

Publication Date: February 11, 2025

Reflection Date: February 16, 2025 - [Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

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## Underwritten with Love

The readings for the [the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#) can seem strongly worded. In the first reading (Jeremiah 17:5-8), we see the phrase “cursed are those” and in the gospel (Luke 6:17-20) we read “woe to you.” But these phrases are juxtaposed with words like “joy,” “laughter,” and “blessings.” I think, upon first glance, these readings full of words of conflicting meanings can be confusing. Why put them together? But upon closer examination, these passages are carefully picked to be entwined together.



[Image by Michaela from Pixabay](#)

Rarely do we meet someone who is perfectly readable from the first meeting. While we might do our best to present ourselves with smiles, we are all suffering with pain. Maybe for you that is physical pain, emotional trauma, stress, etc. For others that could be the fear for another family member living in a crisis situation in the world, or the fear of burning wildfires or super-hurricanes. It is hard to love each other and hard to love the world. Yet in these readings, we are reminded that, despite our perceptions of one another, or the overwhelming nature of the world, we all believe in a *loving* God, who loves us even in our pain and the disdain we show toward others, God, the world, or ourselves. Even in the fire, the wind, and the storms, God loves us *with* our differences and deliberately chooses to give us the gift of eternal life.

This gift of eternal life, one which begins on Earth, is a blessed reminder to live by and with a helping hand along the paths of our lives. You might feel hated, or laughed at by those with everything while you have nothing, or wonder as Jesus himself did, “My God, why have you forsaken me?” But, as we are reminded in the second reading, “If Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how can some among you say there is no resurrection of the dead?” (1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20). There is no doubt about it - we are all going to God - “the people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon” (Luke 6:17-20).

Best to be prepared and not to be the do-ers of hatred, the laughers at others, or the followers of the counsel of the wicked. These readings are our best “how-to” guide for a loving eternal life, a life which starts now, a life underwritten with love.

### **Gabriela Martinez**

Former Director of Campaigns

Franciscan Action Network

**Suggested Action:** Who are the people that you have found difficult to love? How can you love them more truly and fully, as God loves us, and as we must love one another? Perhaps a

community of fellow Franciscans, for example a [Franciscan Justice Circle](#), could help you to discern loving action toward people you have found hard to love in the past.

**Suggested Petitions:** For those who feel unloved, God we pray that they know love.

For those who hate others, may they open their eyes and share the ways of your endless love.

For those with no one to love, may they find the love of family, community, and fellowship.

## Prayer

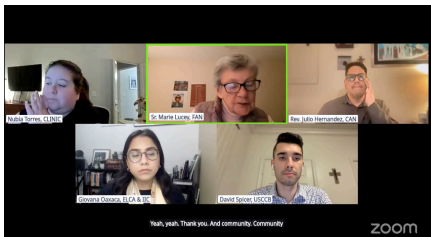
**God of boundless compassion,  
You meet us in joy and in pain,  
reminding us that Your love never wavers.**

**In our struggles with fear, anger, and doubt,  
root us in Your promise of eternal life.  
Teach us to love those we find difficult,  
and to reflect Your light in a divided world.**

**Lord, may our lives be written in your love.**

**Amen**

## Thank You for Attending Our Immigration Webinar



Thank you to everyone who joined our immigration webinar on February 4. We appreciate our panelists—David Spicer, Gio Oaxaca, Rev. Julio Hernandez, and Nubia Torres—for sharing their insights. If you missed it or would like to watch it again, you can find the recording below.

Button: [Click here to watch the webinar](#)

Looking for more immigration information?

Button: [Join Our Immigration Email Group](#)

## Join Us for an Evening of Reflection



On February 19 at 7pm ET / 6pm CT / 5pm MT, 4pm PT, join FAN staff for an evening focusing on “Living in Hope and Loving Kindness.” Much like our Advent reflection, we will have time for a guided meditation and quiet reflection, followed by time for small group sharing.

Register Here: <http://bit.ly/4aRQA2z>

## ECO Pilgrimages Launch Party



**Pilgrimages of Hope for Creation**

We are invited to grow closer to God by restoring our relationship with God's Creation.

Through pilgrimage, local communities will grow stronger, celebrate the goodness of God's Creation, and join a prayerful nationwide Catholic movement.

Together, we will pray for the grace to follow Jesus into deeper care of Creation.

- **Who:** Catholic communities across the United States (Dioceses, parish ministries, schools, universities, hospitals, and more!)
- **When:** This Jubilee Year, focused on the Season of Creation 2025: **September 1 - October 4**
- **Where:** In local communities across the United States
- **Examples of local pilgrimages:** Inspired by local realities and local leadership:
  - Rosary walk on parish grounds
  - 12 mile journey to a mission church
  - Multi-day pilgrimage through local mountain range

Sign up to learn more at [catholicpilgrimsofhope.org](http://catholicpilgrimsofhope.org)

**We need YOU to lead the next pilgrimage!**



This Jubilee year offers a beautiful way to support ecological and spiritual journeys: pilgrimage. Pilgrimages foster spiritual growth, build community, and deepen our relationship with God. Pope Francis calls us to be “pilgrims of hope” to honor this Jubilee year, the 800th anniversary of St. Francis’ Cantic of Creation, and the 10th anniversary of the encyclical Laudato Si’.

FAN has joined with other Catholic organizations to provide pilgrimage opportunities to our network. [Join us](#) for this **virtual launch party on February 18 at 9 AM PT / 12 PM ET** to find out more about being a Pilgrim of Hope for Creation and to discern your call in this movement. We will hear from leaders in our Church and in communities most impacted by the climate crisis, and learn about pilgrimage and more. You will receive resources and ideas to build plans. Catholics and non-Catholics are most

welcome to join!

For more information on these eco-pilgrimages, visit: <https://catholicpilgrimsofhope.org>

## Franciscan Voice Podcast: Honoring Black Catholic History

February is Black History Month, a time to especially recognize and honor the contributions of Black Christians to



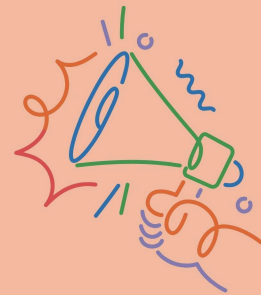
the Church all year long. In the latest episode of the Franciscan Voice Podcast, Friar Douglas McMillan, OFM Conv., shares insights into the lives of significant figures in Black Catholic history. We encourage you to take the time to engage with this important conversation. [Click here to listen.](#)

## Join Our Team: Director for Campaigns and Creation Care

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 passing this notice along to potential candidates.

[Learn more and apply.](#)

We are  
hiring!



## Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

In January some members of the **Chicagoland FJC** participated in a meeting to provide feedback on the Draft Cook County Environmental Justice Policy before it is finalized. Topics include air pollution, clean water, flooding, transportation, green space, and economic development. One member spoke to the audience as part of the Cook County Environmental Justice Community Advisory Committee, which helped write the draft policy and members made comments to improve the policy. Additionally, a **Chicagoland FJC** member and another Secular Franciscan attended a Naperville City Council meeting as part of a large group opposing an extension of a coal-based electricity contract until 2055. They will encourage others to attend an environmental forum for city council candidates, as a follow up.

As part of their spiritual nourishment and formation, the **Driftless Region FJC** kicked off the new year by beginning to read together the book Ecological Spirituality by Diarmuid O'Murchu. In January they focused on the importance of seeing our oneness in one Creative Spirit and to learn to embrace the suffering aspect of our evolutionary growth as a species along with the hopeful vision of who we are becoming.

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. Feb. 11 at 7:00 pm EST over zoom  
**DE Valley FJC (PA, NJ, DE):** Tues. Feb. 11 at 7:00 pm EST over zoom  
**New Mexico FJC:** Tues. Feb. 11 at 7:00 pm MST over zoom  
**Monthly National FJC call:** Wed. Feb. 12 at 4:00 pm EST / 1:00 pm PST over zoom  
**Cincinnati FJC:** Wed. Feb. 12 at 7:00 pm EST over zoom  
**New York City - Area FJC:** Wed. Feb. 12 at 7:30 pm EST over zoom  
**Rochester, NY FJC:** Thurs. Feb. 13 at 3:30 pm EST over zoom  
**Central Indiana FJC:** Fri. Feb. 14 at 1:00 pm EST over zoom  
**Driftless Region FJC (WI & MN):** Mon. Feb. 17 at 6:00 pm CST over zoom  
**Cleveland-Area FJC:** Tues. Feb. 18 at 7:15 pm EST over zoom  
**Twin Cities Minnesota FJC:** Wed. Feb. 19 at 7:00 pm CST in person  
**Virtual FJC (limited mobility):** Thurs. Feb. 20 at 2:00 pm EST / 11:00 am PST over zoom  
**Phoenix-Area FJC:** Thurs. Feb. 20 at 6:00 pm MST over zoom  
**Denver-Area FJC:** Mon. Feb. 24 at 7:00 pm MST over zoom