

Franciscan Action Network

2021 Annual Report



Dear Friends,

Having joined the Franciscan Action Network as executive director late last year, I stand in admiration of all that the organization accomplished in 2021 under the leadership of my exemplary predecessor, Dr. Steve Schneck. In 2021, FAN's work was vigorous and effective despite the ongoing pandemic, including:

- Active advocacy, joining with other faith-based groups in congressional and executive branch policy meetings, letter campaigns, and street actions to promote policies that accord with our Gospel values and Franciscan charism;
- Enhanced work on climate issues led by a new staff member, Sr. Louise Lears, SC
- Successful series of webinars on the papal encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* with top Catholic intellectuals; and
- Rebranding and growth of our Franciscan Justice Circles.

In 2022, FAN will redouble our efforts to be your Franciscan voice on public policy issues in the United States. Our small staff will continue national-level policy advocacy on issues related to justice, peace, the integrity of creation, and human dignity.

Beyond our efforts in Washington, we are working to find more ways to serve our broad network. New initiatives include peacebuilding and counter polarization activities as well as regular issue briefing and advocacy exchanges. Founding and nurturing Franciscan Justice Circles, local affinity groups in which Franciscan-hearted people gather to deepen their spirituality and act together for justice, will continue to be a major focus of our work in 2022.

Our Franciscan hearts—whether we are religious or lay people—are needed now more than ever in the struggle for just public policies in the United States. I thank you warmly for continuing to support FAN's efforts to serve you in this capacity. Peace and all good.

From the Executive Director, Michele Dunne, OFS

Dear coworkers for justice, Franciscan values and action:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for your continued support and encouragement to bring Franciscan values into the public square, now in a special way with people gathering to work on our issues and values in local areas through the Franciscan Justice Circles. We are grateful for those who have gone before us, formed this vision of the Franciscan Action Network and have made FAN what it is today.

So, here we are adapting to these extraordinary times. We are so grateful to God for our gifted and faithful staff which has been challenged with so many changes and have responded well with creative ways to continue reaching out to political leaders and their staff, meeting with other like-minded groups as well as to helping form wider coalitions by working with others in the process.

We have had transitions during this time. We have expanded the staff by two and hired a new Executive Director. Stephen Schneck decided to retire and we are so grateful for his work and stewardship of FAN. He was indeed the right person that was needed at the time and really helped FAN to expand by putting together the *Fratelli Tutti* Video Series that was so well received.

God is so good as we trust and rely on Him and our new Executive Director Michele Dunne has already stepped into the breach and has shown us how talented she is. I am looking forward to her leadership today and into the future.

Continuing the examples of those who have gone before us, remembering our call to conversion and action, we recommit ourselves to the work of promoting justice, peace, the dignity of every person, and the integrity of creation as humble servants of Francis and Clare. Embracing others, welcoming all, and forming friendships and relationships as we go forward into this “new normal”.

Thank you for your support and work and prayers which together does effect change in the hearts and hopefully the minds of those whom we encounter on this shared journey.

From the President, Bro. Paul Crawford, OFM, Cap., MSW

2021 Accomplishments

Mobilizing & Broadening our Network

Through continued challenges from the ongoing pandemic, FAN worked to navigate the polarized social landscape with Franciscan hearts, using Pope Francis' latest encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* as a guide. We were able to mobilize our network through Franciscan Justice Circles and engage with new audiences through several projects this year such as the “Belonging Begins with Us” campaign of weekly homilies.

Immigration & Human Trafficking

Immigration:

- #WhoWeAre and #CitizenshipNow week of action (Pictured)
- #FaithForFreedom Fast and action
 - [We are Essential Fast for Freedom](#) (Pictured)
- We Are Home campaign
- [Belonging Begins with Us Campaign](#) (Pictured)

Human Trafficking:

- Promoted National Human Trafficking Awareness Month in January and attended prayer services
- Attended Shine the Light: Root Causes and Intersections HT conference
- Promoted [Solidarity With Seafarers Campaign](#)



Relationship Building & Peacebuilding

Faith - Videos/Webinars:

- Franciscan Values [Lenten Video Series](#) (Pictured)
- [Fratelli Tutti: Finding Sisterhood and Brotherhood to Overcome What Divides Us](#) Four Webinars on various topics. (Pictured)
- Virtual Economic and Ecological Way of the Cross
- The Covid Vaccine: A Franciscan Perspective (Pictured)
 - [English](#)
 - Dubbed in [Spanish](#)

Peacemaking:

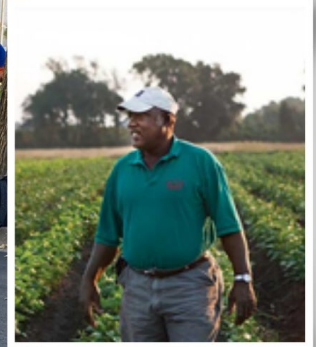
- Franciscan Federation Webinar for Black History Month: [Where do we go from here?](#)



Care for Creation

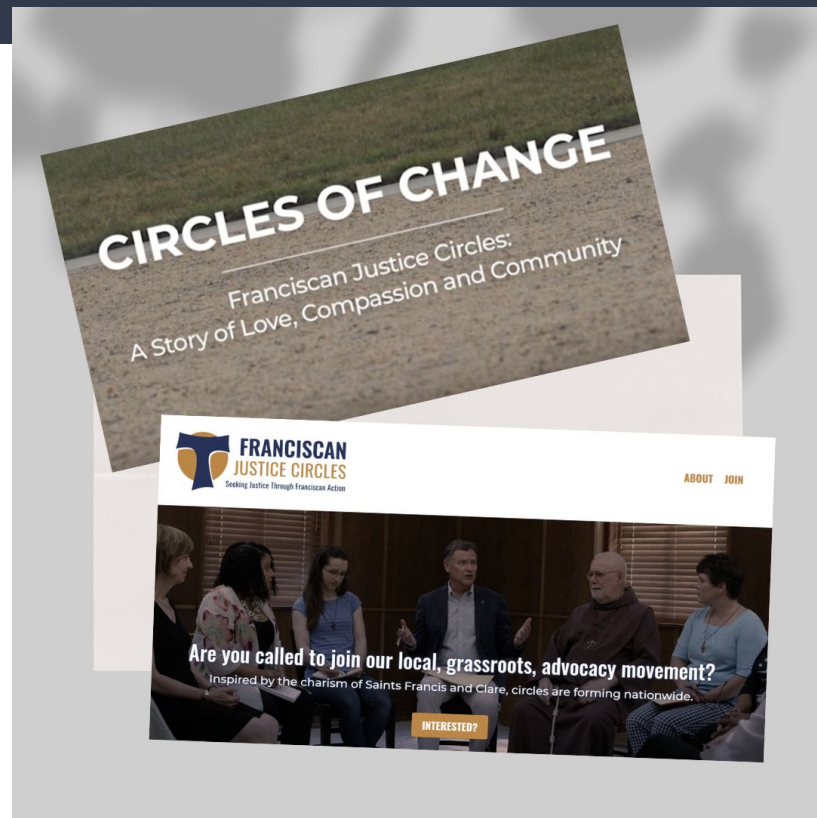
Care for Creation:

- Participated in virtual [Polar Bear Plunge](#)
- Joined [Sacred People, Sacred Earth](#) (with GreenFaith)
- Promoted [Climate Crisis Policy](#)
- Joined [Faiths 4 Climate Justice](#) actions leading up to COP26 (*Pictured*)
- Co-hosted webinar with NYC Franciscan Justice Circle: [Faith, Farming and U.S. Policy](#) (*Pictured*)
- Hosted Webinar: [Climate Care - What & Why?](#) (*Pictured*)
- Hosted Post-COP26 Webinar: [“Franciscan Climate Advocacy After COP26”](#)



Franciscan Justice Circles

- Updated and improved the [overview](#) and [resource](#) pages on FAN's website
- Developed a new logo and a stand-alone [landing page](#) (Pictured)
- Created a [15-minute video explainer](#) and three shorter social media videos
- Went from 3 circles in early 2021 to 14 by end of year with more in formation



Faithful Democracy & More

Faithful Democracy:

- Organized get out the vote postcard campaign for Georgia special election
- Led "inside the beltway" faith based federal legislation advocacy and mobilization for [For the People Act](#), [Freedom to Vote Act](#), and John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (Rallies each Wednesday Oct-Nov, *Pictured*)
- Supported "outside the beltway" organizing and mobilizing efforts in West Virginia, Arizona, and across the country
- Planning for "[Healing the Wound](#)" Interfaith Jan. 6th vigil

Miscellaneous:

- EAD Conference: [Workshop on TikTok](#)
- Presented FAN to Siena College: Living Franciscan
- Attended Franciscan Federation Conference

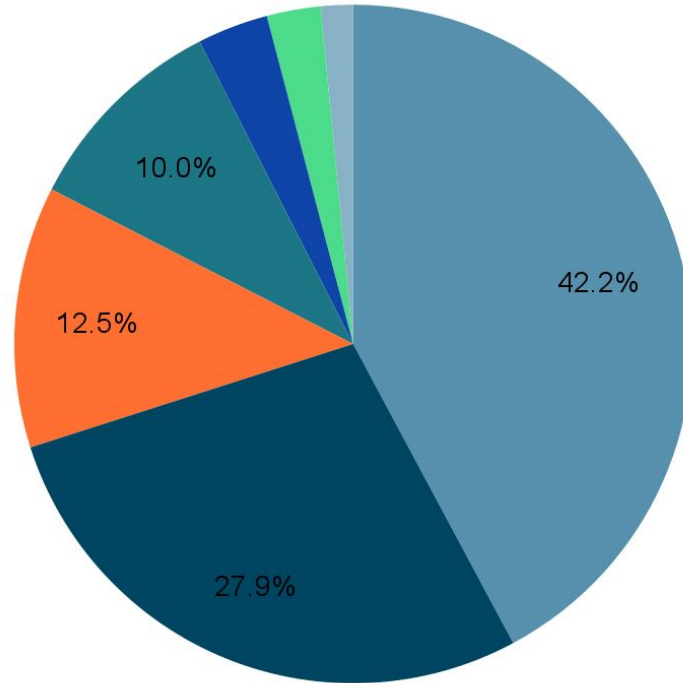


FAN Financials

FAN's most important source of ongoing funding is from our institutional members, and we are also working to increase donations from other sources. Such support is essential as we continue to be your Franciscan voice in Washington, D.C. and beyond.

2021 Income

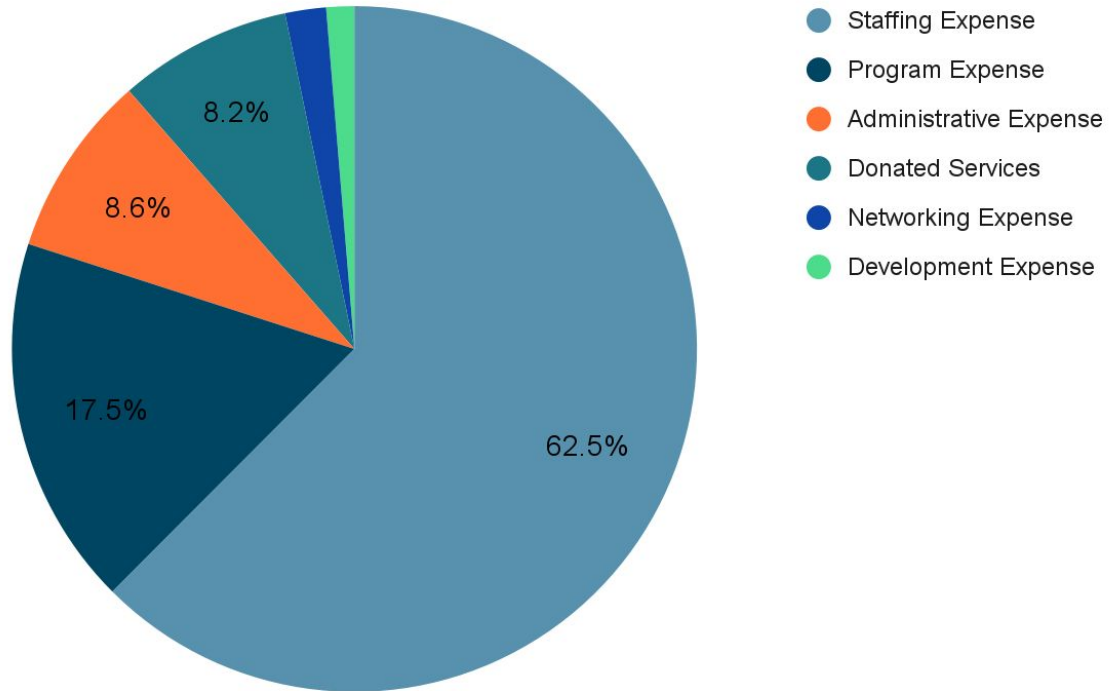
- Institutional Member Contributions
- Grant Income
- Annual Gala/Benefit
- Individual Donations
- Organizational Donations
- Board Donations
- Program Service Revenue



Institutional Member Contributions	166,275.00
Grant Income	110,005.00
Annual Gala/Benefit	49,143.04
Individual Donations	39,351.67
Organizational Donations	13,347.03
Board Donations	10,135.00
Program Service Revenue	\$6,050.65

2021 Expenses

Staffing Expense	212,667.70
Program Expense	59,435.60
Administrative Expense	29,308.66
Donated Services	27,840.00
Networking Expense	6,571.56
Development Expense	4,500.00



FAN Staff:

(Top row, L to R)

Michele Dunne, OFS

Sr. Marie Lucey, OSF

Sr. Maria Orlandini, OSF

(Center)

Jason Miller

(Bottom row, L to R)

Sr. Louise Lears, SC

Nora Pfeiffer

Janine Walsh

