

Publication Date: June 19, 2023

Reflection Date: June 25, 2022 - 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Holy Spirit brings a Bold Spirit of Truth to Power!

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

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, "I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the Glory of the Lord!"

In the first reading for the [12th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#) from Jeremiah, we hear about fear and grumbling from our fellow believers, "terror on every side." In this current age there are so many things to be fearful of. Throughout history there have been many things that cause fears and feelings that can be overwhelming for us. Too many times we are told that one voice will not be heard and the situation is too complicated to be understood. But to be honest, that type of fear gains strength when we focus on what we see and hear in our midst, instead of knowing that God has a plan and it always works! We tend to get confused and afraid instead of trusting in what God is saying and doing in our midst.



In the gospel reading, this idea is reflected when we hear Jesus tell his Apostles, "fear no one" and "do not be afraid." God is on our side and the Holy Spirit will bring us a bold Spirit of truth to power.

So, what is God's plan for us today? I believe that it is building relationships that support the common good in our society. This is what FAN is doing on a national level and our Franciscan Justice Circles are trying to do on their local level by building relationships, choosing issues, and then acting for the common good. If we can share our efforts after sharing together in building up the common good in our society, we can see the power of God in our midst.

Please remember our staff at FAN who every day go forth to seek justice in our names on Capitol Hill. Think about supporting them and perhaps joining them locally by advocating with your members of Congress.

Br. Paul Crawford, OFM Cap.
Board President

Suggested Action:

Take a few moments to act for the common good this week. Use one of the actions in the newsletter or search for an action to take on an issue you are passionate about.

Suggested Petitions:

For all who are afraid and overwhelmed by the many problems in our society, may we allow God to calm our fears, we pray...

For those in positions of authority in our country and our church, may they desire to work for the common good, we pray...

Prayer:

God, I want to trust You more. I know You have the best interest for me and love me, but I can't stop relying on my own strength, depending on what I can see. God, help me trust you with my decisions and future. Let me lean on your Holy Spirit with all my heart instead of relying on my own imperfect understanding. Teach me to trust your direction. Give me guidance in my life and direct my path.

Amen

Join us at FAN Benefit Next Week to Learn About Franciscan Care for the Poor

Franciscan Action Network is pleased to host our annual fundraising event a little differently this year. In two weeks, instead of holding a dinner for our donors, we will sponsor and serve dinner to our impoverished neighbors at the Franciscan Center in Baltimore on Tuesday, June 27. We invite you to attend an **online program on Wednesday, June 28 at 7pm Eastern (4pm Pacific)** that will focus on Franciscan care for and solidarity with the poor. After an interview with our keynote speaker, **Fr. David Couturier, OFM Cap.**, the program will feature a **panel discussion including those providing direct service to and advocacy for the impoverished and unhoused.** [Learn more and get your tickets here.](#)



Ms. Sabrina Gay is the Community Navigator at the Franciscan Center of Baltimore, overseeing the homeless tent encampments in Baltimore City, assisting clients navigating various federal and local applications, emergency assistance and more. **Br. Gary Wegner, OFM Cap.** has served at parishes in Chicago and rural Wisconsin and is currently the Executive Director of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit. **Nate French** is currently the Director of Community Impact for Community Solutions. Nate works directly with communities in Los Angeles to build and improve systems to end homelessness. FAN Board Member **Sr. Melinda Pellerin, SSJ** will moderate the panel. Sr. Melinda is a retired teacher, Pastoral Minister at Saint Mary's Parish in Longmeadow, Massachusetts, and a chaplain at the Western Mass Regional Women's Jail.

When you purchase a ticket to the online program, your donation will subsidize a dinner for our sisters and brothers who truly need it, while also supporting FAN's work this year. **There is still time to [join us](#) for this special opportunity.**

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. Sr. Maria Orlandini, OSF and Michele Dunne, for example, joined gun violence prevention activists Po Murray and Sam Schwartz at a sit-in at the U.S. Capitol on June 8 calling for a Senate vote on an assault weapons ban.

We invite you to check the [FAN Action Tracker page](#) to see our recent actions. 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.

The end of Title 42: A bird's eye view and a report from the front lines

The end of the pandemic-era emergency immigration restriction known as Title 42 has brought on major changes in how the United States processes migrants who reach its southern border, including those seeking asylum. On **June 22 at 7pm ET (4pm PT)**, our friends at the Franciscan Network for Migrants are co-hosting a [bilingual webinar](#) that will explore the direct impact and the changes that migrants and their advocates can expect.

Speakers:

Patrick Giuliani, Policy Analyst, Hope Border Institute, El Paso, TX
Sr. Isabel Turcios, FMI, Director of "Frontera Digna" Migrant Shelter, Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico

Moderator:

Brenda Peralta, RFM - Guatemala

[Register by clicking here](#). The seminar will be conducted in Spanish with simultaneous translation into English.

WEBINAR

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

4 p. m. (Pacific) California, Arizona
5pm (Mountain) México City, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Paso TX
6pm (Central) Chicago, Panamá
7pm (Eastern) New York, Toronto, Cancún, Chile
8pm Río de Janeiro, São Paulo

JUNE 22

Please register in advance

Panelists

PATRICK GIULIANI
POLICY ANALYST,
HOPE BORDER INSTITUTE, EL
PASO, TX

ISABEL TURCIOS, FMI
DIRECTOR, "FRONTERA DIGNA"
MIGRANT SHELTER,
PIEDRAS NEGRAS,
COAHUILA, MEXICO

BRENDA PERALTA
MODERATOR



Panel Discussion on Meaning of Independence Day in Context of Migration

The Holy Days and Holidays committee of the Interfaith Immigration Coalition will join the American Friends Service Committee to host a [panel conversation](#) on the meaning of Independence Day in today's global migration context. FAN's immigration advocacy associate Merwyn De Mello will be a presenter.

Join the webinar on **Thursday, June 29 at 7pm ET (4pm PT)**. [Register by clicking here](#).



World Refugee Day Virtual Vigil and Resources

Please join the Interfaith Immigration Coalition for a **World Refugee Day Virtual Vigil** on **June 20 at 4pm ET/ 1pm PT**. Join in lifting up the voices of refugees and asylum seekers, offering prayers, and mobilizing faith communities to advocate for strengthening the refugee resettlement program and restoring asylum. **Please sign up by clicking the [registration link here](#).**



Several organizations have created toolkits with resources to offer ways to support refugees throughout the year. Here are two examples:

1. [World Refugee Day Toolkit](#), created by the USCCB's Migration and Refugee Services.
2. [World Refugee Day 2023 Toolkit](#), created by the Interfaith Immigration Coalition

Franciscan Justice Circles Updates

At the June monthly national call with members thinking about or connected with [Franciscan Justice Circles](#), we heard updates from different parts of the country including sharing of recent developments, actions, formation experiences and focus as well as various concerns about what's happening in our communities. Through our sharing, some common threads appeared related to environmental concerns, seeking peace amidst gun violence, engaging nonviolence, racism, walking with communities of immigrants and those in a situation of poverty. As Franciscan hearts seeking to build relationships that support the common good in our society, we continue listening, learning and mutually supporting each other in living the Gospel right where we are. We welcome anyone to join us for our next call on July 12!



Upcoming FJC meetings:

Driftless Region FJC: Monday, June 19 at 6:30pm Central

Virtual FJC: Thursday, June 22 at 2:00pm Eastern / 11:00am Pacific

Connecticut-Rhode Island FJC: Wednesday, June 28 at 7:00pm Eastern

For more information on joining one of these meetings, [please contact us](#).