

When Foolishness = Wisdom

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There are seven Wisdom Books in the Hebrew Scriptures. In one of them, the Book of Wisdom, Solomon prays for the gift of wisdom, saying “Now with You is Wisdom, who knows Your works and was present when You made the world” (9:9). If wisdom is good and holy, why, in the gospel for the [14th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#),



does Jesus exclaim to his Father, “although you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, you have revealed them to little ones”? In the passage preceding that, Jesus has chastised the unrepentant towns for their pride and arrogance in not listening to him, for thinking they are wise because they, the Scribes and Pharisees, were educated men of learning.

It seems that the opposite of wisdom is not foolishness, but arrogance and pride. The “little ones” are not only children but all those who open themselves to listening to the Spirit and relying on God’s grace. Paul tells us that in the eyes of the world, Jesus offering himself to executioners out of love for humanity was “foolishness.” God’s foolishness, then, is true wisdom. Francis of Assisi understood this and called himself a fool for Christ, giving himself totally to following in the footprints of Jesus as the Poverello, the Little Poor Man.

The “little ones” to whom God’s wisdom is revealed can be highly educated and those with little or no schooling. Many men and women with little formal education, but who are taught by life’s experiences and by faith, have grown in true wisdom. It is the “little ones” whom Jesus invites to come to him, to lay their burdens down and find rest in his meek and humble heart. Am I foolish enough, humble enough, loving enough, to be truly wise?

Sr. Marie Lucey, OSF
FAN Associate Director

Suggested Action:

Reflect on a time when you have done something that seemed foolish to others, but which brought you peace of heart.

Suggested Petitions:

May we learn from life’s experiences to be kind, compassionate, generous, and wise, we pray...
May we bring our burdens and those of all who suffer to Jesus, who promises rest, we pray...

Prayer - Evelyn Underhill

**Jesus, who bade all who carry heavy burdens to come to you,
refresh us with your presence and your power.**

Quiet our understandings and give ease to our hearts
by bringing us close to things infinite and eternal.
Open to us the mind of God that in his light we may see light.
And crown your choice of us to be your servants by making us
springs of strength and joy to all whom we serve.

Amen.

Thank you for Supporting the FAN Benefit!

Last week, the **Franciscan Action Network annual benefit** found the staff serving an unconventional gala dinner to our neighbors who needed it at the Franciscan Center in Baltimore.

Our online program on Wednesday, June 28 explored the vocation of Franciscans to build relational care for and solidarity with the poor. The interview with Fr. David Couturier, OFM Cap., and panel discussion with those providing direct service to and advocacy for the impoverished and unhoused offered fresh insights.



If you missed the benefit, it's not too late! Please [click here](#) to contribute and receive a link to the recorded program. Thank you to all of you who make this work possible!

TAKE ACTION: Tell Congress to Support Policies that Welcome Asylum Seekers

In May, the Biden administration replaced the harmful Title 42 border policy with a restrictive asylum ban, in effect replacing one restriction for those seeking protection at our doors with another. Border conditions are increasingly dangerous for migrant families, children, and others at risk.

Now is the time to urge Congress to reject proposals that seek to militarize the border and to support community-centered welcome for those fleeing persecution. [Contact your Members of Congress](#) to urge their support on policies that welcome asylum seekers and reject the further militarization of the border.



Tell EPA: No Amount of Mercury is Safe

Last month, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed important new protections against mercury pollution from coal-burning power plants. This proposal is a big step forward, but more is needed. Mercury is



a dangerous and deadly neurotoxin that can permanently damage babies' developing brains. It ends up in our food when pollution from coal-fired power plants is released into the air and rains down on our waters. There is no safe level of mercury consumption.

Take action and [urge the EPA to set strong mercury pollution standards](#).

Climate Action After High School: A Community Conversation

Save the date to join Catholic Climate Covenant on **Wednesday, August 9 at 2pm ET/1pm CT/11am PT** as they host a community conversation for recent high school grads looking to be involved in climate action efforts on their college campus and beyond. Attendees will hear from current college students and virtually meet other recent high school grads involved in faith-based climate justice efforts.

[RSVP to attend by clicking here.](#)



Save the Date!

Climate Action After High School: A Community Conversation

Wednesday, August 9 at 11am PT/1pm CT/2pm ET

Register at bit.ly/ClimateActionAfterHS

Not sure what's next after graduating?

Catholic Climate Covenant hosts a community conversation for recent high school grads looking to be involved in climate action efforts on their college campus and beyond. Attendees will hear from current college students and virtually meet other recent high school grads involved in faith-based climate justice efforts.

Franciscan Justice Circles Updates

We welcome you to join FJCs and other Franciscan-inspired justice-seekers from across the country for the first [Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference](#) this October 13-16 in Washington, DC! FAN is pleased to be partnering with the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities (AFCU) in organizing this conference, where we will strengthen our ability to bring our authentic voices to bear on issues facing our communities, nation and world.

With the urgency of climate change compounded by environmental racism's disproportionate harm on people of color and those in poverty, the conference will focus on embracing an advocacy response to these interconnected issues facing creation and our communities through the lens of the Franciscan tradition. To stay informed, [please let us know you're interested!](#)



Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference

Generations advocating together for creation and the excluded,
"for we know that things can change"
(Laudato Si' par. 13)

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**IN PERSON: OCTOBER 13-16, 2023
WASHINGTON, DC**

VIRTUAL OPTION: OCTOBER 14, 2023

FRANCISCAN ACTION NETWORK **FRANCISCAN JUSTICE CIRCLES** **Association of FRANCISCAN Colleges and Universities**