

Reflection on Receiving the Franciscan Vision Award

Sr. Margaret Carney (pictured) received a Franciscan Vision Award from FAN at our [Annual Gala on October 6](#) for her visionary leadership of the Franciscan Federation. Below is a reflection she wrote that guided the remarks she gave at the event, which many of us found inspirational. You can watch the recording of Sr. Margaret delivering her remarks at FAN's gala by [clicking here](#).



The question that rises in me when I am in the presence of people like you—people who spend every day on the JPIC barricades—is this: What allows you to go on day after day? How can you continue your work even when it appears that little progress is made, or progress can be demolished after untold efforts. Outstanding successes are few and often not heralded in the Times or CNN.

In Christopher Frye's play, "A Sleep of Prisoners" there is a line that fits this sensibility.

"Thank God our times are now when wrong comes up to face us everywhere. Never to leave us till we take the longest stride of soul [man] ever took. Affairs are now soul-size. The enterprise is exploration into God."

Fr. Bill Headly C.S.Sp., founding director of the Kroc Institute at the University of San Diego, spent years working with various national and international organizations like FAN. At one point he made a study to answer that question. He asked what made it possible for persons working in situations of extremely stressful conflict and injustice to have faith, to draw on their spiritual motives and resources. He conducted this work study in Northern Ireland, Palestine, South Africa. Years ago, I had the privilege of hearing him describe the outcomes of these visits and the people he came to know. He reminded me that very often the leaders making headlines are supported by a great many companions who share their risky ventures. The disciplines that developed within these persons, these communities, are what make it possible to persevere. These insights have remained helpful to me.

How do we sustain ourselves on the quest for a better world and church? If I were to put the question to each of you this evening, you would surely answer with some of the following explanations:

- I have been called to this. I know this and accept this vocation.
- I am so inspired by those who do this work; I want to be part of it.
- The grace of God urges me forward.
- My community is a source of strength and hope.
- I must help to alleviate this suffering.

[Click here to continue reading.](#)

Sr. Margaret Carney, OSF
2022 Recipient of Franciscan Vision Award

Suggested Action:

Consider how you manage to keep a positive attitude in your advocacy work. What do you do to sustain hope?

Suggested Petitions:

For all those who suffer at the hands of injustice. May there always be an advocate supporting them. We pray...

For advocates who feel they are not making a difference. May the hope of companions bolster their efforts. We pray...

Prayer: The Blessing of St. Francis

May the Lord bless you.

May the Lord keep you.

May He show His face to you and have mercy.

May He turn to you His countenance and give you peace.

The Lord bless you.

Amen

Join us for Election Eve Prayer Vigil

The Franciscan Action Network invites you to a special prayer vigil on the eve of midterm elections, **Monday November 7th at 7pm ET / 4pm PT**. The event will be nonpartisan and under one hour in length. We will gather to pray for the Holy Spirit to guide our country as well as our individual participation in the democratic process during and after the upcoming elections. [Register to attend by clicking here.](#)



As Franciscans, we are called to be peacemakers and to engage actively in public life in harmony with our faith. We hope you will [join us](#) for this special prayer.

Alternate Perspective of Francis' Family

As we close October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we invite you to read a [perspective of St. Francis and his family](#) that is not often explored and therefore possibly little known.

FAN Board Member and Conventual Friar Michael Lasky penned this reflection offering a unique viewpoint on Francis' mother, Lady Pica, and on the family dynamic. He



addresses the abuse endured by Francis at his father's hand and considers how their story can help bring forgiveness and grace to hurting families today. [Click here to read.](#)

New DACA Toolkit: The Consequences of Inaction

The Cisneros Hispanic Leadership Institute at George Washington University will announce the launch of a new toolkit rooted in research and centered on storytelling.

Tomorrow, Nov. 1 at 12pm ET / 9am PT, [join in](#) to hear about *The Consequences of Inaction: A Narrative Toolkit on the Social, Mental, and Emotional Effects on DACA Recipients in Limbo*. Attendees will learn about the original research and hear from research participants themselves on the power of storytelling and the consequences of a frozen Congress and living in limbo. [Click here to register.](#)



The Consequences of Inaction: A Narrative Toolkit on the Social, Mental, and Emotional Effects on DACA Recipients in Limbo

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/DACANarrativeToolkit>

November 1, 2022

12:00 p.m. ET | 9:00 a.m. PT



New Report Reveals Violence and Abuse Against Black Migrants in Immigration Detention

A major new study released last week finds a disturbing pattern of racism, violence and harm perpetrated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) against Black migrants.

[Uncovering the Truth: Violence and Abuse Against Black Migrants in Immigration Detention](#)

demonstrates that Black migrants face far higher levels of abuse in immigration detention and are subject to a disturbing pattern of anti-Black racism, violence, and harm.

The report, developed by Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI), The UndocuBlack Network, Black LGBTQIA+ Migrant Project (BLMP), and Freedom for Immigrants, illustrates how detention is inherently anti-Black and racist. [Learn more and read the full report here.](#)



Webinar: Deadly Intersection of White Supremacy & Firearms

Tomorrow, **November 1 at 1pm ET / 10am PT**, the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions will host a [webinar](#) on the complex and deadly intersection of white supremacy, political violence, guns and the Second Amendment.

Panelists will touch upon the events and the

The Deadly Intersection of White Supremacy & Firearms
Virtual Panel: Tuesday, November 1, 1pm ET

 Darrell Miller, JD Melvin G. Shimm Professor of Law Duke University	 Tim Carey, JD Law & Policy Advisor Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions	 Liliana Mason, PhD Author of <i>Uncivil Agreement: How Politics Became Our Identity</i>	 Rep. Jamie Raskin U.S. Representative for Maryland's 8th Congressional District	 Moderated by: Keshia Pollack Porter, PhD Chair, Health Policy and Management Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
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aftermath of the insurrection at the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021, U.S. trends in the justification of political violence, the role of gun laws, including "stand your ground," and promising solutions to mitigate this cycle of racism and hatred. [Click here to register.](#)

Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

This month, members of the Driftless Region FJC met over a weekend in-person in La Crosse, WI, hosted by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. Their aim was to get to know one another better and define their goals as a Circle. Together they got their hands dirty doing service in the garden, shared homemade meals and their own stories, asking themselves what they hoped their collective "story of us" would be going forward. It was a time of connection with each other, Mother Earth and the Holy Spirit. Renewed in energy, the Circle continues the process over their monthly zoom meetings and regular communication.



Note: The Driftless Region describes a topographical area that includes southwestern Wisconsin and southeastern Minnesota and refers to the fact that glaciers never reached this region in the last ice age and therefore it lacks glacial deposits (drift).

If you'd like more information on Circles forming in your area, [contact us](#).