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Let me pause for a moment and say out loud what I say to myself and what you might be thinking, “Kent, it is not all about you!” You are correct! It isn’t about any one of us, but rather a timeless message for all of us, individually and collectively, and is always the case, most important for us in this moment.

Beyond the initial coincidence of the number of folks in a group, much more pressing is coming to terms with what is meant when Jesus says that he came not to establish peace but division. This is of great importance to the Church and to collectives like the Franciscan Action Network who are committed to peacemaking.

In reflecting on this passage, Blessed Denis the Carthusian wrote: “In other words, do not imagine that I have come to offer people a sensual, worldly and unruly peace that will enable them to be united in their vices and achieve earthly prosperity.” Blessed Denis speaks instead of “a good, healthy kind of division...” centered on love of God and desire for inner peace. This inner peace flows from love, God’s love of us. It in turn flows outward in our love of neighbor. It gains clarity in our church teaching on commitment to the common good and the preferential option of the poor.

Bestowing good interior, spiritual peace, Blessed Denis contends, was the chief reason for Christ's coming. It is that gift of peace which is meant to unite us in our love of God. The universality of this gospel message is meant for us in this moment, whether we are part of a class of seven, a family of five, or a country of 332 million. We can indeed have a good, healthy kind of division so contrary to worldly division, which is too often based solely on self-interest and fear of the other.

May we pray for Christ's gift of peace and for patience with our brothers and sisters as they too seek peace.

Deacon Kent E. Ferris, OFS, MPTh, MS
Director of Social Action & Catholic Charities
Diocese of Davenport

Suggested Action:

As we approach her feast day this Thursday, reflect and pray on the example of our patroness [St. Clare](#) and [commit](#) to engaging in healthy debate using respectful dialogue.

Suggested Petitions:

For "good, healthy division" among all people; may it serve to build robust debate while maintaining respect for alternate opinions. We pray...

For those who feel their voices are not heard in the public sphere; may they find advocates willing to stand with them in solidarity and lift up their concerns. We pray...

Prayer: from [Franciscan Media Pause & Pray](#)

**God of right understanding,
everyone has their own ideas
and even when we disagree
we are all part of your family.
Help me see past the opinion
to the person who holds it
and open my ears to truly listen
to their point of view.
Help me treat others with respect
even when their ideas conflict with mine.
Let my words build people up and bring us together,
and never tear others down or drive us apart.**

Amen.

Tell Your Senators to Get Climate Done

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 is a budget reconciliation bill that requires only a simple majority in the Senate to pass. It includes \$369 billion in climate investments such as:

- Clean energy tax credits for wind and solar, electric vehicles, efficiency upgrades, heat pumps, and much more
- More than \$60 billion for environmental justice priorities
- Up to \$60 billion for domestic clean energy manufacturing
- \$27 billion to speed the development of emissions reductions technologies, especially



in disadvantaged communities

Its passage would be the single biggest U.S. investment to tackle climate change and will put our nation on the path to cut pollution emissions up to 44% by 2030, create millions of good paying clean energy jobs, invest in environmental justice, and reduce energy bills for working families across the country. Take action today and [tell your Senators to pass the Inflation Reduction Act](#).

Urge the Senate to Pass the Assault Weapons Ban

Mass shootings are a painful reality in our country. No group or place seems exempt: children and churchgoers, grocery stores and nightclubs alike are affected. But one thing that's common is the weapon of choice used to commit the violence. It is almost always an assault weapon.

say **NO** to

#WeaponsOfWar.

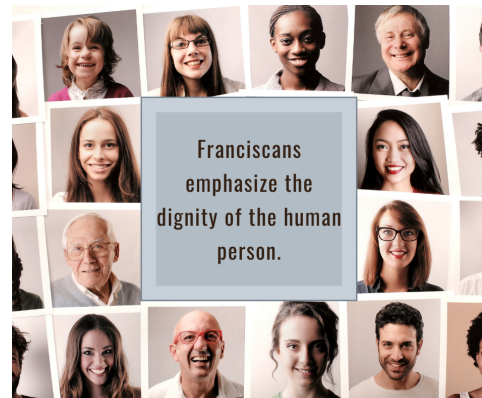


The House just passed an assault weapons ban for the first time in almost 30 years. This legislation will criminalize the knowing sale, manufacture, transfer, possession, or importation of many types of semi-automatic weapons and large-capacity ammunition feeding devices. In other words, it will take weapons of war off our streets. With increased momentum due to the House passage of the bill, there is a real chance to pass this legislation. We haven't been this close to a nationwide assault weapons ban in decades and [we must keep up the pressure](#).

[RSVP HERE](#) to join the Newtown Action Alliance #EndGunViolence Lunch & Lobby sessions during the month of August from noon to 2pm ET. Their Federal Legislation team will lead you to strongly urge the Senate to pass the assault weapons ban. You can also [contact your Senators directly using this link](#).

Take Action: Support an End to Modern Slavery

At the end of July, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly voted to pass the [Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victim Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act](#) of 2022 (TVPRA). The bill would reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, a crucial piece of legislation that provides the legal framework for the U.S. to combat, monitor, and prosecute human trafficking crimes and simultaneously address the way children who have experienced severe trauma are treated in the criminal legal system. The bill would also fund programs that support victims, educate persons vulnerable to trafficking, award grants to assist in recognition of trafficking, and provide survivors with employment and education plans.



Currently, in the Senate, the TVPRA has been divided up into three bills that would reauthorize the TVPRA;

1. [S 3946](#) – Abolish Human Trafficking Reauthorization Act

2. [S 3949](#) – Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act
3. [S 4171](#) – International Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act

We need your help getting more Senators onboard to support these crucial bills. Contact your Senators and urge them to support all three bills. Both victims and survivors are depending on our actions. [Contact your senators by clicking here.](#)

Save the Dates for FAN's Annual Gala

The staff at Franciscan Action Network are preparing an exciting program for our upcoming annual gala, focusing on the peacebuilding that is at the center of the Franciscan tradition.

Please save the evening of **Thursday, October 6, 2022** at 7pm ET (4pm PT) and plan to join us for dinner **in person in Washington, DC** or **view the program online**. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us.

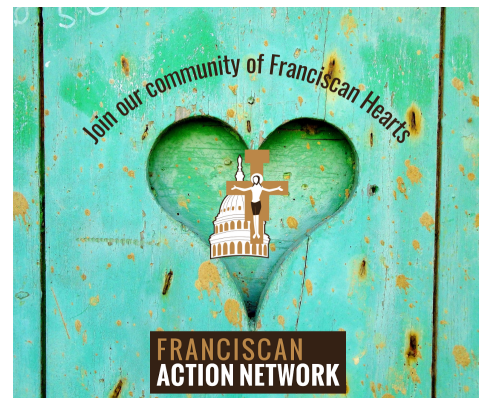


Watch this space for an invitation with all the details. Looking forward to seeing you there!

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](#).



Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

We hope you are able to join us on the next monthly national [Franciscan Justice Circles](#) call this **Wednesday, Aug. 10 at 1pm Pacific / 4pm Eastern**.

At this month's call, we will have an opportunity to hear from Circle members around the country who will share stories of their work.



For the link to join the call or for more information about the FJCs, please [contact Nora Pfeiffer](#).