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What is Your Passion?

Image by [Gloria Williams](#) from [Pixabay](#)

The first time I met my friend Ardeth, she reached out to clasp my hands, looked directly at me, and asked with a gleam in her eyes: “What is your passion?” All this before she even knew my name. I don’t remember my answer. I imagine my introverted self was searching frantically for a reply and I hope it was somewhat coherent.



I have pondered and prayed with Ardeth’s question over the years since that encounter. It’s an important question because located within our passion is our heart. Jesus makes this clear in the Gospel reading for the [Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#). He says to his disciples – and to us: “For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.” Locate the passion, locate the heart.

We cannot see what is in another’s heart nor can they see what is in our heart. But we can see what comes out of the heart. Most simply, the things and people to which we give our resources, prayer, time and attention are the things our hearts will care about. Even more importantly, we need to know what and who is in God’s heart. What is God’s passion? Throughout Scripture, God’s heart is always with the *anawim*, the little ones: the orphan, the sick, the stranger, the widow, those who are forgotten. Jesus embraced these little ones as bearers of the Reign of God. “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the Kingdom of God.”

Who are the *anawim* in God’s heart today and how will we advocate with them? They are the asylum seekers with few resources arriving on buses in a number of cities in our country, wondering whether anyone will greet and assist them. They are people of all ages who are going without needed medications or care because they have inadequate or no health insurance. They are the people who live in Cancer Alley, the 85 mile stretch along the Mississippi River between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, who suffer multiple times the rate of cancer as other Americans. They are Native Americans who seek to preserve their culture and sacred places while more and more mining companies seek to drill on tribal lands for critical minerals. They are house cleaners, nannies and home health aides, many of whom are women of color and immigrants, who seek written contracts and workplace safety.

What is your passion? Where is your heart? What will you do to feed that passion?

Sr. Louise Lears, SC
FAN Creation Care Advocacy

Suggested Actions:

[Learn about Title 42](#). Call your Senators this week to oppose the continued use of Title 42 to turn away asylum seekers at the southern border.

Ask your Senators to pass [The Recovering American Wildlife Act](#) that will invest in proactive, collaborative conservation efforts to address the wildlife crisis.

Suggested Petitions:

For those suffering from famine, floods, drought and wildfires and for the frontline workers who respond to these disasters, we pray to our Loving God.

For children whose interests and needs are often overlooked and underserved, we pray to our Loving God.

Prayer (often attributed to Pedro Arrupe, SJ; author is Joseph Whelan, SJ)

**Nothing is more practical than
finding God, than
falling in Love
in a quite absolute, final way.
What you are in love with,
what seizes your imagination, will affect everything.
It will decide
what will get you out of bed in the morning,
what you do with your evenings,
how you spend your weekends,
what you read, whom you know,
what breaks your heart,
and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.
Fall in Love, stay in love,
and it will decide everything.**

Amen

Urge Passage of Ambitious Climate Legislation

The U.S. Senate might vote as soon as this week on a budget reconciliation package, the "[Inflation Reduction Act of 2022](#)," which includes extensive provisions to address climate change as well as extending the Affordable Care Act, reforming prescription drug prices, and raising revenue from corporate taxes.

While the legislation is far from perfect, it contains \$385 billion in climate provisions and would be the largest climate change package ever passed by Congress, reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions 40% by 2030. Features include \$60 billion for clean energy manufacturing, a fee on methane emissions, and consumer incentives for purchasing electric vehicles. Also included is \$60 billion to empower communities



experiencing environmental injustice and \$30 billion to help rural communities implement climate smart practices in agriculture and forestry. All of these would be important steps towards caring for God's beautiful creation and for those disproportionately affected by climate change.

- Please **contact your senators as soon as possible** to express your support for the climate provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act, as voting might take place within a few days. Our partners at Catholic Climate Covenant have created an [email tool here](#). *Please consider modifying the suggested draft to express your concern about negative amendments related to asylum/Title 42 that might be attached to the Act* (see below for details.)
- If you are Catholic, please also reach out to the leaders of institutions such as parishes, schools, universities, and organizations to ask them to [sign](#) this important [letter](#) showing that Catholics care deeply about creation.

Ensure that Amendments to Inflation Reduction Act Do Not Prolong Title 42

Thank you to all who called their senators last week in response to our action alert about ensuring an end to Title 42, which excludes asylum seekers. Your voice makes a difference.

During the [vote-a-rama](#) that will be happening in the Senate this week around budget reconciliation (the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022), some senators might propose an amendment prolonging Title 42. Therefore, the Interfaith Immigration Coalition has agreed to host an additional call-in day on **this Wednesday, August 3rd**. Even if your senators support an end to Title 42, please remind them to be alert to any amendments to prolong it that might be proposed along with budget reconciliation. Find a [suggested script on our website](#).

Once we get the new call-in resource materials, we will pass it along to those who wish to take action. Please [fill out this quick form to let us know you'd like to be included on follow up communication](#) related to immigration, refugees, and asylum.

In response to the recent mobilization urging the Senate to oppose the continued use of Title 42 as a form of immigration enforcement, USCCB/MRS, Catholic Charities USA, and Catholic Relief Services produced a 9-minute [video](#) expressing urgency about this cause.

CALL TO ACTION	
CALL YOUR SENATORS AND URGE THEM TO "HEAL NOT HARM" TERMINATE TITLE 42	
 (202) 224-3121	
MORE INFO AT WWW.FRANCISCANACTION.COM	
	

Prepare for August Refugee and Asylum Advocacy

Faith and other voluntary groups are struggling, largely without government support, to meet the needs of the hundreds of asylum seekers being sent daily by bus from Texas and Arizona to Washington D.C., New York and other cities. Recently, National Catholic Reporter [wrote](#) about New York Catholic Charities calling out this "chaotic



approach" to dealing with asylum-seekers coming into the country.

Advocacy efforts are beginning to get local, state, and federal officials to provide the support needed to meet asylum seekers needs. In resources from Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid Network you can find a [script for calling DC Mayor Bowser's office](#) (for both DC and Non-DC residents) as well as [information on more ways to help](#). Additionally, two partners from Interfaith Immigration Coalition have developed campaigns for people to join with others in taking action in support of refugee and asylum issues. Find more information about each here:

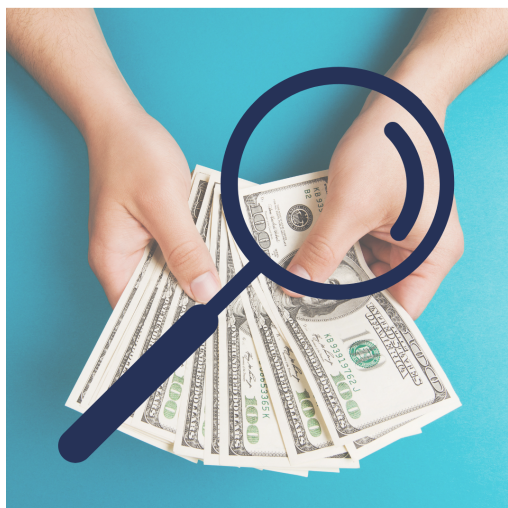
- [Join HIAS \(originally the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society\) - August 15-19](#)
- [Join We Are All America - August 22-26](#)

Members of Congress return home in August to connect with constituents, which presents a unique opportunity for advocacy. We urge you to meet with your elected officials (in-person or virtually) to impress upon them the importance of protecting people who are seeking safety.

Urge Your Senator to Pass the DISCLOSE Act

FAN has long supported the need for federal legislation designed to secure free and fair elections and protect the rights of voters. Right now, the Senate has the opportunity to take a significant step toward ensuring that special interests, corporations, billionaires and foreign interests do not sway our elections. The [DISCLOSE Act](#) would stop anonymous spending in our elections by requiring entities trying to influence our elections to disclose their major political donors.

In order to make progress on the issues people of faith care about such as human dignity, racial justice, and environmental justice, we must ensure our system serves the people – not the interests of the rich and powerful. [Take action now and tell your senators to pass the Disclose Act.](#)

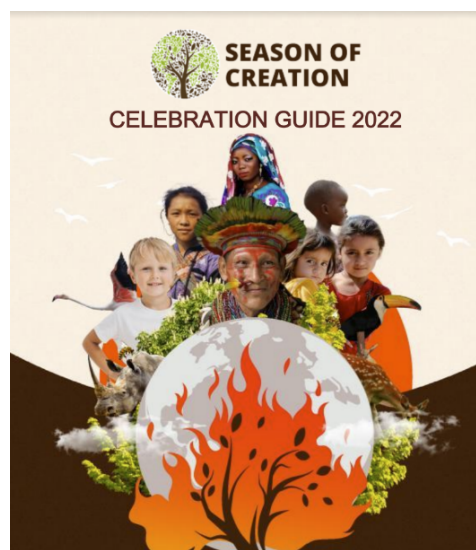


Plan Now to Celebrate the Season of Creation

Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for a worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common call to care for creation. We invite you to consider bringing your community together to celebrate the [Season of Creation](#).

This year's Season of Creation theme is "**Listen to the Voice of Creation.**" Get some ideas in the [Season of Creation Celebration Guide](#) which includes a section on Advocacy. Begin small, using these [sample church bulletin messages](#).

Here are some more ideas for planning a Season of



Creation activity:

- Host ecumenical prayer service (a sample prayer service is available in the Season of Creation Celebration Guide)
- Organize a Creation Walk or Pilgrimage
- Engage your local surroundings through Earth Examen
- Hold a sustainability event. For example, serve a meal, plant a community garden, organize a tree planting, start a healthy habitat
- Advocacy: Participate in campaigns that call for ecological restoration

May this season of prayer and action be a time to Listen to the Voice of Creation, so that our lives in words and deeds proclaim the good news for all the Earth!

Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

Have you been curious about reaching out to your elected officials while they're home during the August recess, and looking for ideas of how to go about that? Please visit **FAN's Advocacy Resources** page [HERE](#). Only by working together can we truly bring about change. Your advocacy matters!

Reminder: FAN is partnering with JustFaith Ministries to invite you to participate in a free 10-week pilot program, ***Just Engagement***, which will guide you in taking a justice concern and applying various tools and principles to stand in solidarity with those affected by the issue and work together for lasting change. This opportunity is open to Franciscan Justice Circles, who might want to participate as groups, as well as to any interested individuals (whether Circle members or not). Please [sign up here](#) if you would like to participate! **The deadline is Friday, August 5.**

a new kind of
fool in the world

