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Today's ecological destruction is a prime example of human ways not being God's way. God's magnificent, abundant creation is critically threatened by climate crises mostly brought on by human indifference and misbehavior. This week ends Season of Creation 2023, "Let Justice Flow Like a River," but the work continues with even greater urgency. Acknowledging this urgency, Pope Francis has announced that on October 4th, he will release a new Apostolic Exhortation on the Environment, a follow-up to his 2015 encyclical "Laudato Si, on Care for Our Common Home." We Franciscans are delighted that this release coincides with the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. While we don't yet know any details, we do know that recently Pope Francis referred to ecological destruction and climate injustice as a "terrible world war." ([General Audience August 30, 2023](#)) We eagerly anticipate the release of this Apostolic Exhortation.

As the Season of Creation comes to a close, commit to taking one more action beyond what you are already doing on behalf of Earth and vulnerable people whether it be related to food or energy, or use of plastics, or advocacy or something else.

Suggested Petitions:

That we may act to allow justice to flow like a river, we pray...

That we may stand with the victims of environmental and climate injustice, we pray...

Prayer: *Our Home Belongs to You* by Micah Australia

Loving God, Lord of heaven and earth,

this earth, our home, belongs to you.

Give us grace to love it as you do.

**Give us courage to give ourselves, as you do,
for the good of all people and all of your creation.**

Strengthen us to stand, as you do, with the vulnerable poor.

**Give us wisdom to know when we have enough,
and the voice to say “enough” to all that harms creation
and hurts the poorest.**

This earth, our home, belongs to you.

Amen

Thursday: Ukraine Deep Listening Session

Eli McCarthy prays with faith delegation in Ukraine, May 2022

FAN invites you to a [deep listening session](#) regarding the war in Ukraine this **Thursday Sept. 21**, the International Day of Peace, from **1-2pm ET (10-11am PT)** via Zoom. Using a synodal circle process, we will offer space for people to connect deeply with one another, to share stories, and hear about the thoughts and feelings participants have regarding the war. Through this practice, we hope to deepen empathy and connection so we may move forward together in the ways of a just peace. FAN Just Peace Fellow Eli McCarthy will lead the session. [Register to attend by clicking here.](#)



Related to these efforts, FAN will co-host an interfaith prayer and press conference on Oct. 4th from 9:30-10:30am in Washington, DC calling for diplomacy and a just peace in Ukraine. The majority of U.S. [public opinion](#) is now seeking alternatives to our approach in Ukraine. In addition, there is significant concern about how the war is also escalating the climate crisis. The prayer and press event will be in person, but we will broadcast it via Instagram live. [Follow our page.](#)

FAN joins March to End Fossil Fuels

On Sunday, September 17, FAN staff members Gabriela Martinez and Janine Walsh joined other people of faith at the March to End Fossil Fuels in New York City. Collaborating with other local DC and New York based faith organizations, FAN mobilized a group of brothers, friars, and



friends from all faiths. We marched through the streets of New York with 75,000 people to a rally at the United Nations to show the Biden administration we want bold action to end fossil fuels. Here are some [photos of the day](#).

Check out what else we have been attending on our "[FAN Shows Up](#)" page of our website.

Join us for a Virtual Transitus Service

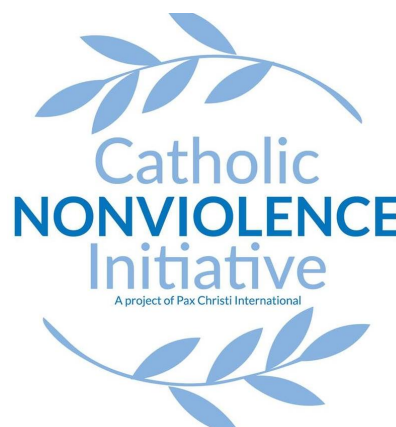
As the Feast of St. Francis nears, we are once again supporting a collective effort of our Franciscan Justice Circles by hosting a virtual Transitus service on **Sunday, Oct. 1 at 5pm ET (2pm PT)**. If you are able to go to a live service on Oct. 3 itself, please do so. Some of us don't have that option and thanks to the initiative of our Circle members, together we offer this opportunity to unite from across the country in remembering Francis of Assisi's passing from this life on earth. Register to join us by [clicking here](#).



Catholic Nonviolence Initiative Lecture Series

The Catholic Nonviolence Initiative, in which FAN participates, is partnering with Casa Esther Catholic Worker to offer a [lecture series](#) beginning October 2, 2023 and running 5 weeks that will explore the interconnected relationship of violence and the environmental crisis. **Originally planned for college students and teachers, the lecture series is now open to the [general public](#).**

Discussions are scheduled for Mondays starting October 2 and will continue through October 30, each beginning at 7:00 pm ET. [More information is here](#).



Support DACA Recipients

Last year, the Fifth Circuit decided to partially halt DACA and returned the case to Judge Hanen of the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of Texas for review of the new DACA rule proposed by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Last week, Judge Hanen ruled against DACA and called to terminate the program, again. Now, the future of DACA



returns to the hands of the Fifth Circuit court. Millions of undocumented folks have already been left unprotected, but hundreds of thousands more are at risk if the Fifth Circuit decides to end renewals. President Biden and Congress' inaction have led to this moment – they must act NOW to deliver citizenship for all immigrant communities. [Urge Congress to secure a pathway to citizenship for all.](#)

A few spots left at Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference: Register today

Please join FJCs and other Franciscan-inspired justice-seekers from across the country for the first [Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference](#) **October 13-16, 2023 in Washington, DC!** FAN is pleased to join with the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities (AFCU) to create an exciting intergenerational gathering, where we will strengthen our ability to bring our authentic voices to bear on the challenges facing our communities and common home.

With the urgency of climate change compounded by disproportionate effects on people of color and those in poverty, the conference will focus on embracing an advocacy response to these interconnected issues through the lens of the Franciscan tradition. [Registration will close October 2](#) and there are just a few spaces left!

