

A choice to make

As I reflect on the readings for this [3rd Sunday of Easter](#), I am struck by the contrasts between the first reading from Acts and John's Gospel. Both readings speak of an order given but with a different response.

In the reading from Acts the apostles disobey the order given to them by the Sanhedrin "to stop teaching in that name," meaning Jesus of Nazareth, and continue to do so even at the peril of their own lives. In fact they boldly proclaim: "We must obey God rather than men."



In the Gospel the apostles also receive a command: "Cast the net over the right side of the boat and you will find something," and in spite of being tired from a night of fishing and catching nothing, not knowing the One who was giving them the order/suggestion, or protesting that they knew what they were doing, they obeyed and were rewarded with 153 large fish and breakfast.

What is the lesson for me/us in these two moments in Scripture?

Often we too are confronted with a choice, should I do it or not? Should I say it or not? The apostles in Acts were sure of their choice. They were preaching Jesus of Nazareth. They all lived a profound experience with Jesus and were ready to give up their lives to tell others about it. The experience of being with Jesus gave them the strength and the joy of even being thought "fools," and "they went away rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name." What kind of experience of Jesus am I living? Do I have the same conviction that speaking about Him and His teaching is an urgent need for me? Do I speak of the values of the Gospel when they are welcomed and when they are not? In our secularized and violent world do I have the courage to spread a message of love, welcome and mercy?

The event in John's Gospel is one of my favorites - and not just because of breakfast! The apostles must have sensed when the man told them to lower the nets that this was not an ordinary encounter; in fact, they followed his instruction without resistance. I can think of many instances in my life when I followed an inspiration, a strong prompting from within, without really knowing why, just knowing that it was the right thing to do and only after the fact came to know why it was the right call. The answer came soon for the apostles. They caught many fish, and it took a simple nudge from John to Peter, "It is the Lord," to open their eyes, that it could only be Jesus. A frustrating night chosen to escape sadness turned into a beautiful breakfast on the beach with the person they loved and missed so much.

I pray that we too do not miss our inspirations. In this time of Easter when talking about and witnessing to the Resurrection is what it is all about, may we not miss the occasion to do so out of our fear and doubt. May the presence of Jesus alive in our midst give us the inspiration to go

the extra mile to proclaim what we believe, that God is still present in this world, that power and money will not overtake the power of love and justice. How beautiful it would be to be able to say with our whole heart: "Lord you know everything, you know that I love you."

Sr. Maria Orlandini, OSF
FAN Director of Advocacy

Suggested Action:

Proclaim with no fear the living presence of Jesus, especially in situations in which justice is not respected.

Find ways to get involved with others. Why not try joining a [Franciscan Justice Circle](#) in working to end discrimination and violence?

Suggested Petitions:

For Christians everywhere, that the values proclaimed in this Easter Season may give new energy for creating more just and equitable societies.

Prayer: Draw us Forth - Author Unknown

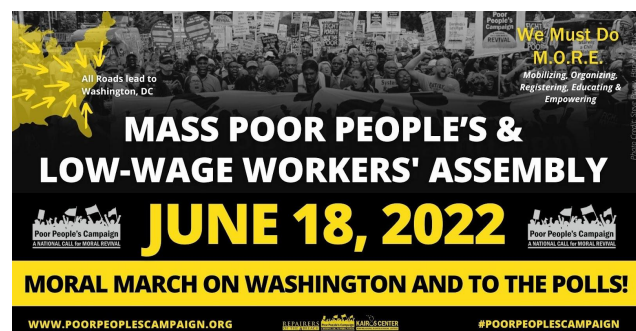
**Draw us forth, God of all creation.
Draw us forward and away from limited certainty
into the immense world of your love.
Give us the capacity to even for a moment
taste the richness of the feast you give us.
Give us the peace to live with uncertainty,
with questions,
with doubts.
Help us to experience the resurrection anew
with open wonder and an increasing ability
to see you in the people of Easter.**

Amen

Join us in D.C. for the Poor People's Campaign Moral March

Franciscan Action Network has signed up as a mobilizing partner for the [Poor People's Campaign](#) moral march in Washington, D.C. on Saturday June 18, 2022. The Poor People's Campaign was founded by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968 and revived in 2018 to unite Americans impacted by economic, racial, and climate injustice across the country.

As Franciscans, we remember that St. Francis and St. Clare relinquished the privileges of wealth and class to associate themselves



with the impoverished and marginalized members of their society, which they saw as critical to following Jesus Christ. In the same way, we will assemble and march in the nation's capital in solidarity with the 140 million poor and low-wealth people in this country on June 18. Please consider joining us for this important event. **Buses are available from all over the country.** Click here to [LEARN more and JOIN us in Washington](#).

Urge your Senators to Pass Ambitious Climate Solutions

The latest [report](#) from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reaffirms that we must dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions to prevent the most catastrophic impacts of climate change upon our common home and future.

We need senators from both political parties to support legislation that reduces dependence on fossil fuels, addresses the climate crisis, and improves prospects for a thriving and peaceful future, especially for our most vulnerable neighbors. Some **ambitious solutions already exist in the \$555 billion in climate provisions** within legislation which the Senate is now considering.



Encounter
FOR OUR COMMON HOME

As part of the Encounter Campaign, we invite you to [send a message to your Senators now](#) urging them to support legislation that includes funding for climate.

Youth v Gov Film Screening Wrap-Up

More than 120 people attended our screenings of the film *Youth v Gov*. Many also joined for a discussion during our national Franciscan Justice Circles call about our sacred call to care for and preserve our common home for future generations. Thank you for joining us and for your support of these brave young people's advocacy.

We want to let you know of more opportunities to see the documentary if you missed our screenings, which could not be recorded due to copyrights. The full film will be **available for streaming on Netflix beginning April 29th**.



The Interfaith Power and Light will host a [webinar](#) with the filmmaker and two of the young plaintiffs on **April 27th at 4:30 pm Pacific (7:30 pm Eastern)**. [Click here to register to attend](#).

Join Virtual Refugee Advocacy Days, May 9-13

Refugee Council USA (RCUSA), its members, and partners will host a special refugee [virtual advocacy week](#) from Monday, May 9 to Friday, May 13, 2022. This virtual advocacy week will occur at a pivotal



moment for the US refugee resettlement program and your help is needed to champion pro-refugee legislation, support for arriving Afghans, federal funding for the resettlement and other humanitarian programs, and oversight over the administration's rebuilding of the program.

In addition to meetings with members of Congress, participants will have the opportunity to attend a number of special sessions to build relationships with other advocates and organizers, and learn new skills to help expand their advocacy. [Sign up to participate here.](#)

This week is an opportunity to expand your advocacy skill set and meet virtually with your members of Congress.

Amid Pushback on Ending Title 42, Take Action for Asylum

On April 1, 2022, the Biden administration announced that, effective May 23, it will end a Trump-era expulsion policy, known as Title 42, that for over two years has prevented people seeking refuge from danger or persecution from exercising their legal right to apply for asylum at the Southwest border.

Now, a group of Democrat and Republican lawmakers [is trying](#) to stop the Biden administration from ending Title 42, citing fears of an overwhelmed border system due to increases in arrivals of migrants at the border. The introduction of two new bills, one in the House and one in the Senate, aimed at preventing the end to Title 42 call us to action.



Ways to take Action:

1. This [IIC toolkit](#) includes action alerts, a faith sign-on letter, social media posts and graphics, and more. We urge you to use it to **demand an end to Title 42 for good** and to call for the full restoration of the U.S. asylum system.
2. Use this action alert from Church World Service to **urge Congress to reject anti-asylum policies** and invest in humane welcome. [Contact your Member of Congress](#)

Franciscan Justice Circle Update

Living a Gospel-led lifestyle requires coherence between the words we proclaim and our actions, which can be challenging. Not even Saints Francis and Clare acted alone, but rather, in community.

Supported by FAN and the national network of [Franciscan Justice Circles](#), each Circle explores more deeply the social justice path of the [Two Feet of Love in Action](#), engaging important local issues, challenging policies that perpetuate injustice and advancing policies of peace, justice, and care for creation. One of the ways we nurture our spiritual growth is through prayer, and we offer this comprehensive [set of prayers](#) to serve you and your Circle community. Please [contact us](#) to learn more about joining a Franciscan Justice Circle.

