

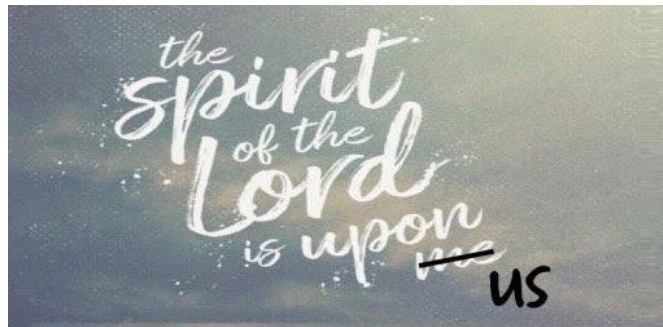
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## Let Us be the Voices for Justice

There are so many voices crying out for justice. Voices pleading, “I can’t breathe.” “Black lives matter.” Voices crying out for climate justice. Voices crying out to Respect Life. Then there are the silenced voices of those who cannot cry out. Those trapped in the grip of human trafficking or captive and oppressed in relationships of physical and psychological abuse, especially children, who not only lose their voice but are robbed of their humanity and their inherent dignity as children of God.



We’ve heard so many voices crying out for justice. The voices of Dorothy Day, Oscar Romero, Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King Jr. and John Lewis to name a few. We have the young, yet powerfully determined voice of Greta Thunberg speaking out for climate justice. With all these voices when, when are we going to listen?

Pope Francis in *Fratelli Tutti* compels us to listen, to listen to one another, to listen to the poor, to listen and transcend the “differences of origins, nationality, colour or religion”. We must also be attentive and listen deeply to our sacred scriptures, for the voices that are more than simply words printed on a page or proclaimed from a pulpit. These prophetic voices still cry out to us and must never be silenced, especially when injustice still prevails.

In our readings for this [Third Sunday of Advent](#) we hear two such voices. The prophet Isaiah declared, “The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners...” Clearly he recognized his call to serve, to preach and to bring healing and restorative justice in the lives of the poor, the downtrodden and the oppressed. John the Baptist was the voice crying out in the desert, ‘make straight the way of the Lord’. It is important to remember that these men did not work in isolation. Isaiah, as prophet, worked within the community of Israel, the chosen people, to remind them and reawaken in them the covenant bond of love with God. John the Baptist, as some scholars believe, was a member of the Essene community, a pious and ascetic group of followers of Judaism, who left Jerusalem and the secular world for a life of solitude, prayer and self-denial awaiting the promised Messiah. John’s life was not one of solitude and isolation as he preached repentance and baptized.

We are also called, especially with our Franciscan value of *fraternitas*, to work in solidarity with others. By uniting and networking with others we can make the dream and vision of *Fratelli Tutti* a reality. Let us work boldly and creatively to engage with others in renewed encounters that will bring healing and justice to others. FAN’s [Franciscan Solidarity Tables](#) is a great place to start! Rooted in the tradition of St. Francis and St. Clare, the Franciscan Solidarity Tables are

intended to move us toward being a community of love in action. In justice and support, we are inspired to set tables of peace and friendship, which nourish action in the public square.

Our God who has called us is faithful. So let us rejoice always, pray without ceasing and in all ways give thanks. May the Spirit of God be upon us. Let us not quench the Spirit!

Margaret Magee, OSF  
FAN Board Member

**Suggested Actions:**

Pray with the [scripture readings](#) this week and talk with God about how to be a voice for justice in your life.

**Suggested Petitions:**

May we recall and rejoice in our own Baptismal call to be a voice for justice. We pray...  
May we rejoice and have steadfast confidence in the constant love and mercy of the Lord. We pray...

**Collect Prayer:**

**O God, who see how your people  
faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity,  
enable us, we pray,  
to attain the joys of so great a salvation  
and to celebrate them always  
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## **Advent Resource - Lighting the Candles: Journeys with Black Migrants**

Download today your copy of an enriching Advent resource, Lighting the Candles: [A Journey With Black Migrants](#). As an active participant in the [Interfaith Immigration Coalition](#) (IIC), FAN's own Sr. Marie Lucey and Sr. Maria Orlandini contributed to these materials as members of the Holy Days and Holidays committee, which develops [resources](#) with different themes for use at various times during the year.



[A Journey With Black Migrants](#) includes 7 Sessions, one for each of the 4 Weeks of Advent,

Christmas, and the feasts of the Holy Family & Epiphany. All sessions offer scripture, spiritual reflection & question, a story of black migrants, actions, and a prayer.

The 2020 Advent resources are ready. [Click here to download.](#)

## St. Anthony Messenger Features Fr. Michael Lasky, OFM Conv.

Many of you may know [St. Anthony Messenger](#), the magazine publication from Franciscan Media, a sponsored ministry of the Franciscan Friars of St. John the Baptist Province. Through their many resources, Franciscan Media aims to renew our spirits as we share God's love in the spirit of St. Francis.

In the November issue of St. Anthony Messenger, FAN President Fr. Michael Lasky, OFM Conv., was featured in the article, "Followers of St. Francis." While the entire magazine is not available to view online, we invite you to [subscribe and get St. Anthony Messenger delivered](#) to you each month. You may choose the traditional paper magazine or a digital subscription.

We are grateful for the relationships we are building with the whole team at Franciscan Media.



## Catholic Mobilizing Network's Restorative Circle Intensives

In collaboration with skilled Catholic restorative justice practitioners, [Catholic Mobilizing Network](#) is providing several upcoming opportunities to join ministry leaders from throughout the country to learn more about restorative justice, ways to implement restorative circles in Catholic contexts, and opportunities to promote restorative justice in your community.

Called [Restorative Circle Intensives](#), these two-day workshops offer an introductory experience with circles, ideal for Catholic individuals who are new to restorative justice and wish to learn about the circle process and its applications in ministry. The introductory workshop will be on Thursday, December 17, 2020 via Zoom. [Click here to register.](#)



Peacemaking circles are a foundational restorative practice that can create opportunities for healing and repair among those impacted by crime and incarceration. For more information and to sign up for future workshops, [click here.](#)

**TAKE ACTION: Urge Congress to Support Robust**

## Funding for Refugees in FY 2021

This week, on December 11th, the continuing resolution currently funding the federal government expires. Congress is currently negotiating an "omnibus" FY 2021 appropriations package that will fund the federal government for the remainder of the fiscal year. As we confront the worst displacement crisis in history and the global COVID-19 pandemic, it is vital that Congress support and pass robust funding for refugees, asylees, and other displaced populations. [Click here send an email](#) to your 2 Senators and House Representative showing your support for refugees.



Now is the time to urge Congress to support and pass robust funding for refugees, asylees and other displaced populations. This includes funding for the U.S. resettlement program and resources for local communities to help refugees integrate and thrive. Our good friends at Church World Service have developed [this action alert tool](#) to help contact your elected officials.

## Human Rights Day: Dec. 10

Human Rights Day is observed every year on December 10th — the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) (UDHR). The UDHR is a milestone document that proclaims the inalienable rights which everyone is entitled to as a human being - regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Available in more than 500 languages, it is the most translated document in the world.



The theme for Human Rights Day 2020, [Recover Better--Stand up for Human Rights](#), relates to the COVID-19 pandemic and focuses on the need to build back better by ensuring Human Rights are central to recovery efforts. We will reach our common global goals only if we are able to create equal opportunities for all people.

We invite our members and friends to pause and take a moment this Thursday, December 10th to pray for global solidarity on human rights around the world. Here are some [prayers](#) to help remind us that in God's eyes we are all created equal.

## FAN's Involvement in Virtual Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Spaces

FAN's Director of Campaigns and Development, Jason Miller has recently been on several panel presentations addressing various topics on which we work.

### EXAMPLES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCATES: NUNS

- Nuns or Sisters have taken vows to live in poverty and in service of others as teachers, nurses, or in a variety of occupations.
- In addition to working with those as Pope Francis says "on the margins" nuns are often fierce social justice advocates who sometimes find themselves at odds with the institutional Church.



A native of Ohio, Jason was invited by St. Francis de Sales School in Toledo and the World Affairs Council of Northwest Ohio to be part of an interfaith panel discussion where he presented on "[How Catholicism addresses peace and justice.](#)" Jason's remarks begin at the 18 minute mark and he also answers some of the questions posed during the Q&A which begins at 1:44:13 mark.

Additionally, FAN friend, Fr. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM invited Jason to give a brief presentation on a Laudato Si Revolution webinar: [Franciscan Call to Action Rebuilding the Temple of God's Creation.](#) Jason begins his remarks at the 38:30 minute mark and discusses the "two feet of love in action" work Franciscan Action Network has done on climate.