

## Did I find my treasure?

I have to admit that I usually skip passages of the gospel that speak of wailing and grinding of teeth, so for the [17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time](#) it was easy for me to choose the shorter selection available.



This week, the scriptures invite us to make a choice after discovering a treasure. The gospel asks us to choose to sell everything to buy something of far greater value. The first reading shows us that a young king, who could have asked for everything, literally everything in wealth and power, is able to choose the far greater richness of an understanding heart and the capacity to distinguish right from wrong. Paul's letter confronts us with the truth that "we know that all things work for good for those who love God" and that we are all called by God with a clear purpose if only we choose to believe it.

Were we ever faced with a life-changing choice? Did we ever find a treasure in our life for which giving up everything else was the most compelling thing to do?

I envy the savviness of Solomon, the fact that his heart was in the right place in his desire to be really of service to his people. The lure of money and power did not obfuscate his understanding of why he was chosen as a king. What a great example for us and for people in positions of leadership today and every day.

Why was he able to do so? I believe he had found a treasure for which to live by, a life worth living in obedience to the God who chose him. I believe all of us need to find, if we did not find it already, a treasure, a pearl in our life that will give meaning to everything we choose to do, a clear purpose for our choices.

I know my treasure was when I chose religious life in the enthusiasm of my youth, ready to give up everything in order to obtain that treasure, which I found in the field of my life. From that moment a long time ago, many other choices presented themselves that could have threatened to dim the sparkle of my pearl. Maybe it happened to Solomon too, but the important thing is to keep believing that "we know all things work for good for those who love God" and working for good includes our work at FAN for justice.

Sr. Maria Orlandini, OSF  
Director of Advocacy

### **Suggested Action:**

Ask yourself: What is my treasure? Is working for justice one of your treasures?

### **Suggested Petitions:**

For our Church and Civic leaders, may they too follow the example of King Solomon and pray for an understanding heart, we pray...

For ourselves, may we seek to follow ever more closely the call to continue to conform ourselves to the image of Jesus, we pray...

### Prayer:

**Nothing is more practical than  
finding God, than  
falling in Love  
in a quite absolute, final way.  
What you are in love with,  
what seizes your imagination, will affect everything.  
It will decide  
what will get you out of bed in the morning,  
what you do with your evenings,  
how you spend your weekends,  
what you read, whom you know,  
what breaks your heart,  
and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.  
Fall in love, stay in love,  
and it will decide everything.**

**Amen**

**By Joseph Whelan, S.J., former provincial of the Maryland Province and American assistant to the superior general (sometimes mistakenly attributed to Pedro Arrupe, S.J.)**

## Franciscan Justice Circles: Register Now for October Conference

Please join FJCs and other Franciscan-inspired justice-seekers from across the country for the first [Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference](#) **October 13-16, 2023 in Washington, DC!** FAN is pleased to join with the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities (AFCU) to create an exciting intergenerational gathering, where we will strengthen our ability to bring our authentic voices to bear on the challenges facing our communities and common home.

With the urgency of climate change compounded by disproportionate effects on people of color and those in poverty, the conference will focus on embracing an advocacy response to these interconnected issues through the lens of the Franciscan tradition. FJC and non-FJC members are welcome. [Registration is open](#) and **spaces are limited!**



## Confronting Environmental Racism Campaign

Franciscan Action Network and the Franciscan Federation are undertaking a joint project to raise awareness about and advocacy related to [confronting environmental racism](#), instances in which communities of color are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation.

In 2023-4, we will focus advocacy efforts on three emblematic **cases of environmental racism in Louisiana, New Mexico, and Pennsylvania**, which are highlighted on our [new campaign webpage](#). We will organize webinars this fall to learn more from people affected by environmental racism and how those outside their communities can amplify their advocacy efforts.



Please check out the website and [sign up here for updates and advocacy opportunities](#).

## Join FAN for the March on Washington

The 2023 March on Washington is the 60th anniversary of the pivotal March in August 1963 organized by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other Civil Rights Leaders. Get details at <https://www.mow2023.com/>

*It's Not A Commemoration, It's A Continuation!*

[Register to join us by clicking here](#). Email us at [info@franciscanaction.org](mailto:info@franciscanaction.org) for meet-up information.



## March to End Fossil Fuels in New York City

On September 17, tens of thousands of people will gather outside the United Nations in New York City as the Secretary-General hosts a first-of-its-kind Climate Ambition Summit to demand that nations stop fossil fuel expansion. Several of FAN's staff will join marchers from all over the country to urge President Biden to: 1)

stop approvals for new fossil projects; 2) phase out oil and gas production on public lands and water; and 3) declare a climate emergency. [Click here for information and to sign up](#). Email us at [info@franciscanaction.org](mailto:info@franciscanaction.org) for meet-up information.



## Urge Support for Afghan Adjustment Act

Recently, Congress reintroduced the [Afghan Adjustment Act](#), which would establish a path for displaced Afghans to apply for permanent status in the U.S. and expand pathways to protection for Afghans who remain left behind. The bill remains a [bipartisan effort](#) led by Sens. Klobuchar (D-MN) and Graham (R-SC) and Reps. Blumenauer (D-OR-3) and Miller-Meeks (R-IA-1).

Almost two years after the evacuation, tens of thousands of Afghans are in the U.S. via humanitarian parole, which provides only temporary protection and no clear path to permanent status. [Click here](#) to urge your members of Congress to cosponsor the Afghan Adjustment Act and support its immediate passage into law.



## The Intersection of Nonviolence & Care for Creation

The Catholic Nonviolence Initiative is offering a 5-Week Virtual Conversation Series exploring the crucial link between violence and the climate crisis, emphasizing the importance of nonviolent strategies in achieving sustainable ecological integrity. [Find more information here.](#)

**On October 2, 2023 at 7pm ET (4pm PT),** "Theological Foundations of Environmental Justice" will explore key themes of the Church's position on environmentalism and discuss the role of active nonviolence and intergenerational peacemaking in achieving Pope Francis' vision for a Laudato Si' Future.

**On October 9, 2023 at 7pm ET (4pm PT),** "The Multifaceted Nature and Realities of Environmental Violence" will look at the realities of environmental violence in their respective contexts, including extractivism, environmental racism, the displacement of people due to climate change, and other environmental issues.

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

