

Our Capacity to Love Expands

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

In the first reading for the [15th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#), we are told to heed the commandments and statutes of the Lord. Moses seems to chastise the people, saying the commandment to love one another “is not too mysterious and remote for you.” (Dt 30:11) Almost as if to say, ‘Come on people, it’s not that hard to figure out.’ In the Gospel, Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan, reaffirming the same commandment. Love. That’s it. Just love. Love your friends, love your enemies, love all creatures and colors of people and types of creation. Perhaps easier said than done, but why is that?



When I became a mother for the first time, the love I held for my beautiful daughter was all encompassing. When trying to describe it to others, I would say ‘It’s like I can’t breathe.’ Love for her consumed me. When I was awaiting the birth of my second child, I remember asking my own mom, “How can I love another baby the same?” Her answer was profound in its simplicity; “Love has no limits. Your capacity to love expands.” How true I discovered that to be when I had a third child. I love each of them with my whole heart and find I still have more love to offer.

In Paul’s letter to the Colossians, we are reminded that all we have comes from God. Coupled with the commandment to love, a seemingly logical argument pops in my head: if all you have comes from God, give it back to God through your love of others. That is how I feel God speaking to me through these Scriptures. To be thankful for what I have been blessed with and to show sincere gratitude by giving of myself and my gifts to others in a display of love. At FAN, there are many opportunities to show our love.

The Franciscan vision, I’ve come to learn, is transformational and involves conversion of hearts. We advocate for fair public policies through education of the Franciscan charism as well as addressing those social structures which do not provide for the common good. This translates to love of others through prayer and action. I love my neighbor when I pray each day for the migrants and refugees coming to our country who don’t have the same opportunities I have. I love my neighbor by bringing food to our local food pantry to help feed those in my community. I love my neighbor when I sign a petition urging Congress to enact legislation granting citizenship for all who desire it. How will you show your love today?

Janine Walsh
FAN Communications Coordinator

Suggested Action:

Read through the news blocks below for a topic about which you are passionate and show your love by taking action. Educate yourself, reach out to policy-makers in favor of a just cause or give of your financial resources.

Suggested Petitions:

For all those who feel alone and seek love; may they be surrounded by caring, loving people. We pray...

For hearts to be opened to the immense and unending love of Jesus Christ. We pray...

Prayer:

**Bless us with Love, O Merciful God;
That we may Love as you Love!
That we may show patience, tolerance,
Kindness, caring and love to all!**

Amen

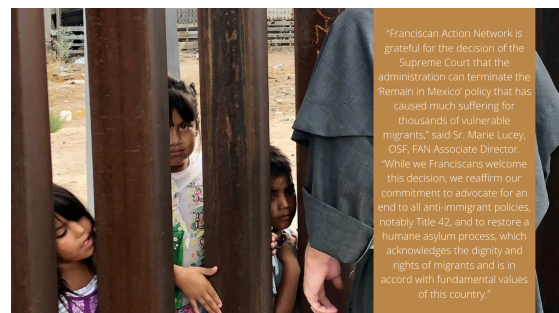
FAN Statement on SCOTUS Abortion Decision

After the recent Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade, Franciscan Action Network issued [this statement](#) on June 26. Emphasizing our embrace of a consistent ethic of life beginning at the moment of conception, FAN added “We want a child born, a child fed, a child educated, a child housed and raised in a healthy, life-supporting environment. We want to see women surrounded by compassion and provided with options that enable pro-life decisions.” Read the [entire statement here](#).



Good News from Supreme Court on ‘Remain in Mexico’ Policy

Some good news came out of the Supreme Court last week in the decision on the “Remain in Mexico” policy. The Court ruled that federal immigration law does not require the Biden administration to return asylum applicants to Mexico pending rulings on their cases. The policy forced many asylum seekers trying to cross the U.S. border to return to Mexico to await hearings before U.S. immigration judges.



“Franciscan Action Network is grateful for the decision of the Supreme Court that the administration can terminate the ‘Remain in Mexico’ policy that has caused much suffering for thousands of vulnerable migrants,” said Sr. Marie Lucey, OSF, FAN Associate Director. “While we Franciscans welcome this decision, we reaffirm our commitment to advocate for an end to all anti-immigrant policies, notably Title 42, and to restore a humane asylum process, which acknowledges the dignity and rights of migrants and is in accord with fundamental values of this country.”

The Interfaith Immigration Coalition, of which FAN is an active member, released [this statement](#) in which FAN’s Associate Director, Sr. Marie Lucey stated, “Franciscan Action Network is grateful for the decision of the Supreme Court that the administration can terminate the ‘Remain in Mexico’ policy that has caused much suffering for thousands of vulnerable migrants”. [Read the statement in full](#).

Supreme Court Decision on WV vs EPA

On Thursday, June 30, the U.S. Supreme Court limited the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency to reduce carbon pollution from power plants. The Court's decision in *West Virginia v EPA* will make it significantly more difficult for the EPA to set the strong standards needed to address air and water pollution. Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra [called the decision](#) "a public health disaster." He raised concerns that failing to regulate power plant emissions could lead to increases in asthma, lung cancer, and other diseases associated with poor air quality.

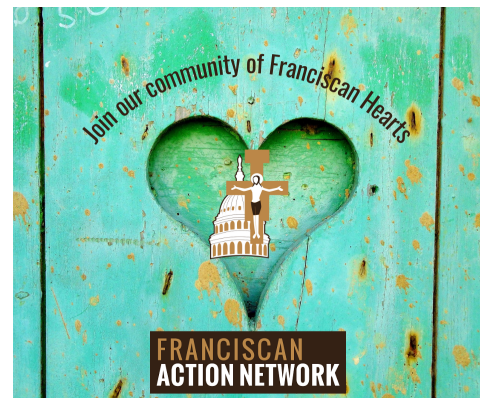


Low-wealth communities and communities of color have always experienced disproportionate impacts from air and water pollution. Now, more than ever, we need Congress to adopt a bold climate policy that honors the voices and needs of those who are most often left out. The House has already passed legislation including \$555 billion in climate provisions. An example of these provisions is the [Recovering America's Wildlife Act](#) which will invest \$1.4 billion in collaborative efforts to protect our wildlife. That bill is stuck in the Senate. [Tell your Senators that climate cannot wait!](#)

Join our Franciscan Hearts: Become a Monthly Donor

Giving monthly is one of the best ways to support FAN's work that channels and unites the cries of our Franciscan hearts for peace and justice.

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, and we are so grateful for their ongoing support. 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](#).



Suppressed and Sabotaged: The Fight to Vote

The Capitol riot was over a year ago and the House committee continues their investigation of the insurrection. With new information coming to light about prior knowledge of the possibility of violence on January 6th, it is evident that threats to U.S. democracy are far from over. Efforts to sabotage the voting methods of millions have taken root in states all



across the country.

The latest documentary from our friends at Brave New Films, [*Suppressed and Sabotaged: The Fight to Vote*](#), sounds the alarm on this existential threat to our democracy and informs voters on how to take action.

The film is accessible for free on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) and now Brave New Films is working with national, local, and state-based partners to facilitate screening events that pair with local action. The goal is to deliver resources and support to 1,000 screening events by November 2022. Get [more information and sign up to host a screening here](#).

Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

Do you or someone you know live in St. Bonaventure, NY or the Rochester, NY area? If so, we welcome you to come to a Franciscan Justice Circle “Come and See” Zoom meeting this week!

- Wed. July 6 at 7pm: **St. Bonaventure community Come and See.** [Contact us](#) for zoom link!
- Thurs. July 7 at 4pm: **Rochester, NY Come and See.** [Register here](#) to receive zoom link!



The following Circles will be meeting this week and you are welcome to join:

- **Mid-Hudson Valley FJC:** Tues. July 5 at 12pm EDT. [Contact us](#) for zoom link.
- **Kansas FJC:** Tues. July 5 at 7pm CDT. [Contact us](#) for zoom link.

All the upcoming Circle meetings are [listed on this page](#), and if you don't see one in your area, [we'd love to talk with you](#) about the possibility of forming one!