

## Confirmation P2 FAMILY GATHERS October 2018

**October 1-31, 2018 Ordinary Time:** Did you know that October means “eighth month” in Latin? Why? In the old Roman calendar, the year began in spring, not in winter. Ordinary Time continues in October with its richness of solemnities, feasts, and memorials of the Lord and the Saints. Being a Franciscan parish we are particularly blessed with the October 4th feast day and month long celebration of St. Francis. In Ordinary Time the church and vestments of the priests are green.

**1. Pick a symbol** that you think represents Ordinary Time or the theme of this month’ FAMILY GATHERS and place it on your table.

**2. Select a prayer** you and your family will say at the start of the meal. You can create your own prayers or since October 4th is the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi try this Prayer of St. Francis.

*Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.*

*O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.*

**3. Family Gathers Topic of the Month:** We follow up on September's theme of CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING (CST) by looking at it from a second point of view; THE PASTORAL CYCLE (PC). The pastoral circle is a framework for analyzing, reflecting on and addressing existing social issues [such as poverty and marginalization] in a scientific manner based on the experience of reality and consistent with Catholic values. Here's a chart explaining the PC and below that is a table (*source: Center for Concern*) comparing/contrasting two women activists and their response to social issues. Share the PC and table with your family. Discuss with your family the activism of each woman and to which you best relate and why. Be prepared to share and submit your responses in the on line report.

### The Pastoral Cycle

1) Name the experience  
*What is happening?*

2) Look at the wider information and implications  
*Why is it happening?*

3) Where is God in the experience?  
*What does it mean?*

4) Bringing change  
*How shall we respond?*



	<b>EVA JOLY</b>	<b>SR. HELEN PREJEAN C.S.J.</b>
<b>EXPERIENCE</b>	Eva Joly was born in Oslo and traveled to France at age 18 to work as an au pair. She stayed in France and worked as a secretary while going to law school at night, specializing in financial matters. She became a magistrate by age 38 and, within 10 years, she had risen to the office of investigative judge in the High Court of Paris.	Sister Helen Prejean, S.S.J. describes herself as a “life-lover, anti-death penalty activist, and spiritual adviser for men and women on death row.” She was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and joined the Congregation of St. Joseph at the age of 18. At first a teacher, her life changed in 1982 when she visited and counseled Elmo Patrick Sonnier prior to his execution. She found her voice: she began to advocate against capital punishment. She also found Survive, a support group that counsels the families of victims of violence.
<b>ANALYSIS</b>	Joly’s dual training in law and finance, her case experience, and her tenacity have equipped her with forensic skills to prevent, detect, and respond to incidents of fraud and corruption and pursue perpetrators. She sees the relations between business processes and illegal activity, particularly at key points involving money laundering, shell corporations, tax evasion, trade misinvoicing, and other forms of illicit financial flows often hidden in plain sight. In the personal professional dimensions of her journey, she has joined a strong ethical sense with formidable business and legal investigative skills to build a profile as a principled leader.	Sister Helen advocates to end the death penalty and raises awareness about its effects on attorneys, prison guards, and families of convicted murderers and their victims. She chronicled her early experiences in <i>Dead Man Walking</i> in 1993; film, opera, and theatrical versions followed. She has given commencement addresses to more than 50 colleges and universities. She received the Robert M. Holstein Faith Doing Justice Award from the Ignatian Solidarity Network, the Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award, and the Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace Award.

<p><b>REFLECTION</b></p>	<p>Joly knows that illicit financial flows relate to various forms of fraud and corruption, including trafficking in drugs, arms, and people. Following the money helps unravel such conspiracies. In enforcing laws against such flow, she safeguards human rights and social justice, lowers the cost of capital, and enhances trust in institutions. Her vision for the common good has inspired her books in fight corruption; service to the French, Norwegian, Icelandic, and Afghan governments; and service as a French Green Party member of the European Parliament and presidential candidate.</p>	<p>“Activism is like riding a wave in a tiny boat. You can feel this immense power under you. You know you are connected to something powerful. Be read. Be poised. You’ve got have depth and you’ve got to be spiritually grounded or you won’t last long in this endeavor...Often enough, the outcome is going to break your heart. The suffering and defeat gets inside you and gnaws at you as if it were your own. It is this experience of compassion that will jolt you out your small ego-absorbed self and stir you hear to try and try again.”</p>
<p><b>ACTION</b></p>	<p>Joly’s global service, even in the face of death threats, has garnered numerous awards and other recognition, including an integrity award from Transparency International, European of the Year, and the Global Financial Integrity Award to Exemplary Leadership. Emulate her example by promoting global financial integrity to fight income inequality, tax evasion, and trafficking, and enable quality investment for the flourishing of communities and the global common good.</p>	<p>Sister Helen said, “As people of faith, we should offer our prayers for peace and then get out there and work for justice. That’s what Jesus would do.”</p>