

## May We All Be One

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

The first thing that struck me as I read the readings for the [7th Sunday of Easter](#) was the number of names mentioned in the readings. More often than not, when we read of healings or similar miracles, the person in the story is nameless. But in these readings, we hear no fewer than four names, which is quite unusual. We hear about Stephen ( the first martyr of the way), the persecutor Saul, our Lord Jesus, and his ancestor, King David.



In Scripture, whenever someone was referred to by name, it was usually to describe their character, their circumstances, or a change in their circumstance – especially if God changed their name. Yet, I understand using a person's name also denotes seeing their humanity; seeing them as a person, a child of God, and not merely an object to use. When I call you by your name, I am acknowledging you as a fully alive human being, graced and loved by God. A human being with joys, sorrows, hopes and dreams, deserving of care and kindness.

This speaks to what Pope Francis calls the “culture of encounter.” When we have an encounter, when we meet another person, we listen to their stories, we break bread with them, we share our joys and sorrows, we acknowledge them as a person with whom God allowed you to have the encounter. We are called to have these encounters with God's *anawim*—the poor in spirit, the marginalized, the outcast, the forsaken and forgotten. They are children of God who were broken by life's circumstances and have little or no voice to help relieve those circumstances.

In the gospel, Jesus prays to the Father that “they may all be one.” Jesus wants for all of us – the broken, the forsaken, the lost, and the forgotten – to be one, one family in the Lord. When we are separate, we forget about one another. We lose sight of each other's plights and ills. That we may all be one just as Jesus and the Father are one is a very special kind of “oneness.” This oneness is a bond that is stronger, thicker, and more durable than any other. This is the way our world ought to be, a world where we not only care *about* one another, but we also care *for* one another. We take the time to notice, to listen, to feel for our brothers and sisters – especially those who are most in need of our care. This is Humanity 101.

How are we caring for and caring about those who are oppressed and mistreated? How are we caring for and caring about those who cannot speak or fend for themselves? As we meditate on the readings this week, I invite you to think about, pray about and care about those who are victims of gun violence, racial injustice, climate calamities, violence, and war – all those who are affected and their loved ones. Jesus prayed that we all may be one as he and the Father are one. When we can pray for and care for, pray about and care about those who are in harm's way, then we are one step closer to that oneness as Jesus prayed. May the Lord give you peace and may we all be one.

Carolyn D. Townes, OFS  
Animator of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation  
U.S. Secular Franciscan Order

**Suggested Action:**

Make a list of names of the people in your life - family, special friends, coworkers, church friends, etc. - and say a prayer for oneness.

**Suggested Petitions:**

For all the recent victims of gun violence in Buffalo, California, and those areas not reported nationally. May God grant healing and peace, we pray...

For all people; that we may yearn deeply for a culture of encounter where we care for each other as Jesus cares for us. We pray...

**Prayer:**

**O Lord our God, graciously hear our prayers, those spoken and unspoken;  
those of the named and unnamed;**

**those who have the voice to speak out and those who do not.**

**Our Lord Jesus prayed that we may all be one. Grant us the grace, Father, to fulfill the words of our Lord.**

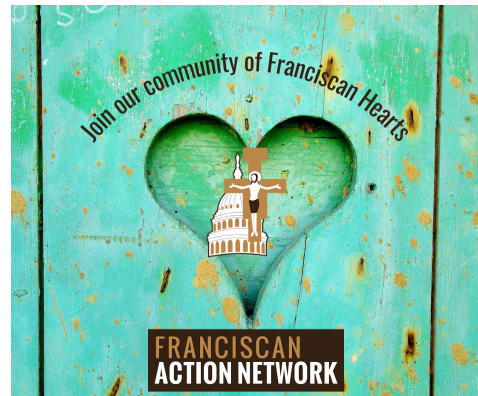
**Help us to love in the oneness of you and your Son. In Jesus' name, we pray.**

**Amen**

## Join our Community of Franciscan Hearts

Last week, you [read](#) about our monthly recurring donation campaign from our board member Sr. Margaret Magee, OSF. We look forward to building genuine caring relationships with you, our donor base, as we seek to increase individual monthly donations.

For the majority of FAN's life, our main source of funding has come from our institutional members, which are communities of religious sisters and friars. Those communities are diminishing in size, but through monthly contributions from justice-minded people such as yourselves, we can continue to grow our [community of Franciscan hearts](#) to ensure that Franciscan values are heard throughout the halls of Congress and across the country. We hope you will consider [joining us](#).



## Join us for the Poor People's Campaign Moral March on Washington

On June 18, people from across the nation will assemble and march as a moral coalition to shift the moral narrative, put a face on the pain of our people and challenge the notion that this is the



best we can do. Take a moment to read this blog post about the [Poor People's Campaign and the Franciscan Call](#) by New York City Area FJC member, Julie Leining Pycior.

FAN will gather Franciscan-hearted people for a brief prayer service at 9am outside [St. Patrick's Catholic Church](#) on 10th Street NW and then we will march together to the assembly location at 3rd Street and Pennsylvania Ave. [Click here for more details.](#)

**Buses are available from all over the country.** Find more information and links on [our website by clicking here.](#)

## The Role Faith Communities Can Play in Building a Weather-Ready Nation

Spiritual and faith-based houses of worship are often places of safety, volunteerism, and crisis management during and after high-impact weather events (e.g., hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, flash flooding). Hence, spiritual and faith-based communities can be an integral part of building a Weather-Ready Nation.

The poster features the AMS logo and the title 'Webinars'. It lists the presenter as Doug Hilderbrand, National Weather Service HQ. Other speakers include Bruce Jones, Midland Radio; Dr. Carlos Javier Martinez, NCAR/AMS COSMOs; Rev. Susan Hendershot, Interfaith Power & Light; and Director Marcus T. Coleman Jr., DHS Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. The event is co-sponsored by Interfaith Power & Light and Creation Justice Ministries. The date and time are 1 June 2022, 2PM Eastern Time (1800 UTC). The URL is ametsoc.org/WebinarSpiritual.

The American Meteorological Society Committee on Spirituality, Multifaith Outreach, and Science, Interfaith Power & Light, and Creation Justice Ministries are hosting a [webinar](#) on **June 1 at 2:00pm ET/11:00am PT** to discuss collaboration opportunities between spiritual/faith-based organizations to build a Weather-Ready Nation. [Register to attend by clicking here.](#)

## Save the Date: Wear Orange on June 3

Every year on the first Friday in June, members of the gun violence prevention movement come together to honor survivors of gun violence and demand a future free from this crisis. With more shootings every day, such as the recent Southern California church shooting and Buffalo shooting, we invite you to join moms, students, veterans, survivors, and others by [wearing orange](#) throughout the weekend to show your support—in every state across the country.

June 3 is [National Gun Violence Awareness Day](#), starting Wear Orange Weekend to honor those killed and wounded by gun violence, and to call for an end to our country's gun violence crisis. FAN staff will be taking part and we hope you will join us. Find ways to [join in online by clicking here.](#)



## 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. [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!](#)

## Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

Every year the heat rises, storms worsen, and our dependence on foreign fuels enables authoritarian power grabs. On Saturday, April 23 a rally was held in Washington, DC to call for climate action at the scale of the crisis we are experiencing. Michael Gering (*pictured*) is a member of the Washington, DC Franciscan Justice Circle and attended the rally. Click here to see [more photos](#) from the day.

[Click here to find out more](#) about our Franciscan Justice Circles and [contact us](#) to get connected to a Circle near you.

