

A Moment of Holy Curiosity

Often when I read the Gospel for the [31st Sunday in Ordinary Time](#), I wonder if I would have been so curious and motivated to see Jesus that I would have the courage or interior freedom to climb a tree to do so. I have to say that not even a pope passing by would make me do it. But Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector and a wealthy man, climbed the tree.

Albert Einstein once said: "The important thing is not to stop questioning...Never lose a holy curiosity." I consider Zacchaeus as having had a moment of holy curiosity. It brought him to climb a sycamore tree in order to see the object of his curiosity. He did not care about the opinions of the people around him and his curiosity was rewarded more than he could have imagined. Jesus was able to see his heart, to see his curiosity as a moment of openness to the stirrings of his heart, and to reach out to him.



The encounter with Jesus opened Zacchaeus' eyes and maybe for the first time he was able to see people around him as brothers and sisters and to acknowledge the suffering that his greed may have caused them. The encounter with Jesus was not theoretical but real and concrete for him. He promised to give half of his wealth to the poor and do right by the people he cheated. Jesus praised this resolution as salvation.

Pope Francis says, "Works of love directed to one's neighbor are the most perfect external manifestation of the interior grace of the Spirit." He also says, "I encourage financial experts and political leaders to ponder the words of [Saint John Chrysostom], one of the sages of antiquity: 'Not to share one's wealth with the poor is to steal from them and to take away their livelihood. It is not our own goods which we hold, but theirs.'"

May we heed the words of Pope Francis and the example of Zacchaeus in believing that conversion is possible and that no one is excluded from this invitation.

Maybe the next time I feel the stirring of holy curiosity I will be courageous enough to climb a tree.

Sr. Maria Orlandini, OFS
FAN Director of Advocacy

Suggested Action:

As you read the FAN Newsletter today, choose an action and act on it.
Read the Second Reading (2 Thess. 1:11-2:2) as an encouragement to do more.

Suggested Petitions:

For those of us who are searching, that we may find our tree and have the courage to climb it.
We pray...
For people in need of food, peace, or consolation, may they find a brother or sister ready to reach out. We pray...

Prayer: St. Pope Paul VI

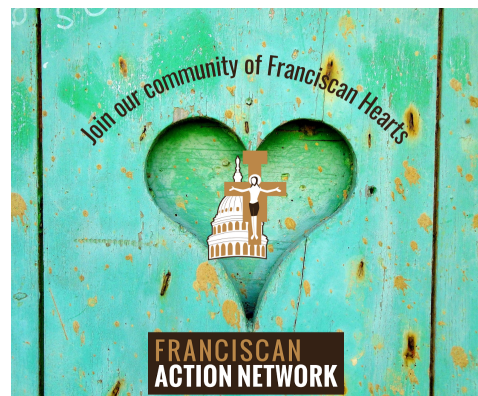
**God of peace, we bless you and we thank you
because you have sent us your beloved Son, Jesus,
making him the paschal mystery,
the architect of all salvation,
the source of all peace.
Open yet more our hearts
to the needs of all brothers and sisters,
so that we may be better able
to build a true peace.
Remember, Father of mercy
all who are in pain, who suffer and die
in the cause of a more just world.
For the people of every race,
of every tongue – may your kingdom come:
your kingdom of justice,
of peace, of love; and may the earth
be filled with your glory.**

Amen.

Join our Franciscan Hearts: Become a Monthly Donor

Giving monthly is one of the best ways to support FAN's work, which channels and unites the cries of our Franciscan hearts for peace and justice.

Through monthly contributions from justice-minded people such as yourselves, FAN will be better able to serve you, our network. We will be able to grow our [community of Franciscan hearts](#) to ensure that Franciscan values are heard in our capital and across the country. We hope you will consider [joining us](#).



What is COP27 and why is it important?

For two weeks in November, nearly every nation will send representatives to meet



in Egypt at a global climate summit: the 27th annual Conference of Parties, better known as [COP27](#). The Nature Conservancy has a [terrific explainer about the summit](#).

As we move toward this important global climate meeting, many organizations will host educational events to offer ideas for protecting our common home. Here are a few:

- **Franciscans International** will host a panel discussion on the role of the Legally Binding Instrument for business accountability in combating the planetary crisis on Oct 25, 2022 at 12:45pm ET / 9:45am PT. [Register via Zoom](#)
- **Franciscan Friars of the U.S.** are cosponsoring a webinar on protecting communities in the clean energy transition Wednesday, October 26 at 7pm ET / 4pm PT. [Click here to register](#).
- **Climate Nexus** will host a webinar on [Migration, Losses and Damages](#) on October 25, 2022 at 11 am ET/8 am PT
- **Interfaith Power and Light** will hold a [webinar about COP27](#) and how to support the faith voice from home on Tuesday, October 25, 2022, at 7 p.m. ET/4 p.m. PT
- **Interfaith Power and Light** has a [petition urging the Biden Administration to lead by example](#) by making bold and just climate commitments at COP27.

The poor human rights record of Egypt, the host country for COP27, is a major concern, affecting the freedom of international civil society to mobilize at the summit and the ability of Egyptian activists to attend:

- Egyptian human rights coalition [COP Civic Space has a petition](#) urging Egypt to open civic space and release the many Egyptians arbitrarily detained for peaceful assembly.

Faith Voices Call: Citizenship for All

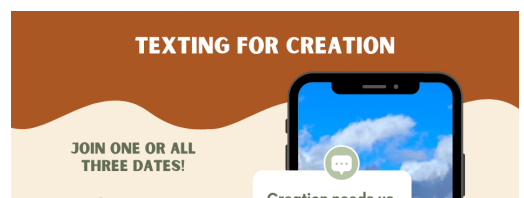
The recent Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals [decision](#) on DACA deeply affects the lives of thousands of immigrant youth. As people of faith and conscience, it is our responsibility to fight for the permanent protections that all immigrants deserve.

The Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC) will host a webinar on **Thursday, Oct. 27 at 8pm ET / 5pm PT** to educate about what these decisions mean for current DACA recipients, the future of the program, and what you can do to advocate for a pathway to citizenship. Join on [Facebook live](#).



Sign up to Text for Creation

Volunteers from all states are invited to join **Catholic Climate Covenant** for a campaign to [contact climate-concerned Catholic voters via text](#). Using a



computer or tablet (your phone number will not be shared), you will send text messages to Catholic sisters and brothers across the country and encourage them to vote to protect our common home.

There are two sessions available to join and training will be provided on each call:

Wednesday, October 26, 8:00-9:00 PM ET: [register here](#)

Wednesday, November 2, 7:00-8:00 PM ET: [register here](#)

[Get more information here.](#)

Franciscan Community Supports Truth & Healing Legislation

U.S. Interior Secretary Debra Haaland announced last year a Federal Indian Boarding School Truth Initiative as an important first step in the government taking accountability for the devastating consequences of the Indian boarding school policies. The Truth and Healing Commission would provide an important avenue for investigations into the losses and lasting effects of abuses that occurred. This important legislation is currently in committee. Find [more information here](#).



FAN Institutional Member the **Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration** recently sent a [letter](#) to U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin and U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland stating their support for Truth and Healing legislation. [Read the letter here](#).

Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

Franciscans have a rich history of advocacy, beginning with St. Francis himself who, in his 1220 "Letter to the Rulers of the People," encouraged civil authorities to be mindful of gospel truths.

Franciscan advocacy in our current time is the strategic and deliberate process to bring about change in policies and practices to promote justice, peace, integrity of creation, and human dignity. Advocacy also helps people realize their power to affect the decision making processes that impact them.

FAN has compiled a small library of Advocacy Resources to help you get started. [Click here to access these Advocacy Resources](#).



[Contact us](#) if you'd like to join with others also interested in Franciscan values-guided advocacy in your region!