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Reflection Date: July 3, 2022 - 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Proclaiming the Truth of the Gospel

Image by [Dean Moriarty](#) from [Pixabay](#)

There is both comfort and travail in proclaiming the truth of the Gospel to all the world. The proclamation will be either rejected or embraced, but we are not to be bothered by either reaction.



The reading from Isaiah for the [14th Sunday of Ordinary Time](#) describes a delicious peace and comfort in being embraced by the Truth. In our Gospel from Luke, we hear of the delight of the 72 disciples in the positive results of their proclamation. Jesus seems to share that delight but also give them a warning. The results of ministry are not to be grasped at. Like our Kenotic Lord, we are not to measure our ministry by results but we are called to simply rest in the peace of the New Jerusalem, knowing our names are written in Heaven and that we have been known by our Creator from the beginning, and to express that lived, experienced truth from our own lives to the world as we meet it. The world's reaction to our witness is not our business. We should remain at peace, comforted only by the faith that we are known. The world is in the Lord's hands, not ours. The world will react to our witness and the world chooses to react as it will.

This requires, in our time, incredibly strong faith. Witnessing in this world we now live in requires monumental hope:

We hope, for instance, that our compassionate witness to the sanctity of life, our individual treatment of the outcast, the immigrant, or people with disabilities will, in God's time, stimulate the hearts that observe our acts to realize the fear in their own hearts which leads them to do such things as harangue the immigrant or hold on to their guns with death grips. We hope that our love, expressed freely and heroically, will pique the conscience of others and lead them toward compassion and understanding. Let healing begin, Lord, with us and our witness!

We are called to live our faith openly, courageously, truthfully, and not to measure the results of that lived-out faith. We are to remain loving, forgiving, compassionate, active, open to a world that often ignores us and sometimes actively conspires against us. But that cannot change how we live our faith. Our faith remains. Our love remains. Our hope remains.

Peace and all Good
Deacon Craig, OFS

Suggested Action:

Consider the ways in which you can live your faith openly, courageously, and truthfully. Believe that you are strong in Jesus Christ and [take action with the US Bishops](#) on an issue you care about.

Suggested Petitions:

May we accept the challenge to live our faith and speak with a prophetic voice in this very disturbing time, let us pray. . .

May our prophetic voices encourage transformation of fearful hearts, we pray...

Litany of the Way, Prayer for the Journey

**As Jesus sought the quiet of the desert,
teach us to pray.**

**As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples,
teach us to love.**

**As Jesus promised paradise to the thief on the cross,
teach us to hope.**

**As Jesus called Peter to walk to him across the water,
teach us to believe.**

**As the child Jesus sat among the elders in the temple,
teach us to seek answers.**

**As Jesus in the garden opened his mind and heart to God's will,
teach us to listen.**

**As Jesus reflected on the Law and the Prophets,
teach us to learn.**

**As Jesus used parables to reveal the mysteries of the Kingdom,
teach us to teach.**

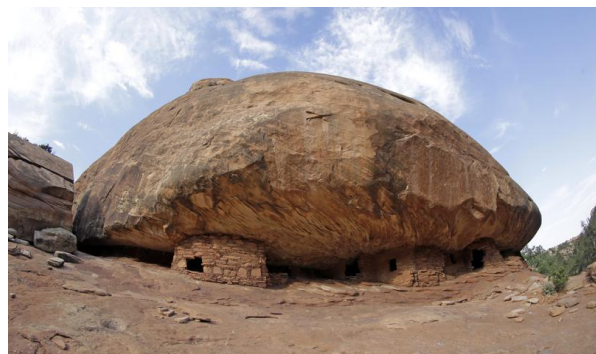
Amen

Good News about Bears Ears National Monument

Photo credit: AP Photo/Rick Bowmer, File

The Biden Administration and five Native American tribes have [reached a historic agreement](#) regarding the day-to-day management of Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah.

In October 2021, President Biden used executive orders to protect the 1.3 million acres in Bears Ears. Now, Bear Ears National Monument will be managed jointly by the federal government and the Native American tribes. When visitors approach the Monument, they will see a welcome sign that includes the insignia of the five tribes: Hopi, Navajo, Ute, Ouray, and the Zuni Pueblo. Carleton Bowekaty, lieutenant governor of the Zuni Pueblo, said in a statement: "Today, instead of being removed from a landscape to make way for a public park, we are being invited back to our ancestral homelands to help repair them. We are being asked to apply our traditional knowledge to both the natural and human-caused ecological challenges, drought, erosion, visitation, etc."



The tribes and the government will [work together](#) to develop public programming at Bears Ears. In addition, they will explore the issue of returning sacred objects that have been removed from the land.

Ukraine Faith Delegation Visit Update

In May 2022, a delegation of religious leaders traveled to Kyiv in an emergency intervention seeking to contribute to ending aggression against Ukraine, the bombing of Ukrainian cities, and to pray for a just peace. The delegation included FAN executive director Michele Dunne, OFS and Prof. Eli McCarthy from Georgetown University. **America Magazine published an article** by Michele and Eli in their Short Takes section on June 21. [Read it here](#) and share it on your social media.



On June 14, a briefing and Q&A event was held at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land to hear first-hand accounts of what the delegation saw and experienced. We invite you to watch the recording of that event on [YouTube by clicking here](#).

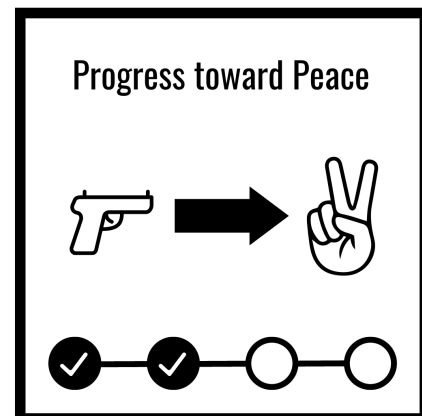
See [photos from the visit by clicking this link](#) and read the blog posts about each day that are [linked on our website](#).

Gun Safety Legislation Signed into Law

After a decades-long deadlock of inaction, last week saw the passage of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act through both the Senate and House. FAN issued a [statement](#) on Friday prior to the House vote on the bill.

The legislation closes the ‘boyfriend loophole’, offers incentives to states to pass red flag laws and expands background checks for 18- to 21-year-olds. In addition, the bill includes millions of dollars allocated for mental health, school safety, and crisis intervention programs.

We are grateful for all the calls and emails from advocates like you urging Congress to support this legislation. While it is not perfect, it is a start and we will continue our tireless advocacy for gun control legislation so we can be confident in the safety of our communities.



Webinar on Haitian Asylum-Seekers at the US/MX Border

For many months now, Haitian asylum-seekers have been coming to the US/Mexico border seeking safety. The immigration policies of the US government are denying them this fundamental right and are forcing them to remain in Mexico in



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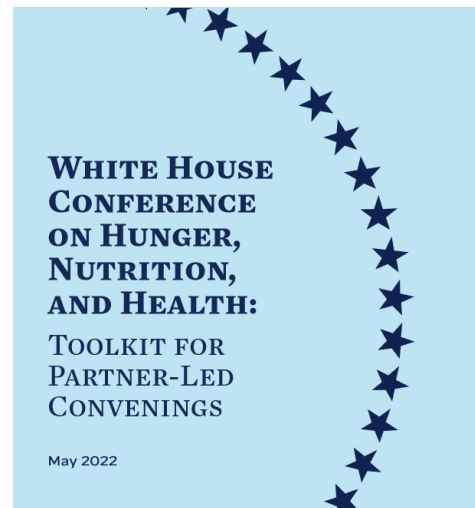
life-threatening conditions.

The Missionary Society of St. Columban is witnessing these injustices as they accompany the Haitian community in Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso, TX. On **Tuesday, July 12 at 4pm ET (1pm PT)**, join St. Columban Justice, Peace, & Ecology (JPE) for a [webinar](#) to hear from Haitian asylum-seekers, and the people of faith who welcome them, about their experience at the US/MX border. [Click here to register.](#)

White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health

The Biden-Harris Administration has [put out a call](#) for ideas and stories from all Americans to help inform a national strategy that will be announced at the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health in September 2022. Here are ways to become involved:

- Register to attend a [partner-led convening](#) or consider hosting one in your community. This [toolkit](#) can help you plan.
- Individuals are encouraged to [share personal stories](#) by submitting a comment. To ensure that your ideas are considered, submit by July 15, 2022.



Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

Members of the DC and NYC Franciscan Justice Circles joined FAN's prayer service and rally at the [Poor People's Campaign Moral March](#) in Washington on June 18, both in-person and virtually - thank you all! We walked in solidarity with many millions of poor and low wealth people as a first step towards advocating economic, racial, and climate justice in the U.S.. See more [photos of the day here.](#)

Franciscan Justice Circles are local affinity groups bringing together people motivated by Gospel and Franciscan values who are interested in action and advocacy for justice, peace, and the environment in their area. Interested in getting involved? [Contact us today.](#)

