

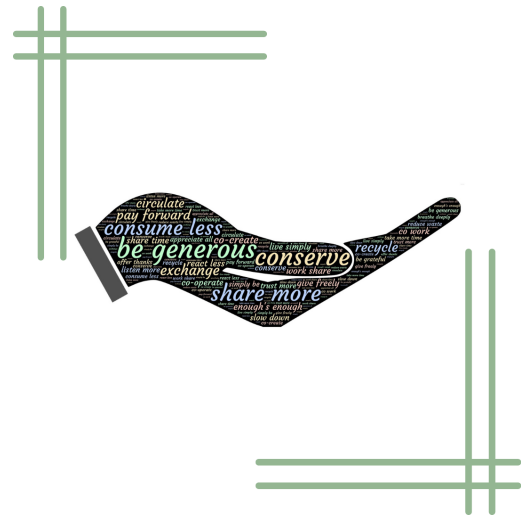
Publication Date: June 13, 2022

Reflection Date: June 19, 2022 - Solemnity of Corpus Christi (Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ)

## Sharing the Loaves and Fishes

Image by [John Hain](#) from [Pixabay](#)

In the [Gospel of Luke next Sunday](#), we hear a familiar story about Jesus feeding the hungry. A huge crowd is following Jesus and, as the day draws to a close, the disciples implore him to dismiss the crowd so they can find their own shelter and food—surely a reasonable suggestion. Instead, Jesus poses what seems like an unreasonable challenge: “give them some food yourselves.” When the disciples protest that they only have five loaves and two fish, Jesus offers an image of solidarity, abundance and generosity. Holding the bread and fish, he says a blessing and gives the food to the disciples to distribute to the crowd. Somehow, all are fed and twelve baskets of fragments are left over. The message is simple in some ways. There is no scarcity; the world is filled with abundance and laden with generosity. If bread is broken and fish is shared then there is more than enough for everyone.



We witness this solidarity and generosity in Polish families meeting Ukrainians fleeing war at the train station. These families hold signs indicating the number of people to whom they can offer hospitality. No questions, no vetting, only solidarity. We witness this solidarity in the elementary school principal in Krakow, Poland, making space for scores of students fleeing Ukraine. The parents purchased backpacks with all the essentials because friendship is as important as education. We witness this solidarity in the volunteers welcoming hundreds of migrants, many of whom are asylum seekers, on more than 30 buses sent from Texas to Washington, DC in the past few months. We witness this solidarity in the anonymous donor paying the funeral expenses for the 19 children and two adults who were killed in the Uvalde school shooting. In all these situations, and many more, we see solidarity in action.

This Gospel is the only story retold six times in the Gospels. Though we sometimes call this story the “multiplication” of the loaves and fishes, no version of the story says that the quantity of bread or fish increased. Each rendition does say that the disciples claimed there was not enough food to respond to people's needs. But when Jesus asked them to give everything they had, there was more than enough. Like the disciples, we are called to be active witnesses of a world filled with abundance and laden with generosity.

Sr. Louise Lears, SC  
FAN Creation Care Advocacy

### **Suggested Actions:**

[Advocate for an end to Title 42](#), which prevents those fleeing violence in their home countries from seeking asylum in the United States.

Find ways to participate in the difficult conversations about reducing gun violence and healing polarization.

### **Suggested Petitions:**

For the courage to imagine constructive and peace-filled ways to heal hatred and end violence, we pray.

For advocacy in favor of those who are undernourished or at risk of falling into poverty, we pray.

### **Prayer from jesuitresource.org**

**Sharing the loaves and fishes,  
You gave us an image of solidarity with the hungry, O Lord.  
Sharing yourself in the bread and wine,  
You called all to the table, O Lord.  
Give me the hunger to be a part of the feeding  
And the healing of this world.  
Nourish me with your Grace,  
So I may work with joy to serve you.  
Open my eyes and my heart  
To recognize those in poverty  
And increase my awareness  
Of the structures and systems  
That need to be changed  
So we may all break bread together.  
In your name we pray for the end of hunger.**

**Amen**

## **Ukraine Faith Delegation Q&A Event June 14**

FAN participated in a [delegation of leaders](#) who traveled to Kyiv in late May to express solidarity with the people of Ukraine and to pray for a just peace.

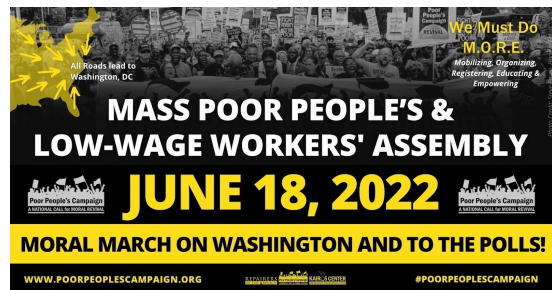
The Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in Washington DC will host a special **hybrid event tomorrow, Tuesday June 14 at 7:00pm ET (4:00pm PT) in person at the Monastery and [online via Zoom](#)** to hear a first-hand account of the trip from two members of the delegation. Michele Dunne, FAN executive director, and Eli McCarthy, professor at Georgetown University, will discuss what they experienced and how people of faith can make a difference for peace.

We invite you to join us tomorrow, **Tuesday June 14 at 7:00pm ET (4:00pm PT)** in person at the Monastery or online. Please [register to get the link](#). **We will share a recording after the event for watching at your leisure.**



## Join FAN on June 18 for the Moral March--in DC or Virtually

We are rapidly approaching **Saturday, June 18**, when the **Poor People's Campaign** will gather in Washington, DC, for a **Moral March to the Capitol**. This major event is meant to carry on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy and to unite poor and low-wage people across the country into a fusion of movements towards making change for the common good of all Americans. As Franciscans who believe those on the margins are the most beloved of God; we will lovingly accompany them and advocate with them in this Moral March.



**We invite you to join us in person.** All the details for coming to the live march on June 18th and information about joining us for a Catholic prayer service that morning can be found by [clicking HERE](#).

**If you can't physically make it to Washington on June 18th**, we encourage you to participate spiritually in a virtual way by hosting a watch party. We developed a guide to help you plan. Download the Watch Party Guide by [clicking HERE](#).

## On Feast of St. Anthony, Thank You for Your Support

On today's feast of St. Anthony of Padua, we take a moment to thank you for your support and ask those who have not yet done so to consider expressing that support through [monthly giving](#), *one of the best ways to support our Franciscan Network's collective advocacy*.

St. Anthony was known as a great preacher with a concern and love for the poor. In addition to being a patron Saint of lost items and the poor, St. Anthony's intercession is also sought for good relationships. At FAN, we call on him to help us know best how to ally with the impoverished and overlooked and to strengthen the relationships we have with you, our network.



Please [watch this brief video message](#) from FAN board member and Congregational Minister of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany Sr. Margaret Magee who says, "St. Anthony is the model, the inspiration we need for the work of justice today."

Thank you again to those who have taken the opportunity to support FAN with monthly donations. [If you haven't yet signed up as a monthly donor there is still time.](#)

## Celebrate World Refugee Day

On June 20, the world celebrates [World Refugee Day](#) (WRD) to honor refugees around the globe. Every person on this planet has a right to seek safety – whoever they are,



wherever they come from and whenever they are forced to flee. Below are two special events for WRD 2022.

We invite you to join in [Holy Voices for World Refugee Day: Welcome For All!](#) **TONIGHT, June 13 at 7pm ET (4pm PT)** to hear about the urgent need to restore welcome for all. From the refugee resettlement program to the asylum system, speakers will educate, inspire and equip attendees to advocate for change.

On **June 20, 2022 at 7pm CT (5pm PT)**, the Archdiocese of Chicago is holding a WRD activity, *Voices of Immigration: Seeking Refuge from War*. Please [register](#) and join in a time of prayer, reflection, and music for the people of Ukraine, those who seek refuge abroad and those who seek safety at home.

On **June 21, 2022 at Noon ET (9am PT)**, Jesuit Refugee Services/USA is holding their own WRD event, *Virtual Cooking Demonstration with Foodhini*. Have your aprons ready as JRS/USA invites you to cook along with [Chef Zainab from Foodhini](#) as she walks you through the steps to prepare a traditional Afghan dish, Lubya Kidney Bean Stew. Once you [sign up for this event](#), JRS/USA will send you a list of ingredients that you'll need to purchase beforehand.

## Take Action on DACA Anniversary

June 15th is the 10th anniversary of the inception of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). For a decade, DACA has been a band-aid instead of lasting protection for immigrants. Many continue to live with constant uncertainty as the future of DACA hangs in the balance.

As an organization, we continue to advocate for permanent protections for our undocumented sisters and brothers and we invite you to join us. Take a look at [this one-pager](#) from our friends at Home is Here that contains several ways to **take action on June 15th**.



## Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

Are you looking for a local group of people interested in action and advocacy in response to the social and environmental problems in your area, while being grounded in Franciscan values?

Find out what our [Franciscan Justice Circles](#) are about by watching this video, [Circles of Change](#).

Please [contact us](#) if you would like to learn more or visit any of the zoom Circle meetings happening this week:

- Nashville, TN Circle 7-8pm Central Time
- Delaware Valley Circle (DE, NJ, PA) 7-8pm Eastern Time
- Cincinnati Tri-State Circle 7-8pm Eastern Time

