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What is an abundant life? In the gospel, Jesus says, "I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture." This pasture Jesus refers to is an abundant life. Knowing God and Jesus Christ whom God has sent is the key to finding pasture. It is knowing the voice of the good shepherd who truly cares for us. It is life in community, finding security and nourishment as part of his flock with abundant life for all. The abundant life is touching and living the divine life. It's a quality, not a quantity.

Living an abundant life adds to the life of others and the world. It's life that leads to life, love that leads to love, joy that leads to joy, hope that leads to hope, kindness that leads to kindness, generosity that leads to generosity, beauty that leads to beauty, and gratitude that leads to gratitude. It does not add to the pain of the world but adds to and enhances life, our own as well as others'. This type of abundant life is what we strive for through our work at FAN. We invite you to join us.

**Suggested Actions:**

### **Suggested Petitions:**

For all people, may we yearn to live abundantly and generously with our fellow humans. We pray...

For those who find it difficult to touch and live the divine life. We pray...

## Prayer

O God, it is my heart's desire to know you better. My soul longs for a deeper understanding of how to live for you. Help me to live my life abundantly through offerings of love, joy, hope, kindness, generosity, beauty, and gratitude.

Amen

## Living Franciscan Values with FAN

Last week, FAN shared a message from Brian Simmons, OFS, a professed Secular Franciscan who believes in living the gospel and his Franciscan values all day, every day. He shares a personal story about an assignment to rewrite the Ten Commandments and the logic that stemmed from that mission. [Watch his brief message here.](#)



FAN's work—providing education and advocacy opportunities to add to lives of prayer and service—helps our members live those Franciscan values. To have the resources to keep doing this work, **we need your support.** Please consider [becoming a sustaining donor.](#)

## 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 4pm-6pm Eastern / 1pm-3pm Pacific.**

Immediately following the film, we will host a speaker to discuss ways to respond to the documentary's message through advocacy around the Farm Bill. Please [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.

## Sign on: Letter urging Mother's Day Prayer to Address Gun Violence

"From the bosom of the devastated



earth a voice goes up with our own. It says, 'Disarm, disarm!'"

Abolitionist and Christian social activist Julia Ward Howe included this language as part of the [original Mother's Day Proclamation](#) for peace in 1870. More than 150 years later, the sentiment could just as easily be coming from the mouths of mothers in the United States today. The gun violence epidemic continues to be a scourge on our communities. Add your name to a faith leaders' sign-on letter organized by Fellowship of Reconciliation-USA to President Biden asking to declare Mother's Day a national day of prayer and contemplation to address gun violence.

**There are two ways to sign on:**

If you are a **faith leader**, add your name BY [CLICKING HERE](#).

If you are a **parishioner or member of a congregation**, add your name BY [CLICKING HERE](#).

## Migrant Trail Franciscan Border Encounter

The Franciscan Network for Migrants invites you to join a [Franciscan Border Encounter, June 1-4, 2023 in Tucson, Arizona](#). Participants will visit Franciscans and others working on behalf of migrants and will welcome border trail walkers as they return from a 70+ mile walk from the border town of Sasabe to Tucson.

On this border encounter participants will:

- WITNESS first hand the impact of US and state policies towards our migrant brothers and sisters.
- LEARN from frontline immigration workers on both sides of the border.
- MEET migrant people and hear their stories.
- PARTICIPATE in a Native American prayer service.
- JOIN the migrant trail walkers for the final leg of their journey from Sasabe to Tucson, Arizona.
- WELCOME the migrant trail walkers with a meal and foot washing.



[Click here](#) for more information on what to expect, the cost and how to register.

## Job Opportunity: Associate for Campaigns

Franciscan Action Network is seeking to fill an entry level position that is coming available soon. This entry level full-time staff position, located in NE 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 within the field of faith-based advocacy.

Learn more about the position and how to apply by [clicking here](#).



## Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

Last week we hosted a special session for the Franciscan Justice Circles: [Building a healthy community: The Circle Process](#) with FAN immigration associate Merwyn DeMello. During the event, we began exploring the circle process, a restorative justice practice, and how elements of it may possibly be applied in our Franciscan Justice Circles. Thank you to all who participated and we look forward to continuing the conversation with you! If you would like to **watch the recording**, please [click here](#).

