

Reflection Date: September 19, 2021 - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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At times I find myself wondering, what is it with us humans that we have the unquenchable urge to be greater than somebody else, to be first, to be more than someone else? We are taught, with greater insistence in today's world, that to be someone, to have 'arrived', one needs to be first, to be in a position of power or be in connection with someone powerful. And yet it is this attitude that very often destroys communities and relationships. It is easy enough to see when we look at our political world today.

Being a servant is still a noble call that will shape our lives if taken to heart. Many in our midst are great examples of it. As we make our choices in life, let us read and heed the words of James in this week's passage: "Beloved: Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every foul practice." Let us be conscious of what surrounds us and mindful of the great Franciscan call to Continuous Conversion, to live the call of Jesus, to be servants of all. If we do that, the world would be so much better.

Suggested Action:

This week spend some time in prayerful reflection with the words of James, [James 3:16-4:3](#). If you know anyone who lives her or his life as a Servant, thank them and pray for them.

Suggested Petitions:

For people in public office, that they fulfill their work with integrity and compassion. We pray...
For all of us, that we may take to heart the call to be servants of all. We pray...

Collect Prayer:

**O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law
upon love of you and of our neighbor,
grant that, by keeping your precepts,
we may merit to attain eternal life.
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

Faith in Action is hosting National Catholic Action for Citizenship

Today, Monday, September 13 at 8pm ET/ 5pm PT,
Faith in Action is hosting a [National Catholic Action for Citizenship](#).

The online call to action will bring together members of the Catholic community to call for a pathway to citizenship for undocumented workers within the budget reconciliation bill now moving through Congress. New Jersey Archbishop Cardinal Joseph Tobin, C.Ss.R., will be joining the call along with bishops, priests, women religious, and lay leaders from across the country.



[Click here](#) to register. If you have questions, contact **Joseph Fleming, senior adviser - faith leadership strategies**, at jfleming@faithinaction.org.

Share: Covid Vaccine Webinar Dubbed in Spanish Compartir: Video sobre Vacuna contra Covid-19

As part of our commitment to promote the Covid-19 Vaccine and equity in distribution, Franciscan Action Network hosted a webinar on June 30, 2021 to look at the vaccine from a Franciscan perspective. We were blessed to have several portions of discussion paraphrased in Spanish during the event. At the time, it was suggested by some of our supporters to have the entire event translated

A graphic for a webinar titled "VACUNA CONTRA COVID-19: Una Perspectiva Franciscana". The background is a mix of blue and green geometric shapes. At the top right is the Franciscan Action Network logo, which features a stylized cross and the text "Franciscan Action Network". Below the title, there is a paragraph in Spanish: "El 30 de junio de 2021 auspiciamos un panel de varios expertos en el área para hablar sobre la vacuna contra Covid-19, su seguridad, eficacia y las razones morales para vacunarse." Below this paragraph are four small portrait photos of the speakers, each with their name and title underneath: "Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley, OFM Cap.", "Maurizio Cattaneo", "Colleen M. Walters", and "Edward T. Ryan, M.D.". The overall design is clean and professional.

for Spanish speakers.

[We are excited to share with you this compilation summary of the webinar, dubbed in Spanish.](#) **We want to recognize the hard work of a group of volunteers from Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Durham, NC, without whom this translation would not have been possible.**

We were honored to be joined by a panel for the event that included Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM Cap. and a few scientists and public health experts with impressive credentials. The panel's depth of knowledge and openness to answer our pending questions provided a very informative and supportive evening. Read about our distinguished panelists by [clicking here](#).

[Watch the Spanish compilation video FREE on our YouTube channel.](#)

We pray that it is helpful for communication with the Spanish-speaking communities throughout the country. **Please feel free to promote this through your networks.**

Recording of Creation Care - What & Why?

Upon hearing the urging of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Pope Francis and Archbishop of Canterbury Justin in their joint Season of Creation message to "not waste this moment" and "address together the urgency of environmental sustainability, its impact on persistent poverty, and the importance of global cooperation", we took notice.

Last week, Franciscan Action Network hosted a webinar lecture on "[Creation Care - What & Why?](#)" We heard from William D. Dinges, Professor at the Catholic University of America who offered us 7 points describing the moral need to act now and act decisively for creation care. Additionally, our good friend Cassandra Carmichael of the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, brought us up to date on current legislation, especially as it affects those who are most vulnerable.

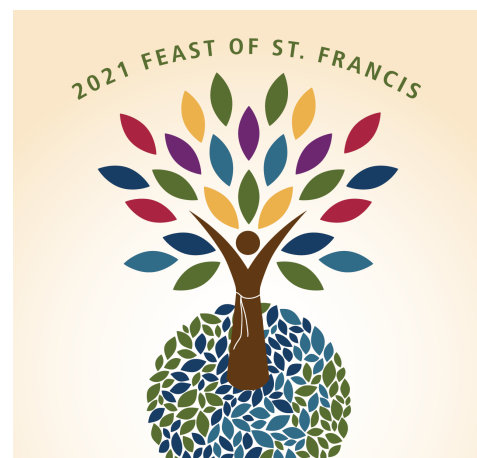
If you missed it, you can [watch the recording by clicking here](#).



Feast of St. Francis Program from Catholic Climate Covenant

Our good friends at the Catholic Climate Covenant have announced that the 2021 Feast of St. Francis Program is available for download.

This year's program, "[Eco-Conversion: Called to Tend to a Flourishing Garden of Life](#)", focuses on the call for "Eco-conversion" that is central in the Vatican's [Laudato Si' Action Platform](#) (LSAP), and is designed to assist you and your community discern how to engage with the LSAP. The program contains prayers, readings, reflection/discussion questions, a short video, and suggested activities.



To access the full program, [click here and fill-out the form](#). After you submit the form, you will receive an email with the links to the resources.

“Finish the Job For the People” Week of Action

This week, the Declaration for American Democracy (DFAD) coalition (of which FAN is an active member) will be hosting a [“Finish the Job For the People”](#) week of action calling on the Senate to commit to passing the For the People Act.



On September 14th: To coincide with the Senator's return to DC, the DFAD is hosting a [“Finish the Job For the People: DC Rally”](#). We'll be joined by democracy champions (to be announced) and many local voting rights advocates.

On September 17th: The fight will be brought to the states with a [“Finish the Job For the People Nationwide Day of Action”](#) where thousands of activists will rally in communities across the country in support of the For the People Act.

We encourage you to join in on Social Media. You can find more information and sample posts on the [Finish the Job For the People](#) website.

You're Invited: Get your Tickets 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.](#)

Report from NETWORK and Kino Border Institute on Abuses by Customs and Border Patrol

NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice and Kino Border Initiative (KBI) have released a joint report "[Due Process Denied](#)" documenting a pattern of abuse by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in the Nogales sector.

The report details thirty-five cases of violations by CBP agents documented by KBI from October 2020 to mid-August 2021. All of the immigrants were interviewed by KBI. The abuses range from migrants being denied due process, such as not given an opportunity to seek asylum or destruction of documentation, to outright physical violence. The victims are men, women, and children and all from Latin America and the Caribbean. [Click here to read.](#)



Kino Border Initiative
Iniciativa Kino para la Frontera

