

The Transforming Power of Love

As we commemorate the light and hope of the resurrection of our Lord on the [Fifth Sunday of Easter](#), our readings look back to when it appeared darkness would extinguish both light and hope. Then, the night before he would die, Jesus taught us a lesson that may be the most life-giving for us and the world.

“I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.” (John 13: 34) Jesus knew that acting with love is the essential element that gives life meaning. Acting with love has the power to transform us as individuals and is vital to empower us to live to our God-given potential. In the early Church, Paul and Barnabas proclaimed to the people of Antioch the gifts and blessings of “what God had done with them” (Acts 14:27) as they experienced the transforming power of love.



In considering God's love, a person's perspective of "other"--of how the person sees the world and all with whom we share our world--is also transformed. "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13: 35) God promises that whenever we seek to act with love out of a desire to follow his example, we will see with new eyes: "the old order will pass away...Behold, I make all things new." (Rev. 21: 4-5A)

In just under two weeks, Title 42 (the policy that prevented people seeking refuge from dangerous or harmful conditions from applying for asylum in the United States) is due to be lifted, although there are many efforts to stop this from happening. Many people seeking asylum have experienced terrors and losses that most of us can never even imagine. Pope Francis states that loving as Christ means going beyond ourselves and opening up to those in greater need. How can we as Christians act with love towards our brothers and sisters born in other lands? By prayer and staying focused on the One who loves us, we can recognize our God-given dignity and treat all our brothers and sisters with the same dignity.

Sr. Maryann Mueller, CSSF
FAN Supporter and former Board Member

Suggested Action:

Please [click here to petition President Biden to welcome all refugees and asylum seekers](#) fleeing conflict, violence, and persecution.

Suggested Petitions:

As Christians who follow the One who as a child resided as a refugee in a foreign country, may we act to welcome immigrants into our communities, we pray...

For our legislators, that they will be guided by the understanding that all people are made in the image of God and will allow this to inspire their decision regarding immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, we pray...

Excerpt of a "Prayer for a New Society" (from Pax Christi USA)

**Abiding God, loving renewer of the human spirit,
Unfold our violent fists into peaceful hands;
Stretch our sense of family to include our neighbors;
Stretch our sense of neighbor to include our enemies
Until our response to you finally respects and embraces
All creation as precious sacraments of your presence.
Hear the prayer of all your starving children.**

Amen.

Work with FAN while Living with Other Justice-Minded Franciscans

FMS program participants enjoying a formation session with FAN staff Sr. Marie and Sr. Maria

FAN is partnering with [Franciscan Mission Service](#) (FMS) and its [DC Service Corps Program](#) to host a year-long FAN Associate beginning September 2022.

DC Service Corps members serve full-time at a local non-profit in Washington, DC, while they receive the following benefits: professional mentoring, weekly faith formation sessions, servant leadership trainings, spiritual direction, retreats, a monthly stipend and a private room in the FMS house in the Brookland neighborhood.

This transformative year is enriched by living in an intentional Christian community, focused on simple living, prayer, reflection, and fellowship in the spirit of Saint Francis and Saint Clare. This Franciscan-hearted community shares and receives God's unconditional love across borders through a way of life that centers marginalized voices and focuses on living out the Gospel values of intercultural encounter, radical inclusion, authentic humility, and transformative justice. [Learn more here!](#)

The FAN Associate from the DC Service Corps will assist with FAN's advocacy efforts on issues such as racial justice, climate change, migration, consistent ethic of life, democracy and voting rights, etc. Use your passion for social justice to gain hands-on experience in advocacy work, including making calls or visits to government or congressional offices, assisting with communications outreach, and strengthening FAN's partnerships nationwide. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis through July 1. [Apply here!](#)



Holy Voices from the Border: Restore Asylum Now

Amid continued attacks on the U.S. asylum system, you are invited to join the Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC) and American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) for a [critical conversation](#) this **Thursday, May 12 at 7pm ET / 4pm PT** about the life-saving importance of being able to seek asylum at the southern border.



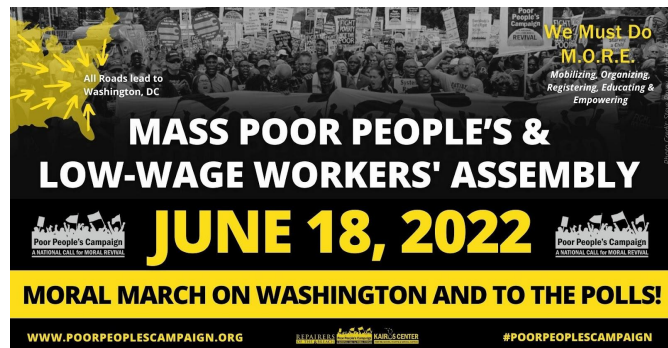
Faith leaders and advocates will brief on the impact of recent and upcoming changes to Title 42 and Remain in Mexico (MPP), with particular attention to the implications for families in recognition of Mother's Day. **Live interpretation will be offered in Spanish.**

- [RSVP here](#) to join on Zoom
- [View the Facebook event here](#) and invite your friends to join

In a related effort, we are so grateful to the more than 1,000 Catholic sisters (including [our sisters on staff](#)) who signed a letter sent to President Biden urging him to follow through with his commitment to end Title 42 expulsions by May 23. Read the [press statement here](#).

Latest from the Poor People's Campaign Moral March on Washington

Last week, FAN co-sponsored an informational webinar with our friends at Pax Christi USA, the Sisters of Mercy, and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious to provide information on the Moral March on Washington on June 18. If you missed it, please [watch the recording here](#). We want to have as many of you as possible [join us in Washington](#) for this important event to address the linked issues of poverty, racism, and climate injustice.



The national Campaign organizers are hard at work coordinating all the moving parts involved in a rally of this size. Here is some more information to peruse:

- [This Rally FAQ](#) has lots of great information about booking a [ride on a bus](#), becoming a bus captain and a button at the far bottom to register your non-Rally bus in order to coordinate.
- The arts and culture work leading up to June 18 is in full swing! Check out this [monthly song challenge](#) and this [great toolkit](#) for folks who are interested in leading art-builds and accessing other arts resources.

Please [register to attend the March here](#) and reach out to FAN Director of Campaigns [Toby Harkleroad](#) with any questions and to let us know you are coming!

Doctrine of Discovery Virtual Workshop

The Providence Justice Collective is offering a one-hour virtual workshop on the [Doctrine of Discovery](#) on **May 11 at 7pm ET (4pm PT)**. [Click here to register](#).

The Doctrine of Discovery was and continues to this day to be foundational for legal and cultural racism. It gave the Church's blessing to colonialism that ultimately wreaked havoc on existing (non-European) communities in the Americas. Questions or requests for more information may be directed to S. Barbara McMullen at bmcnullencdp@gmail.com



Webinar: Racial Equity in the Clean Energy Transition

Each month, our good friends at the [JustFaith Network](#) provide no-cost practical, educational, and spiritual tools that will help you walk the faith journey of justice.

On **Thursday, May 19 at 7:00pm ET/4:00pm PT** you are invited to join in this month's "Acting for Justice" presentation by Alecia Brewster and Michael On Brown entitled, "[Racial Equity in the Clean Energy Transition](#)."

Current US data project that black median wealth will be zero by the year 2053. Meanwhile, many black and brown communities that have suffered the most from energy extraction are being left behind in the clean energy transition. This discussion will provide examples of how the faith community can help create a more just and equitable clean energy transition.



You can [register to attend and read more about the speakers](#) by clicking here.

Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

Boston FJC members with Fr. Sam Fuller, OFM Cap.

Recently, the members of the Boston Franciscan Justice Circle joined their fellow Circle member, Br. Anthony Zuba, OFM Cap. in an outreach trip with the [Capuchin Mobile Ministries](#), "a ministry of accompaniment; a ministry of presence." They went to places in Boston and Cambridge where unhoused people congregate to visit, offer a listening ear and also some food and care bags.

Listening to the needs of people affected by homelessness is essential not only to truly seeing God present in our sisters and brothers, but also to inform our understanding of the systemic factors at play and policies that could promote justice.



If you'd like to connect with the Boston FJC or a circle near you, [contact us](#).