

## Where are you?

Image by [Rosy / Bad Homburg / Germany](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Oftentimes it is said that the true happiness of those named in the Scriptures as “the first parents” was the result of their partnered intimacy with God, a deep abiding relationship of trust, truth and presence. Unfortunately for them and us, Adam and Eve’s choices in life, symbolized in the consumption of an apple, dislodged them from that intimate relationship and drew a proverbial ‘line in the sand’ between them and God. So much so, that the question in the first reading from Genesis for the [10th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#) reads, “Where are you?”



Hidden, fearful, exposed, ready to abdicate responsibility and blame the other, they stand together...but the seeds of division are sown.

Each pointing a finger away from self and towards another. The Book of Genesis tells us that Adam attempts to justify disobedience by implicating Eve: “The woman whom you put here with me – she gave me the fruit of the tree, and so I ate it.” The Lord then asks the woman, “Why did you do such a thing?” Eve replies by blaming someone else. The blame game is born; division, polarization, and self-deception are inaugurated, seeding humanity’s long list of excuses.

Consider for a moment the ministry of service offered by FAN. As advocates for justice, truth and peace, FAN calls out those who may prefer to hide behind excuses, fears and blame urging them to step-up, take action and be instruments for real affirmative change.

In Mark’s Gospel, Jesus must respond to a similar charge, a question of sinfulness. His opponents claim he possesses extraordinary powers because he yielded to the power of the evil one, because he stands in solidarity not only with other sinners but with Beelzebul. If that be so, Jesus asks, why are his works utterly opposed to darkness, ignorance, suffering, deceits, lies, and sin?

Where does this story place Jesus, and us, in the saga of sin and blame? It is only when we tumble and fall that we look about and see how intimately we are linked to others. It is here that we discover anew the gift of the Holy Spirit called the *sensus fidei*.

Contrary to Adam, Jesus draws no line in the sand. He does not separate himself from his family, his friends, his disciples. He draws no line separating himself from others. Instead, he draws those who are listening closer, telling them they are being called – that we are being called – into an intimacy, every bit as deep as that of his family, an intimacy with him, and the Creator of all, through a gift of the Spirit.

Consider again the ministry of FAN and the significance of this network's collective presence: initiating attention, listening on behalf of others, and acting in accord with the ministry of Christ Jesus as a voice in solidarity with the excluded and a sign that the Spirit abides in our midst.

Today many of us like to see ourselves as sovereign, independent, separated from others and beholden to none. Know it is only when we tumble and fall that we look about and see how intimately that we are linked. Sadly, like our Genesis parents, we can easily stumble and blame others. But Jesus calls us to something more. He invites us to an intimacy of his family, to be his mother and his sisters and his brothers. As Paul reminds us, "Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow from the glory of God."

Fr. Paul Lininger, OFM Conv.  
FAN Board Member

### **Suggested Action:**

Pray about your relationship with God and allow intimacy and welcome to take root and grow in your heart. Turn that intimacy into action through one of the opportunities listed below. Join the Christians for Ceasefire campaign, write to Congress about global climate legislation or join the webinar about welcoming refugees.

### **Suggested Petitions:**

For the courage to humble ourselves and accept Jesus' invitation to deep intimacy, we pray...  
For the strength to invite others into the intimacy we experience with God, we pray...

### **Prayer for [Unhurried Intimacy](#)**

**Dear God,**

**Give us a childlike faith and an intimacy with you that invites us into your gentle whisper, surrounds us with your love, and allows us to yield our hurried schedules, our distracted hearts, and our quiet worries in exchange for an unhurried intimacy with You.**

**Amen**

## **FAN's Annual Benefit is next week!**

Please join us for our **annual benefit program**, "[Befriending our Impoverished Neighbors & Becoming Blessed](#)," on **June 11, 2024 at 7 pm Eastern / 4pm Pacific**. We rely on your support for our most important fundraiser of the year!

This online program will follow a dinner served by FAN staff at St. Francis Inn in Philadelphia, and will include testimony from guests at St. Francis



Inn, staff and volunteers offering service there, and Franciscan leaders.

Each year as part of our benefit program, FAN uplifts and honors people in our network of Franciscan Justice Circles (FJC) who embody the values and action that the Circles promote. FJCs exist to build and strengthen small groups to address issues that are important to their communities with an approach rooted in the rich Franciscan tradition of walking alongside the marginalized and showing respect and reverence for all of God's creation. The FAN staff gather to nominate Circle members who are living out the [Franciscan values guiding our movement](#) in order to honor them and their work with a Franciscan Justice Award. We are pleased to give the Franciscan Justice Award this year to the Franciscan Justice Circle at Neumann University in Aston, PA. During the online program, we will be presenting the award to the campus minister on behalf of the Circle.

The event will be recorded and sent out to everyone who contributed. [Please buy your tickets today.](#)

## Third Episode of Acting Franciscan Available Friday, June 7

The third episode of FAN's new podcast, "Acting Franciscan," created by OFM Postulant Jimmy Beh, will be released on [Spotify](#), [PodBean](#) and our [website](#) on Friday, June 7.

In the third episode Br. Cristofer Fernandez, OFM Conv. discusses care for creation and addresses the powerlessness many experience when considering this issue. The final episode will be released two weeks from Friday.

Please [share the podcast](#) with your friends and colleagues.



## Advocacy works: Christians for Ceasefire

While the conflict in Gaza continues, President Biden is now calling for a permanent ceasefire and there is increased pressure on Israel to end the war now. The [Christians for Ceasefire campaign](#) has continued nonviolent efforts to bring awareness and support for a peaceful diplomatic solution. Earlier in May the coalition organized a multi-faith singing disruption which took place in the cafeteria of the Rayburn House building of Congress. See the [videos on Facebook](#). Another singing disruption is being planned for Wednesday June 5 and FAN will live stream the event on our [YouTube channel](#).



Christians for a Free Palestine is planning an interfaith nonviolent action in Washington, DC July 28-30. **Participation can be in person or online.** [Register here.](#)

## Take Action on Global Climate Justice

Though no place is immune, developing countries are carrying the brunt of the climate crisis, despite having historically contributed the least to global emissions. Many communities in poorer countries around the world lack the resources to build resilience to or to recover from climate impacts. Without resources, many communities are and will increasingly be forcibly displaced by climate impacts.



The United States holds a special responsibility to lead on mobilizing the climate finance we need to resolve the climate crisis globally and avoid forcing people around the world out of their homes. Together, the **Green Climate Fund (GCF) Authorization Act** and the **Climate Displaced Persons Act (CDPA)** would contribute to the urgent need to meet our fair share of climate action, by unlocking \$4 billion per year to the GCF and creating a new visa program for climate-displaced people, to ensure we provide a safe haven for those whose communities have been devastated by climate change. [Tell Congress it is time to do its fair share of climate action!](#)

## Opportunities to Learn About Sponsoring Refugees

[Welcome.US](#) will host two live webinars to provide information about sponsoring refugees through the [Welcome Corps](#). The event will include an American who recently sponsored a family from Colombia and a representative from the U.S. Department of State, who will provide a programmatic overview. There are **two sessions to choose from** - one in English or one in English with Spanish interpretation.

Thursday, **June 6** at 12pm ET / 9am PT (English)  
OR

Thursday, **June 13** at 6pm ET / 3pm PT (English and Spanish)



There will be dedicated time for questions and answers. Get more information and [register by clicking here.](#)

## Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

The **SoCal Franciscan Justice Circle** members celebrated [Laudato Si' Week](#) last week, following the celebration guide to explore different aspects of living out

MAKING SPACE



Laudato Si' each day. They ate less meat, used their cars less, prayed outside, learned about local renewable energy sources to consider and reduced the amount of plastic they consume. We can also be seeds of hope in our communities by helping decision-makers to care about God's creation and people through our examples and engaging with them.

Upcoming Franciscan Justice Circle Meetings:

**Kansas FJC:** Tues. June 4 at 7:00pm Central via Zoom

**Cincinnati-Area FJC:** Wed. June 5 at 7:00pm Eastern via zoom

**Virtual FJC (limited mobility):** Thurs. June 6 at 11:00am Pacific / 2:00pm Eastern via zoom

**DC-Area FJC:** Sat. June 8 at 10:00am Eastern In Person

**St. Bonaventure U. FJC:** Mon. June 10 at 12:30pm In Person

**Richmond, VA-Area FJC:** Mon. June 10 at 7:00pm via zoom

**Connecticut-Rhode Island FJC:** Tues. June 11 at 7:00pm via zoom

**Monthly National FJC Call:** Wed. June 12 at 1:00pm Pacific / 4:00pm Eastern via zoom

**Rochester, NY FJC:** Thurs. June 13 at 3:30pm Eastern via zoom

**SoCal FJC:** Thurs. June 13 at 6:00pm Pacific via zoom

**Central Indiana FJC:** Fri. June 14 at 1:00pm Eastern via zoom

Please contact [FAN staff](#) to connect to one of our 20+ [Franciscan Justice Circles](#) or find out more about forming one near you.