

Up and Down the Mountain

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The gospel passage for the [second Sunday of Lent](#) begins with Jesus leading his inner circle of disciples up the mountain and ends with all of them coming back down the mountain. While on the mountain, the three disciples witness the transfiguration of Jesus, shining like the sun, conversing with Moses and Elijah, and they want to hold onto the moment by building three tents. But then comes a shadow and a voice telling them to listen to God's beloved Son, striking fear in their hearts. The first words they hear from Jesus are "Do not be afraid."



The gospel stirs questions: Why only these three disciples? Why the need to go up a mountain? Why the experience of seeing Jesus transfigured? How are the disciples changed? The more important question for us is, what is the relevance for us today? What are my mountaintop experiences, regardless of where they occurred? All of us have had experiences of feeling God's presence, God's nearness in a special way and we want to hold on to the moment. But we, too, have to come "down the mountain" from a special encounter with the Divine, back into the shifting, perplexing, disturbing, often frightening messiness of the world in which we live.

So did Francis of Assisi after he experienced special moments with God, with the Crucified Jesus, in the caves on Mount Subasio. He, too, came down the mountain, renewed in his commitment to walk in the footprints of Jesus with his fraternity, to care for lepers, preach peace, to be brother to all of creation.

In our descent from "mountain" experiences, do we hear God's voice saying to us, "This is my beloved Son...listen to him"? Can we also hear God say, "You, too, are my beloved; be light for others"? Too much to ask? Listen to Jesus say, "Rise, and do not be afraid."

Sr. Marie Lucey, OSF
Associate Director

Suggested Action:

During this second week in Lent, honestly acknowledge with gratitude when you have been a light for others, and just as honestly ask yourself what fears sometimes hold you back.

Suggested Petitions:

That we may become more attentive listeners to the voice of Jesus, let us pray.
That we may be light for others in the darkness of today's world, let us pray.

Prayer - Bl. John Henry Cardinal Newman

Jesus, flood our souls with your Spirit and life.
Penetrate and possess our whole being so utterly
that our lives may only be a radiance of yours.
Shine through us so that everyone we come in contact with
may feel your presence in our soul.
Let them look up and see no longer us but only Jesus!
Stay with us and then we shall begin to shine as you shine,
to be a light to others.

Amen

Seeing Anew with Eyes of the Heart

Franciscan Action Network has launched a campaign for Lent, [Seeing Anew with Eyes of the Heart](#), to journey together in seeking a conversion of heart in order to see and act anew. Each Wednesday we are sending out emails to offer words and stories to inspire you, questions to provoke reflection, opportunities to [share your thoughts](#), and actions for you to consider taking. This week's message will focus on preventing gun violence.



2022 Franciscan Action Network Annual Report

Please have a look at our [2022 Annual Report](#) and send us your feedback to info@franciscanaction.org. The report describes the work that our staff and Board do to bring a Franciscan voice to public policies related to justice, peace, and the integrity of creation in the United States.

Thank you for your continued investment in enlivening a national network of Franciscans and Franciscan-hearted people upholding the dignity of all of humanity and God's creation.



Lenten Resources from Partners

The Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC), of which FAN is an active member, has published [Lenten Values: Springing Into Action](#) that offers scripture, reflections, stories, prayers, and opportunities to take action connecting faith values with the work of immigration justice.

The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns has released their [Lenten Reflection Guide for 2023](#), offering weekly Sunday reflections from Maryknoll



missioners, questions, prayers, and actions based on each week's readings.

Resources for Faith Climate Action Week

Interfaith Power and Light has published a comprehensive resource for [Faith Climate Action Week](#), coming up April 14-23.

The theme of 2023's Faith Climate Action Week is "Living the Golden Rule: Just Transition to a clean energy economy." This toolkit will equip you to lead faith-based discussion and action at your congregation or in your community.

Purchase your 2023 Organizers kit!

Living the Golden Rule KIT NOW AVAILABLE

Join us to ensure a just transition
to a clean energy economy



April 14 - 23, 2023

FaithClimateActionWeek.org

Click here for the [ENGLISH toolkit](#) and click here for the [SPANISH toolkit](#).

Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

If you live in **Central Indiana**, we'd love for you to join us at an upcoming meeting of the newly forming Franciscan Justice Circle this **Thursday, March 2 from 1-2pm Eastern Time** over zoom, where you'll be able to connect with other local Franciscan hearts who want to collaborate in addressing ongoing issues of harm or injustice in the area. We invite you to join us on Thursday to see if God may be calling you to join the Circle! Please [contact FAN staff](#) to get the link.

MAKING SPACE
to invite grace



Every month FAN hosts a **national call on the second Wednesday of the month** at 4pm Eastern / 3pm Central / 2pm Mountain / 1pm Pacific, where people in the network, especially those connected to our Franciscan Justice Circles, have a chance to share and exchange experiences and support one another in our walk to live active Gospel-inspired lives with both feet of love in action - charity and social justice. If you'd like to join our upcoming March call on **March 8**, please [contact FAN staff member, Nora Pfeiffer](#).