

Hosting a “Watch Party” for the Poor People’s Campaign BRIEF GUIDE

While Franciscan Action Network (FAN) invites all people who are able to join us live in Washington, DC, to march for poor and low-wage people, we know that this simply isn’t possible for everyone. As an alternative, we are encouraging individuals and groups around the country to participate in the march virtually and spiritually either live or at a later time.

We’ve prepared this brief guide to help you hold a “watch party” event with family or friends so that you can pray and act in solidarity with the Poor People’s Campaign.

We at FAN will be in Washington, live on your behalf! If you can join us, you can view info about where we will be gathering and when we will be marching in this PDF:

<https://franciscanaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Moral-March-Information-UPDATED.pdf>

Information from the Poor People’s Campaign is available here:

<https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/june18/>

**CATHOLICS
for
JUSTICE**



This brief guide and prayer service was prepared by the staff of Franciscan Action Network for use by the Moral March’s Catholic mobilizing partners.

WHEN?



Live on June 18, 2022, at 10:00 am eastern time
But, you can stream the video anytime later

WHERE?



All live events will be taking place near the US Capitol in Washington, DC
You can host your watch party anywhere that you have enough space, internet access, and some basic equipment

HOW?

Here is the simplest method for holding a watch party:
(more advanced options follow on page 3)

- #1 You will need a laptop or other computer device with internet access (even a smartphone is enough if you are participating individually)
- #2 Gather at 9:30 am (eastern) with your group and celebrate the prayer service that we have included later in this guide (pgs. 4-8)
- #3 Open your browser and at 10am (eastern) or later, go to:
<https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/livestream/>
- #4 If you are using a TV, projector, or other equipment, make sure that your equipment is connected to your laptop and working properly
- #5 The entire Moral March is scheduled to go until about 2 pm (eastern), we recommend stopping or pausing around 11:30 and having a discussion using the questions we have suggested at the end of this guide (pg 9)
- #6 Be inspired by what you see and hear and make a commitment to taking concrete action to support poor and low-wage people!

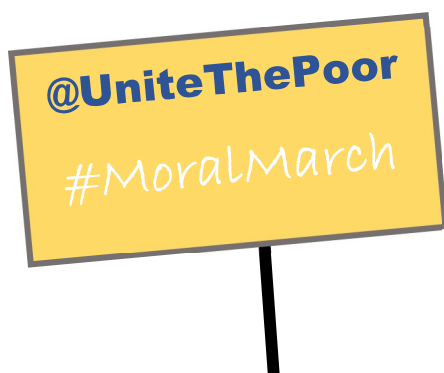




We offer these ideas as ways that you could enhance your watch party experience, but all of these options do require some creativity and flexibility in order to pull them off successfully.

There are several ways that you can enhance your watch party experience that only require a little extra planning ...

- Hold your watch party at a time that is more convenient for you.
- Organize your own full-scale prayer service.
- We are planning on recording the Catholic prayer service we have coordinated for before the Moral March in Washington. If you'd like to use it for reference, it will be available at www.franciscanaction.org website after 10am on June 18th.
- Invite local leaders to join you for your watch party and discussion.
- Organize your watch party through Zoom or livestream your watch party on your social media so that others can see your example
- Make banners, decorate t-shirts, sing songs and post photos or videos of your efforts on your social media and send your photos and videos to tharkleroad@franciscanaction.org so that we can share them too!



LEADER = The peace of the Lord be with you! **ALL** = And also with you!

Let us begin by acknowledging the presence of God who is our Creator, our Savior, and our Advocate and recalling our baptism by marking ourselves with the sign of the cross ... (**ALL**) **In the name of the Father and of the Son and other Holy Spirit. Amen.**

We gather here today to respond to a call to action made by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. many decades ago and to renew our commitment to act for justice.

We gather as we prepare to march together to the capitol of this nation and demand that our elected representatives see every human life as sacred and worthy of dignity and justice.

We gather here in the presence of God to be reminded of our vocation, given to us in baptism to proclaim the Good News and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Let us become aware of God's presence here with us and seek God's blessing on our efforts today and going forward by using praises composed by St. Francis of Assisi:

READERS 1 & 2

1 = You are holy, Lord, the only God,
and Your deeds are wonderful.

2 = You are strong.
You are great.
You are the Most High.
You are Almighty.
You, Holy Creator are Ruler of heaven and earth.

1 = You are Three and One, Lord God, all Good.
You are Good, all Good, supreme Good, Lord God, living and true.

2 = You are love. You are wisdom.
You are humility. You are endurance.
You are rest. You are peace.
You are joy and gladness.
You are justice and moderation.

1 = You are all our riches, and You suffice for us.
You are beauty.
You are gentleness.

2 = You are our protector.
You are our guardian and defender.
You are our courage. You are our haven and our hope.

1 = You are our faith, our great consolation.
You are our eternal life, Great and Wonderful Lord,
God Almighty, Merciful Savior.

Part 2: The Word of God

READER 3 = A reading from the Prophet Micah ...

What can we bring to the LORD?
 Should we bring him burnt offerings?
 Should we bow before God Most High
 with offerings of yearling calves?
 Should we offer him thousands of rams
 and ten thousand rivers of olive oil?
 Should we sacrifice our firstborn children
 to pay for our sins?
 No, O people, **the LORD has told you what is good,
 and this is what he requires of you:
 to do what is right, to love mercy,
 and to walk humbly with your God.**

Part 3: A Human Response

READER 4 = A reading from Hymn For The Hurting by Poet Amanda Gorman ...

Everything hurts,
 Our hearts shadowed and strange,
 Minds made muddled and mute.

We carry tragedy, terrifying and true.
 And yet none of it is new;
 We knew it as home,
 As horror,
 As heritage.

Even our children
 Cannot be children,
 Cannot be.

Everything hurts.

It's a hard time to be alive,
 And even harder to stay that way.

We're burdened to live out these days,
 While at the same time, blessed to outlive them.

This alarm is how we know
 We must be altered —

(continued)

That we must differ or die,
That we must triumph or try.

Thus while hate cannot be terminated,
It can be transformed
Into a love that lets us live.

May we not just grieve, but give:

May we not just ache, but act;

May our signed right to bear arms
Never blind our sight from shared harm;

May we choose our children over chaos.
May another innocent never be lost.

Maybe everything hurts,
Our hearts shadowed & strange.
But only when everything hurts
May everything change.

(Pause for reflection)

Part 4: The Words of Jesus

LEADER = A proclamation of the Good News according to St. Mark ...

"And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL = Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



Part 5: Blessing and Sending Forth

READER 5 =

Let us bow our heads for a blessing written by the servant of God, Sr. Thea Bowman.

“O Lord, help us to be attentive to your commands. Help us to walk in unity. Help us to celebrate who we are and whose we are.

Help us to overcome selfishness, anger, and violence in our hearts, in our homes, in our Church, in our world.

Help us knock down, pull down, shout down the walls of racism, sexism, classism, materialism, and militarism that divide and separate us.

Help us to live as your united people, proclaiming with one voice, our faith, our love, our joy.”

LET THE CHURCH SAY AMEN! ALL = AMEN!

May the Lord bless us and care for our world through us. May the Lord let his grace shine upon us and stir our hearts to action. And may the Lord look upon each and everyone of us and make us instruments of God’s peace! + In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
ALL = Amen.

LEADER = We now respond to what we have heard through Scripture. We do what is right, we love mercy, and we walk humbly with our God and one another to join with thousands of others raising our voices on behalf of our neighbors, our brothers and sisters. We seek a movement in solidarity with many others of diverse backgrounds as we advocate with and in favor of people who have been made poor, marginalized, or are oppressed and for those without a voice. **LET THE CHURCH SAY AMEN! ALL = AMEN!**

Blessed and filled with God’s grace, let us go now in peace to love and serve the Lord by loving and serving one another!



We encourage you to actually or symbolically take a few minutes to march with and for all of our poor and low-wage brothers and sisters before turning on the livestream or video of the official Moral March assembly.

A Song for Marching

Make me a channel of Your peace
Where there is hatred let me bring Your love
Where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in You

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul

Make me a channel of Your peace
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light
And where there's sadness, ever joy

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul

Make me a channel of Your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving to all men that we receive
And in dying that we're born to eternal life

Time for Discussion

After the Moral March is finished (or when you choose to pause), it is helpful for each individual to reflect upon the experience and then to process it collectively as a Circle. At this point, the focus is not on resolving anything or taking action, despite possible temptations to do so. It's recommended that you give everyone time to write down answers to personal questions and then share and reflect together.

Post-Rally Reflection Questions to be answered individually in silence.

1. What happened? What did I experience?
2. What moments stand out to me the most?
3. What did I feel? What emotions did I experience?
4. What questions do I find myself asking?

Choose 3 or 4 questions to discuss and reflect on as a group.

1. What did we experience?
2. How did we feel (before, during, and afterwards)?
3. What are the larger social issues at play (Poverty, Race, Health, Violence)?
4. What complexities or even contradictions did we encounter?
5. What are some of the pressing needs present in the community?
6. How does this experience impact our faith?
7. How did we grow from this experience?
8. How has our view on the world been altered or expanded?
9. What action(s) could we take because of having this experience?

* Borrowed from the Franciscan Action Network's Franciscan Justice Circles guidebook