

Publication Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Reflection Date: Sunday, November 24, 2024 - [The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe](#)

To Testify to the Truth

On the last weekend of the liturgical year, we celebrate [Christ the King Sunday](#). Our reading from the Gospel of John takes us deep into the Passion week narrative between Jesus and Pilate, who represents the supreme authority of the Roman empire. Since Jesus' own nation and chief priests handed him over to the political authorities, Pilate asks, "What have you done?" and "Are you the king of the Jews?"



Though he is the one on trial and the defendant, Jesus speaks with authority in his interchange with Pilate. Instead of answering Pilate's questions, Jesus offers an alternative to earthly kingship. "For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." The kingdom of Jesus is unlike anything in this world. Worldly kings take power from others by winning battles or at least through diplomacy. Jesus neither fights nor allows his followers to do so. He insists on taking the path of truth and peace, essentially saying that he refuses, he rejects, the use of power or coercion to win the world to his kingdom.

"For this I came into the world, to testify to the truth." In a world struggling with what is true and what is fake, in a world deeply divided, we are reminded on Christ the King Sunday that the one who stands before Pilate is the Truth. When Jesus talks about truth he's not just talking about honesty or truthfulness. He's not saying he is merely here to say true things. He is the truth. If we want to participate in Christ's unworldly kingdom, his beloved community, we need but follow Jesus, the truth, the light that shines in the darkness. The irony is that truth is the only authority and power that Jesus wields.

Jesus models for us the way to speak the truth to power, a way to courageously call out injustice and demand peace, even as we maintain our integrity and remain rooted in the Truth.

Louise Lears, SC

Creation Care Advocacy

Suggested Action:

Identify an issue you feel passionate about. Consider a way you can speak the truth about this issue. Perhaps you can write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. Or call the office of your senator or representative and leave a message about a piece of legislation. Check out FAN's [Advocacy Resources](#) page for guidance.

Suggested Petitions:

For ourselves, that we may always strive to build God's beloved community here on earth...Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For elected officials and civil servants, that they may always lead with truth and integrity...Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

A Prayer to Christ the King

**Lord, Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King
The beginning and end of all things,
You have made your Church to be a people
that bears witness to the goodness and beauty of your kingdom.
By your Holy Spirit, you have united us as one body,
called to live as one family of God.
Fill our hearts with your grace,
that we would be close to you
by being close to the vulnerable and marginalized.
Give us the patience to share one another's burdens,
And give us the courage to always be friends of the truth.
May we remain with you always.**

Amen.

Support FAN for Giving Tuesday

As Giving Tuesday approaches, we invite you to join Franciscan Action Network in advancing peace, justice, and nonviolence inspired by the teachings of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi.

[Button: Donate Today](#)

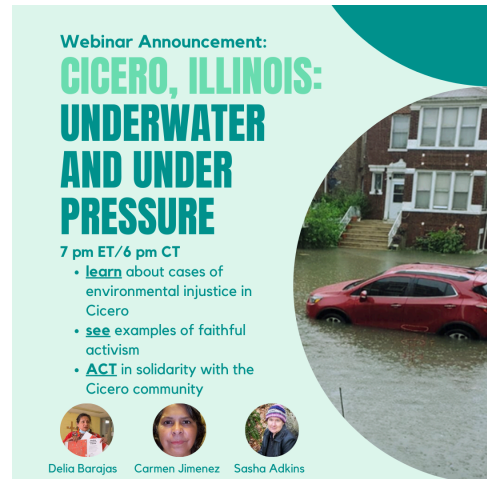
Your contribution supports our work for human dignity, climate justice, and peace, as we work for meaningful changes in U.S. public policy. In 2024, your support helped us lead impactful initiatives like the Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference and Franciscan Justice Circles as well as amplify the voices of immigrants and marginalized communities. Every dollar makes a difference—thank you for helping us build a more peaceful and just world.



Tonight: “Cicero, IL: Underwater and Under Pressure”

The next webinar in FAN’s fall series, “Working for Environmental Justice,” is **today, Tues. Nov 19 at 7 pm 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! Once you are registered, you will receive a recording.

Button: [Register here](#)



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.

Help FAN Help You!



For the remainder of the year, we will include a link in each newsletter to a survey with **one question** to better understand how we can support our network—a.k.a. you!

This week, we ask: **What issues do you believe will be most relevant in 2025?**

We’ll pose one question in our newsletter each week for the next four weeks. Participants who answer all four questions will be entered into a drawing to win a FAN gift box, including a copy of *The Sultan and the Saint*, a FAN t-shirt, and more.

BUTTON: [Click here to take the survey](#)

Immigration Updates/Webinar

Misinformed assumptions and harmful misconceptions pervade conversations about immigration. They have been rife throughout the election season and will likely influence public opinion and policy for the foreseeable future. On Tuesday, November 19 at 8:00pm ET/5:00pm PT, FAN partner Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice is hosting a webinar with Ernesto Castañeda, Ph.D, Director of the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies, the Immigration



Lab, and the Masters in Sociology, Research, and Practice at American University in Washington, DC to hear about his new book Immigration Realities: Challenging Common Misperceptions (with Carina Cione, Columbia University Press 2024) and to share his perspective on how these issues played in the election and will be profoundly influential moving

forward.

Button: [Register here](#)

Pathways to Prevention: Alliance to End Human Trafficking Conference

The Alliance to End Human Trafficking will hold the *Pathways to Prevention* conference from February 5-7, 2025 in Linthicum, MD. This event will feature discussions on critical avenues for human trafficking prevention, including shareholder advocacy, intergenerational trauma, and trafficking on college campuses. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)



Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

As part of their continuous process of internal renewal and discernment for actions and advocacy, the **Kansas Franciscan Justice Circle** will start taking a deeper dive into Catholic Social Teaching through a course that one of the members has put together, *Living the Catholic Social Teaching*. If others are interested in this seven lesson course, please contact FAN staff.

The **CT-RI Franciscan Justice Circle** recently discussed and took action on a few policy proposals: in opposition to HR 9495 in concern for due process due to nonprofits as well as contacting the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding a permit needed to expand a fracked gas compressor station proposed for Brookfield, CT.

Contact FAN staff [Nora Pfeiffer](#) to find out more or to connect with an upcoming meeting of the many [Franciscan Justice Circles](#) (FJC) across the country:

Cleveland Area FJC: Thurs. Nov. 21 at 7:00 pm EST over zoom

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

Richmond, VA Area FJC: Mon. Nov. 25 at 7:00 pm EST over zoom

New Mexico FJC Find Out More: Mon. Nov. 25 at 7:00 pm MST over zoom

CT-RI FJC: Tues. Nov. 26 at 7:00 pm EST over zoom