

Give of Yourself and Your Need

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[This week's Scriptures](#) are a call to give of yourself and to offer to God not a surplus, but from your need. This call is indeed very challenging. Perhaps more so today because our society rests on what it wants which makes us feel important. We want to have the latest, such as clothing, as is the case with far too many things.

I will always remember my experiences with immigrants and refugees, especially bringing them shopping for the first time in a supermarket. They entered and were overwhelmed by many choices for the same food. They were even more mystified by their first trip to a superstore!



But isn't that the same experience that St. Francis underwent in his conversion and perhaps the same experience that has happened in your family's history? We keep trying to live simpler lives, to declutter what we have to conserve and recycle and to help others we may meet who are in need.

A call, a challenge, a change usually means a nudging by God to be uncomfortable and to give to others of ourselves through our time, talent, or treasure.

The poor widow in this week's reading, heard the call of the Prophet that he was hungry and thirsty. Because of that she was blessed.

Our love needs to be focused on others and their needs and a little less on our wants. So this week, let us focus on our own lives, our own direction and on our journey. Perhaps we may not be able to help someone until we take time to talk to them.

There is a story that Mother Theresa was talking to a group of people about how to do God's will. She said that once you know the names and stories of the poor you can embrace them, value them, accept them, and then you can start to help them.

Bro. Paul Crawford, OFM, Cap., MSW
FAN Board Member

Suggested Actions:

Consider your attitude toward the poor and pray about how you might get to know them better.

Suggested Petitions:

Heavenly God, help us to trust in your unfailing love and know that you will not abandon us. We pray...

Merciful God, teach us to give our whole livelihood to the service of your people. We pray...

Collect Prayer:

Almighty and merciful God,
graciously keep from us all adversity,
so that, unhindered in mind and body alike,
we may pursue in freedom of heart
the things that are yours.
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.

All Saints Day Begins a Campaign in Support of Black Candidates for Sainthood

Today the Catholic Church celebrates [All Saints Day](#) commemorating all the saints of the church, both known and unknown, who have attained heaven. This year, we bring to your attention a movement to honor the six African Americans from the United States who are candidates for sainthood.

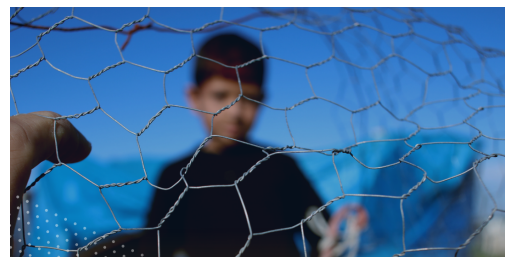


Beginning with Mass at St. Ann Church in Baltimore MD, (tonight at 7pm ET), the St. Ann Church Social Justice Committee is launching a national letter writing campaign to create a groundswell of awareness of the Six Black Candidates for Sainthood. [Letters to Pope Francis](#) will be made available at the Mass today alongside a request for people across the country to engage with the effort by signing onto a letter and mailing it to St. Ann Roman Catholic Church at 528 E 22nd St, Baltimore, MD 21218. Once received, the letters will be forwarded on to the Vatican. [Click here to download, print, and sign the letter.](#)

For more information on these candidates, the social justice committee recommends [Black Catholics on the Road to Sainthood](#), by Michael R. Heinlein which is the first book to explore the lives of the six Black Catholics from the United States whose causes are under formal consideration by the Catholic Church for canonization. Including biographies and personal reflections from diverse contributors, this book shows how these six men and women provide a model of holiness for all Catholics and people of good will.

New Report from Human Rights First Highlights Dangers of Title 42

The “Title 42” policy enacted by the Trump Administration misuses public health authority to violate refugee law, block asylum at U.S. ports of entry, and expel people seeking refuge to danger. This policy and others like the “Remain in Mexico” or MPP are still in place and continue to be used to turn



away asylum seekers and put migrants and refugees in danger. Last week Bishop Seitz of El Paso [released a statement](#) denouncing the continued use of these policies and urging the Biden Administration to end them immediately.

Our good friends at Human Rights First have published a report titled, "[Illegal and Inhumane](#)" which highlights the increase of kidnappings and attacks on people blocked or expelled under Title 42 since President Biden took office.

The U.S. government recently announced that it would lift restrictions on non-essential travel at the border, allowing vaccinated individuals with "appropriate documentation" to enter the United States. This is hypocritical considering it is in direct opposition to the Title 42 ban of people requesting life-saving asylum protections. [You can download the entire report here.](#)

Our allies at the Black Alliance for Just Immigration have developed [this action alert](#) which we urge you to use to **continue pressuring our elected officials** to end the use of these unjust policies.

Youth-Led Hunger Strike for Climate Justice Continues

We let you know last week in this newsletter about a [youth-led hunger strike](#) for climate justice happening in front of the White House. These young people have inspired so many and continue to call out the injustice of climate inaction. Even the Franciscan JPIC Office in Rome is [lifting up their efforts](#).



FAN friend and supporter, Fr. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM is fasting in solidarity with his former parishioner, Paul Campion, who leads the effort in DC. Click here to [listen to Fr. Jacek address his current parishioners](#) in Durham, NC. Another one of the fasters, Abby, recently confronted Senator Joe Manchin on his way out of a corporate sponsored luncheon. [Watch their interaction here.](#) In this document, you can [meet all the fasters](#) and read their stories.

As the COP26 continues this week and next, we honor these young activists by doing our part. Follow them and lift up their stories on [social media](#). Host your own solidarity vigil. Write to your member of Congress about the climate actions you want to see from the U.S. Click here for a [resource document](#) to help you plan.

Join in the "24 Hours for the Climate" Prayer Vigil

"[24 Hours for the Climate](#)" is a global vigil for Catholics and people of faith to pray and advocate for the success of COP26. [Click here to RSVP to join.](#)

Our faith calls each of us to hold our nations' leaders accountable to the needs of God's creation, marginalized communities, and future generations.

On 5-6 November beginning at 7am

ET (4am PT), join this [live broadcast](#) alongside fellow Catholics and people of faith to learn from communities suffering from climate change, pray for the future of our common home,



and write messages that will be delivered to COP26 negotiators.

Every hour will see the broadcast of a prayer experience themed around God's creation and ecological spirituality and the story of a community impacted by climate change. These 48 broadcasts will be hosted by different countries from around the world, showcasing their unique cultures, languages, and experiences. [Submit a Climate Story by clicking here.](#)

Franciscan Action Network Welcomes New Board Members

Franciscan Action Network has been blessed with several recent additions to our [Board of Directors](#) which we would like to take a moment to introduce to you.

- **Ms. Deborah Coakley** has worked with the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany since 1995 through Allegany Health System, Catholic Health East and Trinity Health. She retired from Trinity Health as Vice President of Performance Excellence & Operational Improvement and currently serves on the Board of the Allegany Sisters' foundation in Florida.
- **Fr. James Gannon, OFM** serves as Provincial Minister of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Province of Franciscans. He entered the Order in 1981 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1987. He also served as director of the Franciscan Mission Office of Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee.
- **Amb. Kenneth Hackett** served as President and CEO of Catholic Relief Services for 19 years and was nominated by President Barack Obama in 2013 to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See, a position he held until January 2017. He currently lives in Florida.

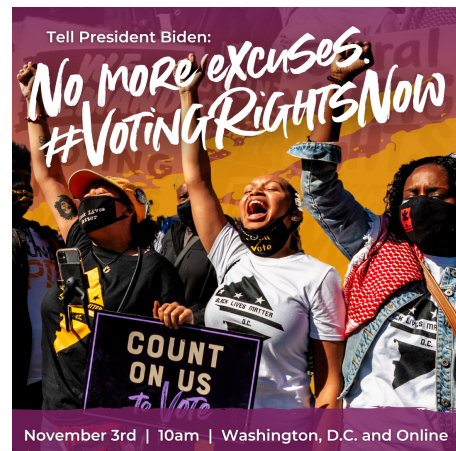


Please join us in welcoming these new members of our Board.

Youth-led Voting Rights Action in Washington, D.C.

This Wednesday, November 3rd, young people will gather at the White House and risk arrest to call on President Biden to work with the Senate to 'fix or nix' the filibuster and pass voting rights legislation now. These brave youth will include the granddaughter of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and **they need people of faith supporting them and risking arrest alongside them.** Click here to fill out the [White House Action interest form](#).

The recent surge in anti-voter laws emerging from state legislatures around the country constitutes an attack on American democracy and the freedom to vote. Our democracy is strongest when every voice is heard. Passing federal voting rights legislation is a huge priority right now.



If you're in the DC Metro area and want to support these young people, [RSVP here to join them](#).

If you are outside Washington, DC:

1. Continue to call your Senators at 888-885-1748 and encourage them to pass the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act
2. Watch the [Facebook live event and share](#) it on your timeline along with all the efforts happening.

We need our senators to do whatever it takes to pass voting rights legislation now.

Pax Christi USA's 2021 Advent Reflection Booklet Available for Order

Our partners at Pax Christi USA have announced that their popular [Advent Reflection Booklets](#) for 2021 are now available to order.

This year's Advent booklet is a special edition historic retrospective, a companion piece to the 2021 Lent booklet, gleaned from the past 40+ years of Advent booklets published by Pax Christi USA and including over 30 different authors.

The print version is available to order with shipments starting the week of October 18th. The electronic version is available for immediate download. [Click here for more details and to place your order.](#)

