

This Sunday is the [First Sunday in Advent](#), when we begin preparation for one of the most significant examples of the humility of God modeled in the birth of Jesus, who took on the flesh of creatures and gave His “flesh for the life of the world” (Jn. 6: 51). Thomas of Celano, the first biographer of Saint Francis, wrote that for Francis, God “delights to be with the simple and those rejected by the world.”

What does living with humility mean for us today? It might mean admitting we might not see the whole picture (as God sees it), so we must be open to seeing through new lenses. It might mean being silent and trying to understand another's perspective, especially if it is the polar opposite of our own. To transform society, to bring about the Kingdom of God in the world, we need to be open each day to a transformative way of being in the world, which is only realized with humility. Only when we are prayerfully open to our individual transformation can we work effectively to transform unjust structures and societies. It is only with humility that people see our common humanity and that we are all human beings made in the image of a child born in Bethlehem.

Suggested Action:

Suggested Petitions:

Incarnated God, please give me the humility needed to be instructed in Your ways and walk in Your paths. We pray...

Prayer:

[illegible]

Heavenly Father, we ask for Your help to walk humbly with our brothers and sisters. It is all too easy for us to fall prey to our flesh and to walk in arrogance, but pride causes division and we desire peace. Lord, help us to humble ourselves in order that we do not let the lies of the enemy overtake us; rather, help us to count ourselves as equals with one another. It is then that we will stop attempting to be better than others, and we can love their hearts for the unique persons You made them to be. Help us to value one another in this humble spirit so that we may live to the fullest.

In Jesus name,
Amen

Remember FAN on Giving Tuesday

Next Tuesday, November 29th, is Giving Tuesday, a day to support your favorite organizations. This year, FAN has sought to serve our network in many ways, such as our [“Healing the Wound”](#) interfaith vigil in January and [“RE-Humanize this Lent”](#) process. We gathered more than 100 people in Washington for the [Poor People’s Moral March](#) and examined [“Confronting Environmental Racism”](#) through a 4-part webinar series. Our first [“Election Eve Prayers for Guidance and Harmony”](#) in preparation for midterm elections saw more than 600 views.



If you attended any of these programs and value the advocacy that FAN does, please support us with a [contribution for Giving Tuesday](#) or any time before the end of 2022. Find more ways to donate by [clicking here](#). Thank you for your partnership in our work!

Judicial Decision Ends Title 42 Border Policy

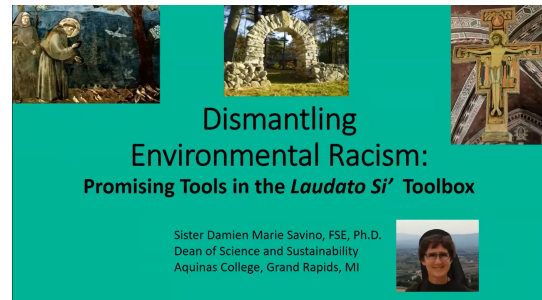
Last week, a U.S. District Court judge issued a decision ending the use of the Title 42 health policy to expel migrants rapidly at the U.S. border, deeming it a violation of U.S. asylum law with no basis in public health. While the ruling won't have an immediate impact, we welcome this news. Franciscan Action Network has joined many other faith communities across the nation in our steadfast commitment to welcoming migrants.



The interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC), of which FAN is an active member, issued a [statement](#). Sr. Marie Lucey is quoted, saying, “Franciscans welcome this ruling and urge the Biden Administration and Congress to begin work immediately to restore asylum protections and create a safe, humane and workable system that acknowledges the dignity and rights of sisters and brothers who seek safety in this country from harmful situations in their home countries.” [Read the whole statement here](#).

Dismantling Environmental Racism

We recently learned about a talk given by one of our Board Members, Sr. Damien Marie Savino, F.S.E., Ph.D., on Dismantling Environmental Racism. Sr. Damien Marie serves as Dean of Science and Sustainability at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, MI. In this "[Gallagher Talk](#)," Sr. Damien Marie shows scientific proof of environmental racism, using examples from the state of Michigan. She discusses the principle of integral ecology from Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'* and offers practical suggestions for what can be done at the local level, rooted in the Catholic Social Teaching principle of subsidiarity.



We [offer it as a resource](#) to complement our ongoing series on [Confronting Environmental Racism](#), which will conclude on December 8.

National Gun Violence Prevention Summit and Vigil

The 8th Annual National Gun Violence Prevention Summit, hosted by the Center for American Progress, can be attended [online](#) or [in-person](#) Dec 6-7. The event addresses the largest challenges and opportunities facing the gun violence prevention movement. Details can be found at the links above and an RSVP is recommended.

On the evening of Dec. 7, the 10th Annual National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence will be held in person at St Mark's Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C. from 7-9pm. Hosts of the event, the [Newtown Action Alliance](#), are encouraging groups to consider hosting a local vigil or a remembrance event to [#EndGunViolence](#) during the month of December. You may [register your event HERE](#) and download the 2022 Guide for hosting a local vigil or a remembrance event [HERE](#).



If you have not done so during the last 10 years, victims' families are welcome to [submit photo\(s\)](#) of a loved one taken by gun violence for the National Vigil Tribute Video.

Update of Stop Human Trafficking Newsletters

FAN consistently joins partner organizations to bring awareness to the plight of human trafficking, often collaborating with the U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking. Their monthly [Stop Trafficking Newsletter](#) is full of educational materials and ways to advocate for these silent victims and survivors.

The [November 2022](#) issue focuses on human trafficking and trauma bonding, commonly referred to as "Stockholm



Syndrome.” If you missed any past issues of the Stop Trafficking Newsletter, you can find them archived on our [website](#).

Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

The U.S. celebration of Thanksgiving is an annual time to reflect on the blessings in our lives and consider how we are called to bless others, especially the most vulnerable amongst us, as well as to lament our nation’s history of broken relationships with Indigenous communities. This week as we reflect on our blessings within the Franciscan Action Network, we want to express how grateful we are for all of the members of our Franciscan Justice Circles. **Thank you for your commitment** to living with sincere Franciscan values, building just relationships, seeking continual conversion and upholding human dignity in all places. May our self-giving God continue to shape us so that we might also give of ourselves to help our country reflect our interconnectedness and blessed kinship.

