

Living with faith and not fear

As we approach the end of the church's liturgical year the readings for this [Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time](#) call us to reflect and focus on the events of the end times. This apocalyptic theme is not unknown to us, especially to those who are drawn to TV programs and movies which portray the destruction of humanity and the earth through cataclysmic earthquakes, consuming fires, devastating floods, plagues and yes, even a viral global pandemic. Truth be told, all of this sounds like many of the evening news reports we've watched over these past nineteen months of the COVID pandemic.



Some researchers believe that watching pandemic and apocalyptic programs or movies can be a coping mechanism. Coping mechanisms are strategies people use when experiencing great stress and trauma. They are often ways to manage difficult and painful emotions. These strategies help us to maintain balance and emotional well-being.

Another way of looking at the popularity and our fascination with the apocalyptic and pandemic movies is how they can lull us into a false sense of reality and security. The happy endings with the heroes and heroines discovering that last minute miraculous solution that solves all the problems and saves the people and planet is truly a made for Hollywood moment. What is needed today is a good dose of reality and the awareness of the critical role each of us and all humanity has played and continues to play in the environmental crisis and the destruction of the earth and her resources.

Perhaps our scripture this weekend can serve as a real and urgent wake-up call. In the first reading, the prophet Daniel speaks of the distress and tribulation but affirms that it will be those who are wise who will shine brightly and lead the many to justice.

We who profess Christ and the gospel as our way of life must lead with justice and the wisdom that speaks to a world that has grown cold, uncaring and deaf to the plight of people who are immigrants displaced by war, violence, earthquakes and floods. We must work, teach and advocate for the restorative justice and integral ecology that sees all of life, all of creation, all of humanity as integrally related and connected. Consider the recent pipeline failure that caused the major oil spill off the coast of California. This single catastrophe has poured 126,000 gallons of oil into the ocean potentially harming wildlife and presenting a danger to human health.

We must come to understand the role that we, as members of the human race, have played throughout history in industrial development and the over-consumption of fossil fuels and other natural resources.

On September 10, 2021, Pope Francis, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby and the Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew issued a joint statement calling on people of all faiths to take action to halt the devastating impacts of climate change. "The current climate crisis speaks volumes about who we are and how we view and treat God's creation. We stand before a harsh justice: biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and climate change are the inevitable consequences of our actions, since we have greedily consumed more of the earth's resources than the planet can endure. But we also face a profound injustice: the people bearing the most catastrophic consequences of these abuses are the poorest on the planet and have been the least responsible for causing them."

The United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP26, is currently being held in Glasgow, Scotland until November 12, 2021. How many of our parishes, colleges, universities and communities have educated and prepared its members for this important event? How are we following the decisions and plans being developed in this conference? We need to be the heralds of change. We must take up this important work and call people to action and justice for all people and for our Sister Mother Earth. It is time to act and to change our ways!

Sr. Margaret Magee, OSF
Board Member

Suggested Action:

Take a walk this week in nature and contemplate the goodness of Creation. Then, [contact your Members of Congress](#) to advocate for funding policies that cut carbon pollution in half this decade, because later is too late for our children, born and unborn.

Suggested Petitions:

For all those suffering the effects of a warming climate, may we feel their pain and be moved to action. We pray...

For global leaders currently meeting at COP26, may their decisions be a product of the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. We pray...

Collect Prayer:

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God,
the constant gladness of being devoted to you,
for it is full and lasting happiness
to serve with constancy
the author of all that is good.
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.

Migrants and Refugees Deserve to be Welcomed with
--

Dignity

The stories of migrants and refugees are all around us. FAN friend and activist Patrick Carolan wrote this [blog post](#) about his recent time serving at an Afghan Refugee Camp. A recent episode of the [Voices for Human Needs podcast](#), produced by the Coalition on Human Needs, highlighted student activists and their continued fight for securing pathways to citizenship for the millions of undocumented immigrants in the U.S. Listen to the podcast and find action alerts by [clicking here](#). Their stories touch our hearts, but that is not enough. We must honor these people by doing what is ours to do.

We urge our members and friends to join in the [#WelcomeWithDignity virtual advocacy days](#) from November 17th to 19th, 2021. During the Advocacy Days, **attendees will meet virtually with members of Congress** to urge them to hold the administration accountable to restore access to asylum for people seeking safety and end cruel policies that are harming people seeking asylum at our border.

Now is a critical moment to lift your voice to urge the administration to stop expelling people seeking safety from persecution back to life-threatening dangers in Mexico, Haiti, and other countries. [Register to be a part of the advocacy days by clicking here](#).



Local Church in Durham, NC Walks for our Planet

As the world's leaders continue to meet at the COP26 Climate Summit in Glasgow, Scotland, last week, the friars at [Immaculate Conception Church](#) in Durham, NC brought people together to express local support for decisive and urgent action on climate issues.

"[Durham Walks for our Planet](#)" began with a short, live-video message from Glasgow featuring Br. Angelito Cortez, OFM who serves as a co-director of the Franciscan JPIC Office in Rome, attending COP26 as an advocate for the poor, marginalized and the earth. Additionally, attendees heard a short message from Brian Murray, Interim Director at the Nicholas Institute & Duke University Energy Initiative and the thoughts of a few children and youth who spoke about why they participate.

Thank you, Pastor Jacek Orzechowski, OFM, for your inspiring example!!

**DURHAM WALKS
FOR OUR
PLANET!**

THURSDAY, 11/4/21 - 4PM

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH
810 WEST CHAPEL HILL STREET - DURHAM NC 27701



Truth and Healing Final Sessions on Native American Boarding Schools

Catholics for Boarding School Accountability, a grassroots organization of lay and religious, is offering a four-part webinar series this Fall designed to help



TRUTH & HEALING:
**A VIRTUAL SERIES FOR CATHOLIC
RELIGIOUS ON NATIVE AMERICAN
BOARDING SCHOOLS** *Four sessions in October & November*



religious explore Indian Boarding School policy; how boarding schools were harmful to Native people and communities; the role the Church played; 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.

It's not too late to register for sessions 3 and 4. See details below. If you have questions email the organizers at: catholictruthandhealing@gmail.com To register, [click here](#).

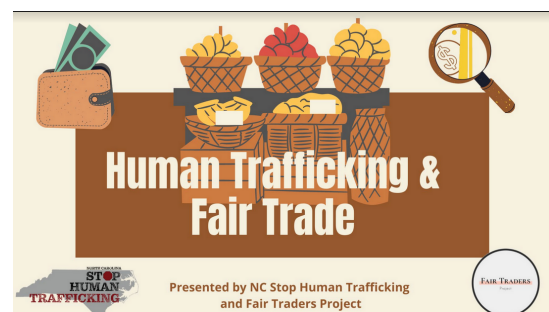
Session 3 | Webinar: Current Efforts Toward Truth and Healing (Nov 11, 7-8:30 ET) A panel of Catholics engaged in Indigenous truth and healing in Canada and the U.S. will reflect on their experiences and current work in the field. [Click here for speaker Bios](#).

Session 4 | Webinar: How to Begin the Work of Truth and Healing (Nov 18, 7-8:30 ET) This final session will address challenges religious communities face in truth and healing work, including archives, legal questions, relationships with Indigenous communities, and resistance within one's congregation. [Click here for speaker Bios](#).

This series is intended for members of men's and women's religious congregations, as well as associates, co-members, and lay staff. For more information [click here](#). To register, [click here](#).

Fair Trade & Human Trafficking Educational Webinar

FAN Director of Advocacy, Sr. Maria Orlandini recently attended an educational session on [Human Trafficking and Fair Trade](#) presented by NC Stop Human Trafficking. She found it informative and impactful and wanted to share the recording with our network.



Consumers have the power to prevent human trafficking. Buying fair trade is an example of the power of the consumer. The webinar went into how fair trade principles prevent/deter human trafficking around the world and how we as consumers can help. Click [HERE](#) to watch.

Learn more about [NC Stop Human Trafficking](#) and the [Fair Traders Project](#).

Register to be Among the First to View “Mission: Joy”

Our good friends at the Interfaith Power & Light network are offering a special opportunity to be among the first to share the new film, *Mission: JOY*. [Watch the trailer](#).



Deeply moving and laugh-out-loud funny, *Mission: JOY* is a documentary with unprecedented access to the unlikely friendship of two international icons who transcend religion: His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Tutu. In their final joint mission, these self-described mischievous brothers give a master class in how to create joy in a world that was never easy for them. They offer neuroscience-backed wisdom to help each of us live with more joy, despite circumstances.

The film showcases the exchange between these two Nobel Peace Prize winners which inspired the New York Times bestseller *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*.

The film will be available for **free online viewing at home** with family and friends Nov 19th – Dec 2nd **through IPL registration**. [Register and watch the trailer here](#).

The Double Threat of Nuclear Weapons and Climate Change

Nuclear weapons and climate change are two of the greatest threats facing the world. The good people at Pax Christi International prepared for the ongoing United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) with a [series of infographics and short videos](#) highlighting the relationship between the threat of nuclear weapons and the threat of climate change.



The videos are all compiled in this [YouTube playlist](#), and the graphics are available on [Pax Christi's website](#).

Please share these resources widely within your networks, especially as we look to the decisions coming out of COP26 and the upcoming review of the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.