

## Why Do You Seek the Living among the Dead?

Image by [TC Perch](#) from [Pixabay](#)

The resurrection narratives are so stirring. In the [Gospel reading for the Easter vigil](#) (Luke 24:1-12), Mary Magdalene and two other women go to the tomb to anoint Jesus' crucified body. Instead, they find two dazzling angels, who stun them by asking, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here but he has been raised." The apostles do not believe the women's story, which "seemed like nonsense," but Peter at least is curious enough to run to the tomb to investigate. He goes home "amazed at what had happened."



Meditating on this passage leads me to ask myself why I persist in seeking the living one among the dead. Jesus tells us that he came so that we might have life in abundance (John 10:10), but too often I can get stuck on parts of myself, my history, and my so-called life that are in effect dead, no longer life-giving. As we conclude Lent and move towards Easter, now is the time to ask God to show me what are the old habits of mind, heart, and living that I need to leave behind to follow Jesus and share in his abundant life.

In recent years, I've done much sorting out of the parts of my life that have become deadening: work, preoccupations, associations, and patterns of consumption that hold no growth for me (and not much benefit to anyone else either). At the same time, God has begun to show me new ways of living that challenge me, take me out of my comfort zones, and are deeply reinvigorating. This involves me stepping out with both of the "[two feet of love in action](#)," defined by Catholic social teaching as charitable works and advocacy for social justice. Charity involves meeting the short term needs of those experiencing poverty, hardships, or injustice, while advocacy involves speaking up about those hardships and injustices and how they need to be addressed. Without direct contact with those affected, social justice efforts can be abstract and even misguided; but without action to address systemic injustices, charity work can become overly detached and even condescending.

How might God be calling you to move beyond deadened areas and seek new life in the resurrected Christ this Easter? Might you step forward with both feet of love in action? Are there new ways you can serve those in need as well as express solidarity with those suffering from injustice and disadvantages? Prayerfully consider joining one of our [Franciscan Justice Circles](#) or one of our many faith-inspired campaigns to advocate for just laws and policies regarding climate, race, immigration, consistent life ethic, democracy, labor, gun violence, human trafficking, or other issues. Seek the living one among the living.

Michele Dunne, OFS  
FAN executive Director

**Suggested action:**

Consider the dry sticks and green shoots in your life now—the activities that drain life from you versus those that invigorate you. Spend time this Holy Week nurturing one of the green shoots, a new venture that is challenging and life-giving for you now.

**Suggested petition:**

For those who suffer poverty or injustice alone, believing no one cares to accompany them, we pray....

For new life within so that we might no longer be deadened to the suffering of others, we pray...

**Prayer:**

**Draw us forth, God of all creation.**

**Draw us forward and away from limited certainty  
into the immense world of your love.**

**Give us the capacity to even for a moment  
taste the richness of the feast you give us.**

**Give us the peace to live with uncertainty,  
with questions, with doubts.**

**Help us to experience the resurrection anew  
with open wonder and an increasing ability  
to see you in the people of Easter.**

**Amen.**

## Join Us for a Special Movie Monday

In anticipation of Earth Day, join us for a special Movie Monday screening of the film *YOUTH v GOV* thanks to our friends at Interfaith Power & Light. [Watch the trailer.](#)

**Choose the date and time that work best for you:**

**April 11, 2022** at 4pm-6pm ET (1pm-3pm PT) Click here to [REGISTER](#)  
OR

**April 18, 2022** at 7pm-9pm ET (4pm-6pm PT) Click here to [REGISTER](#)



# YOUTH v GOV

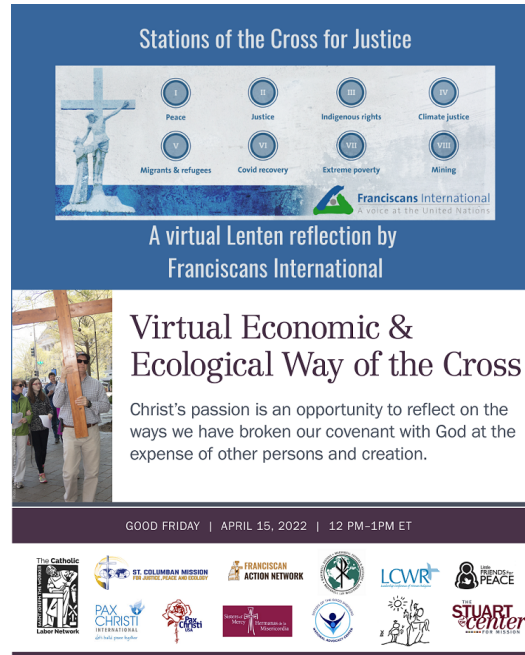
All are welcome to discuss the topics brought up in the film on **Wednesday, April 13 at 3pm Eastern / 12pm Pacific**, coinciding with the monthly national Franciscan Justice Circles zoom call. The discussion will be appropriate for those who watched the film already as well as those looking forward to doing so. We will send you the zoom link for the discussion after you register for one of the film screenings.

## Opportunities for Virtual Stations of the Cross

As we enter Holy Week, several opportunities to join virtual Stations of the Cross are available. Here are two in which FAN is involved.

FAN is proud to cosponsor the [Virtual Economic & Ecological Way of the Cross](#) with the Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns. We hope you will join us on **Good Friday, April 15 at 12pm ET (9am PT)** to pray. Each station will focus on a different economic or ecological challenge or sign of hope for our times. **Persons of all faiths are welcome.** [Register HERE](#). Watch the [Live Stream on YouTube](#).

Franciscans International is hosting a virtual reflection on the "[Stations of the Cross for Justice](#)" on **April 13, 2022 at 8 am ET**. Attendees will hear testimonies from Franciscan sisters and brothers from across the world who will lead us in prayer and reflection. In a special way, Franciscans from Ukraine and Russia will be joining to reflect on the current situation and pray for peace. Interpretation will be available in: • English • Español • Deutsch • Português • Italiano • Français. [Register HERE](#).



Stations of the Cross for Justice

A virtual Lenten reflection by Franciscans International

Virtual Economic & Ecological Way of the Cross

Christ's passion is an opportunity to reflect on the ways we have broken our covenant with God at the expense of other persons and creation.

GOOD FRIDAY | APRIL 15, 2022 | 12 PM-1PM ET

Logos for participating organizations: The Catholic Labor Network, PAX CHRISTI, ST. COLUMBAN MISSION, FRANCISCAN ACTION NETWORK, LCWR, STUART CENTER, and others.

## Holy Voices: Prayers of Liberation & Hope for Immigration Relief

As Ramadan, Passover, and Easter converge this month, let's channel the liberatory spirits of these holy days into our struggle for citizenship rights.

Join us on **Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 12pm ET (9am PT)** for [Holy Voices: Prayers of Liberation & Hope for Immigration Relief](#). At this gathering you will hear from Imam Saffet Catovic, Rabbi Joshua Aaronson, DACA recipient and advocate Juan Carlos Cerda, and Rev. Dr. Cheni Khonje who will share prayers, reflections, and opportunities to take action for immigration justice. [Click here to register](#) and please help spread the word by [sharing on Facebook](#).



HOLY VOICES

Juan Carlos Cerda, Rabbi Joshua Aaronson, Rev. Dr. Cheni Khonje, Imam Saffet Catovic

Prayers of Liberation & Hope for Immigration Relief

April 13 • 12 pm ET

## FAN and People of Faith Welcome End of Title 42

Image by [Tumisu](#) from [Pixabay](#)

We want to make sure you saw the [announcement](#) on April 1 by the Biden administration that, effective May 23, it will end the expulsion policy, known as Title 42.

Enacted during the Trump Administration, Title 42 was intended to protect public

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health during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. Instead it was used to block migrants from their legal right to seek asylum at the U.S. southern border and disproportionately impacted Black migrants.

This welcome news is thanks in part to your advocacy. We are grateful for the efforts of our network of supporters. As Sr. Marie Lucey said in this [statement](#) from the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, "As Franciscans, we believe that all persons have human dignity and are our sisters and brothers." Thank you for your part in ending this unwelcome policy.

## Join “Encounter for Our Common Home” campaign

Please consider joining a new campaign cosponsored by FAN and led by our partners at Catholic Climate Covenant (CCC). [Encounter for Our Common Home](#) is a national campaign that brings together Catholics across the country to urge our U.S. senators to enact authentic solutions to the climate crisis.

If you [register](#) to participate in the campaign, you'll be connected with a team leader in your state who will organize meetings with your legislators the week of May 2nd. During the weeks prior, CCC will provide education, training, and accompaniment to all participants, including these two webinars:

Webinar #1: [Faith and Reason](#) - **Tuesday, April 12 at 1pm Eastern (10am Pacific)**. At this first dialogue, speakers will walk through how our Catholic faith leads us to this historic campaign and address questions on faith-based advocacy as well as what is meant by "culture of encounter."

Webinar #2: [The Legislative Encounter](#) - **Tuesday, April 19, 1pm Eastern (10am Pacific)**. During the second dialogue, active advocates will discuss the specific asks in the campaign and the purpose of our encounter model, offering best practices for our legislative meetings.



## Poor People's Campaign Releases Pandemic Report

Last week, FAN staff rallied with the Poor People's Campaign in Washington, DC to bring awareness to a new [report](#) they published, which maps the intersection of poverty, race and COVID-19.

[Read more from the report by clicking here.](#)

Everybody has a right to live and we must commit to finding a way forward which centers on equity, justice, and dignity for all people regardless of race, ethnicity, or income.



## Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

*Members of DC Metro Area FJC*



We hope you are able to join us on the next monthly national [Franciscan Justice Circles](#) call this **Wednesday, April 13 at 3pm ET (12pm PT)**.

At this month's call, we will discuss the intergenerational climate justice advocacy topics brought up in the film *Youth v Gov*, and the discussion will be appropriate for those who watched the film already as well as those looking forward to doing so.

For the link to join the call or for more information about the FJCs, please [contact Nora Pfeiffer](#).

