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## Civic Friendship— Restoring Hope for A Truly Common Good?

By Paul J. Wadell



Has civic discourse become impossible? Are we so fragmented and polarized that common ground and consensus are "relics of a distant past?" Writer and professor, Dr. Paul Wadell walks us through a hopeful challenge in this essay.

"Obviously, something must change because if it doesn't the social fabric of our country will only continue to deteriorate. Something must change because there is nothing hopeful, nothing promising, and certainly nothing magnanimous about a political discourse that is characterized more by suspicion, mistrust, selfishness, and animosity than by good will, respect, generosity of spirit, and even charity. Something must change and, strangely enough, a way out of the mess in which we find ourselves may be through friendship."

[Read the whole essay here.](#)

*Paul Wadell is Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at St. Norbert College in De Pere, WI, and a member of the Passionist JPIC Committee.*

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## Critical Action for U.S. DACA Recipients



The next week is critical for immigrants in the U.S. We need to keep the focus on the threat to Dreamer youth seeking a permanent place in the only home most have ever known. Make your voices heard. Call your Members of Congress at

(202) 224-3121 and demand a bipartisan solution that provides a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers and prioritizes family unity.

USCCB's Justice for Immigrants has prepared a [Family-Based Immigration and DREAMER toolkit](#) for information and advocacy.

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## Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival



Fifty years ago, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King called for a Poor People's Campaign to begin a "revolution of values" in America. He and other leaders invited people of all races and religions to unite against the evils of

racism, poverty, and militarism.

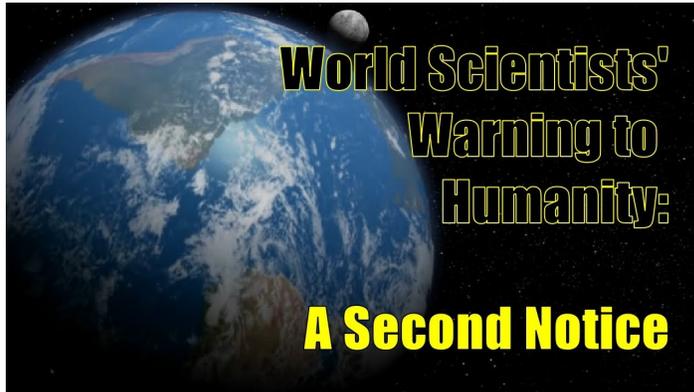
The new U.S. campaign is reigniting these efforts to unite the poor, disenfranchised, and marginalized to transform our nation's political, economic and moral structures. Over 30 state campaigns launched at state capitals across the U.S. on February 5, "serving notice that if our voices are not heard and our issues remain unaddressed, we are prepared to take direct action and engage in nonviolent civil disobedience."

- [More background here](#)
- [History and context here](#)

- **Taking up MLK's Mantle**

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## The World Scientists' Warning to Humanity: A Second Notice



We have recently been informed by the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists that we are now only **two minutes from midnight on the atomic threat clock.**

Twenty-five years ago, the Union of Concerned

Scientists and more than 1700 independent scientists, including the majority of living Nobel laureates in the sciences, penned the 1992 "World Scientists' Warning to Humanity." These concerned professionals called on humankind to curtail environmental destruction and they showed that humans were on a collision course with the natural world. Their alarm was based on ozone depletion, freshwater availability, marine life depletion, ocean dead zones, forest loss, biodiversity destruction, climate change, and continued human population growth. Fundamental changes were urgently need to avoid ecological disaster.

**Now we have been given a second notice in the journal Bioscience** entitled "World Scientists' Warning to Humanity: A Second Notice" by Bill Ripple et al. It includes 5,364 scientist signatories from 184 countries. This article is reaching millions of people with translations available in 15 languages.

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## Oppose the Repeal of the Clean Power Plan

The Clean Power Plan (CPP) was established by President Obama in 2015. It provides national limits on carbon pollution from power plants and aims to reduce emissions to 32% below 2005 levels by 2030. The CPP has the potential to develop a clean energy economy, create new jobs, and reduce health risks from carbon pollution.

In October 2017, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott



Pruitt announced his intention to end the CPP. Before the rule can be rescinded however, it must go through a public comment period.

Tell EPA Director Scott Pruitt to implement the CPP and protect our planet and our health. **Submit a public**

**comment to the federal register in favor of keeping the CPP.** Comments are being accepted through April 26, 2018.

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## Selected Lenten Resources



- **NEW from Maryknoll Embracing Jesus' Practice of Nonviolence.**
- **From the Franciscan Action Network**
- **From Pax Christi USA (e-version)**
- **From the Ignatian Tradition**
- **From Methodist Church General Commission on Religion and Race**

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## Linking Justice and Peace in the Lectionary



The following homily resources are from the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM). The Passionist JPIC office collaborates with other community JPIC offices and we would love to see other homily resources coming from the Passionist charism. Contact the **Passionist JPIC** office if you would like to

contribute. If you yourself do not give homilies please consider sharing these resources with a local priest.

**Sunday Feb. 11th** by Dianne Bergant, CSA

**Sunday Feb. 18th** by Dawn Nothwehr, OSF

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### Forward to a Friend

Be sure to forward this newsletter to friends who would be interested in the work of Passionist JPIC North America. We'll be happy to add them to our mailing list. You can update your mailing preferences for this list using the link below. Thank you!

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