our senators and her representative. She said it was time for her to write letters to them concerning immigration. She wrote from her heart.

There is no shortage of ways to honor God from our heart. Jesus gave us many guidelines on how to honor God from the heart. In the scriptures we are given the commandments, the beatitudes, the last judgement, the parables, and Jesus' own actions. Following these we can only be honoring God from the heart.

Sr. Marge Wissman, OSF  
FAN Board Member

### **Suggested Action:**

Consider a way you can be a Doer of the Word to honor God from your heart. Start by meditating on [Matthew 25:31-46](#).

### **Suggested Petitions:**

For the strength to be a Doer of the Word. We pray...

For all those suffering the effects of the earthquake in Haiti. We pray...

For all those people in Afghanistan who fear what their future may hold. We pray...

### **Collect Prayer:**

**God of might, giver of every good gift,  
put into our hearts the love of your name,  
so that, by deepening our sense of reverence,  
you may nurture in us what is good  
and, by your watchful care,**

keep safe what you have nurtured.  
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

## Efforts to Help Haiti and Afghanistan

As a domestic social justice organization, we at Franciscan Action Network (FAN) focus our energies on the United States and its policies for the poor and marginalized. However, when disasters strike other countries, such as the current situations in Haiti and Afghanistan, our hearts go out to the people who we know are struggling and facing significant battles.



With this in mind, we would like to offer two organizations where members may want to send donations for relief efforts in Haiti. The first one holds a personal connection to our Communications Coordinator, Janine Walsh.

- Haiti 180 is a small nonprofit organization that works on the ground, caring for children, through homes for orphaned kids and schools, and the elderly. Founder Sean Forrest [posted an update](#) last week on what's happening in the country along with a plea for donations. You can read more about Haiti180 and [donate by clicking here](#).
- Catholic Relief Services is also urging donations for their efforts which are more widely known. You can [donate to CRS here](#).

The situation in Afghanistan is much more complicated and unfortunately not easily smoothed with monetary donations. With a desire to support those abroad and in the U.S. in the best ways we can, FAN agreed to contribute to a resource being developed by our good friends at [Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service](#) (LIRS) to help guide communities in prayer. We have been informed the resource is scheduled to be available for download after tomorrow, Tuesday, in the [prayer section of this page](#).

Additionally, we invite you to use this tool from our friends at Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns to [contact the Biden Administration](#) and urge them to greatly expand opportunities for Afghans seeking refuge from violence.

## Week of Action: United in Faith for a Holy Recovery

Franciscan Action Network is a cosponsor of this week's [United in Faith for a Holy Recovery](#) Week of Action.

The goal of the week of action is to demonstrate our collective, united demands for recovery, both



in the reconciliation process and securing voting rights and to educate/engage our networks during the August Recess. Each day of the week, there are events and advocacy days organized by different faith partners and organizations for you to join.

**Week of Action schedule:**

- Sunday 8/22: United in Faith for Voting Rights (FAN's own Jason Miller was MC)
- Monday 8/23: United in Faith for Citizenship
- Tuesday 8/24: United in Faith for Tax Justice
- Wednesday 8/25: United in Faith for Economic Justice
- Thursday 8/26: Pray and Act for Care workers
- Friday 8/27: United in Faith for Climate Justice
- Saturday 8/28: March on for Voting Rights (Events are happening across the country. [Check the website for one near you.](#) If you're in DC and want to march with us [let us know.](#))

Read more about each of these actions and register to participate by [clicking here](#).

**Related Action:** On Tuesday, the House of Representatives is expected to vote on the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R.4). This bill would restore the federal government's ability to block state and local governments from passing racially discriminatory bills. **Call your Representative now at 888-738-3058 and urge them to vote YES on this crucial bill to protect voting rights in our nation.**

## Webinar: Herd Immunity and the Beloved Community

Image by [fernando zhiminaicela](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Tomorrow, **Tuesday, August 24th at 6:30p-8p Eastern**, we invite you to join a [webinar on faith tradition support for herd immunity](#) organized by two of the NYC Justice Circle members.

How can our faith concepts of the common good - like Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Beloved Community – support the critical public health goal of reaching herd immunity against COVID-19 through vaccination? The webinar will contain conversation among infectious disease specialists and faith leaders to explore this question and spur action toward saving lives.



Learn more and register to join by [clicking here](#).

## National Faith Call-In Day for Congressional Climate Action

Our good friends at Creation Justice Ministries are hosting a [National Faith Call-in Day of Action for Climate Action](#). Here are the details:

*Join us for a day of action to ask our congressional leaders to invest in climate action and creation justice!*



*Sign up to join people of faith in calling and emailing your Member of Congress, asking them to pass legislation that includes important, once-in-a-generation investments in climate change prevention and resilience.*

*By signing up to participate on August 27, you'll be part of a one-day virtual advocacy event. You'll receive:*

- *A call and email script to contact your Members of Congress anytime on August 27th*
- *A toolkit to engage with your Members of Congress over social media.*
- *An invitation to join us for the "Act for Creation, Act for Justice Launch Event" at 12pm ET on August 27th featuring prominent speakers and advocacy training.*

*This is the moment to act for Creation. This is the moment to act for Justice.*

[Click here to register and join the day of action.](#)

## No More Delay: Positive Immigration Reform Needed Today

As Christians, we are committed to upholding the God-given dignity of every person. We have been working toward immigration reform for decades, and it's long overdue.



**Migration and  
Refugee Services**

Renewing Hope. Seeking Justice.  
UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

It's been almost five months since a bipartisan majority in the U.S. House of Representatives passed two pieces of legislation which would be important steps toward positive immigration reform.

Unfortunately neither has moved forward in the Senate. We need your help to tell Congress [NO MORE DELAY!](#)

No More Delay:  
Positive Immigration Reform Needed Today

Urge your senators and representative to support the enactment of immigration reform this year by completing these action alerts from Justice for Immigrants:

Complete the [SENATE action alert](#)

Complete the [HOUSE action alert](#)

For more migration-related resources, please visit [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org).

While Congress is in recess for the rest of this month and into mid-September, faith communities have a great opportunity to make our voices heard. The Interfaith Immigration Coalition has developed this [one-page resource](#) with action alerts to email or call your Members of Congress, sample social media, talking points on various issues and more.

[Download by clicking here.](#)

## "Pathways Prayers for Citizenship" Continue

Just a reminder that [Pathways Prayers for Citizenship](#) continues for two more weeks. Today, Monday, August 23rd at 12noon, our own Sr. Marie Lucey will lead prayers with essential workers. [Register today](#) to receive a zoom link.





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.

## August Stop Trafficking Newsletter

The [August issue](#) of the Stop Trafficking Newsletter highlights topics covered by the U.S. State Department Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report for 2021.



Systemic discrimination creates inequities between communities which undercut the goal of combating human trafficking and are used to embolden traffickers. Additionally, the report looks at human trafficking in the context of a global pandemic.

The newsletter may be accessed by [clicking here](#). If you want to access past issues of the Stop Trafficking Newsletter, you can find those on our website.