

Publication Date: September 6, 2021

Reflection Date: September 12, 2021 - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Who do you say I am?”

Image by [falco](#) from [Pixabay](#)

For those of us who gather together weekly around the Table of the Lord, would find this question a little strange and perhaps unexpected. After all, we are here in His house and are expecting to be fed with God’s Word and to leave with God’s Blessing for the week ahead of us.



In [this week’s Gospel](#), the Disciples and followers answered this question with others’ opinions which they heard from their ministry and from those following Jesus at that time. But the Disciples were careful to avoid saying what they believed.

Only Simon responded from his personal conviction. It was one of those “Aha” moments when something comes from outside of ourselves and comes from God. In fact, because of that response, Jesus renames Simon as the ‘Rock’ or ‘Peter’. That was in fact the founding of our Church; upon Peter, a Rock of the building, not perfect, but one that is strong and steady.

Today we celebrate that paradox of the Church’s transcendence and yet it’s nearness to us. It calls us to remember that we are the Body of Christ. We are Christ’s hands and hearts in the midst of our society. A group of believers who, from their personal convictions, reach out to all. To invite others to serve the poor, the outcast and to take action to promote the common good of all.

We are not perfect, because we are sinners seeking forgiveness. We do so around this table and go forth each week to ask ourselves and those whom we love and those whom we meet “Who do you say that Christ is?”

Br. Paul Crawford, OFM Cap.
FAN Board Member

Suggested Action:

Meditate this week on how you would answer Jesus’ question, “Who do you say that I am?”

Suggested Petitions:

For all those people in our country and around the world who are suffering from the effects of climate change. May we commit to working together to change our habits and policies in order to repair God’s Creation. We pray...

May our hearts be open to serve God’s people and work toward a common good for all. We pray...

Collect Prayer:

Look upon us, O God,
Creator and ruler of all things,
and, that we may feel the working of your mercy,
grant that we may serve you with all our heart.
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

You're Invited: Join us October 7th for our Annual Virtual Gala

We can't wait to have you join us for the [Franciscan Action Network's Virtual Gala](#) on **October 7th starting at 7:30pm ET (4:30pm PT)**.

We are thrilled about this year's keynote speakers as we welcome Jesuit priest, writer, and editor-at-large of *America Magazine*, **Fr. Jim Martin, SJ** and director, producer, and comedy writer, **Jeannie Gaffigan**. [Read more about our guests here](#).



As a nod to the challenging pandemic year and a half we have gone through, we are hosting a **“virtual choir contest”** where attendees will hear songs from several different choirs and vote for their favorite to win a cash prize. It promises to be a fun evening!

Additionally, **certain ticket levels qualify for a “back-stage pass” to our pre-show** where we are very excited to welcome **Fr. Richard Rohr** for a conversation. Fr. Rohr is founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation (CAC) and academic Dean of the Living School in Albuquerque, NM. **The pre-show will begin at 7pm ET (4pm PT)**. [See which ticket levels qualify by clicking here](#).

Once again, we invite you to **join us from the comfort of your home**. [Purchase your tickets now by clicking here](#).

Webinar: Join us for “Creation Care - What & Why?”

On Sunday, August 30, Pope Francis called on all people to take “decisive, urgent action” during the upcoming Season of Creation (September 1-October 4) in order to “transform this crisis into an opportunity.”



[Click on this link to watch a video of Pope Francis' invitation to participate in the Season of Creation.](#)

Franciscan Action Network will celebrate the Season of Creation on **Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 7pm ET (4pm PT)**, when we host "[Creation Care - What & Why](#)", a lecture offering us a faith informed reflection on the What and Why of addressing climate change.

We will welcome **William D. Dinges**, Professor of Religious Studies in the School of Theology and Religious Studies at The Catholic University of America to give us the faith perspective and **Cassandra Carmichael** of the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, who will advise on current legislation, especially as it affects those who are most vulnerable. [Click here](#) to read more about our speakers and register to join.

Register for the "Faith & Climate Summit: The Final Sprint to COP26"

The [Parliament of the World's Religions](#) is hosting "Faith & Climate Summit: The Final Sprint to COP26" on **September 20, 2021 at 11am ET (8am PT)**.



The purpose of the summit is to discuss the ways faith communities around the world can best support, influence, and respond to the COP26 negotiations and integrate climate action into their work. It will include conversation with the global interfaith community about our role heading into COP26 and beyond. The UK COP26 Presidency will give an update on the status of negotiations. We will also announce new faith-based climate commitments. [Click here to register.](#)

Webinar for National Migration Week: Faith Voices Call "Citizenship for All!"

As part of National Migration Week, the Interfaith Immigration Coalition will host a webinar "[Faith Voices Call: Citizenship For All!](#)" on September 20th at 4pm ET (1pm PT).



Attendees will receive updates on Congress's budget reconciliation process, who could get covered by the path to citizenship that has been included in the budget resolution, and how you can take action NOW to get citizenship for all across the finish line. [Click here to register.](#)

As we mentioned in last week's newsletter, National Migration Week is from Sept. 20 - Sept. 26 this year. The theme [Towards an Ever Wider "We"](#), echoes the Holy Father's appeal in *Fratelli Tutti* that, in the future, "we will think no longer in terms of 'them' and 'those', but only 'us'". Get more information on the [Vatican's Webpage](#).

Take Action: Urge Congress for a Pathway to

Citizenship

On behalf of all our faith partners with the “Holy Days & Holidays” team of the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, we thank all of you who joined us in our “Pathways Prayers for Citizenship” calls during August Recess. We continue to bring our message of welcome to the halls of Congress.

Ignatian Solidarity Network has updated their [Pathway to Citizenship Action Alert](#) that gives more information about the budget reconciliation process. We urge you to take action and tell your member of Congress to support a budget reconciliation package that creates a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, DACA recipients, TPS holders, undocumented essential workers, and undocumented farmworkers.

Inclusive relief – which recognizes the dignity of all – should be prioritized by our administration. We must demand immigration policies that provide a road to citizenship, protect workers, and keep families together.



Labor Day Mass Live Streamed on Facebook

Image by [Robert Cheaib](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Today, September 6, 2021 at 1pm ET (10am PT), the [Catholic Labor Network](#) along with the [Catholic Archdiocese of Washington](#) will be celebrating the [National Labor Day Mass](#) from Our Lady Queen of the Americas in Washington, D.C.

Cardinal Wilton Gregory will preside over the Mass which will be live streamed on Facebook. Even if you do not have a Facebook account, you should be able to watch the mass. [Click here today at 1pm ET \(10am PT\) to watch the live video.](#)



Continued Help for Afghan Sisters and Brothers

Image by [Wikilimages](#) from [Pixabay](#)

We continue to keep our eyes on the news coming out of Afghanistan. Last week, our good friends at LIRS hosted the Solidarity and Sacred Silence for Afghanistan vigil. If you missed it, you can [view it on YouTube for free by clicking here.](#)

We have been made aware that the [Justice for Immigrants \(JFI\) website](#) has been updated with information and resources relevant to Afghanistan, including a map with all of the USCCB's resettlement sites and an [overview](#) of the different pathways to the United States available for Afghan nationals.



Additionally, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, VA will be assisting Afghan Special Immigrant Visa arrivals. Click on this [special announcement flyer](#) to see how you can help. Also, Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego, CA has created an [Amazon wish list](#) with items needed by Afghans resettling in that area.