

## Celebrating Christ the King

Image by [Avi Chomotovski](#) from [Pixabay](#)

In [this Sunday's liturgy](#) we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. In 1925, Pope Pius XI established the feast of Christ the King in his encyclical *Quas Primas* (In the First.) This encyclical was a direct response to the growing nationalism that was taking hold across the world. The First World War had just recently ended, fear was everywhere and the time was ripe for the rise of tyrants. In fact several years after this encyclical was written, Mussolini and Hitler rose to power through the false hope they gave to their followers. Hope that centered on the tyrant's personality and played upon the greatest fears of their followers. Truth died, others were demonized, power was centralized, and the rest is written in history, hopefully never to be repeated again. The goal of this feast as envisioned by Pius is to remind us that Christ is our only guiding authority, not the state or any other person.



In the Gospel for this feast, Pilate who ruled under Caesar asked Jesus: "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus answers that his kingdom does not belong to this world. Then Pilate said to him: "Then you are a king?" But Jesus never really answered that question directly in his reply: "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world - To testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Thus Jesus stated what was his mission in this life – to testify to the truth, to witness to the truth, to speak to the truth, to reveal the truth. Truth is total dependence on God. A kingdom of servant king, loving king, and shepherding king was exactly what Pope Pius XI envisioned by this feast of Christ the King. It is to remind us that Christ is our guiding authority!

Sr. Marge Wissman, OSF  
Oldenburg Franciscan  
FAN Board Member

### **Suggestion Action:**

In the Gospel, Pilate comes face to face with Jesus for the first time – the Kingdom of Heaven meets the Kingdom of Earth. Pilate represents Caesar, the most powerful ruler of that time. Jesus represents the Truth of God's Kingdom. I must decide which of these leaders to whom I will pledge my allegiance. Which one will lead me to truth?

### **Suggested Petitions:**

That rulers from all around the world may strive for justice and peace as they lead their nations with humility and benevolence. We pray...

For those who live under repressive regimes, and all who are oppressed by unjust authorities, that they may be sustained daily in hope during their time of trial. We pray...

**Prayer (John: 44-46):**

**Eternal God, you created us in your image and sent your son to redeem us. Your son, Jesus proclaimed: “Whoever puts faith in me believes not so much in me as in the one who sent me, and whoever looks on me sees the one who sent me, I have come to the world as its light to keep anyone who believes in me from remaining in the dark.”**

**Amen**

## **FAN Board President Stepping Down, Heading to Rome**

The Minister General of the Franciscan Friars Conventual [announced the appointment](#) of Friar Michael Lasky to be the new General Delegate for Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC) for the Conventual Franciscan Order. Friar Mike accepted the appointment and will be departing for Italy in January, 2022. Due to this new appointment, Fr. Mike will step down as FAN Board President, a position he has held since 2019.



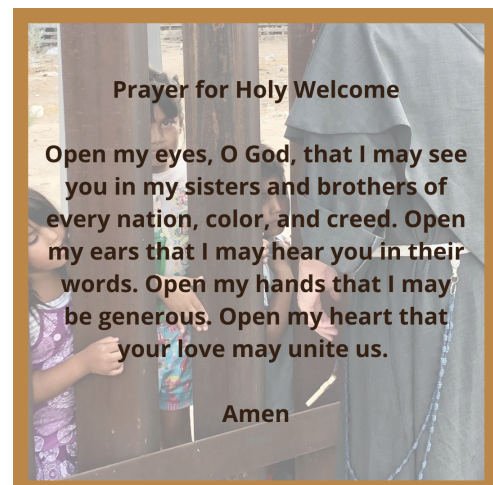
The whole staff and board at FAN appreciate all the work Fr. Mike has done to continue building the Franciscan Action Network. His organizational skills were invaluable in assuring FAN was prepared for our growth and able to be transparent in our work. His accessibility to staff and board members alike will be missed, as well as his sense of humor. Fr. Mike has a genuine care for all people he encounters that is easily visible. We wish him peace and all good in his coming appointment and know he will succeed.

Current Board Vice President, Br. Paul Crawford, OFM Cap. will become the new Board President, effective Nov. 18, 2021.

## **More Constituents Needed for Welcome with Dignity Virtual Advocacy Days**

Last week, we told you of the [#WelcomeWithDignity virtual advocacy days](#) happening this week from November 17th to 19th, 2021. It has come to our attention that more constituents are needed from a few key states/districts from NY, VT, OR, WI, MN, NM and MI. If you live in one of these states, **please sign up to virtually meet with members of Congress this week.**

The goal of the [#WelcomeWithDignity virtual advocacy days](#) is to meet virtually with members of Congress and urge them to hold the administration accountable to restore access to asylum for people seeking safety and end cruel policies that are harming



people seeking asylum at our border.

Now is a critical moment to lift your voice to urge the administration to stop expelling people seeking safety from persecution back to life-threatening dangers in Mexico, Haiti, and other countries. [Register to be a part of the advocacy days by clicking here.](#)

## Panel Discussion - Constructing a Moral Narrative: Dismantling Christian Nationalism

On **Thursday, Nov. 18th from 6p-8:30p PT (9p-11:30p ET)** we invite you to join a hybrid (online and in-person) panel discussion and program, "[Constructing a moral narrative: Dismantling Christian Nationalism](#)." A member of the Franciscan Justice Circle in Southern California is the Project Manager of the event and shared the information with us.

Discussion will include the impact that the distorted moral narrative of Christian Nationalism has made on poor and vulnerable people in our nation. Special remarks will be made by the co-chairs of the Poor People's Campaign, Rev. Dr. William Barber II and rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis. [Click here to register.](#)

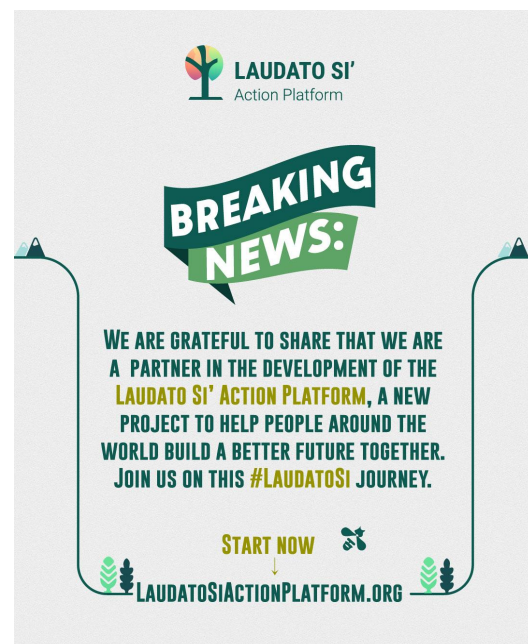


## Enrollment Phase of the Laudato Si' Action Platform Open

Yesterday, Nov. 14th, in Rome, the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development launched the much awaited enrollment phase of the [Laudato Si' Action Platform](#). This is a Vatican-led initiative in collaboration with several partners to empower the universal Church to achieve total sustainability in the holistic spirit of integral ecology.

This new phase of the [Laudato Si' Action Platform](#) sees the launch of a first-ever suite of practical resources to help Catholic institutions, communities, and families along their journey towards integral ecology.

Once enrolled, participants can make commitments to creating their own Laudato Si' Action Plans. Those who make the commitment will have access to tools that help them understand and evaluate where they stand along the road to integral ecology; tools to reflect on their values and the Laudato Si' Goals; and tools to develop effective plans to achieve the Laudato Si' Goals. [Read more and sign up here.](#)



## Shop Slave Free this Holiday Season



As we approach Advent and the Holiday season, we bring you an opportunity to help in the fight against Human Trafficking simply by being a conscientious consumer.

Commit to purchasing gifts this year which are Fair Trade and “slave free.” Start by Googling “Slave Free gifts” and see what you find. Giving chocolate to anyone this year? Buying Fair Trade chocolate means that no child or slave labor was used to create the raw materials for the chocolate. Use this [one-page explanation](#) as a great conversation starter for family events. As the demand increases for slave-free, Fair Trade products, companies will realize that the old way of doing business that is all about profit and cheap labor is no longer successful.



For additional educational resources, we invite you to check out these websites:

- [Through God's Grace](#), a ministry designed to empower faith communities to fight human trafficking.
- The [Stop Trafficking Newsletter for November](#) focuses on the intersection of Human Trafficking and orphanages, surrogacy and even volunteering.

## 35th Anniversary of Bishops' Pastoral, “Economic Justice for All”

November 2021 marks the 35th anniversary of [Economic Justice for All](#), the US Bishops' groundbreaking pastoral letter on the economy. On **Nov. 22 at 2pm ET (11am PT)**, Pax Christi, St. John's University and the Catholic Labor Network will host a [webinar](#) to look back at the landmark letter and reflect on developments in Catholic Social Teaching on the economy since that time. Speakers will include Fr. David Hollenbach, SJ, Roxana Bendezu, Meghan Clark and Clayton Sinyai.



When this letter was developed it was the first time the bishops invited input from organizations. FAN's associate director, Sr. Marie Lucey was serving on the justice and peace committee of the Franciscan Federation at the time and remembers working on ideas to send to the bishops.

[Click here to register for the webinar.](#)

## Advent Calendars and Resources from FAN Partners

As we look forward to the start of another Advent Season, several of our friends and partner organizations have shared with us some resources and calendars to promote within our network.

- **Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth** Office of



Peace, Justice, and Ecological Integrity offer "[Another World is Possible](#)."

- **Immaculate Conception Church** in Durham, NC developed a Laudato Si'-inspired Advent calendar called "[Daring to Hope](#)."
- The **Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns** have shared their [2021 Advent Reflection Guide](#), available in English or Spanish, with reflections on the weekly Scripture readings, prayers, and suggested actions.

If you know of other resources you'd like us to share please [let us know](#).