

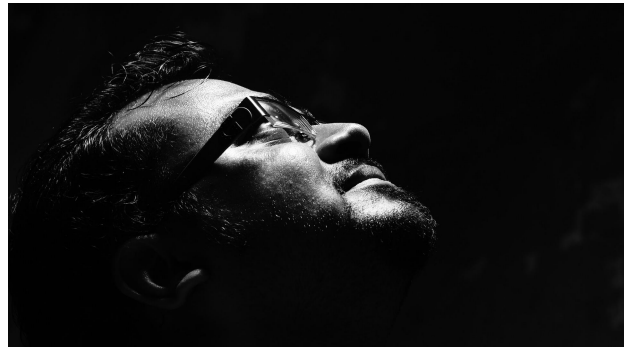
Publication Date: March 14, 2022

Reflection Date: March 20, 2022 - Third Sunday of Lent

Repent and Believe the Good News

Image by [Imtiyaz Quraishi](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Historically, Lent over the Centuries has changed quite a bit from the education of the many converts coming into the Church, similar to our current RCIA process. Lent's beginning was to help prepare the candidates for their Baptism on early Easter morning. The word 'Lent' comes from the early word for 'lengthen' - daylight is lengthening and we look forward to spring which brings about new beginnings. This really speaks about conversion and beginnings.



Repent and believe! In the first reading for the [Third Sunday of Lent](#) we hear about the personal friendship that "I Am" wants to have with us. In the second reading we hear about the empowerment of God's people. Great things have happened to us, yet we grumble about little things. In this week's Gospel, we hear that anything in our lives which is not fruitful needs to be restarted and improved.

Lent gives us time to seek, reflect and change. Know that God will work miracles in the lives of those who BELIEVE! Currently, we should look at the state of the world with a spirit of believing. If we have faith that God has a plan in spite of the deaths and displaced, in spite of who is right and who is wrong, then we are practicing belief.

All of us have been impressed with the faith of the people of the Ukraine! Especially so with their firm foundation on God. May we see this and put aside our feelings of being overwhelmed and instead use this Lent to join in prayer expecting God to do great things.

Br. Paul Crawford, OFM Cap.
FAN Board President

Suggested Action:

Lift up in prayer this week the people on all sides of the conflict in Ukraine using this prayer for peace [from Pope Francis](#).

Suggested Petitions:

May we take this opportunity during Lent to consider and change our ways that do not reflect the teachings of Jesus. We pray..

For all those suffering the effects of war and destruction; may they find comfort and peace. We pray...

Collect Prayer

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness,

who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving
have shown us a remedy for sin,
look graciously on this confession of our lowliness,
that we, who are bowed down by our conscience,
may always be lifted up by your mercy.
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

Franciscans Helping Ukrainians

As the world watches the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine in horror, many of us are praying, speaking out against war, and also looking for practical ways to help Ukrainians. FAN has reached out to our network to gather information about the many Franciscan religious in Ukraine and Poland who are working hard to provide services despite the dangers of war.

We collected stories from the Orders of Friars Minor, OFM Conventuals, OFM Capuchins, Franciscan Missions, and Franciscan Relief Fund, with opportunities to donate where you feel called. [Click here to read](#).

We recognize that there are many worthy and trusted organizations collecting funds at this time. We highlight ones that are specifically Franciscan which were brought to our attention by our network. Please continue to pray for Ukraine, including for Franciscans serving the Ukrainian people with faith and courage.



RE-humanize this Lent Continues

It is our second week of Lent and we continue our journey to become re-humanizers through our thoughts, actions, and especially our speech. Like Jesus, we prepare ourselves by going into the desert to fast and pray. Thank you for your generous feedback and reflection responses in week one, and we look forward to learning from you throughout the Lenten season.

We will be periodically updating this [page of our website](#) with the reflections of everyone who takes the time to share them.



Support Farm Workers Webinar

In the U.S., farm workers uphold the agricultural industry while *simultaneously being 400 times more likely to experience food insecurity than the general public*. They work long, arduous hours under the most punishing of conditions, and are literally unable to enjoy the fruits of their labor. As eaters, we can work to make sure the food we buy isn't exploiting farm workers. How? By supporting farm worker led food programs and campaigns.

The [National Farm Worker Ministry](#) and the [Farmworker Association of Florida](#) are hosting a webinar to help us learn more about how we can make a positive difference in the lives of farm workers through what we do and don't buy. Join in the [Support Farm Workers Webinar](#) on **Tuesday, March 29th at 7pm ET (4pm PT)**. [Register by clicking here](#).



Creation Care Webinars and Actions

Here are some upcoming webinars and action opportunities dedicated to the care of creation.

1. **The St. Columban Mission for Justice, Peace, and Ecology** is hosting a webinar, "[Fasting for Creation: How Lent Can Help Us Care for Creation](#)" on March 15th at 4pm ET (12pm PT). Join in for a discussion about a truer meaning of our Lenten fast; to stand in solidarity with the poor and more justly distribute the resources of the earth. [Register here](#).
2. Formosa Plastics is trying to build a mega-petrochemical complex (the "Sunshine Project") in St. James, Louisiana, in the heart of what's become known as Cancer Alley. On **Thursday, March 17th at 7pm ET (4pm PT)**, GreenFaith will host a "[Stop Formosa Action Hour](#)" to take action and get other faith communities involved in stopping this new project. [Register here](#).
3. **The National Resources Defense Council** has created [this action](#) in response to the US oil and gas industry using Russia's invasion of Ukraine to pressure the Biden administration to open more land and ocean for drilling and fossil fuel extraction. That is exactly the wrong response. This conflict is further proof that we need to swiftly move to a 100% clean energy economy and away from fossil fuels. [Click here to take action](#).



Next Week: Stations of the Cross

We invite you to join the Mid-Atlantic Coalition Against Modern Slavery for a virtual Stations of the Cross.

Next Monday, **March 21st at 7pm ET (4pm PT)** [click this link](#) to join in a time of reflection and prayer centered on Jesus'



suffering as well as the suffering of St. Josephine Bakhita, who was enslaved in Africa.

We hope you can [join to hear her truly inspiring story](#) and pray together.

Take Action: Urge Congress to Pass Afghan Advocacy Act

Since the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021, some 80,000 at-risk Afghans have been relocated to the United States. This has been one of the largest resettlement endeavors in U.S. history.

Many of the Afghans were granted humanitarian parole, which is typically granted for only one or two years. Given the nature of the situation in Afghanistan, and the deepening [humanitarian crisis](#) under Taliban rule, these families will likely need protection for much longer and, without a solution from Congress, will need to navigate complex legal issues to find permanent legal protection.

Our good friends at Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns have developed this [action to call on Congress](#) to pass an Afghan Adjustment Act that will ensure that resettled Afghan families can remain together in safety in the United States.



Franciscan Justice Circles Update

Visiting students from Marian University met with FAN staff, including FJC Director Nora Pfeiffer, to discuss how a Franciscan Justice Circle on their campus could help them to connect Franciscan spirituality with effective action for justice and peace. The students identified inequity in access to health care, homelessness, and lack of urban green spaces as issues in their communities that particularly need engagement with a Franciscan perspective.

Additionally, last week was our monthly National Justice Circle meeting where CT/RI FJC member, Patrick Carolan gave all in attendance an explainer on using one-on-one meetings to build relationships in our justice work. [Contact us](#) to see the recording and learn more.



Do you yearn for a deeper knowledge of Francis? Are you called to the action and advocacy he embodied? [Contact us](#) to learn more about joining or forming a Franciscan Justice Circle.