

## Who are your Aaron and Hur?

Image by [Gisela Merkuur](#) from [Pixabay](#)

There is no doubt about the theme of the scripture readings for the [29th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#): perseverance in prayer. The message is so direct and clear that maybe that's all there is to say. Hold on, the writers tell us. The lesson is not simple, however, just because it is so clear.



In Exodus, victory for the Israelites depends on an aging Moses keeping his hands raised. Try it and see how long your arms stay raised without assistance. Moses needed help. So Aaron and Hur supported his hands so they “remained steady till sunset.” And Joshua won the battle. It is foolish, even arrogant, to think that we can go it alone in the many battles that besiege us, both from outside and within. We need others. We need Aarons and Hurs. Jesus had his disciples, both men and women. Francis had his close companions, both women and men.

In his second letter to Timothy, Paul charges the younger man to proclaim the word with persistence, “whether it is convenient or inconvenient.” Easy enough when people listen and ask for more, but it is tempting to throw in the towel when no one listens, when others berate or deny or ridicule if the word is challenging. In calling us to deal with climate change, Al Gore aptly titled his work, *An Inconvenient Truth*. Despite overwhelming evidence, some still deny this truth because paying attention calls for sacrifice, for a change in behaviors.

Jesus narrates a parable to express the need for us to persevere in prayer. The persistence of the widow finally wears down the dishonest judge to deliver a just decision. The judge is not suddenly converted, but he gives in just to be rid of the pesky widow. Yes, the lesson is to persevere in prayer, but the parable can also offer us encouragement to keep insisting on just decisions by those who have legislative or administrative power. Keep telling the stories of people who are harmed by indifference or by unjust callous decisions. If those who have power to make changes are annoyed with us, so be it. Together, we must wear them down with inconvenient truths. Clare of Assisi is also a model of persistence, wearing down the pope who finally approved her rule as she was dying.

Sr. Marie Lucey, OSF  
FAN Associate Director

### **Suggested Action:**

Name some of the women and men in your life who inspire and encourage you to persevere in prayer and action. Pray with gratitude for your Aarons and Hurs. Join others who take action for justice suggested in the FAN weekly newsletter.

### **Suggested Petitions:**

That we may persevere in prayer and action to bring to fruition the kingdom of God on Earth, let us pray...

On this **Indigenous Peoples Day**, may we acknowledge why some truths are inconvenient for us, and pray for conversion of mind and heart, let us pray...

### Prayer by Pope Francis from Laudato Si':

**God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love  
for all the creatures of this earth,  
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. . .  
The poor and the earth are crying out.  
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,  
help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future,  
for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty.  
Praise be to you!**

**Amen**

## Thank you for making our annual gala a success!

One hundred people at St. Francis Hall in D.C. and even more online gathered October 6th for our annual event, which highlighted domestic and global peacebuilding efforts in an interview with Marie Dennis and Tony Lewis, Jr. conducted by *America Media* podcast host Gloria Purvis. We also honored Sr. Margaret Carney and Secular Franciscan Deacon Bill Coffey for their tireless efforts to bring a healing Franciscan touch to our society. You can find [photos of the evening by clicking here](#).



**We want to extend a heartfelt thanks to all our sponsors and donors to the event.** Please take a moment to view [the presentation that was shared](#) during the program which includes these sponsors. If you missed the event but would still like to donate, [please click here](#).

## Join us Thursday 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](#). We will screen the next documentary of the series with a focus on New Orleans, Louisiana and "Cancer Alley." Our **guest speaker will be Jo Banner, co-founder of The Descendants Project**. [Click here to register](#).

It's time for us to stand with communities on the frontlines of environmental racism.

**Confronting Environmental Racism**

Sponsored by Franciscan Action Network, the Franciscan Federation and the Franciscan Friars (OFM) US-6 JPIC Working Group



From plastics to cosmetics, fashion, fertilizer, and more, petrochemicals are everywhere in our daily lives, seeping into our air, water, soil, food, and bloodstreams. While all Americans are affected to some extent, Black, Brown, Indigenous, and poor communities are affected much more than others.

Get more info and register to attend at  
[www.FranciscanAction.org](http://www.FranciscanAction.org) OR [www.FranFed.org](http://www.FranFed.org)

Frontline organizers in the Gulf region recently [led a Toxic Tour](#) of the surrounding polluter sites to highlight the community-led fights against fossil fuels. The expansion of oil, gas, and petrochemical infrastructure in the Gulf Coast region threatens to construct an expansive, permanent network which would have catastrophic long-lasting impacts to public health, land and water resources, Indigenous sacred sites, and our global climate. [Join us on Thursday to learn more.](#)

## FAN Participates in Vigil Honoring Abused Black Asylum Seekers

In September 2021, some 15,000 Haitians fleeing environmental disaster and political instability arrived in Del Rio, Texas. Though the Biden administration had been informed of their imminent arrival, it did not prepare adequate resources to humanely receive these individuals and families, who were subjected to poor conditions and abuse by Customs and Border Patrol (CBP).



On Sept. 23, FAN [joined](#) Haitian Bridge Alliance and other immigrant advocates, faith groups, and Haitian leaders for a rally outside CBP and marched to the White House for a faith vigil in honor of abused Black asylum seekers. [Read about the event here](#) and watch a short video [here](#).

## New Documentary: Servant of God Sr Thea Bowman

"[Going Home Like a Shooting Star: Thea Bowman's Journey to Sainthood](#)," presents the riveting life of Thea Bowman FSPA, an African American Catholic Franciscan Sister who used her powerful gifts to educate and challenge the church and society to grow in racial inclusivity. Her skills in preaching, music, and teaching moved many Catholics to begin to confront their own racism while she urged her African American brothers and sisters to claim their gifts and share their "fully functioning" personhood. Sr. Thea worked tirelessly to proclaim this message until her untimely death from breast cancer in 1990. In 2018, Thea Bowman was declared a Servant of God, a first step toward sainthood.



Several members of FAN's staff have watched [the film](#) and recommend it highly.

## New Film from the Vatican and Laudato Si' Movement

Laudato Si' Movement, in partnership with Off the Fence Productions, has collaborated with the Vatican to release [The Letter](#), a film about five people from around the globe who journey to meet with Pope Francis to share their stories relating to care for creation. This film brings



Pope Francis' vision of integral ecology to life, featuring frontline champions from around the world. Each person represents a voice that is not being heard—the voice of the Indigenous, the young, the poor, and nature.

The film will be [available for free](#) for global audiences through a partnership with YouTube, and will be screened at events and in communities across the world. Sign up to [host a screening here](#).

## Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

This Wednesday, October 12 will be our monthly national FJC zoom call at 1pm Pacific / 4pm Eastern. We will learn about one of the elements of circle processes and put it into practice while reflecting on taking part in the upcoming elections as an opportunity to take action with our values. Please [contact us](#) if you would like to join.

The first **Franciscan Justice Circles National Gathering** will be held virtually on Saturday, November 12 - please mark your calendars. The theme will be *Franciscan Relationality and Change-Making*. Our intention is that Circle members leave the National Gathering more connected to each other, inspired, supported and empowered with skills to take Franciscan-inspired action.

