



## Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City Prayer and Action Network

**BEING THANKFUL:** While many of us will be sitting down to enjoy a hearty Thanksgiving meal with friends and family, others, including faith leaders, immigrant rights and labor leaders, will be in a tent on the National Mall continuing their "[Fast for Families: A Call for Immigration Reform and Citizenship](#)." Leaders are fasting every day and night, abstaining from all food - except water - to move the hearts and compassion of members of Congress to pass immigration reform with a path to citizenship. As fasters in the tent, the Franciscan Action Network issued a [joint statement](#), which said: "We refuse to dwell on the frustrations of 'wait.' We rise with them [other social justice leaders] and declare our moral obligation, grounded in the words of God spoken through the prophets, to move the compassion of elected leadership in the House, and to inspire a resilient movement to cease the deportations, suffering, sorrow and fear and usher a new structure of laws for the good of our country men and women and the sake of our values." (Source: FAN)

Bishop Wester met with the fasters in the tent on Nov. 14, as reported at <http://ncronline.org/blogs/immigration-and-church/bishop-visits-activists-fasting-immigration-reform>. He too will join in the fast during Advent.

We express our deep gratitude for the fasters who forego the traditional food fest in solidarity with our vulnerable immigrant brothers and sisters, and for the undocumented in our country, who serve all of us on a daily basis—harvesting our food, building our homes, caring for our children—while living in the shadows of society.

**What can you do?** The Franciscan Action Network and Network, an organization of women religious, are joining with other faith and labor groups in calling for a national fast day on Dec. 3. Join in solidarity with the fasters and immigrants and spend the 3<sup>rd</sup> fasting and saying prayers for immigrants and immigration reform. To show your support, you can sign up to fast on the 3<sup>rd</sup> by sending an email to [events@franciscanaction.org](mailto:events@franciscanaction.org).

Don't forget "One Human Family, Food for All" on Dec. 10. Join us in prayer at noon, local time, Tuesday, December 10, 2013 for the campaign kickoff. Pope Francis will launch the worldwide movement to respond to the needs of the poor and vulnerable in our midst by praying and acting to end hunger. At noon local time, a global wave of prayer will begin in Tonga and will progress around the world until it reaches American Samoa some 24 hours and more than 164 countries later. Pledge your prayerful participation [here](#). Additional campaign resources will be available at the [Catholic Charities website](#).

**GREEN TIP OF THE WEEK:** If every family in the U.S. bought one less package of paper plates a year, we could save almost half a million trees. Help out by using reusable plates, utensils and

cups. If reusables don't work for you, try cutlery made of 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper, sugarcane, or corn – and all are compostable. Don't forget to stock up on reusable containers for the mountain of leftovers.

**PRAYER:** We thank you, most holy God,  
for the gifts of life and love and laughter, for time to grow and strength to do.

We thank you for all the good things of this earth, and for the chance to know and love you,  
through Jesus.

We remember Jesus - our friend and brother.  
We remember how he loved us to the end.  
We remember how on the night before he died, he called his friends together for a final meal.  
As he did then, so he does now.

He opens his heart, to them and us.  
He gives himself totally, for them and us, in Word and sacrament,  
through suffering and death, and by rising from the dead,  
to live with you, great God of all.

Pour out your Spirit upon us, God,  
your rescuing, reclaiming, renewing Spirit,  
joining us together in your community of love. Hand touching hand.  
Heart linked to heart.  
Each person connected with each person, in generous service to one another,  
the very bonding of Christ's love.

Keep all who share in the bond of Christ,  
united in truth and love.  
Make of us a community of life-giving power,  
a sign to all people of your compassionate care.

We make our prayer in and through  
the heart and Spirit of Christ.