

Are we fit for the Kingdom of Heaven?

Image by [Gerd Altmann](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Not one of the readings we hear for the [13th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#) talks about the usual things we talk about. In fact you might be in a state of confusion, wondering why what we normally emphasize in Church contains so little of what Jesus talked about? He is on a completely different level.



In the second reading Paul says “For freedom, God has set you free” and implores them not to let anybody take that freedom away. Then Paul says “The entire law and all the prophets are summed up in one statement: Love your neighbor as yourself” and further, “The law has no power over you if you are led by the Spirit.” We really are in a different ballpark when we hear this.

A lot of our confusion stems from our need for absolutes. What are the rules we ‘fools for Christ’ should follow? What do we “HAVE TO do?” Here at FAN we decide in discussion what we can do to bring Franciscan values into our conversations on whether federal policy affects people equally and fairly. We speak up for those who can not take part in the discourse. It is our hope and dream that the Franciscan Justice Circles can do the same on the local level. We hear it again and again: to love our neighbor as we ourselves want to be listened to, assisted and loved.

Most of the wars and hatred and genocides in the world today are caused by people who just keep looking back and replaying what was done to their families generations ago. Most of us reflect the biases and hurts, the agendas and fears of the past with resentment. But you know what resentment is? It's hatred wearing fine clothing. The mistrust just grows.

St. Francis quotes from the gospel in the Rule of 1221 that he left his brothers and sisters, “No one who sets their hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of Heaven”.

It is through the Holy Spirit's power that we are saved from the “yoke of slavery.” (Gal 5:1) This power also allows us to know that God is in control, and in spite of what we see or hear, God can and will make His will be done. We must believe and trust and depend on God's intervention.

Br. Paul Crawford, OFM Cap.
FAN Board President

Suggested Action:

Today is World Refugee Day. Take action today using the information in the block below to welcome a migrant or refugee.

Suggested Petitions:

For all those enduring violence (from war, weapons, and other forms); may the love of God settle deeply in their hearts to give peace. We pray...

For all DACA recipients; that they continue their hope-filled call for full protections in the U.S. We pray...

Prayer (excerpt adapted from [A Franciscan Blessing for Justice and Peace](#))

May God bless us with tears...

**to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection,
starvation and war.**

**May God bless us so that we may reach out our hand
to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.**

**And may God bless us with enough foolishness
to believe that we can make a difference in this world, in
our neighborhood, so that we will courageously try
what we don't think we can do, but, in Jesus Christ find
all the strength necessary.**

Amen

FAN Participates in Poor People's Campaign

Franciscan Action Network (FAN) coordinated a Franciscan and Catholic presence for the Poor People's Campaign Moral March on Washington on Saturday. Organizations who joined include NETWORK Lobby, Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), Sisters of Mercy, and Pax Christi USA.

A group of approximately 100 sisters, friars, and lay associates as well as many other Catholics gathered for a brief prayer service and walked together to the rally under a banner of "Catholics for Justice" in solidarity with the impoverished and marginalized.



Today is World Refugee Day

Last week a virtual event titled, "[Holy Voices for World Refugee Day: Welcome For All](#)," was hosted by the Interfaith Immigration Coalition. Updates were shared about the current state of the U.S. refugee resettlement and asylum systems and [opportunities to advocate](#) for more welcoming policies. The event featured live music, moving stories, reflections, and prayers. A recording of the event is available [here](#) and we invite you to



celebrate today by watching it and taking action where you are able.

Additional resources for World Refugee Day 2022 can be found at these links:

- Action opportunity from Maryknoll: [Click here](#)
- Collection of prayers for Migrants and Refugees: [Click here](#)
- Action opportunity from CWS Global: [Click here](#)
- World Refugee Day Toolkit from RCUSA: [Click here](#)
- Send a message to newcomers from Ukraine and Afghanistan: [Click here](#)

FAN Commemorates DACA 10th anniversary

(Sr. Marie Lucey and FAN friend Sr. Ann Scholz)

Last week saw the 10th anniversary of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy. For a decade, DACA has been a government band-aid for delivering lasting protection for immigrants. Immigrants are tired of temporary status and on June 15th they rallied together to demand President Biden and Congress deliver permanent protections now.



FAN took part in a Washington, D.C. rally and joined a [statement from Interfaith Immigration Coalition](#) as one of many faith groups calling for citizenship for all.

The National Immigration Law Center sent out these [10 key facts about DACA](#) and this [petition](#) urging the Biden Administration to deliver permanent protections for all.

Watch: Webinar Recording from E.O. Wilson Foundation

FAN friend Gary Nabhan (author, speaker and ecumenical Franciscan) was a panelist on a recent webinar hosted by the [E.O. Wilson Foundation](#). It was a special event honoring E.O. Wilson's birthday, and discussion surrounded the panelists' faith, and indigenous knowledge and native wisdom and how it informs ecological restoration and species protection in the US. Franciscan Br. James Lockman, OFM from the St. Barbara province was also one of the panelists. The [recording is available by clicking here](#).



Take Action: Sign your Name to Save Oak Flat

This past Earth Day we highlighted an important environmental, religious freedom and Native Peoples' issue regarding the Oak Flat area in Arizona. Homeland to many Native tribes, the area sits atop a low-grade copper



deposit and is in danger of being desecrated by mining.

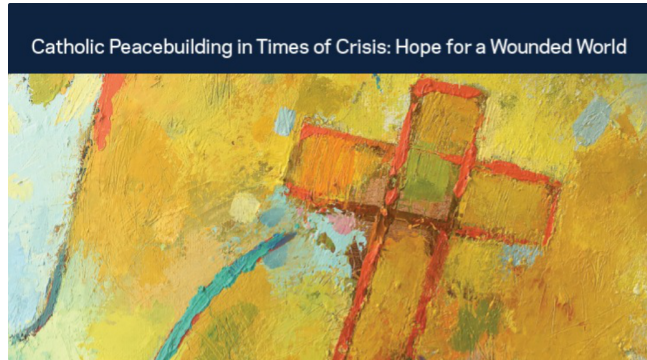
After coordinating an [organizational sign-on letter](#) to Congress in April, our friends at Baptist Joint Committee (BJC) have now launched an [individual sign-on letter](#) supporting the Save Oak Flat Act. We encourage you to [sign on](#) and promote it on your social media and among your networks.

Register to Attend: Catholic Peacebuilding in Times of Crisis

[Catholic Peacebuilding in Times of Crisis](#)

is a free virtual international conference happening June 20-23 and hosted by a wide range of Catholic peacebuilding organizations including Pax Christi International, Franciscans International, and Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns.

The world is emerging from an historic health crisis that has exacerbated existing conflicts, poverty, inequalities, polarization, and threats to the environment. The challenge to Catholic peacebuilders is clear: we must ensure that the post-pandemic return to “normal” does not look like the pre-pandemic status quo, or worse. [Click here to see the program and register to attend.](#)



Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

Living a Gospel-led lifestyle requires coherence between the words we proclaim and our actions, which can be challenging. Not even Saints Francis and Clare acted alone, rather, in community.

Supported by FAN, each [Franciscan Justice Circle](#) explores more deeply the social justice path of the [Two Feet of Love in Action](#) by: engaging important local issues; challenging policies that perpetuate injustice; and advancing policies of peace, justice, and care for creation. One of the ways we nurture our spiritual growth is through prayer, and we offer this comprehensive [set of prayers](#) to serve you and your Circle community. Please [contact us](#) to learn more about joining a Franciscan Justice Circle.

