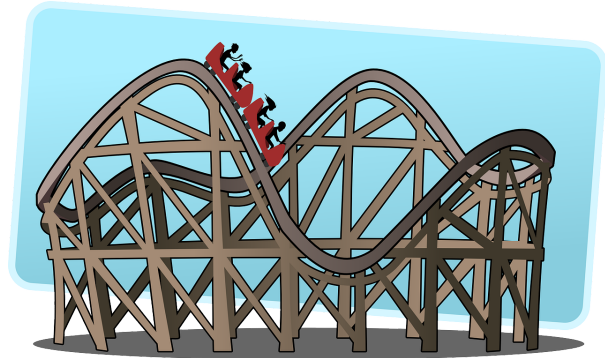


The Lord Gives and the Lord Takes Away – Bless the Lord!

Image by [OpenClipart-Vectors](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Everything in life is transient – even Covid19. In [this week's readings](#) what “popped out” at me was a recurring theme that life is never the same. It has loss, then gain. Life has pain, then joy. Life has injustice, then justice. It seems that we are on a roller coaster ride that brings us up but also smashes us down. I don't think this is what most of us really want out of life. We want calm, unchanging peace and prosperity and good health. Yet, we have these stories to help us know our God. Does God really want us to experience the lows as well as the highs of life? Well, given these few examples from the readings it seems so!



- *Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD rescues them from them all.*
- *May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.*
- *The blind man said to Jesus, "Teacher, let me see again." Jesus said, "Go; your faith has made you well."*

The plain fact is a life filled with both joy and sorrow, illness and good health, as being God's will is not a popular message among the Christians I know. They seem to only focus on the “good God” who heals, who unites people, who settles quarrels, a God who knows all and can accomplish all so that peace and love and joy flood through all the Earth. That is heaven. That is what our earth would be like if we only stopped sinning and stopped disobeying his commandments. In other words, they want certainty. Well, that has certainly not been my life experience and my readings of History show me that human lives and human cultures are truly on a mad roller coaster as described in our readings. Perhaps, rather than stopping the roller coaster, God's message to us today is this:

“Put on your seatbelt! Know that I am your seatbelt. Life is a wild ride and through experiencing this ride you will come to know both the truth of who you are and who I am.”

Is that so bad? Perhaps we want simplicity and boredom and certainty. But perhaps God knows better than we do what is good for us. To grow in Christ we need to walk his path. First ignored. Then adored by the crowds. Then mocked. A criminal. The healer who dies. But don't ever forget, in spite of death, or maybe, because of death, he rose again. We can only be reborn if we die. We can only know goodness if we have seen evil. We can only be empathic if we too have experienced pain. Life, the life God intended, IS a wild ride. So hang on, and put on your seatbelt – put on Jesus Christ!

Suggested Action:

Sit with the [responsorial Psalm](#) this week and meditate on all the great things God has done for you.

Suggested Petitions:

For all of us who experience the wild ride of life; may we yearn for the “seatbelt” that is our loving God. We pray...

For peaceful resolutions to injustice through honest and respectful debate. We pray...

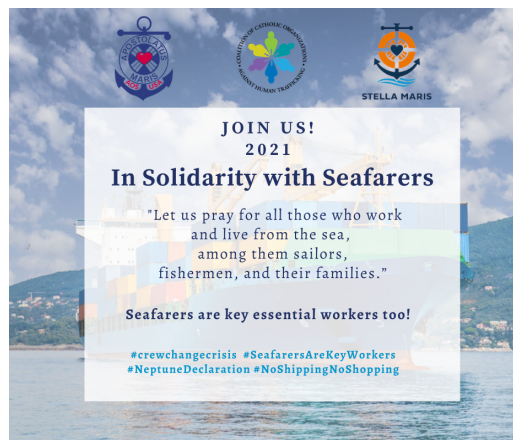
Collect Prayer:

**Almighty ever-living God,
increase our faith, hope, and charity,
and make us love what you command,
so that we may merit what you promise.
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: Solidarity With Seafarers Campaign

The ocean is one of the most dangerous workplaces on the planet. Maritime workers today face many challenges such as death and injury, forced labor and abuse, fair treatment according to various laws from different countries and piracy. These risks have been exacerbated by the pandemic. The Wall Street Journal recently [reported](#) on record numbers of what they call “cargo-ship castaways.” These men and women are deemed ‘abandoned’, which is defined by the International Maritime Organization as when “shipowners fail to pay crews two or more months in wages or don’t cover the cost to send crew members home.”



You may remember Franciscan Action Network’s support of the [Solidarity with Seafarers](#) campaign wherein, we urged our members and friends to sign a petition to the Walmart corporation to protect seafarers. We are proud members of the Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking (CCOAH) which is hosting the petition. They are still collecting signatures in hopes of reaching a goal of 1,000 signers.

We urge you to [learn more about this campaign and SIGN ON to the petition](#). **Signatures will be delivered at the end of October. Please sign today!**

Webinar-Defending a Healthy Planet: the

Contribution of Franciscans at COP26

Franciscans International (FI) will host a [webinar](#) on Monday, Nov 1, 2021 at 12pm ET (9am PT) looking at the universal recognition of the right to a healthy environment.



From Franciscans International:

The next pivotal moment for international climate action will be the UN Climate Conference (COP26) in Glasgow in November. Here governments are meant to present their updated commitments under the Paris Agreement. Franciscans, together with FI, will be present to demand that our leaders meet the moment – and we warmly [invite you](#) to join us for a live conversation with those present in Scotland on 1 November. During COP26, Catholics from around the world will also present a [petition](#) – which we encourage you to sign.

[Click here to register for the webinar.](#)

TODAY Faiths 4 Climate Justice Actions after a Week of People vs Fossil Fuels

TODAY, Franciscan Action Network will join people of diverse religions at a [faith vigil outside the Department of State](#) where volunteers, including our new executive director, Michele Dunne, OFS, will read portions of a [joint appeal](#) from various religious traditions seeking to raise awareness of the challenges to our Common Home. Many more events are happening across the globe and country. [Click here to find one near you!](#)



Today's events in DC cap off a week of action from a coalition of [People vs Fossil Fuels](#). All last week, Oct. 11-15, thousands of people, including FAN staff and other Franciscans, took action at the White House (*pictured*), participated in civil disobedience, and made their voices heard demanding that President Biden choose people over fossil fuels.

While not everyone can get to a rally at the Capitol, everyone can make their voice heard. Catholic Climate Covenant is urging individuals to [send messages to their elected officials](#) to support measures in the reconciliation package focused on climate, environmental justice and tribal provisions.

Webinar: Cameroon in Crisis - Protect Our Contri Pipo

TODAY, Monday, October 18 at 5pm ET (2pm PT) the Cameroon Advocacy Network is hosting "[Cameroon In Crisis: Protect Our Contri Pipo!](#)" a webinar to raise public awareness on the humanitarian crises and political violence that have gripped Cameroon over the last decade, forcing thousands of Cameroonians to run for their lives

CAMEROON IN CRISIS PROTECT OUR CONTRI PIPO!

Understanding the need for #TPS4Cameroon

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2021
5:00 p.m Washington D.C | 10:00 p.m Yaoundé

SPEAKERS:

Michele Ndoki
Human Rights Lawyer
Anye Wanki
Justice for Cameroon

and seek asylum in the United States.

In the wake of the one-year anniversary of mass deportations to Cameroon that left the men and women who were forcibly returned in a state of constant fear, vulnerability, and danger, the webinar takes on a particular urgency. Please join the Cameroon Advocacy Network tonight to learn and discuss about the crisis in Cameroon and why we are calling on the Biden administration to protect Cameroonians from deportation, and grant TPS now.

[Register to attend by clicking here.](#)

Webinar: Refugee Council's Latest Grassroots Advocacy Webinar

Our good friends at Refugee Council USA will host a [grassroots advocacy webinar](#) on **Friday, October 22nd at 12p ET (9am PT)**.

Attendees will hear discussion of:

- the new refugee admissions goal and resettlement advocacy
- continuing Afghan arrivals and reception
- Title 42 and MPP
- Haiti, Cameroon, and other Black migrant issues

[Click here to register to attend.](#)



Franciscan Justice Circles are Coming to You!

We are so excited about the initial success of the launch of our [Franciscan Justice Circles](#) grassroots advocacy initiative and want to thank all of you who have helped us to spread the word.

We have heard from and met over 200 people yearning to connect with other Franciscan-hearted folks and interested in advocating for social and environmental justice rooted in Franciscan values. We are so energized by these new inquiries and want to grow even more!

Help us to spread the word on social media! Here is a [Facebook post](#), a [Twitter post](#), and an [Instagram post](#) about our Franciscan Justice Circles. **If you are on any or all of these platforms, please like and share with your networks.**



Webinar: Democracy at Stake

Our friends at the [Workers Circle](#) are hosting a conversation on **Thursday, October 28, 7pm ET (4pm PT)**
"Democracy At Stake, A Conversation



with Elizabeth Hira of the Brennan Center."

From the Workers Circle:

The 2020 election had the highest turnout in modern history. But since then, hundreds of bills designed to restrict voting rights and even overturn election results have been introduced by state legislatures across the country; 33 have become law. These bills particularly target voters of color, low-income voters, and young voters. Learn what's at stake and how you can take action to protect and advance voting rights at this crucial hour.

[Click here to learn more and register.](#)