

God Fills our Fishing Nets

Image by [Jürgen Scheffler](#) from [Pixabay](#)

I will always be grateful for spending six weeks in Cuba while getting my Masters Degree. In fact the trip was one of the elective courses that I could take. It was an eye opening experience, not so much to be in a beautiful tropical Island with a socialist society, but to see the resilience of a people walking miles to work or, if they were lucky, using a bike.



During that trip my Jesuit classmate and I got a chance to see in the countryside hard working people trying to make ends meet by fishing in small boats that used nets thrown into the sea, just like what we hear in this week's Gospel for the [5th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#). The town's baker, Manny, whom we befriended, introduced us to many of the fishermen who asked us to pray that they would get a large catch of fish. Each boat hoped to meet the government's quota and perhaps catch more to feed their families.

These readings speak to me about how too often when we 'pull up our nets', we see only what we did not catch. In the Gospel reading the fishers were amazed at what God had given them. Today, I see that same amazement when someone in need gets their net filled by the thoughtfulness of a passer-by who will stop, listen to their story, and respond as best as they can. We hear about so much need and sadness, but when help is given it should also make the news. Good news stories give us hope!

May each one of us cast our nets out to those in need and those on the margins. For as we preach, either in word or deed, we show our belief in a loving and merciful God. Let us not be afraid.

Br. Paul Crawford, OFM, Cap., MSW
FAN Board President

Suggested Action:

In what areas of your life may God be calling you to cast your net in faith? Consider these as you practice thankfulness for the blessings you have been gifted by God.

Suggested Petitions:

May we recognize the blessings God gives us every day with grateful hearts. We pray...
For all those who don't have enough to sustain themselves. We pray...

Collect Prayer

**Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unflinching care,
that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace,**

they may be defended always by your protection.
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

FAN Staff to Speak at Webinar on Human Trafficking

The USCCB, Catholic Health Association and the U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking are hosting a joint webinar on **February 2nd at 3pm ET (12pm PT)** on the [Pandemic Impacts on Preventing and Assisting Victims of Human Trafficking in Catholic Ministries](#).


This webinar is part of the commemoration held on February 8 – the World Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action Against Human Trafficking – which is the liturgical memorial of St. Josephine Bakhita - an enslaved girl who became a saint and a universal symbol of the Church's commitment against slavery. It will focus on the impact of the pandemic on identifying, assisting, and eradicating human trafficking.

FAN's Director of Advocacy, Sr. Maria Orlandini, OSF is one of the presenters. [Click here for more information and to register](#).

Pandemic Impacts on Preventing and Assisting Victims of Human Trafficking in Catholic Ministries

A joint webinar by the USCCB, the Catholic Health Association and the U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking

ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA



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WHEN

Wednesday, February 2, 3:00 PM Eastern

Please visit the [Catholic Health Association Website](#) to register for this webinar.

This Week is National Gun Violence Survivors Week

From February 1–7, 2022, we will honor the fourth annual [National Gun Violence Survivors Week](#).

National Gun Violence Survivors Week allows us to take stock of the terrible human toll of America's gun violence crisis—and recommit ourselves to supporting survivors with action. The focus of the week is on sharing gun violence survivors' stories in their own words and encouraging allies to amplify their voices, especially those that are under-represented in our national discourse.

We hope that our members and friends will participate by sharing survivor stories throughout the week on social media, using the hashtag #GVSurvivorsWeek and by using the Social Media Toolkit [HERE](#)

Shine a light
**on the stories of
survivors who live
with the impact of
gun violence
every single day.**

National Gun Violence Survivors Week
February 1–7, 2022

momentsthat survive.org | #GVSurvivorsWeek

Catholic Climate Covenant Announces Ecospirituality Nights

Our friends at the Catholic Climate Covenant young adult community have announced a special series entitled "[Ecospirituality Nights](#)" beginning TONIGHT. This multi-month virtual series will explore the spiritual foundations of our work for climate justice.

All events take place on Monday evenings from 7:30-8:30 p.m. ET (4:30-5:30 p.m. PT). Each speaker will offer a keynote open to attendees of all ages as well as a special follow-up conversation with adults aged 18-39.

Events require separate registrations, which will be linked [on the webpage](#) as they become available.

Those who register for any one event will be notified of opportunities to register for all events. Current featured speakers include: Christina Leaño (Associate Director of Laudato Si' Movement), Sr. Joan Brown, OSF (Executive Director of New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light), and Sharon Lavigne (Founder of RISE St. James). **Find more information and register by [clicking here](#).**



Ecospirituality Nights

Keynote Speaker Series

Monday, January 31, 2022	Christina Leaño, Associate Director, Laudato Si' Movement
Monday, March 21, 2022	Sr. Joan Brown, OSF Executive Director, NM Interfaith Power and Light
Monday, April 11, 2022	Sharon Lavigne Founder, RISE St. James

We invite individuals of all ages to join our virtual **Keynote Speaker Series** as we continue to deepen our "Ecological Spirituality" as set forth by Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'*.

A Virtual Series by Young Adult Mobilization
at Catholic Climate Covenant

Take Action Today: Tell EPA to Cut Methane Pollution

Methane is a major contributor to climate change and strong methane rules would help to protect God's creation, as Franciscan Sister Joan Brown explained in [this Op-Ed](#). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently released new rules that will cut down on methane pollution. Critically, these rules will finally apply to both new and existing sources of methane pollution in the oil & gas industry.

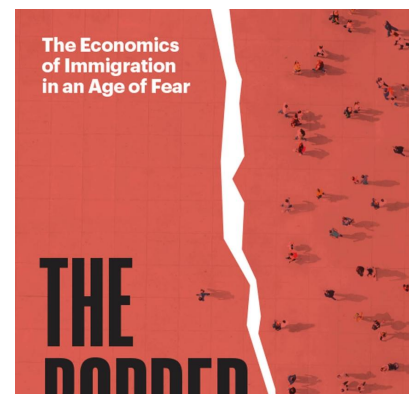


Today is the last day to voice support to the EPA on this issue. Our partners at Interfaith Power and Light have developed this [easy-to-use action to send comments to the EPA](#). Every comment helps; please take a moment to sign your name to the standard comment provided or personalize your comment.

Brookings Virtual Discussion on Immigration

On **February 7, from 1:00-2:15pm ET (10:00-11:15a PT)** Brookings will host a virtual discussion to mark the launch of a new book by Rubenstein Fellow Tara Watson and journalist Kalee Thompson, "[The Border Within: The Economics of Immigration in an Age of Fear](#)."

In the book, Watson and Thompson assess immigration's effects on every aspect of American life, combining empirical social science research and rigorous analysis with personal stories from immigrants and their families. The event will feature a presentation from the authors followed by a panel



discussion among experts on immigration policy.

Viewers can submit questions via email to events@brookings.edu or on Twitter using #TheBorderWithin. [Register to join by clicking here.](#)

Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

When you look around, do you ever feel like God is asking you to respond in a new way to the [need for compassion](#) in our society? Could you be called to something more, something that may seem foolish to the ways of the world? Our [Franciscan Justice Circles](#) (FJC) are local affinity groups throughout the country in which Franciscan-hearted people come together to deepen their spirituality and convert their values into action for justice, peace, integrity of creation, and human dignity.



We invite you to consider joining us! This week the Mid-Hudson Valley, Kansas and Metro Washington DC Circles will be gathering. Find the full list of upcoming FJC meetings on our [website](#).

For information about joining or forming a new Franciscan Justice Circle, please contact Nora Pfeiffer at FJCinfo@franciscanaction.org