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Reflection Date: September 26, 2021 - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our Calling to be Prophets of Hope

Image by [Barbara Jackson](#) from [Pixabay](#)

The [first reading this Sunday](#) ends with the phrase, “Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets! Would that the Lord might bestow his spirit on them all!” (Nm 11:29) As I reflected on it, this story came to me.

It was very early one morning, shortly after she was allowed out of quarantine. She was sitting on an outside porch praying. She kept staring at the sky. The sun had not made its appearance yet. She was just grateful to be sitting there.



During the past several months of lockdown, over ten sisters she lived with, prayed with, dined with, laughed and cried with, had died from the virus. She was just so grateful to be alive after being sick herself with COVID. She kept watching the sky and staring at the clouds as the sun began to rise. She started to pray out loud. “O glorious God....”, more words came without any effort.

As she repeated the words, she felt a melody escape her lips and began to sing what she was praying. Within minutes, a song was born. To this day, each time she plays and sings the song, she sees herself sitting on the porch that first morning out of lockdown, watching the sunrise and praying, “[O glorious God...we thank you for the gift of your everlasting love.](#)” (© Sister Mary Ann Smith, CSSF)

In his final general audience for 2020, Pope Francis dared us to make “every event and need an offering of thanksgiving,” calling gratitude the hallmark of an authentic Christian life. We are all called to “transmit our bit of hope.”

We can quickly feel overwhelmed or hopeless as we consider our appallingly contentious society, the devastating effects of climate change and the pandemic, the impact of gun violence, racism, human trafficking, and hatred on our children and ourselves. But as we look with eyes of faith, we are reminded that Our God has bestowed His Spirit uniquely on each of us, and we are all called to be prophets of hope.

Sr. Maryann Mueller, CSSF
FAN Supporter and Member

Suggested Actions:

Make an effort this week to see something good in one person with whom you usually disagree.

Suggested Petitions:

O glorious God, instill in us a sense of gratitude for all the people you put in my life today. We pray...

O Holy Spirit, help me to be a prophet of hope to each person I meet this day. We pray...

Collect Prayer:

O God, who manifest your almighty power
above all by pardoning and showing mercy,
bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us
and make those hastening to attain your promises
heirs to the treasures of heaven.

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

Webinar - Bilingual Faith Voices Call: Citizenship For All

This week begins [National Migration Week](#) (NMW). After decades of tireless advocacy, many undocumented immigrant neighbors in our communities are closer than ever to winning the citizenship they deserve.



In celebration of NMW, **TODAY, September 20th at 4pm ET (1pm PT)** the [Interfaith Immigration Coalition](#), of which FAN is an active member, is hosting a [bilingual webinar](#) on the status of the fight for citizenship. You'll hear updates on Congress's budget reconciliation process, who could get covered by the path to citizenship that has been included in the budget reconciliation legislative text, and how you can take action to help get a clean and inclusive path to citizenship across the finish line.

The webinar will be in English with Spanish interpretations provided. [Click here to register](#).

Restore Protections for Holy Families: Prophetic Action to Save Asylum

In the spirit and on the eve of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, the [Kino Border Initiative](#) and [Save Asylum coalition](#) have invited faith leaders (both vowed religious and lay) throughout the U.S. to travel to Nogales, Arizona / Sonora to participate in a migrant-led public action to restore asylum protections this **Saturday, September 25, at 2pm PT**. Can't make it to Nogales? [Watch the livestream by clicking here](#) on 9/25 at 2pm PT (5pm ET).



Asylum seeking families can't wait any longer. We must take action and put pressure on the

Biden Administration to end Title 42, stop deportations, and restore protections for asylum seekers.

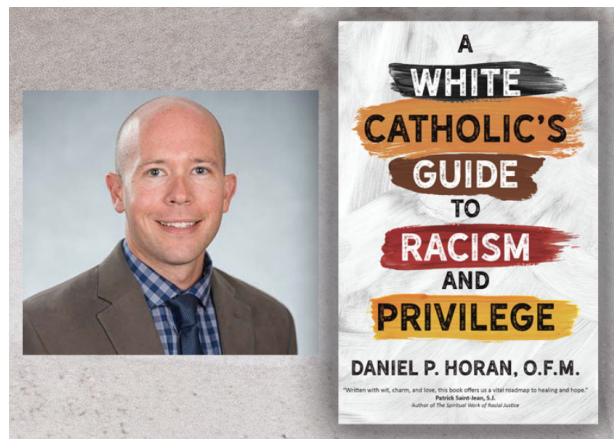
If you can't attend, we encourage you to **organize a prayerful public witness in your community** on September 25th and on each Friday throughout the month of October to bring awareness to the realities asylum seekers are facing. In Washington, D.C., faith and civil society groups will gather at Lafayette Square on Wednesday, September 29th to raise the call to welcome with dignity.

To help you plan, visit this [resource page](#) from Ignatian Solidarity Network where you will find prayers, written testimonies from asylum seekers, and powerful videos of asylum seekers sharing their stories.

Book Discussions and Presentation on Spirituality and Racial Justice

FAN Institutional Members, the [Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque, Iowa](#), are hosting [several virtual book discussions](#) on *A White Catholic's Guide to Racism and Privilege*, by Daniel P. Horan, OFM, in advance of a presentation in November.

In this new book, Franciscan author Daniel P. Horan, OFM, discusses issues of racism, including the difference between common-sense racism and systemic racism, what is meant by white privilege, the Catholic Church's teaching on racism, and how to combat racism in our everyday lives.



There will be **several options for a three-part book discussion** beginning September 27th. You can find the [dates and times listed here](#) and you **must register for each discussion separately** by this Thursday, September 23rd in order to receive the book discussion Zoom links. Thanks to the generous support of the Sisters of St. Francis, this book discussion is being offered free of charge.

As a follow up, on **November 13th, Fr. Daniel will be presenting on the topic** of his book offering a message of hope and inviting participants to educate themselves and advocate for justice. The cost for attending is \$20 per person. You must [register & prepay](#) by Wednesday, November 10th for the Zoom link.

Take Action: Tell Congress the Climate Can't Wait

On our recent webinar, "[Creation Care - What & Why?](#)", our good friend Cassandral Carmichael offered information on the climate-related parts of the infrastructure and budget reconciliation package currently being negotiated in Congress.

This once-in-a-generation policy will determine whether our country transitions to a clean energy economy in time to avoid catastrophic climate change. Currently, about \$1 trillion of the \$3.5 trillion budget



reconciliation bill addresses climate change. It is imperative that those provisions to advance clean energy, clean transportation, environmental justice, and climate resilience remain strong.

Our friends at Interfaith Power and Light have developed an [action alert](#) to easily enable us to send a letter to our Congressional representative and Senators urging their support. **If members of Congress don't hear from their constituents the bill could be significantly watered down, or fail entirely.** [Click here to urge your representatives to support ambitious, bold investments that truly tackle the climate crisis.](#)

International Day of Peace webinar: “Nonviolence & the Web of Creation.”

Our good friends at the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns are hosting a 30-minute webinar, [“Nonviolence & the Web of Creation”](#), **tomorrow, September 21st at 12p ET (9am PT)** to commemorate the International Day of Peace.

Nonviolence not only offers us tools for protecting the environment, but environmental degradation is itself a form of violence, and care for our common home is an integral element of Gospel nonviolence. In this webinar, we will explore some of the theological roots of this perspective, including those drawn from Indigenous cosmovisions.

The webinar will feature Dan Moriarty, Sustainable Pathways to Peace program coordinator at MOGC, and Tania Ávila Meneses, an Indigenous Quechua theologian with the Amerindia Network.

[Click here to register for the webinar.](#) Those who register will also receive a link to the recording.



Take Action: Urge the Administration to Protect Afghans Seeking Safety

Since the United States' withdrawal from Afghanistan, many vulnerable Afghans remain in imminent danger and [face retaliation and death by the Taliban](#). Action must be taken now to ensure a timely, efficient, and secure [Afghan evacuation](#) to U.S. territory to provide refuge for these at-risk brothers and sisters.

Here are some ways to take action:

Contact your Members of Congress/ Sign On Letters

- [Click here](#) to email your members of Congress and tell them to urge the administration to evacuate vulnerable Afghans for as long as it takes, create safe pathways out of Afghanistan toward protection, and evacuate at-risk Afghans—including women and girls, religious and minority groups, people with disabilities, and others—to a U.S. territory like Guam.

Amplify on Social Media



- [Click here](#) for sample social media posts.
- We Are All America's [Afghan Rapid Response Toolkit](#),
- RCUSA's [Afghanistan Social Media Response Toolkit](#) for more sample posts, graphics, talking points, and other messaging guidance.

Influence the Public Narrative Through Media

- Write an Opinion Editorial or Letter to the Editor in your local paper using [this Op-Ed writing guide](#). Here's a sample Op-Ed [here](#) and [here](#).
- Mobilize a vigil, event, or press conference to raise awareness. Invite the media in your region. See [Welcome with Dignity](#) resources on how to mobilize such an event.
- Contact your local Afghan community group or [refugee agencies](#) to ensure the Afghan voices and leadership are lifted up.

Thank you for taking action, and please share this alert with your networks

Bill Honoring Abolitionist aims to Expand Human Trafficking Prevention

Last week, we were made aware of the introduction of [H.R. 5151](#), the Frederick Douglas Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection and Reauthorization Act of 2021.

The bill, introduced by Reps. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Karen Bass (D-Calif.) on the anniversary of Douglass' self-emancipation, is meant to expand successful trafficking prevention efforts in schools and businesses.

[Read more about it from Catholic News Service](#). Watch the virtual press conference on [YouTube, by clicking here](#).

We uplift this good news and continue to work to end this modern form of slavery.

