

## The Ever-Present Holy Spirit

Image by [Gerd Altmann](#) from [Pixabay](#)

In the [gospel for Pentecost](#), we find the disciples of Jesus huddled together in fear behind locked doors. They had good reason to be afraid. The religious and political authorities had crucified Jesus, their teacher. Yet, Mary of Magdala had seen Jesus, in the flesh, near the tomb where He had been laid. No wonder the disciples were crowded into a locked room, hoping to stay safe while praying about next steps.



Into that confusing, frightening situation, Jesus appears, offering peace, showing them His hands and His side. We read that the disciples rejoiced when they saw Jesus, who extended His peace once again. Perhaps Jesus realized that He could not offer His peace too often. His followers would need His peace in order to go forth and preach the Good News.

But Jesus does not stop there. He breathes on His faithful followers, gifting them with the Holy Spirit, who will enable them to do what they cannot do themselves. This Holy Spirit will give them courage to unlock the doors, go forth and proclaim the Good News, confusing though that news was!

The Spirit that Jesus breathed upon His followers in that locked room is the same Spirit who moved over the waters when God created heaven and earth. The same Spirit who surrounded a young girl and made her the Mother of God. The same Spirit who compelled John Lewis to raise his voice repeatedly for social justice and voting rights. The same Spirit who inspired 17 year-old Indigenous activist Autumn Peltier to demand clean drinking water for First Nation communities. The same Spirit who emboldened Sister Norma Pimentel to journey in solidarity with refugees and immigrants to the United States.

Even in our worst moments, Jesus' ever-present Spirit can break through and raise up women and men and young people who turn things around, like John Lewis, Autumn Peltier and Sister Norma Pimentel. Jesus' ever-present Spirit still speaks, still beckons us to walk gospel paths both ancient and new. The same Holy Spirit continues to send out disciples like you and me to make a difference.

Will we unlock the doors in whatever room we are hiding, trusting that Jesus' peace and the Holy Spirit will be enough?

Sr. Louise Lears, SC  
Creation Care Advocacy

**Suggested Actions:**

Take time to quietly reflect on doors in your life that God is calling you to unlock. How would opening those doors free you for the work of justice and peace and community?

### **Suggested Petitions:**

Unite us in care for our common home and for one another. Breathe upon us, Spirit of God. Awaken us to call for justice for immigrants, refugees, and migrants. Breathe upon us, Spirit of God.

Inspire interfaith dialogue and bind Christians together in the peace of Christ. Breathe upon us, Spirit of God.

### **Prayer: Whirlwind Spirit by Kathleen O'Brien**

**Whirlwind Spirit of God,  
Roar through our timidities and fears,  
Shake the foundations of our ill-placed securities,  
Sweep away the cobwebs of our apathy,  
Blow down the walls that separate us, one from another.**

**Then, into all our empty spaces, breathe  
re-strengthened courage to challenge injustice,  
renewed belief in the urgency of our vocation,  
revitalized passion to change our lifestyles,  
rededication to speak only words that build and unite.**

**Let gentle breeze and still small voice  
become in us today  
mighty wind and loud proclamation.  
Make us a Pentecost people!**

**Amen.**

## **Join us Thursday for a Webinar on Just Peace for Ukraine**

Franciscan Action Network invites you to a webinar, "Peacebuilding, Nonviolent Resistance, and Unarmed Civilian Protection in Ukraine," **Thursday, May 25 at 1-2pm ET (10-11am PT)**. We seek to understand and imagine how such practices can be advanced to end the war and build a just peace in Ukraine.

FAN's Just Peace Fellow Eli McCarthy, who recently spoke at the [2023 PeaceCon](#), will moderate a panel of guest speakers including:

**Fr. Michael Lasky, OFM Conv.:** FAN Board Member engaged in peacebuilding in Ukraine through theater and trauma-healing.

**Prof. Felip Daza:** Researcher and professor on civil resistance, Paris School of International Affairs of the Sciences Po University. He will discuss his recent report, "[Ukrainian Nonviolent Civil Resistance in the Face of War](#)."



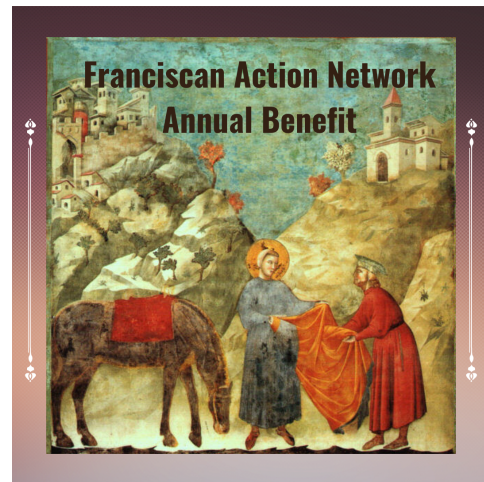
**Calista Burpee:** Conflict management specialist with [Nonviolent Peaceforce](#), which is involved in unarmed civilian protection in Ukraine.

We will be using **Crowdcast** for this webinar. To [register](#), click “Save my Spot,” fill out the form with your email, name and create a password. (If you’ve previously created a password, you will be able to skip this step.) On the final screen click “Confirm & Join.” Here are some [helpful tips on using Crowdcast](#). **A recording of the event will be made available to all who register.** [Click here to register on Crowdcast](#).

## Support our Benefit Online Program June 28

Ticket sales began last week for [FAN's annual benefit](#). This year, we are doing something different.

Instead of our usual fundraising gala, the staff and friends of Franciscan Action Network (FAN) will sponsor and serve dinner to our impoverished neighbors at the [Franciscan Center](#) in Baltimore on Tuesday, June 27, followed by an online program on **Wednesday, June 28 at 7pm ET (4pm PT)** on Franciscan spirituality and care for the impoverished. Your ticket to our June 28 online program will subsidize dinner for our sisters and brothers who truly need it while also supporting FAN's work all year long to bring a Franciscan voice to public policy issues related to poverty as well as justice, peace, and creation. Please join us! Find [more information and purchase your ticket here](#).



## Recording: Root Causes of Migration Webinar

Franciscan Action Network and the Franciscan Network for Migrants hosted a webinar on “[Root Causes of Migration](#)” on May 17, in which we heard about the history of migration from a global perspective, the story of a family’s recent migration from Colombia to the United States, and the approach of a Franciscan friar to providing consistent support to migrants.



Please find recordings of the event in English and Spanish, as well as slide presentations and advocacy resources on the [event page](#).

## FAN Grateful for Interns

Franciscan Action Network is blessed and grateful to have wonderful interns working with us this year. Their internships were made possible by a generous grant from the [Franciscan Foundation](#).

This month, we bid a grateful goodbye to Molly Mullin, a Catholic University of America student who had been with us since January. For the summer, we welcome Charles Russell, who comes to us from Marian University in Indiana. Molly and Charles are



working with us to gain faith-based advocacy and organizing experience while our staff draws on their gifts to help with the ever-growing list of campaigns, actions, and events in which we are involved.

## Celebrate Laudato Si' Week

[Laudato Si' Week 2023](#) will be celebrated this week from May 21-28 to mark the eighth anniversary of the publication of Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si'. This year's guiding theme is "Hope for the Earth, Hope for Humanity" and finds many communities hosting screenings of the film, "The Letter." FAN [hosted a screening](#) in January. This global celebration will unite people to rejoice in the progress that's been made in bringing Laudato Si' to life, and show how the protagonists of "The Letter" are doing so.



# LAUDATO SI' MOVEMENT

Catholics for Our Common Home

Additionally, the [Laudato Si' Movement](#) and [FaithInvest](#) have organized a special webinar during Laudato Si' Week with a Q&A session for those who want to learn more about faith-consistent investing. The webinar will stream live on **May 25 at 9am ET (6am PT)**. Register for the [Align Your Finances With Your Faith Values Q&A session here](#).

## Franciscan Justice Circles Updates

In a [Franciscan Justice Circle](#) we have the opportunity to connect with other Franciscan hearts in our area and support one another in the spiritual work of living lives that seek peace and justice.

Last week the Driftless Region Franciscan Justice Circle met and continued exploring the impacts of the upcoming Farm Bill, especially the importance of food in every aspect of life including health care, education and the environment. In considering the nutrition programs for people with lower incomes and children, they also noted the importance of considering the systemic and historical issues behind poverty and hunger in the USA when discerning how we as a society (and together as Franciscans) are called to respond.

Upcoming Franciscan Justice circle meetings this week:

**Richmond, VA-area FJC:** Mon. May 22 at 7pm

**Cleveland, OH-area FJC:** Tues. May 23 at 7pm

**Virtual (nation-wide) FJC:** Thurs. May 25 at 2pm Eastern / 11am Pacific

**SoCal FJC:** Thurs. May 25 at 6pm Pacific. Will focus on the [Laudato Si' Spirit: Collaboration for Action in the West](#) initiative sponsored by Saint Barbara Province

If you would like to join any of these Circle meetings or find out more, please [contact FAN staff](#).

