

Publication Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Reflection Date: Sunday, November 17, 2024 - [Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

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## Finding Peace in Discomfort

The readings for the Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time focus primarily on the Second Coming of Jesus. The line that stood out to me is the last line of the Gospel: “But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father” (Mk 13:32). Nobody knows when Jesus will come again, except for God.



To many, including myself at first, that line can be disconcerting, especially when applied to a broader context. We don't know everything tomorrow will bring, let alone next week, month, or year. We might have some indicators so we can prepare, but no one knows exactly how things will go. That being said, there is a lot we can do. Rather than stewing in anxiety, discomfort, or any other negative emotion, we can take action.

While we might have a winner for the presidential election, there are still many that have yet to be called, and there is so much else that could still happen and change. Honestly, that terrifies me a bit, and it may terrify many of you, however, there are many things I have been able to do that give me some hope and peace despite this discomfort.

As a volunteer through the Franciscan Mission Service, I was lucky enough to be placed at FAN. Working at FAN and the many experiences that I have already give me hope that no matter how things turn out, there will always be good-hearted people seeking justice. In our [Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference](#) and at the various actions I have participated in, there are plenty of things working against the movements and people involved in them, and none of us know what will happen next, but regardless, we feel called to work for justice and will continue that work for as long as we can.

This Sunday's reading asks us to trust in God and His plan for us, and prepare accordingly. I believe that working for Gospel values and Catholic Social Teaching is a way to prepare for that plan, in addition to helping find peace in times of discomfort.

***Eileen DeGuire***

Organizing and Legislative Associate for FAN

**Suggested Action:**

Think—what issues are you feeling particularly uncomfortable about? Research what FAN or other organizations are doing about them, and get involved where you can, whether that be calling or writing to your representative, signing a petition, or going to an in-person action such as a vigil or nonviolent public witness.

### **Suggested Petitions:**

For the ability to listen to and trust in God, we pray...

For our country and world, may we have the patience and willingness to listen and support each other, regardless of background, we pray...

### **Prayer: The Serenity Prayer**

**God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,**

**The courage to change the things that I can,**

**And the wisdom to know the difference.**

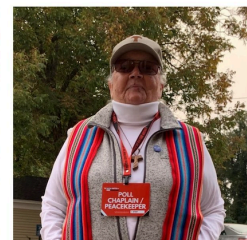
**Amen**

## **Loving Action Moving Forward**

As the U.S. elections come to a close, we want to take a moment to express our deep gratitude for all the members of our Network who served as poll chaplains, poll workers, or as voters. We are grateful that the elections were free, fair, and peaceful, as we had prayed for. While members of our Network might have different reactions to the election results, we are united in our shared mission of peace, compassion, and justice for all people.

In a time of change, we are reminded of the values that guide us, values that transcend any political moment. Together, we are called to create a world rooted in dignity and care, where every person is valued. As scripture reminds us, *“Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up”* (Galatians 6:9). As St. Francis said near the end of his life, “let us begin again, for up to now we have done nothing.” The work of taking loving, Franciscan-hearted action continues and we are here to support each other in that journey.

As we move forward, we invite you to join us in seeking common ground. Real and lasting change comes from communities united in hope and active in service as well as advocacy.



We look forward to working together with you, now and in the days ahead, as we find what is ours to do in the world.

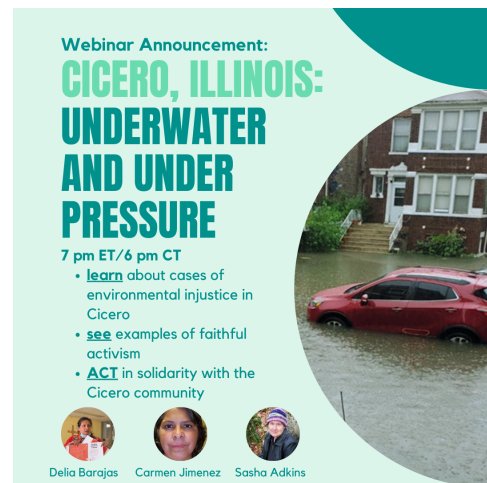
Thank you for being a part of this community!

## Register Now for our webinar “Cicero, IL: Underwater and Under Pressure” on Nov. 19

Our next webinar in our annual fall series of “Working for Environmental Justice” will be on **Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 7pm ET/6 pm CT**. Please register below—be sure to tune in to learn more, take action, and find inspiration—you won’t want to miss it!

Cicero, IL is a majority-Latino city near Chicago that faces disproportionate exposure to environmental degradation. Cicero faces many negative environmental impacts, for example, the city’s inaction on water infrastructure leading to flooding and a chemical manufacturing facility spewing air pollution. Activists have been pushing city and state officials to help Cicero with little response. We will focus on the interlocking injustices that cause environmental injustice in Cicero, what the activists have done to take legal action and gain the support of their faith communities, and what people outside of Chicago can do to help.

Button: [Register here](#)



## Thank You to Our Poll Workers and Chaplains!

FAN was thrilled to have more than 250 members of our Network sign up to be poll chaplains or poll workers during the November 5 national elections. This week, poll workers and chaplains will meet virtually to debrief their experiences. Please see photos in this newsletter of members of our Network serving, or being blessed before serving, in these important capacities to keep elections free, fair, and peaceful.

## Earth’s Cry, Humanity’s Call



The symposium *Earth's Cry, Humanity's Call*, held at Siena College on October 10-11, brought together voices from around the world to address our urgent ecological crisis. Now, the video recording is available online, which includes a joint keynote from FAN's Director of Campaigns, Gabriela Martinez, and Br. Cristofer Fernandez, OFM Conv. of the Our Lady of Angels Province.

The symposium covered critical discussions on how humanity's actions impact the planet and highlighted pathways to integral ecology. You can access the full recording by visiting the **Laudato Si' Center for Integral Ecology** website below.



Button: [Watch the Symposium Here](#)

## Actions for Peace in Israel/Palestine

Please consider participating in the **National Days of Action** to support the Joint Resolution for Disapproval on certain offensive US weapons being exported to Israel.

Christians for Ceasefire encourages local nonviolent actions during this period of [November 10 - 24](#) (see action examples at the link). Consider [contacting your Senators here](#) to support the resolution.

**Accompaniment Delegations to Palestine: Dec. 8-18.** Christians for Ceasefire are supporting ongoing accompaniment delegations to Israel/Palestine, especially in light of recent Israeli military actions in the West Bank as well as Gaza. Please consider joining or [sharing this invite](#). [Register interest here](#).



## DACA getting ACA

Starting November 1, thousands of DACA recipients were finally able to enroll for healthcare through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplaces, with coverage beginning as early as December. This enrollment period follows a new rule finalized in May by the Biden Administration, which offers the chance for over 100,000 previously uninsured DACA

recipients who have been excluded from accessing lifesaving healthcare coverage to finally be eligible to purchase and enroll in health insurance under the ACA.

As open enrollment kicks off, the Home is Here coalition strongly encourages DACA recipients needing healthcare coverage to enroll as soon as possible, as attacks aimed at ending this rule are ongoing. Currently, opponents in Kansas and 18 other states are attempting to block DACA recipients from accessing healthcare through the ACA in yet another cruel attempt to target and deny immigrants fundamental human rights. The case –[\*Kansas v. United States\*](#)– is currently in the appeals process in federal court.

## Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

A [Franciscan Justice Circle](#) (FJC) connects Franciscan-hearted individuals looking to join with others locally to engage in social and environmental justice rooted in Franciscan spirituality. FJCs across the country are both active in seeking to promote kinship and peace in their communities while continually listening and nourishing their own spiritual growth in Franciscan values.

Contact FAN staff [Nora Pfeiffer](#) to find out more or to connect with an upcoming meeting:

**Connecticut - Rhode Island FJC:** Tues. Nov. 12 at 7:00 pm EDT over zoom

**DE Valley FJC** (PA, NJ, DE): Tues. Nov. 12 at 7:00 pm EDT over zoom

**Nashville Area FJC:** Tues. Nov. 12 at 7:00 pm CDT over zoom

**Monthly National call:** Wed. Nov. 13 at 1:00 pm PDT / 4:00 pm EDT over zoom

**Boston FJC** (PA, NJ, DE): Wed. Nov. 13 at 7:00 pm EDT over zoom

**Cincinnati Area FJC:** Wed. Nov. 13 at 7:00 pm EDT over zoom

**Rochester, NY FJC:** Thurs. Nov. 14 at 3:30 pm EDT over zoom

**SoCal FJC:** Thurs. Nov. 14 at 3:30 pm EDT over zoom

**Driftless Region (WI, MN):** Mon. Nov. 18 at 6:00 pm CDT over zoom

**Denver Area FJC:** Mon. Nov. 18 at 7:00 pm MDT over zoom

**Cleveland Area FJC:** Tues. Nov. 19 at 7:15pm EDT over zoom

**Phoenix Area FJC:** Thurs. Nov. 21 at 6:00pm MST over zoom

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