

Reflection Date: April 23, 2022 - Third Sunday of Easter

Image by [John Hain](#) from [Pixabay](#)

The late Pope Benedict once said, "closing our eyes to our neighbor also blinds us to God." Becoming aware of how we are prevented from seeing Christ in another person through our implicit biases and fear is only the first step in allowing God to open our eyes and recognize (Lk 24:31) the image and likeness of our God in another whom we previously feared or opposed.

Moreover, in our divisive society and world, this Gospel demands that we go beyond recognizing Jesus in another. When the disciples recognized Jesus, they "set out at once and returned to Jerusalem" (Lk 24:33) to proclaim how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. As such, we are compelled to proclaim the God-given dignity of each person, to stand for and with the most vulnerable and those ostracized in our society.

Find out more about your implicit biases by [taking one of the free Harvard implicit bias tests](#).

Suggested Petitions:

That God will open our eyes to how we can escape the disrespectful spiral of “othering” another person. We pray...

That God will give us the courage to proclaim the goodness of those “othered” by society. We pray...

[The Set Aside Prayer](#)

God, today help me set aside everything I think I know about You, everything I think I know about myself, everything I think I know about others, and everything I think I know about my own intentions so I may have an open mind and a new experience with all these things. Please help me see your truth.

Amen

Eli McCarthy Joins the FAN team as Peace Fellow

We are proud to announce the addition of Eli McCarthy to the FAN staff. Eli will serve as a Peace Fellow through a generous grant from Franciscan Sisters of Clinton, Iowa, helping to design and implement a campaign of education and mobilization regarding ending the war and cultivating a just peace in Ukraine.

Currently a professor of Theology and Justice and Peace Studies at Georgetown University, Eli has worked as a Federal Policy Senior Advisor for the Catholic Labor Network and the Director of Justice and Peace for the CMSM, the leadership conference of the U.S. Catholic men’s religious orders. He presently serves on the steering committee of the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative, a project of Pax Christi International.



Film Screening: The Ants & The Grasshoppers

[The Ants & The Grasshopper](#) is a documentary ten years in the making that weaves together the most urgent themes of these times: climate change, gender and racial inequality, the gaps between the rich and the poor, and the ideas that groups around the world have generated in order to save the planet. It shows that Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) bear the brunt of the climate crisis, while also holding effective solutions to it.



FAN will host a screening May 3rd from 4p-6p. Immediately following the film, we will explore ways to respond to the documentary’s message particularly through advocacy around the Farm Bill. We invite you to [register to join us at this link](#).

We are using a new technology for this webinar. To [register](#) click on “Save my Spot,” fill out the form with your email and name, create a password, and on the final screen click

“Confirm & Join.” You will be emailed a confirmation and a reminder 10 minutes before the event.

RCUSA Seeking Volunteer Accompaniers for Refugee Advocacy Days

[Refugee Council USA](https://www.refugeecouncilusa.org/) is returning to in person visits for the [2023 National Advocacy Days](#). They are looking for advocates, welcomers, and local community members to join them May 2-3 to help as official “accompaniers” in Washington, DC.

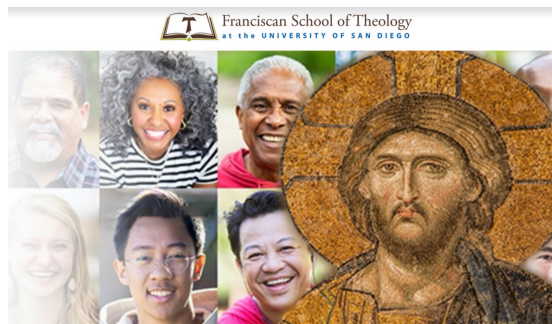
Responsibilities of an accompanier include scheduling Congressional visits, meeting with your delegations ahead of DC-travel for introductions, and **attending in person Congressional visits on May 2-3**. RCUSA will provide everything needed including a special training for accompaniers, all the contact information for offices and your delegates, outreach templates, and more.

If you’re interested in helping out, please [sign up on this form](#).



Session Recordings: Re-Imagining the World - Saint Francis and Pope Francis

The Franciscan School of Theology (FST) hosted the [Re-Imagining the World Conference](#) in January that gathered Franciscans from across the country including Franciscan Action Network Board Member, Fr. Paul Lininger, OFM Conv. The two-day conference explored how the vision of St. Francis and St. Clare opens a new way of looking at contemporary struggles and how Franciscans use technology to spread the good news. View photos of the conference by [clicking here](#).



The event included an all-day migrant experience at the border in Southern California plus a series of presentations, two of which were given by OFM friars Dr. William Short, OFM and Dr. Daniel Horan, OFM. [Watch all the conference videos on YouTube here](#).

Summer Seminar: Theology for Scientists and Engineers

This summer a special seminar “[Theology for Scientists and Engineers: Technology, Environment, and the Pursuit of Wisdom](#)” will be offered for graduate students at Duke University from June 26-30, 2023. FAN Board Member Sr. Damien Marie Savino, FSE (*pictured*) and Dr. Peter J. Casarella of Duke Divinity School are leading the seminar.



There is still time to apply! The seminar aims to give graduate students with little or no background in Theology an introduction to the integration of Catholic theology with their respective fields of research or professional training with a goal of building a bridge between disciplines that seem remote from one another and even in opposition. Information about the seminar can be found [here](#).

Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

In March the Delaware Valley Franciscan Justice Circle (includes parts of Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania) reflected on the local reality of the rise in crime around the Philadelphia area as well as the gun violence and asbestos in the community. In anticipation of Mother Earth Day on April 22, this month the Circle used the 2023 Earth Day program “[Simple Living: God’s Vision of Abundant Life](#)” from Catholic

Climate Covenant to delve deeper into the themes of abundance and simplicity. As one Circle member described it, “When we are jolted into awareness of where we need to change, then ecological conversion happens because what we do affects everyone else.” Alongside this call to solidarity with each other, comes the invitation to act that St. Francis left us, “I have done what is mine; may Christ teach you what is yours!”

