



Prairie Fire News

Franciscans of the Prairie Regional Fraternity, O.F.S.

Established 1994

Volume 2; Issue 1



Justice



Peace



Integrity of Creation



46th Annual March for Life

As I write this Newsletter, the 46th Annual March for Life is happening. This event is such an important part of our life as Catholic Christians. We recognize the many slogans that have been created to help us remember the grave importance of

every person's right to live. *"The fundamental human right, the presupposition of every other right, is the right to life itself. This is true of life from the moment of conception until its natural end. Abortion, consequently, cannot be a human right -- it is the very opposite. It is a deep wound in society."*

~ Pope Benedict XVI,

"Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception."

From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person -- among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life."

– CCC: 2270

Most of us can't get to D.C. for this remarkable experience. So, hopefully you have joined it on EWTN, or participated in some other way. Perhaps you are participating

Continued on next page



Inside this issue:

800th Anniversary of Sultan & St. Francis Meeting	2
Catholic Charities	3
Catholic Climate Covenant Webinar	4

COMING REGIONAL EVENTS

March 8—10, 2019

Regional Meetings & Elective Chapter

July 20, 2019

Regional Formation Gathering

September 27—29, 2019

Regional Retreat and Silver Jubilee

JANUARY is POVERTY AWARENESS MONTH

Here is a brief video about Two Feet—Works of Mercy & Justice. Tells a little more about the USCCB program.

Click on arrow to view.



Continued from Page One

in the *9 Days For Life* which runs from 14 January to the 22nd. (You can still sign up at [**JOIN**](#).) Perhaps your community is conducting its own March at a different time. Of course, you can always pray the Rosary at a local Planned Parenthood or other facility that promotes abortion. You can help at a local Birthright facility. You can help a woman who is have problems with her pregnancy. The ways of joining in this important annual event are limited only by your imagination.

“The new evangelization calls for followers of Christ who are unconditionally pro-life: who will acclaim, celebrate and serve the Gospel of life in every situation. A sign of hope is the increasing recognition that the dignity of human life must never be taken away, even in the case of someone who has done great evil.”

~ St. John Paul II

The, there is the International program of 40 Days for Life which occurs at different time throughout the year in many countries of the world. The website provides more

information and locations of local events, throughout the world. ([Click here for the website.](#))

Although we all recognize the importance of changing the mindset of modern society about abortion, as Catholic Christians and Franciscans, we do not forget about all others, especially the poor and other vulnerable people. Cardinal Bernadin called this the “seamless garment of life.” We remember and work for the homeless, the hungry, the refugee, the displaced, the unemployed, the imprisoned, the naked, the elderly, the frail, the end of life, the handicapped, and all others who are not valued in this society because they are not able to contribute because of their limitations. All life is precious and must be protected.

“America you are beautiful . . . and blessed The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being, but especially the weakest and most

defenseless. If you want equal justice for all and true freedom and lasting peace, then America, defend life.”

~ Pope John Paul II.

As important as the issue of eliminating the need for abortion is, we must not forget our obligation to everyone else. To do so, would be to forget the maxim of Christ in Matthew 25. So, we balance the many needs of our most vulnerable as we work for the Right to Life for all people.

“Nothing is impossible with God.”

~Luke 1:37

*The ultimate test of your greatness is the way you treat every human being...
~ St. John Paul II*



Pakistan: Christians and Muslims Commemorate the 800th Anniversary of Encounter Between St. Francis and Sultan

To commemorate the historic event of the encounter between St. Francis with the Sultan of Egypt, AL-Kamil in the year 1219, modernize it in today’s Pakistan, launching a universal message of tolerance, friendship, dialogue, common commitment for peace: in this spirit the National Commission for Interreli-

gious Dialogue and Ecumenism, within the Conference of Catholic Bishops of Pakistan, organized a meeting to inaugurate the activities that, in 2019, will commemorate the event in Pakistan 800 years ago, in the name of Islamic-Christian dialogue.

Read the rest of the article [HERE](#).)





"They say that at one time we were civilized and educated. We could talk to the winged-people, the four-legged, creeping-crawlers, mammals, and fish-people. They say that at one time we could all talk to each other. No matter how many countless languages, forms and shapes,

and symbols there were, they say we all spoke the same mind. That is called civilized, or educated. We drifted from there to here and got ourselves caught without spirit, and we ended up with zero."

~Black Elk

From Catholic Charities USA

[As we are still in the early weeks] of the 116th Congress, Catholic Charities USA would like to share with you some excerpts from Pope Francis' World Day of Peace Message entitled *Good politics is at the service of peace*.

In his message, Pope Francis reminds us that politics should serve as a means to fight injustice and violence by protecting a nation's citizens and pursuing the common good rather than private interests.

He reminds us that those in political office must use their office in service to others by basing their work on the foundation of charity and human virtues.

He outlined this idea through the "Beatitudes of the Politician," proposed by Vietnamese Cardinal François-Xavier.

Nguyễn Văn Thuận. Văn Thuận offered eight beatitudes for politicians to ponder and practice:

- Blessed be the politician with a lofty sense and deep understanding of his role.
- Blessed be the politician who personally exemplifies credibil-

ity.

- Blessed be the politician who works for the common good and not his or her own interest.
- Blessed be the politician who remains consistent.
- Blessed be the politician who works for unity.
- Blessed be the politician who works to accomplish radical change.
- Blessed be the politician who is capable of listening.
- Blessed be the politician who is without fear.

CUSA remains committed to working with our leaders in and out of government to exude these virtues.

Faith and the Common Good

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms.

How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experi-

enced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried . . .

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!" . . .

Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation.

In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words division, "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. . . .

Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

Amen.

From *This Nonviolent life—Daily Inspiration for your non-violent journey*
~Pace e Bene Nonviolent Service

"It is a great testimony to the connectedness of life on earth that the fates of the largest and the tiniest life should be so closely dependent on each other."

~Steven Johnson

**Catholic Perspectives on Investment in and Divestment
from Fossil Fuel Interests**
Thursday, January 31st
2:00-3:00 pm

[Register for Webinar Here](#)



From *This Nonviolent life—Daily Inspiration for your non-violent journey*
~Pace e Bene Nonviolent Service

"We have lived our lives by the assumption that what was good for us would be good for the world. We have been wrong. We must change our lives so that it will be possible to live by the contrary assumption, that what is good for the world will be good for us. And that requires that we make the effort to know the world and learn what is good for it."

~Wendell Berry