

## Contemplating God

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In the [Gospel this week](#), we are told of a man with many possessions yearning for eternal life. When given the “secret” to achieving it, the man is not willing to give up the comforts of his extravagant lifestyle in favor of simplicity and mindfulness. How about us? With every physical thing that we have, every possession we own keeping our mind’s attention these days, when and how do we contemplate our God?

I was recently reading a fiction book the theme of which had to do with Ancient Wisdom lost to the ages. At the end the author tied together science, faith, and human consciousness in a very compelling way and introduced me to a subject I’d never before heard of: Noetic Science.

Noetic Science studies intellectual and spiritual capabilities such as healing, using scientific methods to prove the influence of the human mind on the physical world. The book used as an example that of the terrorist attacks on 09/11, saying the coalescing of millions of minds as the world grieved on this single tragedy had a measurable effect on objects in the physical world, specifically machines called “random number/event generators”. Some elementary research on my part resulted in the confirmation of this anecdote. This got me thinking about universal consciousness, interconnected minds working in unison to magnify a thought’s effect. Would that be considered Ancient Wisdom? Stay with me now.



In every culture, in every country, in every time, different people of all faiths share one thing, a great treasure: the Creator. We all use different names, faces, and prayers when referring to our God, but the universality of a higher power exists. What would happen if all of humankind chose at once to avoid the distractions competing for our attention and instead focused our minds on God? Think of it like Global Meditation. Could we do it? Would we do it?

Turning back to the Gospel story, how often do we empathize with the man who didn’t want to give away all his possessions? Do we have the strength to give up our computers, laptops, and game systems, our TVs and cell phones? Could we discard all noise and distractions we own to give our conscious minds the space to fully contemplate God and meditate on all God wants for us? Maybe we would ask why, what good could come of it?

Jesus offers these words to soothe our worldly concerns: "Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up [all of his/her possessions] for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age...and eternal life in the age to come."

Janine Walsh  
FAN Communications Coordinator

### **Suggested Action:**

This week, spend time cut off from distractions. Turn off the TV, your cell phone, all the noise in your life and focus on God. Choose a word or phrase from the readings that jumped out at you and sit with that word or phrase. Open your heart to God's response in your life.

### **Suggested Petitions:**

May we have the patience to commit to contemplating what God wants for us in our lives. We pray..

For all those whose lives are steeped in noise, those whose countries are at war, those who can not escape the distractions. May they experience the deep inner peace which comes from God. We pray...

### **Collect Prayer:**

**May your grace, O Lord, we pray,  
at all times go before us and follow after  
and make us always determined  
to carry out good works.**

**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**

## **Last Chance: Get your Tickets to Join Jim Martin & Jeannie Gaffigan in Conversation on Thursday**

There are still tickets available for [Franciscan Action Network's Virtual Gala](#) this Thursday **October 7<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:30pm ET (4:30pm PT)**. It promises to be a fun evening!

We are delighted about this year's keynote speakers, **Fr. Jim Martin, SJ** and **Jeannie Gaffigan**. The **"virtual choir contest"** is ready. All attendees will hear songs from several different choirs and will vote for their favorite to win a cash prize.

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. **The pre-show will begin at 7pm ET (4pm PT)**. [See which ticket levels qualify by clicking here.](#)



We hope you will **join us from the comfort of your home.** [Purchase your tickets now by clicking here.](#)

## Join: Faiths 4 Climate Justice Vigils and Actions Across the Country

In previous newsletters, we have made you aware about the Faiths 4 Climate Justice events happening two weeks before global climate negotiations. Together, [people of diverse religions will rise](#) to send a message: destroying the planet is against our religions.



During the week leading up to these [multi-religious actions](#), many will gather in Washington, DC for the largest civil disobedience action in decades. The [People vs Fossil Fuels](#) will demand President Biden use his executive authority to hasten the end of the era of fossil fuels. [See the full schedule of events here.](#)

On October 18th, we invite those in the DC metro area to join us at a [faith vigil outside the Department of State](#) hosted by the Washington Interfaith Staff Community-Ecology & Energy Working Group. [See what's happening in your area.](#)

We believe that the Earth and all people are sacred. See the demands we are making and get involved in your community by [clicking here.](#)

## Take Action: We are All Part of God's Plan(et) Sign on Opportunities

Recently, the Catholic Climate Covenant and its partners announced a U.S. campaign to encourage and inspire participation in the Vatican's global [Laudato Si' Action Platform](#), scheduled to launch in mid-November. A new website has been developed offering tools and resources to educate, inspire and activate individuals and groups to advocate caring for the Earth. We urge our members and friends to engage with this effort by checking out the [God's Plan\(et\) website](#) and sign on to the petition and letter below.



[The Catholic Climate Petition for individuals: Click here to sign.](#) We invite you to join your voice with thousands of individuals across the U.S. Catholic community in signing this climate action petition as a faith-filled appeal to President Biden and the U.S. Congress, to work beyond partisanship and create climate solutions to care for present and future generations and our common home.

[The Climate Action Letter for Catholic Institutions: Click here to sign.](#) We invite your institution to join hundreds of others across the country to send a faith-filled letter from the U.S. Catholic community to President Biden and the U.S.

## Keep the U.P. Wild - Activism in the Michigan Upper

## Peninsula

Franciscan Action Network was recently contacted by a group of activists seeking to preserve Michigan's last great natural places by working to expand federal Wilderness designation for four tracts of public land in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (or U.P.).



[Keep the U.P. Wild](#) is a coalition of environmental, outdoor recreation, academic, political, and business organizations working to build public support for this highest level of protection for public, federal land. Wilderness designation protects areas to be enjoyed by humans as *visitors*, leaving no trace of their visits so as to preserve their primitive character. You can learn more about this campaign and the areas at [www.KeeptheUPWild.com](http://www.KeeptheUPWild.com).

This is a great example of advocacy that can be accomplished by a dedicated group of passionate people, which is what we are trying to build with our [Franciscan Justice Circles](#).

## We Must Welcome Refugees and Rebuild Refugee Resettlement

We were glad to hear the recent [announcement](#) by the Biden Administration, setting the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY2022) refugee admissions goal at 125,000. We welcome this first step.

However, as we confront the worst global displacement crisis in history with more than 31 million refugees worldwide, and as countless vulnerable Afghans remain in danger, we feel it is vital that Congress hold the administration accountable to rebuild the refugee resettlement program and invest in strengthening our nation's capacity to welcome.

**There is more work to  
be done toward  
*#RESTORINGWELCOME***

Our good friends at Church World Service (CWS) have developed several ways to take action:

1. **Contact your Members of Congress:** [Click here](#) to call or email your Members of Congress using the easy tool from CWS.
2. **Amplify on Social Media:** Share a message with your Senators & Representatives on social media using this [social media toolkit](#).
3. For **additional ways to take action**, click here to download this [one pager](#).

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

## Catholics for Boarding School Accountability Webinar Series

[Catholics for Boarding School Accountability](#), a grassroots organization of lay and religious, is



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offering a four-part webinar series this Fall designed to help religious congregations explore Indian Boarding School policy; how boarding schools were harmful to Native people and communities; the role the Church played and how religious communities were involved and the responsibility we have to contribute to a process of truth and healing. Organizers hope the series will support religious congregations in beginning to engage the work of truth and healing.

► Session 1 | Opening Workshop: “Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change”

**Thursday, October 14th @ 7-9 ET, 6-8 CT, 5-7 MT, 4-6 PT**

► Session 2 | Webinar: Boarding Schools and Historical Trauma

**Thursday, October 28th @ 7-8:30 ET, 6-7:30 CT, 5-6:30 MT, 4-5:30 PT**

► Session 3 | Webinar: Current Efforts Toward Truth and Healing

**Thursday, November 11th @ 7-8:30 ET, 6-7:30 CT, 5-6:30 MT, 4-5:30 PT**

► Session 4 | Webinar: How to Begin the Work of Truth and Healing

**Thursday, November 18th @ 7-8:30 ET, 6-7:30 CT, 5-6:30 MT, 4-5:30 PT**

[Click this link for descriptions of each session.](#) The series is intended for members of men’s and women’s religious congregations, as well as associates, co-members, and lay staff.

[Registration is available here.](#)

## Pledge to Civilize It: A Better Kind Of Politics

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops recently announced a new pledge called [Civilize It: A Better Kind of Politics](#). This nonpartisan initiative seeks to assist Catholics to counter polarization and division in the Church and society by following the example of the Good Samaritan.

From the website:

*A polarized Church. A divided nation.  
Pope Francis calls for “a better kind of politics.” How will you respond?*



*As Catholics, we take to heart Jesus’ invitation to follow the example of the Good Samaritan, who challenges us to “become neighbors to all” (no. 80). As a Church and a nation, we are polarized and divided. But as Pope Francis writes in Fratelli Tutti, we can seek “a better kind of politics, one truly at the service of the common good” (no. 154). We can see ourselves as members of one family. We can seek to encounter and to grow. We can identify common values. We can listen to understand. We can seek the truth together. We can jointly come up with creative solutions to the problems that face our world.*

At a time when we are ever more polarized and divided, we invite you to [take the pledge by clicking here.](#)