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Reflection Date: July 24, 2022 - 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Persistent Prayer

Image by [truthseeker08](#) from [Pixabay](#)

I recently viewed a [YouTube on standing in another's shoes](#). This is what Jesus does with each of us, each moment of each day. Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves. Jesus stands in our shoes. So, likewise, prayer helps us to stand in the shoes of another: the refugee of war, the new person to our country, the disabled, the struggling single mother, the foster child, the victim of gun violence, domestic violence, or human trafficking, the person in front or beside us.



The readings for the [17th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#) teach us about prayer and the persistence of Jesus in nurturing his relationship with his Father, with each person He encountered, and with all of creation. Each page of the New Testament includes examples of Jesus standing in the shoes of the other, persistently building the kingdom of his Father.

We are called to do likewise. Saint Oscar Romero once said, "The guarantee of one's prayer is not saying lots of words. The guarantee of one's prayer is very easy to know: how do I treat the poor? – because that is where God is. What you do to them, you do to God. The way you look at them is the way you look at God."

Persistent prayer transforms us, or in Franciscan terms, leads to conversion of heart. Persistent prayer enables us to grow in that Franciscan value of humility needed to stand in another's shoes.

I often go back to words from *Let Us Dream*, the book Pope Francis published during the early months of the Coronavirus epidemic. "Let it not be said, in years to come, that ...we failed to act to restore the dignity of our peoples."

May each of us persistently pray to our God to give us the courage to listen, act, and do what is ours to do. The legacy we leave will not be judged so much by the words we pray but by how our actions reflect the words we pray.

Sr. Maryann Mueller, CSSF
FAN Institutional Member

Suggested Action:

Sit in prayer this week and open your heart to allow God to speak to you. Follow up your prayer with action, such as one listed below in this newsletter.

Suggested Petitions:

May our hearts be open to standing in another's shoes so as to practice empathy. We pray...

May God give us the courage to listen, act, and do what is ours to do. We pray...

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Amen

Join us: Restore Asylum Now Days of Action

The Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC) and Welcome with Dignity are hosting a 2-week series of call-in days beginning today, July 18 continuing through July 31, 2022. Franciscan Action Network as an active member of IIC will be participating. [FAN's call-in day is July 27.](#)

We urge you to join in a preparatory **webinar this afternoon July 18 at 4pm ET / 1pm PT** titled "[Heal Not Harm: Restore Asylum Now](#)." The webinar will provide critical updates on asylum access in the US, particularly on the status and impact on Title 42. We'll then prepare to take action together. [Register for the webinar using this link.](#)

Members of Congress are trying to make Title 42 permanent by attaching amendments to keep the policy in as many bills as they can manage, including budget bills. The remaining days of action are intended to drive calls to Congress urging they work to restore the U.S. asylum system and end Title 42. **FAN has committed to mobilizing constituents for a call-in day on Wed., July 27th.** Save this date and [watch for more information and suggested scripts.](#)



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.

Support the Truth and Healing Commission

Last month, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (SCIA) held an oversight hearing on the findings of [volume one](#) of the Interior Department's Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative Report. They also held a legislative hearing to receive testimony on the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act (S. 2907). The establishment of this commission would be a necessary first step in acknowledging and healing the abuses committed against Native People.



[Take action today](#) and remind your members of Congress of their responsibility to tribal nations and urge them to support the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act ([S. 2907/H.R. 5444](#)).

Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

Please save the date for **Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022** from **2-5pm Eastern / 11am - 2pm Pacific**, as we'll be having our first Franciscan Justice Circles National Gathering!

Come to connect with other Circles, hear from inspiring speakers, and be empowered with motivation, skills and tools to take Franciscan-inspired action wherever you are.

Note this will be a *virtual* gathering and we hope you can join us. **Stay tuned for more details.**

