

With all your Heart

Image by [2023852](#) from [Pixabay](#)

In our [Gospel passage for this Sunday](#), we read that a scribe steps out of the crowd and poses this question to Jesus: “Which is the first of all the commandments?” At times, the scribes and Pharisees asked Jesus a question in order to trap him. But let’s imagine that this scribe, a student of the law, is asking an honest question. After all, there are 613 laws recorded in the Torah. It would certainly be easier if one commandment explained or superseded all the others.



Jesus responds to the scribe by quoting two different passages from Scripture, passages that would have been familiar to many in the crowd. The first, from Deuteronomy 6:4, is recited by the Jewish faithful every morning and evening: “Hear O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.”

The scribe may well have been satisfied with this response. He might have even stepped back into the crowd, thinking Jesus had finished. But Jesus surprises everyone by adding a second commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.” Jesus did not invent this second commandment; he took it from Leviticus 19:18. Placing these two commandments together is one of the major innovations of Jesus’ teachings. Love of God and love of neighbor are inseparable, two sides of the same coin.

Jesus’s message is clear: love, not obligation, must always be the motivation behind following God’s commandments. This love, which requires all our heart and soul and mind and strength, must tend together and inseparably toward God and neighbor. Love urges us to look upon others not only with our own eyes but also with the gaze of God, which is the gaze of Jesus. As long as there is a sister or brother to whom we close our hearts, we still have work to do.

Sr. Louise Lears, SC
FAN Director of Creation Care Advocacy

Suggested Actions:

Intentionally use kind words or actions to build someone up.

Pray for the person who cut you off on the highway, is driving too slowly, or irritated you in some way.

Suggested Petitions:

That God will inspire and enlighten parties in conflict to see one another as neighbors rather than enemies, we pray...

That we will take time to lift up in love those with whom we are personally struggling, we pray...

Collect Prayer:

Almighty and merciful God,
by whose gift your faithful offer you
right and praiseworthy service,
grant, we pray,
that we may hasten without stumbling
to receive the things you have promised.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

How Many Franciscans are Attending COP26?

As President Biden and world leaders prepare to travel to Glasgow, Scotland for the Conference of Parties (COP), two dozen clergy and faith leaders representing diverse faith traditions gathered outside the State Department last week to read from and hand deliver a copy of [Faith and Science: An Appeal for COP26](#), a recently-released multifaith climate action Appeal led by His Holiness Pope Francis. Our new executive director, Michele Dunne, OFS led off this [Faiths 4 Climate Justice](#) event by reading the summary. (Pictured) Did you attend a Faiths 4 Climate Justice rally where you live? [Let us know](#).

COP26 is set to begin on October 31st. According to this [article by Brian Roewe](#), there are at least 5 reasons why people of faith should pay attention to the proceedings. Additionally, FAN Institutional Members, the [Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration](#) recently hosted an "Eco in Action Lunch & Learn" where Barbara Fraser, editor of EarthBeat, presented a clear explanation of "[What Catholics Should Know about COP26](#)."

This COP, postponed a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, marks a critical juncture in global climate negotiations. Five years after the Paris Agreement, countries must increase their greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets to keep average temperatures below 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) and avoid the most harmful impacts of the climate crisis. During COP26, Catholics from around the world will also present a [petition](#) – which we encourage you to sign.

While FAN is unable to send a representative, we will be very engaged in the proceedings and wonder how many other Franciscans will be attending? **If you or someone you know is going to be at COP26 in Scotland, [please let us know](#).** We want to uplift the activities and actions coming out of this important event.



Faith Webinar: Learn about Fossil Fuel Divestment & Just Transition for All

Around the world, faith institutions are supporting a just transition from fossil fuels to clean energy by divesting from fossil fuels companies and investing in climate solutions.

This week, ahead of the COP26, Laudato Si' Movement, Operation Noah, World Council of Churches, Green Anglicans and GreenFaith have organized a [webinar on divestment](#). On

October 28th at 12pm ET (9am PT) join in for an opportunity to learn more about ways to get involved in campaigning in fossil fuels divestment and invest in climate solutions with your faith institution.



Attendees will hear from inspiring leaders on the steps that faith institutions are taking on fossil fuel divestment and investment in climate solutions. Live translations will be available in Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, and French. [Click here to register](#).

Youth Launch Hunger Strike Outside White House for Climate Justice

The United States is at a crossroad on climate. A handful of young people have staged a [hunger strike](#) in front of the White House to pressure world leaders and demand concrete plans and actions to combat the climate crisis.



From the press kit:

"Starting Wednesday (October 20) morning outside of the White House, five young people will begin a [hunger strike](#) until Joe Biden and Democrats pass the full scope of the Build Back Better Act to combat the climate emergency. Our names are Kidus, Abby, Paul, Ema, and Julie and we are risking our bodies to demand Democrats deliver on their elected climate commitments, and pass the first pieces of the Green New Deal for climate justice."

They are demanding that the US and global north take responsibility for the damage they are causing to the rest of the world and pay their climate debt to the places that are currently experiencing the worst effects of their greed and exploitation. We must ensure that climate plans and actions leave no one behind, especially the most marginalized peoples. Follow the strikers on [Twitter](#) and uplift their efforts in your network.

Learn How to Support Refugees: Together we Welcome

On **November 7-11 from 6-9p ET (3-6p PT)**, our good friends at Church World Service will host a virtual conference "[Together We Welcome](#)" where attendees will learn how to support refugees through advocacy and community sponsorship in this critical moment.



This event will engage hundreds of faith leaders, community organizers and refugee and asylee leaders as they hear from experts in the field and learn how they can engage in welcoming newcomers. There will be special sessions on supporting Afghan Refugees.

[Learn more and register by clicking here.](#)

Join us on Thursday for “Democracy at Stake”

Voting rights and elections are under attack across the nation. Hundreds of voter suppression bills targeting voters of color are moving through state legislatures; 33 have already become law. Voting Rights Lab reports seventeen state legislatures have introduced bills that would allow the legislature or other partisan actors to exert greater control over the conduct of elections and interfere with local election administration. These bills and federal inaction have put our democracy at stake.

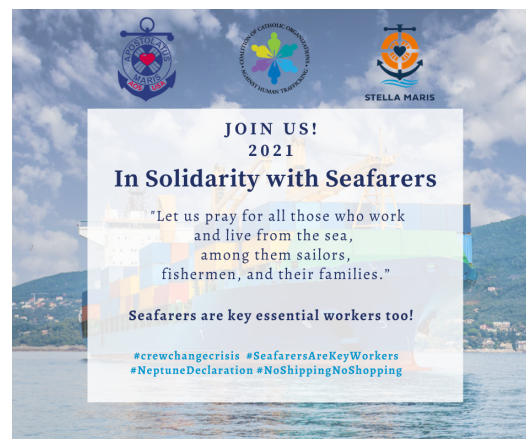
Franciscan Action Network is proud to be co-sponsoring a conversation with our friends at the [Workers Circle](#) this **Thursday, October 28, 7pm ET (4pm PT)** "[Democracy At Stake, A Conversation with Elizabeth Hira of the Brennan Center](#)." Ms. Hira, Spitzer Fellow and Policy Counsel, will provide expert analysis on the current state of elections and voting rights. We'll discuss how the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act address these attacks and establish national voting rights standards.



Immediately following the conversation, there will be a live call-in to the Senate. [Click here to register.](#)

Last Chance: Sign the Petition in Solidarity With Seafarers

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](#). **This is the last week signatures will be collected before the petition is delivered at the end of October. Please sign today!**