

What shall I do with my abundance?

Many are the messages that God is giving us to reflect on in the readings for the [18th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#), but I finally settled on the warning about greed.

I asked on a Google search: “What is an example of greed? Here is the answer:

*“The definition of greed is an intense desire to accumulate large amounts of something, such as food or money, especially if you try to acquire more than you need or more than your fair share. An example of greed is when you are **obsessed with getting more and more money.**”*



I cannot think of a more important warning today, one that we are confronted with daily in our ministry of advocacy. It is difficult to think of the needs of others, as our political system should, when the priority is getting more and more money. It seems that our society, indeed our world, has lost the notion of community, of neighbor, of the other as my fellow human being living on the same earth. It is the warning that Pope Francis repeats many times in his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*: “...the gap between concern for one’s personal well-being and the prosperity of the larger human family seems to be stretching to the point of complete division between individuals and human community...” (31)

It is also what happened to the rich man in the gospel parable. He was only concerned for himself and his future. He wanted to build bigger and bigger barns and then “...rest, eat, drink, be merry!” So, what would be a Franciscan or Christian response to a bountiful harvest? I would think something like this: God, I am so grateful for this gift of a bountiful harvest; although the harvest comes from my hard work, its bounty comes especially as your gift and goodness to me. What can I do with this abundance? I have more than enough for my needs. I know I will share with the people in my village, especially those who struggle to feed their families because they have too small a piece of land to live on. I will make sure that a good part goes to the widows and orphans in my town so that no one will go hungry for a long time. God help me to celebrate your goodness to me.

Let us heed today’s warning; let us contribute to building God’s beloved community by taking care of each other. Let us ask ourselves: “what guides my choices big and small? Where do I think my happiness comes from, by having more or by sharing more?”

This week let us repeat with the psalmist: “If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.”

Sr. Maria Orlandini, OSF
FAN Director of Advocacy

Suggested Action:

Consider what you have that you could share with others.

Advocate in order to take money out of our political system. Our friends at [Faith in Public Life](#) have a campaign you can participate in right now in support of the DISCLOSE Act which seeks to add more transparency to money and influence in lobbying, elections, and judicial confirmations. [Learn more and take action here.](#)

Suggested Petitions:

For those who are unfairly treated by our broken economic and immigration systems, we pray...
For reform of the use of money in our politics, we pray...

Prayer by St. Ignatius of Loyola:

**O God, I dedicate this new day to you,
as I go about my work.
I ask you to bless those with whom I come in contact.
Lord I pray for all women and men
who work to earn their living;
give them satisfaction in what they do.
Spirit of God, comfort the unemployed and their families;
they are your children, my sisters and brothers.
I ask you to help them find work soon.**

Amen

Take Action: Join FAN's Call-in Day Urging Congress Terminate Title 42

We are halfway through the 2-week series of call-in days led by the Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC) and Welcome with Dignity. We are making our elected officials aware that we want them to Terminate Title 42 and heal, not harm our migrant sisters and brothers at the U.S. southern border.

On **Wednesday, July 27th** FAN is asking you to [call your congressional representatives](#) to advocate an end to Title 42, the provision that expels asylum seekers due to the pandemic. We created this [website post](#) with all the information you need. Scroll down the page to find the Capitol Switchboard phone number and a suggested call-in script. After you've made your calls, [let us know how it went](#).



Tell Congress to Prioritize Low-income Families and Individuals

The [Catholic Charities USA](#) network consists of more than 2,600 agencies that serve more than 15 million vulnerable and marginalized members of society in an effort to reduce, alleviate and prevent poverty. To that end, Catholic Charities has sent out an [action alert](#) urging that support for provisions to help low-income families and children be included in the final reconciliation bill. We invite you to take action by contacting your elected officials and naming the provision priorities. [Click here](#) to contact your members of Congress.

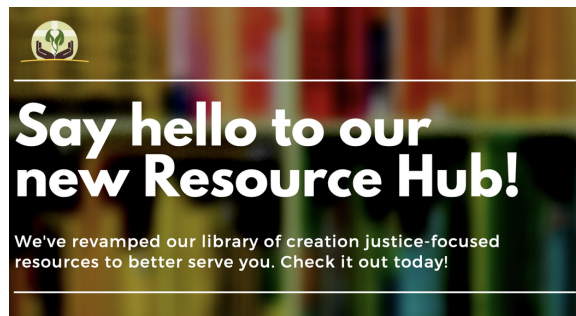


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Charities
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Creation Justice Ministries has a New Resource Hub

Franciscan Action Network partners with many other faith organizations, one of which is [Creation Justice Ministries](#). CJM "educates, equips, and mobilizes Christian individuals, congregations, denominations, and communions to protect, restore, and rightly share God's creation."

CJM has been redesigning their website and recently announced a new [Resource Hub](#). This redesign allows you to more easily find the resources you need to equip your congregation for action on climate and creation justice. Easily locate resources by issue, season or event, or content type. [Check it out](#).



Call on Congress to Ban Weapons of War

In the aftermath of the most recent mass shooting incident in Highland Park, Illinois where seven were killed and at least 24 were wounded, we renew our [call to ban high capacity weapons](#).

Representative David Cicilline's federal bill [H.R.1808](#) to ban assault weapons has [210 cosponsors](#) and it is ready for a vote in the House. We urge the House Leadership to schedule a vote on the bill now that they have returned from recess.

Passing this bill in the House will send a strong message to the Senate that it must do more to protect Americans from preventable acts of violence and terror. There are [13 Democratic holdouts](#) for the House bill and [12 in the Senate](#). The [majority of Americans support banning weapons of war](#) for civilian use. Democrats must no longer run away from the assault weapons ban.

Here are two ways to take action: [Contact your Representative directly](#) and urge them to cosponsor the bill and [sign this petition](#) from 290+ gun violence prevention groups (including

say **NO** to
#WeaponsOfWar.



many Franciscans) calling for a ban of assault weapons.

Franciscan Justice Circle Updates: Special Opportunity for Advocacy Training

Do you want to take action for justice, but are not sure how to get started, or perhaps you'd like to learn how to be more effective in your efforts? FAN is partnering with JustFaith Ministries to invite you to participate in a free 10-week pilot program, **Just Engagement**, which will guide you in taking a justice concern and applying various tools and principles to stand in solidarity with those affected by the issue and work together for lasting change.

This opportunity is open to Franciscan Justice Circles, who might want to participate as groups, as well as to any interested individuals (whether Circle members or not).



The Franciscan vision is transformational, demanding change and conversion in its adherents, following the example of Saints Francis and Clare

- Your Just Engagement pilot group would be facilitated by a FAN member on Zoom. Each gathering would last about two hours, and the process would take about ten weeks. (Exact dates and time TBD between August - October)
- Cost: The program is free, but participants would need to purchase their own books. The cost of books is usually around \$40.
- Weekly assignments: These usually take about one hour to complete. They generally involve reading, watching an online video, and/or engaging in a spiritual practice.
- Weekly feedback: As this is a pilot process, participants will need to provide written feedback weekly (10-15 minutes), which will help JustFaith Ministries to choose materials that would be most relevant and helpful.

Please [sign up here](#) if you would like to participate! The deadline is **Friday, August 5**.