

Publication Date: April 10, 2023

Reflection Date: April 16, 2022 - Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

“Peace be with you”

Image by [Treharris](#) from [Pixabay](#)

As I started focusing on my reflection for the [Second Sunday of Easter](#) (also called Sunday of Divine Mercy by Pope John Paul II in 2000) and its beautiful Scripture passages, I was pulled in so many directions. In considering the connection of mercy with justice and advocacy, I asked myself: what makes me do what I do? Is it connected somehow to mercy?



I came across a quote from Pope Francis:

“Divine Mercy often makes us aware of the sufferings of our neighbor.” I found this to be the answer to my question. What motivates me to advocate for justice is the awareness of suffering and injustice around me. The experience of mercy, of being forgiven totally, completely, and all the time by a Loving God, opens me to “see” my sisters and brothers, extend to them the same mercy, and advocate for a better world in which to live.

It is the suffering and the injustices all around that make me do what I do, the desire to make a better world by being mindful of the needs of people who are poor and suffer injustice. I went to search when and where Pope Francis said the words that touched me. I was so happy to find that it was in his homily on this same Sunday last year. I found it so insightful and thought provoking, as I always find Pope Francis’ homilies, that I decided to let him do the reflection this week. In that homily, Pope Francis reflects on the three times Jesus wishes the disciples, “Peace be with you.” It is well worth reading. Enjoy! [Find homily here](#).

Sr. Maria Orlandini, OSF
Director of Advocacy

Suggested Action:

Spend some time reflecting on what motivates your advocacy. Ask yourself: Why do I do what I do?

Suggested Petitions:

Let us pray for peace, that we may welcome the “Peace be with you” of Jesus and spread it around.

Let us pray that we may look at all our sisters and brothers with the same mercy with which God looks at us.

Collect Prayer:

**God of everlasting mercy,
who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast
kindles the faith of the people who have made your own,**

increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed,
that all may grasp and rightly understand
in what font they have been washed,
by whose Spirit they have been reborn,
by whose Blood they have been redeemed.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Happy Easter from Franciscan Action Network

As we begin the glorious season of Easter, we offer this prayer adapted from 'Lord, Open our Eyes' by Kathryn Spink, which can be found on our [website](#).

*Risen Lord, open our eyes,
That we may see you in our brothers and sisters.*

*Risen Lord, open our ears,
That we may hear the cries of the hungry, the cold,
the frightened, the oppressed.*

*Risen Lord, open our hearts,
That we may love each other as you love us.*

*Renew in us your spirit
Risen Lord, free us and make us one. Amen*



Thank you for engaging with us in “Seeing Anew with the Eyes of the Heart”

The staff at Franciscan Action Network is very grateful for the engagement with you during our Lenten series on [Seeing Anew with the Eyes of the Heart](#). We hope you found the reflections, stories, questions, and prayers helpful in preparing your heart for a new Easter Season.

Please read the many beautiful [reflections](#) shared by members of our Network.



FAN Shows Up - Actions, Vigils, and Events

An important part of advocacy for justice, peace, and creation is showing up for in-person actions, such as rallies, marches, and prayer vigils. Along with many other forms of advocacy, FAN staff and FAN members often participate in actions that align with our gospel and Franciscan values, and sometimes FAN plans or cosponsors such events.

We have launched a [FAN Action Tracker page](#) on our website with information and photos from all the actions we have participated in so far in 2023, so you can see what we have been up to. Please check it out and tell us what you think!

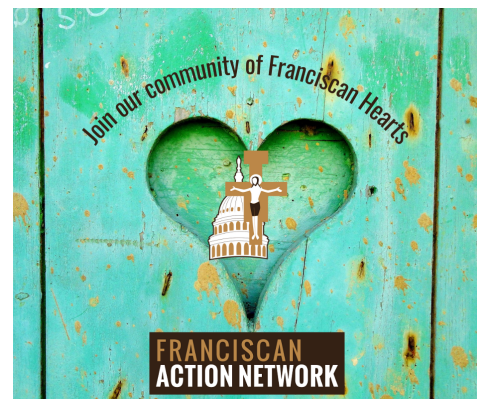


FAN would also like to share what you are up to. Have you participated in an action in your community to advocate for an issue you care about? [Send us information and a photo](#) so we can share with our Network.

Become a Sustainer of FAN

FAN relies on support from our members to keep going. Please view this [message from Board Member Fr. Paul Lininger, OFM Conv](#) and consider joining our Community of Franciscan Hearts as part of your charitable works this Easter Season.

Thank you so much for being a valued member of our network and contributing what you can to sustain our work!



Help FAN Find an Associate for Campaigns

Franciscan Action Network is continuing to accept applications for an [Associate for Campaigns](#). This entry level, full-time staff position, located in Washington DC, is open immediately. The right candidate will work with us to expand, support, and mobilize FAN's network of Franciscan-hearted advocates. The position offers an outstanding opportunity to learn about and be mentored in the field of faith-based advocacy.

Learn more about the position and how to apply by [clicking here](#). **Please circulate to possible applicants!**



There's Still Time to Register for Ecumenical

Advocacy Days

The organizers of Ecumenical Advocacy Days have been hard at work preparing for this year's [virtual conference April 25-27](#).

[Workshops](#) on the first day of the conference will focus on skills-building while days two and three will feature workshops organized by issue. Full details on the 30+ workshops to be offered will be provided to registrants via the event app.



FAN Immigration Associate Merwyn De Mello is involved in the planning of a workshop: In Search of Safety: The Shrinking Asylum Space and Challenges for Asylum Seekers at the U.S.-Mexico Border which will be held Wednesday, April 26 in Block 1 at 11:30am – 12:15pm ET (8:30am – 9:15am PT). Attendees will learn the history of U.S. asylum and how it has changed, hear the impact of violence and human rights violations in Honduras, and become informed on current campaigns and resources from faith communities advocating together. **All sessions will be recorded for replay on demand to registered attendees.** You still have time to [register by clicking here](#).

Franciscan Justice Circles

If you would like to join any of the upcoming [Franciscan Justice Circle](#) meetings this week, please [contact FAN staff for details](#):

Delaware Valley FJC: Tuesday, April 11 at 7pm Eastern over zoom

Monthly National FJC call: Wednesday, April 12 at 4pm Eastern / 1pm Pacific over zoom

Virtual FJC: Thursday, April 13 at 2pm Eastern / 11am Pacific over zoom

Rochester, NY FJC: Thursday, April 13 at 3:30pm Eastern over zoom

Eastern Wisconsin FJC: Thursday, April 13 at 5pm Central over zoom

Boston FJC: Friday, April 14 at 7pm Eastern

