

Righteous Anger

[Cecco del Caravaggio. Public domain. via Wikimedia Commons](#)

For those who wonder whether Jesus experienced the full range of human emotions, you can do no better than read the Gospel of John for the [Third Sunday of Lent](#). In that passage, Jesus enters the temple, the religious center of God's people, and sees the moneychangers and merchants profiting by selling "access" to God. He witnesses poor families being exploited, after they traveled far and at great expense to follow the law. In the face of this injustice, Jesus fashions a "whip of cords" and drives the vendors out of the temple. He spills the coins of the moneychangers and overturns their tables. In Jesus' eyes, the temple has become a blasphemy that must be confronted.



The story in the temple is not the only time Jesus expresses his anger. He is angry when religious leaders try to prevent him from healing on the Sabbath, when the disciples attempt to keep little children away from him, when the Pharisees refuse to acknowledge their own hypocrisy, and when a man with leprosy is forced to "beg" Jesus for healing.

What can we learn from Jesus' anger that might help us to respond to injustice? Archbishop [Desmond Tutu](#) says, "Righteous anger is usually not about oneself. It is about those whom one sees being harmed and whom one wants to help." Jesus is rarely angry about the injustices done to him. His anger is not rooted in personal slights. Instead, his anger is directed to a rule, a policy, or a system that is unjust and that creates an obstacle to his love and healing. Jesus' anger confronts the destructive forces that negatively affect people, especially people who are most often left out. His anger is used for justice and compassion; it reflects feelings of deep kinship.

We are called to imitate Jesus' righteous anger at the violence, greed, poverty, and death that we witness. Our anger on behalf of the family separated at the border or the young girl trafficked by smugglers or the gun violence that kills so many of our children can be the impetus for us to speak out, organize, write our representatives, show up, pray, and advocate for change.

[Aristotle](#) wrote that "Anybody can become angry; that is easy. But to be angry with the right person and to the right degree and at the right time and for the right purpose and in the right way—that is not easy." It may not be easy but we are called to follow the example of Jesus when confronted with injustice—at times with anger, always with love.

Suggested Action:

What justice issue are you passionate about? What in this newsletter might offer an opportunity to meet this passion? Perhaps the online Lenten program, "[Preparing our Hearts to be Peacemakers](#)?"

Suggested Petitions:

Because we have experienced Your love, God, we come before You, holding the needs of our world. Loving God, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are victims/survivors of violent crime, and for those whose loved ones have been injured by violence. Loving God, hear our prayer.

We pray for our homes and families, for parents balancing the responsibilities of work and family. Loving God, hear our prayer.

Prayer from the Diocese of West Missouri

Beloved God, cultivate in my heart a genuine love of others; a righteous anger towards those things that separate me from you and others. Allow the love of others to be my driving force so that with your help I may do justly, love mercifully, and walk humbly with you.

Amen.

Remembering Br. Paul Crawford, OFM Cap.

The staff and board of Franciscan Action Network join the Capuchin Franciscan friars of the Province of St. Mary in celebrating the life of Br. Paul D. Crawford, OFM Cap., who passed away on Feb. 23 in Valhalla, N.Y. at the age of 72. Br. Paul served as our beloved President of the Board of Directors of Franciscan Action Network since 2022.

Born in Boston, MA, Br. Paul entered the Capuchin Order in 1969 and served the people of Manchester NH for more than 30 years in various pastoral capacities. He was a longtime advocate for social justice and in recent years an active member of the NYC-Area Franciscan Justice Circle. We give thanks for Br. Paul's life of compassionate service and will miss him greatly.



This Thursday: Preparing our Hearts to be Peacemakers

Please join the Franciscan Action Network on **Thursday, February 29 at 7pm ET (4pm PT)** for an online Lenten program, "[Preparing our Hearts to be Peacemakers](#)."

**Preparing our Hearts
to be Peacemakers**

Thursday, February 29
7pm ET (4pm PT)

Speakers:

Our speakers will be renowned Franciscan scholar **Fr. Michael Cusato OFM**, scholar in residence at St. Bonaventure University, and **Rachel Kleinfeld, Ph.D.**, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and scholar of democracies experiencing polarization. Their presentations will be followed by an opportunity to discuss in breakout groups how we as Franciscan-hearted people can contribute to a more peaceful atmosphere in our communities, country, and world during challenging times. The presentations will be recorded and sent out to everyone who registers.

There is no cost to register for this event, but please [consider supporting our work](#) if you are able with a donation of \$20, \$50, \$100 or other amount.

Christians for Ceasefire Lenten Campaign

FAN is active in a broad coalition of national and local Christian organizations coordinating efforts in a [Lenten campaign for a ceasefire in Gaza and release of hostages](#). Rooted in the transforming power of Jesus' way of active nonviolence, the hope for the [Christians for Ceasefire](#) Lenten campaign is to shift the focus of Congressional leadership towards de-escalation and ceasefire in Israel and Gaza through nonviolent actions. [Click here](#) for more information about the campaign and sign up for updates.



On February 21, FAN staff and local members participated in a rally in front of the White House with participants in the [Pilgrimage for Peace](#), a group that walked from Philadelphia to Washington DC. [See photos here](#).

This week and next we invite **local grassroots groups** to engage in organizing strategic nonviolent action. This [tool-kit](#) offers ideas and support. This will be critical to building bridges and mobilization for larger collective actions during Lent.

The campaign organizers are preparing major public actions on **March 6 and 7** in Washington, DC as Ramadan approaches on March 10, which is also the day Israel plans to invade Rafah (now 1.4 million people) if the hostages aren't released. **Please [contact us](#) if you are interested in coming to DC for March 6 and/or 7 events.** For those who cannot come to DC, we encourage action through local prayer vigils or other actions, and [contacting your elected officials](#) urging support for ceasefire, humanitarian relief, and release of all hostages.

Poor People's Campaign March 2 Statehouse Actions

FAN is a faith mobilizing partner to the Poor People's Campaign, a nationwide movement to lift up the voices of poor and low-wealth people. On **Saturday, March 2**, in DC and 31 [states across the nation](#) the Poor People's Campaign will bring the moral march to state houses. Please consider joining in your state!

MASS POOR PEOPLE'S & LOW WAGE WORKER'S MORAL MARCH TO STATE HOUSE ASSEMBLIES,
A PART OF 40 WEEKS OF MASSIVE VOTER MOBILIZATION ACROSS THE US

MARCH 2, 2024 GATHER AT 10 AM ASSEMBLY AT 11 AM

31 States Mobilizing for March 2nd

This is a RESURRECTION, not an INSURRECTION!

A DAY OF
NATIONALLY-COORDINATED,
SIMULTANEOUS DIRECT ACTION
IN 31 STATE CAPITALS!

Reverend William J. Barber, II
Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis
National Co-Chairs
Poor People's Campaign

Voting rights, living wages, healthcare, climate, and many other issues we care about are on the ballot this year. [Watch this video](#) about the campaign and [contact your local Poor People's Campaign chapter](#) to join the march and lift up the issues of poor and low wealth people.

FAN staff will participate in the DC rally; please [register](#) here to join us.

Take Action to Save Youth Climate Case

In 2015, 21 young Americans filed their [constitutional climate lawsuit](#), *Juliana v. United States*, against the U.S. government. Their [complaint](#) asserts that, through the government's affirmative actions that cause climate change, it has violated the youngest generation's constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property. FAN has been following this case since April of 2022 when we [screened the film "Youth V Gov"](#) for Earth Day. Now, these 21 young activists need our help.

After nearly 9 years and 22 attempts by the Department of Justice to derail *Juliana v. United States*, the DOJ is again trying to silence the 'Juliana 21' with an unprecedented attempt to pull the case out of the normal legal process. This would prevent the case from proceeding to trial and silence the voices of the youth. Take action and tell the Biden Administration and the DOJ to let the voices of the 'Juliana 21' be heard at trial. [Take action by clicking here](#).



Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

Are you called to join our local, grassroots advocacy movement? [Franciscan Justice Circles](#) connect Franciscan-hearted individuals who feel called to engage in local grassroots advocacy relating to peace, poverty and our planet. If this is something you are interested in, please contact [FAN staff](#) to connect to one of our 20+ Circles or find out more about forming one near you.



Upcoming Franciscan Justice Circle meetings:
Georgia FJC: Tues. Feb. 27 at 10:30am EST via zoom

SoCal FJC: Thurs. Feb. 29 at 6:00pm PST via zoom

Mid-Hudson Valley FJC: Tues. March 5 at 12:00pm EST via zoom

Kansas FJC: Tues. March 5 at 7:00pm CST via zoom

Cincinnati Tri-State Area FJC: Wed. March 6 at 7:00pm EST via zoom

Virtual FJC (limited mobility): Thurs. March 7 at 11:00am PST / 2:00pm EST via zoom

Central Indiana FJC: Friday, March 8 at 1:00pm EST via zoom

Washington, DC-Area FJC: Sat. March 9 at 10:00am EST in person