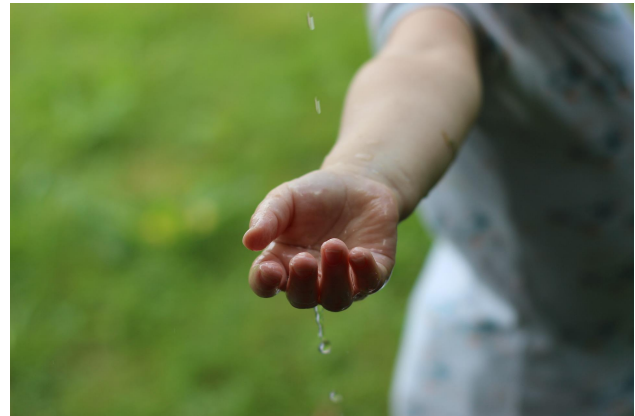


Seeing the Divine in Those Made Poor

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

The readings of the [25th Sunday of Ordinary Time](#) are a reminder during this time of inflation that people are in need of money for their own needs and the needs of others. It is also a time of year when much money is poured out for political campaigns. Every time I hear a report about how much money is given to elections, I begin to think of all those who can't pay their bills and those who are being evicted. In the first reading, Amos admonishes those who ignore the needy and the poor of the land.



When reading the Gospel parable, you may wonder why is the steward being affirmed by Jesus? In those days the steward had a right to charge a commission on every transaction he handled for the landowner. So, he is not being praised for his dishonesty but for solving his problem in a way that benefits everyone. Jesus promised that whenever we give we will receive more in return. (Mk. 4:8) Bishop Robert Barron says that Jesus admires this man for three reasons that are of great spiritual importance. First, the steward finds himself in serious trouble, but he is not complacent about it. He knows he has to make a choice. Second, he makes an honest assessment of his situation, and third he acts decisively. He decides to make amends by doing something that benefits all stakeholders, including himself. Hopefully this unjust manager is converted.

Even though this steward benefits from his ingenuity, he also can be an example for us. How far could we go toward promoting the kingdom of God by righting unjust trading systems or seeking a fair distribution of resources for all? What could be done about the dramatically widening gap between the rich and the poor? Because of the lack of resources for the poor, the poor themselves have had to be resourceful. If they need a replacement part, they may figure out how to make it from metal, scraps and pulleys on hand. When I was in Mexico years ago, I visited a small city where people made dwellings from metal and cardboard that they pulled from the nearby dump. A lack of cash or material resources may slow them down, but it won't stop them. It is great that the poor have the ingenuity to figure this all out and imagine how financial assistance and offering our talents at the service of our brothers and sisters could support their ingenuity.

In the second reading Paul urges Timothy to teach the people that God loves and wants to save everybody. And God needs for us to do the same. And that means everybody (the hard part)! In a classroom once, we were told that because all were made in the image and likeness of God we are all divine. I have struggled with this because there are many in whom I find it hard to see God. But because I know this to be true, I have to believe it and live it.

FAN Board Member

Suggested Action:

Take some time to meditate on all of us being DIVINE. Try to dwell on someone in whom you find it hard to see God dwelling.

Suggested Petitions:

Generous God, give the church the grace to be a “poor church for the poor”, and so become a greater sign to the world of Christ’s charity for the least and those in need, we pray...

Generous God, give those in elected office the conviction and courage to promote social policies and economic structures which reduce poverty and promote a just distribution of the world’s goods we pray...

Prayer from Catholic Charities:

Generous God, we lift up to your mercy that poverty which is a moral and social wound upon our country’s soul. In your goodness, help us to heal this wound by working to alleviate the suffering and pain of the poor.

Amen

Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees

Tomorrow, Tuesday, Sept. 13 at 1pm ET / 12pm CT / 11am MT / 10am PT, the [Franciscan Network for Migrants](#) is hosting an interactive workshop on practical ways for building the future with migrants and refugees.

FAN is proud to be co-sponsoring this workshop which will include presentations about Franciscan-inspired parish and community based responses as well as a brainstorm session of other ideas. [Click here to register](#).

IN ANTICIPATION OF THE 108TH WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

The Franciscan Network for Migrants invites you to join us in envisioning

Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees:
Practical ways for building this future together.

This interactive workshop will include presentations about franciscan-inspired parish and community-based responses, as well as a chance to brainstorm ideas on how to help.

**Tuesday
September 13, 2022**

1pm Eastern
12pm Central
11am Mountain
10am Pacific

TO REGISTER, CLICK HERE:

Featuring
Katalina Olave, Immaculate Conception Church, Durham, NC
Sr. Lori Marcell Rosales, OFM
Sr. Isabel Turcios, FMA, Frontera Digna, Coahuila, Mexico

Co-sponsored by
FRANCISCAN ACTION NETWORK

Join us for our Annual Gala on October 6

If you haven't yet purchased a ticket for our annual gala on the evening of **Thursday, October 6**, there is still time. We are excited to announce that the food at the in-person gala will be from [DC Central Kitchen](#), an organization that combats hunger and poverty through job training and job creation. [Read about them here](#).

Our theme will be “[Peacebuilding in the Spirit of Sts. Francis and Clare](#),” and our speakers and honorees will include **Margaret Carney, OSF** (Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities), **Gloria Purvis** (America



Media), **Marie Dennis** (Pax Christi), and **Greg Jackson** (Community Justice Action Fund). [Click here for more details and bios of our speakers.](#)

We are delighted to host our gala **in person for the first time since 2019** and we hope that as many of you as possible will join us for **dinner and our program at St. Francis Hall, Washington, D.C. at 6:00pm**. For those out of the D.C. area, we will **livestream the program from 7:30-8:30 pm ET (4:30-5:30pm PT)**. [Get your tickets here.](#)

Sign up for the Center for Migration Studies' *Migration Update*

The [Center for Migration Studies of New York](#) (CMS) has redesigned and improved its weekly Migration Update newsletter, and would like to invite interested institutions and individuals to subscribe to this free service.

[Migration Update](#) is a digest of news, faith reflections, and analysis of international migration and refugee protection. It provides migration policy updates each week – from the United States and internationally -- in Spanish and English. It also offers short summaries of relevant research and reports from CMS, announcements of funding opportunities, and information on upcoming events.

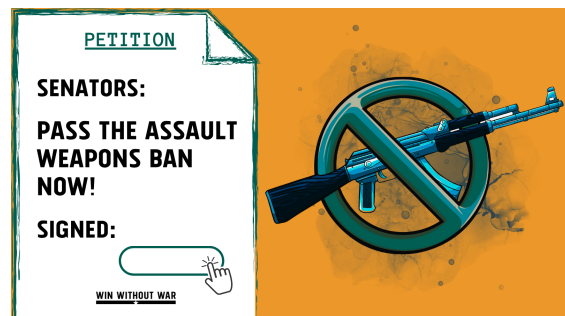
CMS created Migration Update in 2013 for a pastoral audience, and it extensively covers Catholic social teaching and important statements from Catholic leaders and developments in Catholic institutions, as well as from other faith communities. **To subscribe to this free newsletter and to browse through past issues, [please click here.](#)**



Continue to Urge the Senate to Pass the Assault Weapons Ban

Mass shootings are a painful reality in our country. No group or place seems exempt: children and churchgoers, grocery stores and nightclubs alike are affected. But one thing that's common is the weapon of choice used to commit the violence. It is almost always an assault weapon.

One month ago, the House passed an assault weapons ban for the first time in almost 30 years. This legislation will take weapons of war off our streets. [Click here to tell the Senate to take action by passing the Assault Weapons Ban.](#)



On **Thursday, September 22nd from 1-3pm ET, March Fourth** (a group formed after the Highland Park tragedy) is leading a march and rally in Washington D.C. with survivors from Sandy Hook, Uvalde, Highland Park, and other gun violence prevention advocates. If you're able to [join them in person, click here](#). For those outside the DC Metro area, uplift their message to your senators and [demand that they pass the Assault Weapons Ban.](#)

Franciscans Collaborating in Response to Ukrainian

Trauma from War

Last month in Legnica, Poland, the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Offices of the Conventual and Capuchin Franciscans co-sponsored a [Social Theater Workshop at the Conventual Franciscan Friary](#).

Responding to the war in Ukraine, several friars, including FAN Board Member Fr. Michael Lasky, OFM Conv., and Joel De Jesus, OFM Cap., worked with Ukrainian Secular Franciscans to organize a facilitator's training program. Its purpose is to provide new skills for those in a position to assist Ukrainians suffering from war trauma, especially children.



Participants learned how to work in trauma response and psychosocial animation using a series of exercises and activities, internationally called Social Theater Training. This integral care giving ministry also considers the spiritual sphere of vulnerable people. **Read more and see photos of the workshop by [clicking here](#).**

Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

In light of National Migration Week 2022 and the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, during our regularly scheduled monthly national Franciscan Justice Circles call on September 14, we will be having two special guest speakers: **Bushra Seddique**, Journalist and refugee from Afghanistan ([read her article](#)) and **Todd Scribner**, Assistant Director of Education and Outreach for the USCCB.

For that reason we would like to expand the call this month beyond the Franciscan Justice Circles and invite others in our network who are interested in advocacy related to our migrant and refugee sisters and brothers. We welcome you to join us on **Wednesday, Sept. 14 at 1pm Pacific / 3pm Central / 4pm Eastern**. The call is hosted via Zoom and if you would like to join, please [contact us](#).

We will record the meeting for those who are unable to join us and make it available on our YouTube Channel.

**Sept. 14
JOIN US**

Special theme for our FJC monthly national call:
"Building the Future with Migrants & Refugees"

Two guest speakers:

- **Bushra Seddique**, Journalist and refugee from Afghanistan (read her article in The Atlantic)
- **Todd Scribner**, Assistant Director of Education and Outreach for the USCCB

All Are Welcome
1pm Pacific
2pm Mountain
3pm Central
4pm Eastern

Join via Zoom Meeting
[Click this link](#)
Meeting ID: 854 5453 1076
Password: 397601

How can we foster an enriching encounter with migrants and refugees?