



MESSAGES OF SUPPORT FROM THE NATIONAL FARM WORKER MINISTRY NETWORK FOR THE CIW FREEDOM FASTERS 2018

Stay strong! Know that you are such an inspiration to me and many others. Your love of Justice will eventually melt the cold hearts of those who don't now see the value of their workers. Bless you and thank you for your sacrifice and courage!

Carolyn Jaramillo

Loretto Community, Pacifica Social Justice

To all CIW fasting for justice in the fields and across the land:

Please know that we hold you in our hearts and minds as you fast for justice. It has been a privilege to stand with CIW in many places, locally, at the School Of the Americas.....we are strengthened by your actions and send loving support to you all.

Jean Chapman

North Carolina

Dear Friends/ Queridos compañeros y compañeras,

We are with you in solidarity and spirit.

Estamos con ustedes en solidaridad y espíritu.

Rev Ed Brandt and Family,

Dallas, OR

Member, Board of Directors

Farm Worker Ministry Northwest

Miembro, Junta Directiva,

Ministerio Campesino del Noroeste

Dear FASTER,

Thank you so much for all you are doing to highlight the plight of our farmworkers who work so hard to keep us all fed. Your actions are sure to help focus the *moral narrative where it belongs*, on the hearts and minds of consumers and companies like Wendy's who make the choice to buy products that are produced in unfair and unjust labor conditions.

#TimesUpWendys!

Keeping you and all the farmworkers in my prayers.

Love and blessings,

Rev. Connie Yost, Farm Worker Ministry Northwest

My name is Mark Schroeder. I am a past president of the National Farm Worker Ministry. I am a Franciscan Friar. I wanted you to know that the Catholic Church has publicly supported immigration reform and has always taught about fair working conditions, especially for farm workers.

You are in the prayers of my fellow Franciscan Brothers. We must continue to be people of nonviolence and hope. Thanks for all you are doing.

I join with those who are trying to stop the sexual violence in the fields. Please make my views known.

Cornelia Swain
Memphis, TN

Greetings from El Salvador where the farmers are beginning to clear the land for May planting. I send my greetings of support and encouragement! Your cause is just and your struggle for the long haul. Gracias ¡Adelante, companer@s!

Marilyn Lorenz

Dear CIW Fasters,

On behalf of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi we would like for you to know that we are praying for all of you. Yesterday about 25 sisters gathered where Sr. Marlene and I shared with the sisters the plight of the Farm Workers and the CIW. I feel that they were surprised and saddened by what people have to endure. Tomorrow we will be signing the Wendy's postcards and we have begun a daily prayer for all of you this week. God's blessings to all of you.

Sr. Mary Louise Schramer, OSF

"Dear Friends -

Your fast is so that others may eat and drink and live in simple dignity. For more than 50 years, farm workers in Florida have struggled against prejudice, inertia, and economic power to achieve those ends.

As a long-time Florida resident, I have accompanied worker groups in that struggle for almost 50 years. Even though it has been slow in coming and hard to win, progress has happened - and I give thanks for that.

But that progress makes Wendy's stubbornness and recalcitrance especially sorrowful - and needless. Eventually God's justice and compassion will prevail. Wendy's should learn that - but so far they haven't. Your witness is helping drive home the lesson again.

I'm no good at fasting. I am thankful that you are. Keep the faith!

peace, Sam Trickey, Florida Advisory Group
National Farm Worker Ministry
(Past President NFWM)

Dear Friends,

I and many Catholic sisters offer our supportive prayers from a distance as you participate in this justice event. Stay strong!

Sister Mary Martens, Dubuque IA

I stand with you as you fast for justice. It is a time-honored way to show the moral direction and you are in it for all to see. Many, many thanks and my hope and prayers for the success of your action.

Warm wishes, Mary E. Hunt

Mary E. Hunt, Ph.D.

Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual (WATER)

I will continue to boycott Wendy's and to support CIW in their time in NYC.

Clarice J. McKenzie

Michigan

You are strong! You are powerful! You are inherently worthy as a human being and citizen of this world. Sending strength and love this week and I look forward to joining you Thursday!

Eres fuerte. Eres poderoso. Eres intrínsecamente digno como ser humano y como un ciudadano del mundo. Enviando fuerza y amor esta semana y me uniré a ustedes jueves.

Tessa Salzman

Wendy's is a big organization, giving it a big responsibility to help improve worker conditions and prevent abuse in the fields. They need to join the Fair Food Program. It is the Right thing to do. Till then, we boycott with you.

Mary Hardesty, MD; SCNA

Louisville, KY

Keeping all fasters and other supporters in my prayers this week especially.

Nancy M. Sales

Birmingham, AL

On behalf of the 26 member organizations of the National Farm Worker Ministry, I offer my voice of support to you in this fast. Stay strong. Know that many around the country are praying for you, sending good thoughts to you, urging their best energy to boost your spirit as you do this public witness here at 280 Park Avenue this week. We love you and our hearts are standing with you...until we win!

Grace and peace,

Julie Taylor, Executive Director, National Farm Worker Ministry

Dear CIW Fasters and Warriors for Justice,

On this final day of your fasting, I can only imagine how you are feeling. Many supporters are headed towards New York in busses and cars to join with you for tonight's rally—and we are grateful to have some from our Disciples of Christ family of faith on their way, such as Chrissy Martinez, who is travelling from Cleveland, Ohio. We are also thankful to send you our blessings with our other partners from the National Farm Worker Ministry, including Julie Taylor who has been with you this week.

I am sad that I cannot personally join you this week. However, I am writing to let you know how constantly you have been in my heart and prayers throughout these days—particularly as you have been faced with the challenges of wind and rain and snow surrounding your fasting and witness.

May you be encouraged by the story of Jesus who, as soon as he was baptized, was sent out into the wilderness. The gospel of Mark, in Chapter 1 verse 12, says that Jesus was literally “pushed out...at once!!” The Spirit inside of Jesus was not something quiet or calm. Rather, it was a FORCE!! It was full of POWER—and was a power that verse 13 says pushed Jesus into confrontation with temptation for forty days with Satan in a wasteland. The whole time that Jesus was being tortured, though, we're told “the angels cared for him,” and he returned KNOWING that “the kingdom of God was near” (verse 15). And after that testing, he knew that he was READY AND STRONG for ministry ahead!!

I pray that EACH of you will feel strengthened and full of power because of your amazing witness for justice, as you have been fasting to urge Wendy's leadership to DO THE RIGHT THING by signing on to the Fair Food Program!! May God reward your courage with the result of justice for farmworkers. And, please know that I personally, and we, as the Disciples of Christ, will continue to boycott Wendy's until the time when Wendy's and Nelson Peltz hear and RESPOND TO your request!

May God bless you deeply, on this and every day!!

Sincerely, Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director, Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries In the United States and Canada

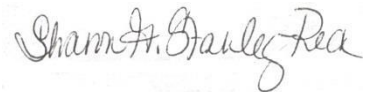
Dear Freedom Fasters and Partners,

As the President of Disciples Home Missions, I write to express the strong support of our Disciples ministries for your Freedom Fast. We applaud the courage of fasters and supporters as you continue to urge Nelson Peltz of Wendy's to join the Fair Food Program, in order to help end sexual violence in the fields for farmworkers. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) remains grateful to stand in partnership with you to support the boycott of Wendy's until the time when Mr. Nelson Peltz and the company agree to sign on to the Fair Food Program.

We stand in solidarity with your goals as farmworker leaders, and with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and the Alliance for Fair Food, as you seek fair wages and safe treatment of farmworkers. We remain grateful, also, to serve as a long-term and founding partner with the National Farm Worker Ministry, which likewise supports the goals of the CIW and other farmworker led groups seeking justice for those who grow the food we all eat in this nation.

May God bless you with success in your goals through the Freedom Fast, and may you feel strengthened throughout the fast by the voices of the prophets who never stopped calling God's people "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God"! (Micah 6:8)

Most Sincerely,



Rev. Sotello Long, President and Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea

Disciples Home Missions Director and Refugee & Immigration Ministries