

Write Down the Vision

Our first reading for the [Twenty-Seventh Week of Ordinary Time](#) is from the prophet Habakkuk. This short book (three chapters) is devoted entirely to a dialogue between God and Habakkuk, whose name means “to wrestle and embrace.”

When Habakkuk was writing, Israel was under corrupt leadership where injustice, evil, and tragedy were the norm. Habakkuk saw the injustice happening around him and questioned whether God even cared. His heart ached for the people and the oppression they were facing. In the midst of the injustice, Habakkuk was trying to reconcile who he believed God to be and what he saw in front of him.

A familiar dilemma that many of us have faced, wondering where God was in the midst of pain and sorrow and whether God truly cared.



Against all odds, Habakkuk decided to wait faithfully for God’s response to his lament. When God finally answered, Habakkuk heard this command: “write down the vision; make it plain upon tablets.” This vision, God promises, “will not disappoint” and will come at the “appointed time.”

We too see injustice, oppression and discrimination around us. Our hearts are broken by the plight of those fleeing violence in their countries, the polarization in our political arenas (and beyond), the pollution caused by petrochemical plants in so-called “sacrifice zones,” the harm to our earth and to our sisters and brothers from fires and floods. Surely, this is not God’s vision; just as surely, it cannot be our vision.

Like Habakkuk, we are called to wrestle with and embrace God’s vision and to trust that it will “surely come.” But this vision cannot exist only in writing or in our imagination. God’s vision needs our action, our advocacy, our prayer, our persistence. God’s vision asks us to show up and speak up for justice. It requires trusting that the vision will come, though we may have to wait. As Martin Luther King, Jr. said: “the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”

Sr. Louise Lears, SC
FAN Creation Care Advocacy

Suggested Action:

Take time to learn about the [United Nations Climate Change Conference](#), more popularly known as COP27. The Conference will be held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt from November 6-18, 2022.

Suggested Petitions:

Guide your Church toward greater welcome of those fleeing violence in their home countries.
We pray...
Increase our reverence and wonder for the beauty of our Common Home. We pray...
Inspire negotiations for peace and help us to end the production of nuclear weapons. We pray...

Prayer (Adapted from a prayer by Bishop Ken Untener)

**It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.
We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise of God's work.
Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.
We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.
This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.
We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.**

Amen

Our Gala is 10 days away: Get Your Ticket Today!

If you haven't yet purchased a ticket for our annual gala on the evening of **Thursday, October 6**, there is still time. 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**. 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](#)." 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](#). Our musical guests for the evening will be [SmithJackson](#) a duo from Washington, D.C. [Read more about them here](#).



You're invited to a Virtual Transitus Service

As the Feast of St. Francis draws near, we invite our whole network to a [virtual Transitus service](#) on **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 as an alternative.

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



Join us for Part 2 in our Series on Confronting Environmental Racism

On **Thursday, October 13th, 4-5 pm ET / 1-2 pm PT**, we will hold the second of our four-part series on [Confronting Environmental Racism](#).

At this timely gathering we will watch the next documentary of the series with a focus on New Orleans, Louisiana and Cancer Alley. Recently, RISE St. James [celebrated a victory](#) when permits that would allow Formosa Plastics to build a huge complex were rescinded. Our **guest speaker will be Jo Banner, co-founder of The Descendants Project**. [Click here to register.](#)



The oil, gas and petrochemical industry have long placed their facilities in sacrifice zones inhabited by Black, Brown, Indigenous, or poor communities. As Franciscans, we are called to stand with our sisters and brothers who have been most directly affected. **It's time for us to stand with communities on the front lines of this environmental racism.**

Franciscan Action Network, the Franciscan Federation and the Franciscan Friars (OFM) US-6 JPIC Working Group are pleased to present this 4-part webinar series which will run once a month from September 8th-December 8th. [Register to attend one or all the events by clicking here.](#) If you have registered previously for all the webinars, there is no need to register again.

Symposium: Faiths for a Just Energy Transition

People of diverse faiths and of good will are organizing new efforts to meet the climate threat and calling for a [Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty](#), a global initiative to phase out fossil fuels and support a just transition. Several multi-faith climate advocacy groups have organized a [half-day](#)



[symposium](#) to introduce the idea and offer more information.

On **September 28 at 10am ET / 7am PT** a global, live streamed, multi-religious climate justice half-day symposium will introduce the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, its pillars, and the religious foundations for its support. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

Earlier this month, a rally in Washington DC was held to protest the Mountain Valley Pipeline, a fracked gas pipeline that would run through 303 miles of West Virginia, Virginia and into North Carolina. Frontline communities in the region say they are tired of being used as bargaining chips in a political side deal aimed at ramping up fossil fuel projects.

On September 8, directly impacted communities and advocates from [People vs Fossil Fuels](#) came to Washington to make their voices heard: “We are not your sacrifice zones! #StopMVP”.



DC Franciscan Justice Circle members attended the rally and are pictured here. If you'd like to learn more about the Franciscan Justice Circles, [contact us](#).