

Called to be God's People...All of Us

When we gather as a community we witness the greatness of the Lord because we're His family! Jesus tells us stories because He likes us to grow in the awareness of who we are. In reflecting on the readings of the [26th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#), which falls on World Day for Migrants and Refugees, we hear and see that we are called to be God's people. That call to be family is a very important one, especially today. The scripture speaks loudly about how history is repeated when we do not see as God sees and are not changed by the words of Jesus or by the fruits of the Holy Spirit.



Not a lot has changed since the time Jesus told the parable about the rich man and Lazarus. How many of us still need to be reminded of Jesus' lesson: it's not what you have as much as how you use what you have! Again, not much has changed from the complacency of Israel and our feelings about immigrants and refugees seeking help and a chance in our country, which accepted many European immigrant families when they were displaced and trying to make a better life. We tend to have memory loss on this issue. But be encouraged and listen to the stories of those seeking a better life for their families.

We at FAN are proud of helping policymakers to hear these stories, to share and encourage and work for immigration reform. Please offer a prayer for our joint efforts because the work in this area of policy can be overwhelming!

Br. Paul Crawford, OFM Cap.
FAN Board President

Suggested Action:

Take time this week to look at some of the [stories collected on the Vatican's Migrants and Refugees website](#). Allow one to penetrate your heart.

Suggested Petitions:

For all migrants and refugees, may they be welcomed and safely cared for. We pray...

For all migrants who are met with uncertainty, may they keep faith and persistence. We pray...

Prayer: [Strangers in a Foreign Land](#) (Author Unknown)

Lord God, help us to remember those who tonight will go to sleep unfed and unwelcome, strangers in foreign lands, people who have fled for their lives and are far from their homes. We lift up to you those who are escaping persecution and conflict, having fled

death, torture or ruthless exploitation. So many carry wounds, mental and physical. So many have suffered greatly.

Lord Jesus, give us more of your compassion for their plight, soften our hearts to their situation, and help us follow your lead in seeking justice and mercy on their behalf.

We pray for an end to the wars, poverty, and human rights abuses that drive desperate people to become refugees in the first place.

Amen

You're invited to a Virtual Transitus Service

As the Feast of St. Francis draws near, we invite you to a [virtual Transitus service](#) on Monday, **October 3 at 5:30p ET / 2:30p PT** presented by members of our Franciscan Justice Circles.

Thanks to the initiative of one of our Circle members, we offer this opportunity to unite across the country in remembering Francis of Assisi's passing from this life on earth. If you are able to go to a live service, please do so; we don't want to compete but instead offer this for those who do not have that opportunity.

[Please register in advance by clicking here.](#) After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



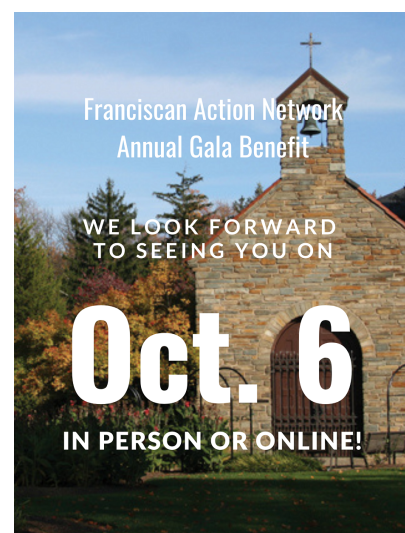
Get your Tickets Today for our Annual Gala Oct. 6

We are delighted to host our gala **in person for the first time since 2019** and we hope that as many of you as possible will join us for **dinner and our program at St. Francis Hall, Washington, D.C. at 6:00pm ET.**

For those out of the D.C. area, we will **livestream the program from 7:30-8:30 pm ET (4:30-5:30pm PT).** [Get your tickets here.](#)

Our theme will be "[Peacebuilding in the Spirit of Sts. Francis and Clare](#)," and our speakers and honorees will include **Margaret Carney, OSF** (Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities), **Gloria Purvis** (America Media), **Marie Dennis** (Pax Christi), and **Greg Jackson** (Community Justice Action Fund). [Click here for more details and bios of our speakers.](#)

We hope you'll join us!



Take Action: Urge U.S. to Lead By Example on

Climate

This November, the United Nations will be holding its annual international climate conference, [COP27](#), in Egypt. As we continue to see the effects of climate change globally through drought, fires, floods and other weather-related disasters, it is crucial that President Biden and [the U.S. lead by example by taking bold pro-climate actions](#) and making serious and ambitious investments to reduce our carbon emissions.



Sign our letter to President Biden asking the U.S. to support bold and just climate action at COP27

The climate provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) are a step in meeting the commitments we have made to the global community, and now it is time to do even more. This is why we, as people of faith and conscience, are sending a petition to President Biden to urge him to uphold our moral responsibility to care for our Sacred Earth at COP27.

The Interfaith Power and Light is collecting signatures on this [petition to President Biden](#) calling on the U.S. government to lead by example by committing to bold and just climate action.

Join Value Our Families in a Week of Action

There are currently more than 4 million people in the family immigration backlogs waiting to reunite with their loved ones. Many people in our communities have been waiting for years, sometimes even decades, to be reunited with their families waiting abroad.

The [Value Our Families Campaign](#) is coordinating a virtual and in-person [week of action from Monday, October 3rd to Friday, October 7th](#) to urge key lawmakers to support family immigration and clear the family visa backlogs. This week of action will consist of in-person, in-district meetings with key lawmakers, phone banking, and digital advocacy. No prior experience is needed to participate!



Logistics, training, and scheduled meetings will be provided prior to meeting with your key legislator. [Sign up to participate here](#) by **Friday, September 21**.

Franciscan Mission Service Job Opportunity

Our sister organization [Franciscan Mission Service](#) (FMS) is seeking an inspiring, mission-focused Program Manager to run the organization's Overseas Lay Mission Program. [Learn more on the FMS website](#). Find the [full job description and application here](#).



Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

Our monthly national FJC call last week was dedicated to the topic of "Building the Future with Migrants & Refugees," just ahead of the Vatican-designated World Day of Migrants and Refugees. We welcomed Todd Scribner from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Bushra Seddique, Afghan journalist and refugee resettled in the U.S. We invite you to read Bushra's passionate [article in The Atlantic](#) describing her escape from the Taliban.

Our faith calls us to protect the most vulnerable, yet our new Afghan neighbors continue to face an uncertain future. [Urge Congress](#) to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act and support the ongoing relocation and resettlement of Afghans.

For Afghans arriving in the U.S., safety
is only *temporary*.



**Congress: Pass the Afghan
Adjustment Act - NOW!**

 EVACUATE OUR ALLIES