

Publication Date: March 11, 2025

Reflection Date: March 16, 2025 - [Second Sunday of Lent](#)

“I have done what is mine to do. May Christ teach you what is yours.”

This classic quote from St. Francis not only works well with the readings for [March 16, the Second Sunday of Lent](#), but has also been a near-constant mantra for me in my work with FAN.



In the first reading, God directs Abram/Abraham to carry out sacrifices to continue his commitment to God and gain land for his descendants, who continue to follow God and set into action many events that fill the Bible. In the second, Paul emphasizes the importance of listening to/embodying Christ to the Philippians so they may be in union with Him. Finally, in the gospel reading—after Peter, John, and James see Jesus transformed and conversing with Moses and Elijah—God says, “This is my chosen Son; listen to him.” All of the people mentioned in these readings had many things they could have done, but in deciding to listen to God they became able to do incredible deeds.

As the Legislative Director at FAN, there are so many things that I could do, and I often feel pulled in many directions, especially with the state of the world right now. There is so much need right now, and there are a lot of things that I/FAN could do to respond. However, I am constantly asking myself, “What is mine/FAN’s to do?”. While not always easy, figuring out what is ours to do is the only way we can get through. I know that mine to do includes bringing the Franciscan sense of love and justice into whatever I do, whether that is meeting with our various partners and lawmakers, educating our network, connecting with them, or providing them with resources. I also know that taking care of myself is a critical part of what is mine to do, because if I do not do that, I cannot do everything else that is mine to do.

I think I can safely say that the Franciscan family is called now to show up. Show up for our immigrant brothers and sisters who are being persecuted. Show up for the communities being disproportionately affected by climate change. Show up for those who are struggling economically. These are things Franciscans have been doing for centuries and it is time to do them in a whole new way. If you would like to discuss ways you can show up as a Franciscan now, feel free to reach out to me at edeguire@franciscanaction.org.

Eileen DeGuire

Legislative Director & FMS Volunteer

Suggested Action: Take some time to reflect on what is yours to do. Everyone cannot do everything, and that is okay. Everyone has their own gifts and talents, so how can you use them to help those who are struggling right now? Find at least one thing, and do it, whether it is big or small. To use another one of my favorite quotes, “One person can make a difference, and everyone should try.” - John F. Kennedy

Suggested Petitions:

Lord, help us to discern what is ours to do and give us the courage to follow Your call with love and justice. We pray to the Lord.

God, strengthen us to stand with the vulnerable and bring light to those in need. We pray to the Lord.

Prayer

St. Francis’ Prayer Before the Crucifix

**Most High, glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart;
Give me right faith, sure hope, and perfect charity.
Fill me with understanding and knowledge,
that I may fulfill your command.**

Amen.

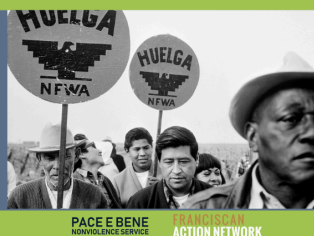
Nonviolence & Noncooperation, Wed. March 19, 4PM ET

Wednesday | March 19, 2025

Using Our Power:

Nonviolence & Noncooperation In History & Today

1-hour webinar with
Maria Stephan and Rivera Sun.



Join Franciscan Action Network and Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service for a one-hour webinar on **Wednesday, March 19, at 4 PM ET**. *Using Our Power – Nonviolence & Noncooperation In History & Today* will feature **Maria Stephan**, coauthor of *Why Civil Resistance Works*, and **Rivera Sun** of Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service, with reflections from **Ken Butigan** on nonviolence in the lives of St. Francis and St. Clare and **Michele Dunne, OFS** moderating the conversation.

Learn about nonviolent strategies that have driven change throughout history and how they are used today. Register now to reserve your spot! The recording will be shared with registrants.

Button: [Click here to register](#)

Register today! 2025 Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference: Love in Action

Registration is now open for the **2025 Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference: Love in Action** from **October 18-20, 2025**, at the Yours Truly Hotel in Washington DC.

This inspiring event invites young and older adults to explore justice, peace, and care for creation together through thought-provoking speakers, communication and civic engagement training, and advocacy meetings on Capitol Hill. Together, we'll deepen our Franciscan values and engage in meaningful action on the challenges our world faces today. We hope to see you here in Washington DC for this encouraging and empowering gathering.



[\[Register Now\]](#)

[\[Learn more here\]](#)

Pray for Immigrants

Join The Bernardin Center at the Catholic Theological Union in a novena for migrants and immigrants from March 14-22 every day at 1pm ET.

Several bishops and cardinals will be leading it, including Cardinal Blase Cupich, Cardinal Joseph Tobin, Bishop John Dolan, Bishop Daniel Flores, Archbishop Nelson Pérez, Archbishop-designate Joe Vásquez, and Archbishop John Wester. [Click here to register.](#)

 **The Bernardin Center**
AT CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL UNION

Christian Letter against Palestinian Displacement

Please consider signing this [sign-on letter](#) by the Christian organization Friends of Sabeel North opposing forced removal of Palestinians and responding to another [Christian letter](#) (3000 signatures) that supports Israeli annexation of the West Bank on biblical grounds. It can be signed by organizations and individuals.



Follow along with FAN Staff at the CSW

Q&A Franciscans at the UN Commission on the Status of Women

Date:
14 March 2025

Time:
2:30 pm (New York)
7:30 pm (Geneva)

Register to join at:
<https://bit.ly/FI-CSW69>

Starting tomorrow, members of FAN Staff, Eileen & Rosie, will be attending the United Nations Conference on the Status of Women (CSW) with Franciscans International. They will be sharing glimpses of their experience throughout the rest of the week on Instagram and Facebook, so follow along at [@franciscannet!](#)

[Click here to see the FAN Instagram](#)

[Click here for the FAN Facebook](#)

Additionally, they will be doing a Q&A regarding their experience for the Franciscan family on Zoom on Friday, March 14, at 2:30 ET. [Click here to register.](#)

Franciscan Justice Circle Updates



The **NYC-Area Franciscan Justice Circle** is engaging others in NY to contact their state legislators about the NY Food Safety and Chemical Disclosure Act to reduce harmful chemical additives in food, impacting the health of all New Yorkers. Anyone in the state of NY is invited to reach out to their legislators or through [this petition](#).

A member of the **Ohio Franciscan Justice Circle** attended a Standup For Science demonstration at the U. of Cincinnati Medical Campus with other community members.

Upcoming [Franciscan Justice Circle](#) (FJC) gatherings:

CT-RI FJC: Tues. March 11 at 7:00 pm ET over zoom

DE Valley FJC: Tues. March 11 at 7:00 pm ET over zoom

New Mexico FJC: Tues. March 11 at 7:00 pm MT over zoom

National FJC Call: Wed. March 12 at 1:00 pm PT / 4:00 pm ET over zoom

Rochester, NY FJC: Thurs. March 13 at 3:30 pm ET over zoom

Central Indiana FJC: Fri. March 14 at 1:00 pm ET over zoom

Driftless Region FJC (WI and MN): Mon. March 17 at 6:00 pm CT over zoom

Boston FJC: Tues. March 18 at 7:00 pm CT over zoom

Virtual FJC: Thurs. March 20 at 11:00 am PT / 2:00 pm ET over zoom

Phoenix-Area FJC: Thurs. March 20 at 11:00 am PT / 2:00 pm ET over zoom

Reading, PA FJC: Sun. March 23 at 3:00 pm ET in person

Denver-Area FJC: Mon. March 24 at 7:00 pm MT over zoom

To find out more about any of the FJC gatherings coming up or for information about joining or forming a Circle, please contact Nora Pfeiffer at FJCinfo@franciscanaction.org