

Publication Date: January 28, 2025

Reflection Date: February 2, 2025 - [Feast of the Presentation of the Lord](#)

---

## Speaking Humbly...and Prophetically

When the baby Jesus was presented at the Temple in Jerusalem, his presence brought forth prophetic words from Simeon and Anna, according to the Gospel of Luke account to be read at the upcoming [Feast of the Presentation of the Lord](#). Jesus' presence also brought forth a stream of joyful prophecies for justice from the Virgin Mary in the form of the Magnificat, as well as starker prophecies from John the Baptist.



In our Franciscan tradition, St. Francis of Assisi delivered prophetic words in his [Letter to the Rulers of the People](#), in which he exhorted political leaders to be mindful of God's commandments and remember that "the wiser and more powerful they were in the world," the more accountable they were to God for their actions. Francis, as a true follower of Jesus, and the many Franciscans from his earliest communities to the present day, have always prioritized the impoverished, sick, and marginalized, and taken actions within their society to show care for them. Motivated by the presence of Jesus and the example of St. Francis, FAN too feels the need to speak up for the most vulnerable in our country at this time of political change.

Several of the many [executive orders](#) signed by President Trump on the day of his inauguration create strong concern about generating suffering among our vulnerable sisters and brothers as well as our Sister Mother Earth. Among the most troubling executive orders are those ending refugee arrivals, asylum, and birthright citizenship; withdrawing from the World Health Organization and Paris Climate Agreement; removing rights from civil service workers; and releasing detainees who used violence to try to prevent the peaceful transfer of power following the 2020 elections. In addition to these executive orders, a new [directive](#) from the Department of Homeland Security enables raids against immigrants at churches, schools, and hospitals. Ending or at least suspending the US welcome to people facing war or persecution (instead of reforming the US immigration system), as well as ending US cooperation with other nations on health and climate change have implications not only for the wellbeing of Americans but for the entire world.

Since our inception as an organization 17 years ago, FAN has raised a collective Franciscan voice in support of justice, peace, the integrity of creation, and the inviolable dignity of all people. A key part of our mission is to remain alert to developments, express clear concern at potential abuses, and follow an ethic based on human dignity and integrity of creation. Although we agree that the problems facing the United States regarding climate/environment, immigration, poverty, and wars abroad are daunting and humbly admit that we do not have all

the solutions, FAN always tries to support public policies and laws that are likely to alleviate suffering and not exacerbate it.

FAN asks you, members of our Network, to continue in this work together, listening to the cry of those who are impoverished and the earth, and bringing forth a prophetic and loving voice. Like St. Francis, let us be courteous and humble, and also courageous when we must speak in solidarity with those whose voices are not heard or listened to in the corridors of power. Let us continue to build community in our Franciscan Justice Circles and many other places, so we can learn together, help each other, and reach out in friendship and loving solidarity to our neighbors.

We are continually grateful to and for all of you for your work and engagement. We wish for you, our country, and our government, peace and all good!

***Michele Dunne OFS, Sr. Marie Lucey, Sr. Maria Orlandini, Sr. Louise Lears, Nora Pfeiffer, Gabriela Martinez, Eileen DeGuire, and Rosie Davila***

## Immigration Webinar on Feb. 4 at 7pm ET/4pm PT

**Immigration Update**  
What's Going On, and How Can I Help?

**Moderators**

- Sr. Marie Lucey  
FAN Associate Director
- Eileen DeGuire  
FAN Initiative Director

**Panelists**

- Rev. Julio Hernandez  
Congregation Action Network
- Giovanni Oaxaca  
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
- David Spicer  
USCCB
- Michelle Sardone  
Catholic Legal Immigration Network

February 4, 2025  
7pm ET/6pm CT/5pm MT/4pm PT

Register Here!

Join FAN staff and friends on **Tuesday, February 4, at 7:00 pm ET / 6:00 pm CT / 5:00 pm MT / 4:00 pm PT** for an evening of learning and discussion about immigration, including current developments, what is likely to happen next, and how all can support immigrants/refugees going forward. There will be a brief presentation, followed by a panel discussion with leaders in immigration advocacy and plenty of time for questions.

[Register here](#)

## FAN Affirms a Consistent Ethic of Life

As part of our Franciscan values and mission, Franciscan Action Network upholds a consistent ethic of life, rooted in our commitment to promoting human dignity at every stage of life



from conception until natural death. We continue to advocate for a holistic approach that values and protects human dignity—from promoting life and health for babies and mothers to addressing poverty and migrant needs to opposing war and the death penalty.

On the occasion of the March for Life in Washington DC on January 24, we recommit our solidarity with those advocating for life through reaffirming our dedication to this broad vision of justice and peace.

## **Join our Team: Director for Campaigns and Creation Care**

FAN thanks Gabriela Martinez, our Director of Campaigns, who will be leaving us soon. Gabriela has been an integral part of FAN, leading our work on Environmental Justice and supporting many other initiatives like the Franciscan Justice Circles and our Conference. With her sharp mind, attentiveness, and unwavering commitment to our mission, she has inspired us and left an indelible mark on our community. We will miss her and wish her all the best in her next chapter!

[Send Gabriela a thank you message](#)

FAN is hiring a dedicated advocate to lead creation care advocacy and support movement building. Based in Washington, DC, this mid-level role involves organizing policy advocacy, mobilizing a nationwide network of Franciscan-hearted advocates, and supporting Franciscan Justice Circles. Please consider joining us or pass this notice to potential candidates.

[Click here for more information and to apply.](#)

## **FAN Calls for Humane Immigration Policies**

In addition to its domestic work, FAN works with the [Franciscan Network for Migrants](#) (Red Franciscana para Migrantes), a network of Franciscan-hearted individuals and groups throughout the Americas supporting immigrants and refugees. As a part of that network, FAN has collaborated with the other member organizations in response to President Trump's executive orders persecuting immigrants. FAN and its partners urge the adoption of policies that respect the dignity and rights of all individuals. We also call for stronger support networks for vulnerable immigrants in need of protection. [Read the full letter here.](#)

## Take Action to Support Refugees and Migrants

Join efforts to support just migration narratives and policies. The Catholic University of America will host its Second Annual Immigration Conference, Rethinking Migration Narratives – Catholic Immigration Advocacy in 2025 and Beyond, on March 4, 2025, at Heritage Hall in Washington, DC, with an opening reception the evening before. [Register here.](#)

Church World Service invites you to take action by signing an alert urging Congress and the administration to prioritize humane immigration policies. Recent restrictions have left many vulnerable individuals in unsafe circumstances.

[Take action here.](#)



## Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

Secular Franciscan and **Central Indiana FJC** member George Foster's Letter to the Editor in support of repealing the death penalty in the state was published in his local newspaper on Jan. 16. With the Indiana state legislature currently in session, [House Bill 1030](#) "Repeal of the Death Penalty" (authored by Rep. Bob Morris, R-Fort Wayne), has been presented, and FJC members are encouraging fellow Franciscans to support this pro-life legislation.

To find out more about any of the [Franciscan Justice Circle](#) (FJC) gatherings coming up or for information about joining or forming a Circle, please contact Nora Pfeiffer at [FJCinfo@franciscanaction.org](mailto:FJCinfo@franciscanaction.org)

**CT-RI FJC:** Tues. Jan. 28 at 7:00 pm EST over zoom

**St. Louis, MO Area FJC:** Sun. Feb. 2 at 5:00 pm CST in person

**Mid-Hudson Valley FJC:** Tues. Feb. 4 at 12:00 pm EST over zoom

**Kansas FJC:** Tues. Feb. 4 at 7:00 pm CST over zoom

**Virtual FJC** (limited mobility): Thurs. Feb. 6 at 11:00 am PST / 2:00 pm EST over zoom

**SoCal FJC:** Thurs. Feb. 6 at 6:00 pm PST over zoom

**Washington, DC Area FJC:** Sat. Feb. 8 at 10:00 am EST in person

**Richmond, VA FJC:** Mon. Feb. 10 at 7:00 pm EST over zoom