

Publication Date: December 27, 2021

Reflection Date: January 2, 2022 - The Epiphany of the Lord

Christ Born for All People

Image by [Elf-Moondance](#) from [Pixabay](#)

This Sunday, the [Epiphany of the Lord](#), we continue our Celebration of the Birth of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, but with a different lens.

Epiphany means manifestation. In our readings we see that Christ came for the whole world.

In the parish that I was in, this is known as “Three Kings Day.” In fact the parish would have three men dressed as the Magi process into the Church during the opening procession. It continued the wonder of the Season and, in fact, it was a day of great joy to the people from many lands and places. With so many different customs and languages, it brought all traditions together to rejoice that Christ was born for each and every person. There is no difference among us in the eyes and heart of God.



Today, with so much political division, rumors of war, COVID, hunger, homelessness, broken families and a great sadness of hearts, Christ comes to bring Peace, Community, Understanding, and acceptance of “the other.”

Jesus who is our Lord and Savior came to feed us, sustain us, embrace us, and to invite us to do the same for others.

God calls us to open our treasures, which are our hearts, to others.

Dorothy Day shared that when she first discovered God, she would ask in her prayers, “Where are those who should feed the hungry, clothe the naked and welcome the stranger?” God answered her by saying ‘How about you?’

We can do so much with God’s strength, but we need to begin, to try, to accept, to forgive and then to follow the lead of the Spirit.

For God is in our midst!

Bro. Paul Crawford, OFM, Cap., MSW
FAN Board President

Suggested Action:

Pray for those who are responding in acts of mercy.

Pray, receive the Eucharist, and be open to God’s call to you in this New Year.

Suggested Petitions:

Through our deep faith in God, may we know the love of the Lord for all people. We pray...
May all people remember our true gift at Christmas is the birth of our Saviour. We pray...

Collect Prayer (from Mass during the day):

**O God, who on this day
revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations
by the guidance of a star,
grant in your mercy
that we, who know you already by faith,
may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.**

Amen

Merry Christmas from all of us at Franciscan Action Network!

In this last week of 2021, we wish all our members and friends a blessed Octave of Christmas and a healthy new year. It is your continued steadfast support that warms us this holiday season.

Peace and all good!

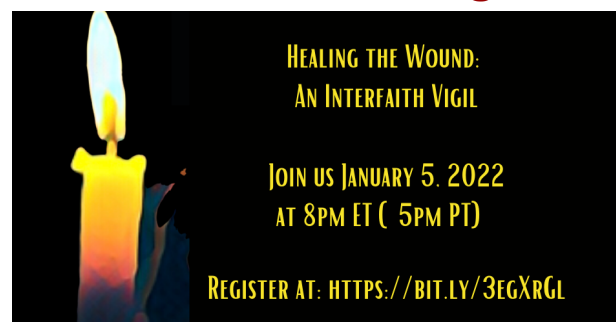
Michele, Sr. Marie, Sr. Maria, Nora, Sr. Louise, Jason and Janine



Join us for Healing the Wound: An Interfaith Vigil

As we approach the anniversary of the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, Franciscan Action Network invites you to join us for [Healing the Wound: An Interfaith Vigil](#).

Who was responsible for creating the wound of January 6th and who is responsible for healing it? ALL OF US. On **January 5, 2022 at 8pm ET (5pm PT)**, we will gather as people of faith for an hour of prayer, reading of sacred scriptures, and individual reflection. Please join us. Participants will also be invited to join an optional day of fasting on January 6th.



Register to attend by [clicking here](#). We will also be live-streaming the event to [FAN's Facebook page](#).

Roadmap to Prevent School Shootings — Before They Occur

As thousands of schools across the country are closing and fielding bomb and shooting threats from a TikTok challenge, Everytown for Gun Safety and its grassroots networks, Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action, recently released [a comprehensive roadmap](#) on secure storage of firearms to help prevent school shootings. It promotes non-controversial solutions that can be adopted quickly, in response to this growing threat.



Overwhelming evidence shows access to guns in the home is a critical intervention point in preventing school shootings. The [roadmap](#) demands and facilitates action at all levels of government and engages critical stakeholders to encourage best practices and ensure clear standards and accountability for secure gun storage.

We encourage our members and friends to spread the word about these non-controversial, proven measures people can take to help prevent school shootings, youth suicide and unintentional shootings.

Webinar - Guantanamo 20 Years on: A Religious Perspective

The Episcopal Church and the [National Religious Campaign Against Torture](#) invite you to join us on **January 11th, 2022 at 3pm ET (12pm PT)** for a [webinar](#) marking the 20th anniversary of the day the first detainees were sent to Guantanamo Bay.



Many Guantanamo detainees were tortured by the U.S. government, and two decades after the prison opened most of the 39 people imprisoned there have never been charged with or tried for any crime. Join us to discuss why the prison at Guantanamo was opened, the human rights abuses that occurred there, the long-running failure of the military commissions process to provide justice, and what steps we, as people of faith, can take to close the prison for good.

Find more information on speakers and register by [clicking here](#)

Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

Our [Franciscan Justice Circles](#) provide a space that allows people to grow in faith, deepen Franciscan spirituality, and based on a culture of encounter, we act.

Sharing words of wisdom for the journey of

MAKING SPACE
to invite grace



constructing a culture of encounter:

“Never stop listening. You will change and you will learn, if you listen.” ~Sr. Beth Davies, CND (organizer [This Land is Home to Me. Appalachian Pastoral Letter 1975](#))

Upcoming December FJC Meetings:

Nationwide Virtual FJC, for those with limited accessibility on [Wednesday, Dec. 29 at 3pm ET \(12p PT\)](#). Find the full list of upcoming FJC meetings on our [website](#).

For information about joining a Franciscan Justice Circle, please contact us at FJCinfo@franciscanaction.org.