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Reflection Date: May 5, 2025 - [Sixth Sunday of Easter](#)

Fearlessness isn't the goal, faithfulness is

When I was 16 I went to meet with my spiritual director, a longtime peace activist who's spent over 40 years putting himself in the line of fire for justice and nonviolence. I was impressed with his courage and the courage of my other heroes including Daniel Berrigan, Cesar Chavez, and Dorothy Day. As a teenager from the quiet hills of Kentucky who grew up in relative safety, I was impressed by their bravery and grit.



I took the meeting as my golden opportunity to ask a question I had been racking my brain about for years. I leaned over and said, “Hey, I know I’m supposed to follow Jesus for the rest of my life. But... how can I be fearless?” He laughed. I was caught off guard because I thought I’d asked a great question! Then he looked at me and said gently, “Rosie, that won’t be you. That’s the Holy Spirit!”

That moment has stayed with me. Just like the apostles in the readings for [the Sixth Sunday of Easter](#), we’re reminded that the courage to act boldly in Jesus’ name doesn’t come from us—it comes from God. The gospel reading tenderly reiterates this call. Jesus meets his disciples with abundance and care, and then sends them out, saying, “Feed my sheep.” Once they know they’re safe, he invites them to act. That call hasn’t changed.

At the Franciscan Action Network we’re doing our best to live out this call out through action, community, and public witness for those who are marginalized. That’s why, on June 11, FAN is hosting [I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me: A Century of Franciscan Solidarity with Migrants](#). This virtual benefit honors Franciscans who’ve shown that same Spirit-filled courage by welcoming and walking with migrants for over 100 years. It’s a celebration, a call to action, and a way to carry the legacy forward. I hope you’ll join us!

Rosie Davila

*Communications and Development Coordinator, FAN
Artist, Campaign Nonviolence*

Suggested Action: Look actively this week for your sources of inspiration to follow Jesus courageously. As one source, consider joining us on June 11 for *I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me*, a virtual benefit celebrating a century of Franciscan solidarity with migrants.

Suggested Petitions: For the courage to speak and act boldly in the name of Jesus, even when we are afraid. Lord, hear our prayer.

For migrants, refugees, and all who journey in search of safety and welcome. Lord, hear our prayer.

Prayer

**Come, Holy Spirit,
fill our hearts with courage and compassion.
Help us to follow Jesus with steady steps
and to serve the poor and the stranger with open arms.
Let your peace guide our actions,
and your presence strengthen our hope.**

Amen.

Join Us for FAN's Annual Benefit: "I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me"

The board and staff of FAN invite you to our annual benefit program, *I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me: A Century of Franciscan Solidarity with Migrants*, on **Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 7 PM ET on Zoom**. The FAN staff will sponsor and serve a meal to neighbors in need at St. Francis of Assisi Church in New York City in lieu of an in-person gala dinner.

Continuing a tradition started in 2023, we encourage you to **sponsor or purchase a ticket, donate your meal** (through our service and contribution to St. Francis Church), **and join us online** for an inspiring evening exploring the Franciscan commitment to welcoming and supporting migrants. Together, we will reflect on a century of Franciscan solidarity and the ways we can continue this vital work today. [Click here for more details.](#)

[Click here to register](#)



Tomorrow: Witness at the Capitol and Action Alert

FAITHFUL WITNESS WEDNESDAYS
A multi-faith vigil at the US Capitol calling on Congress to exercise greater moral courage in upholding its Article I powers and preventing executive overreach.



Rev. Adam Russell Taylor
President, Sojourners



Bishop Vashli McKenzie
General Secretary
National Council of Churches



Bishop Dwayne Royster
Executive Director, Faith in Action

Join FAN and 29 faith organizations, including Sojourners, at an in-person and virtual prayer rally at the U.S. Capitol tomorrow, **Wed April 30, at 12 noon ET**. Speakers will include Sr. Simone Campbell. This is the culminating event of weekly prayer vigils since the beginning of Lent and also

coincides with 100 days of the U.S. Administration in office. [Click here to register to participate in person or virtually.](#)

Following tomorrow's rally, faith leaders will deliver the leaders of the Senate and the House of Representatives a letter asking members of Congress to play their rightful role in safeguarding the common good through the democratic process. [Click here to add your name, urging Congress to uphold checks and balances and protect essential programs.](#)

Register Now for FJLC 2025: Love in Action

Spots are filling up 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. [Click here to learn more here.](#)



[\[Register Now\]](#)

Take Action with FAN

Show up for a Franciscan Budget! Last month, many of you supported our sign-on letter for FY2026. The U.S. government's budget and appropriations process is moving rapidly and members of Congress will soon make crucial decisions that will determine the future of essential programs serving our most vulnerable neighbors and the Earth. FAN is planning in-district legislative meetings for the Memorial Day recess (May 27-30) on the budget. There are specific senators that we are targeting and will support scheduling with. If they are not on the list, we strongly encourage you to schedule a meeting with your representative, and you are welcome to use our materials. [Click here to learn more.](#)

[Express Your Interest Here!](#)

Over 500 Franciscan advocates sent 1500+ messages for Earth Day! You can still act this Mother Earth Month. [Click here to urge Congress to protect clean energy tax credits, which create jobs and fight climate change.](#) Join us in protecting Mother Earth! Want more ways to help? [Sign up for FAN's environmental justice newsletter, *The Current*.](#)

Petition to Stop Weapons Trafficking to Haiti and Keep TPS for Haitians: U.S. weapons fuel violence in Haiti. The Franciscan Action Network and Quixote Center are petitioning Homeland Security to address this and protect Haitian migrants. [Click here to sign by May 9, 2025.](#)

FAN Shows Up

FAN celebrated Earth Day on April 22 by joining a multi-faith event at the Russell Senate Office Building to reflect on care for creation. Just a day earlier, the world lost Pope Francis, remembered by all present as a powerful voice for climate justice. In shared grief, we prayed and recommitted to justice for people and the planet, inspired by *Laudato Si'*.

On April 23, FAN's Legislative Director, Eileen DeGuire, spoke at Sojourner's Witness Wednesday vigil. She spoke about how the crises of her generation have highlighted the failures of leaders and the need for moral courage to address issues of violence, injustice, and environmental destruction. She emphasized Pope Francis's legacy as a call to action and urged Congress to act boldly to protect the vulnerable and uphold justice.

[Click here to read about more recent actions, see more pictures, and watch clips on the FAN Shows Up page!](#)



Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

The **DC-Area FJC** met in person in April and discussed themes from Richard Rohr's new book, *The Tears of Things*. They welcomed several new members and planned to meet for actions in DC during Holy Week.

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



Virtual FJC: Thur. May 1 at 11:00 am PT / 2:00 pm ET over Zoom
Twin Cities Metro FJC (Minneapolis-St. Paul): Thur. May 1 at 7:00 pm CT over Zoom
Chicagoland FJC: Sat. May 3 at 10:00 am CT over Zoom
Reading, PA FJC: Sun. May 4 at 3:00 pm ET in person
St. Louis FJC: Sun. May 4 at 4:00 pm CT in person
Mid-Hudson Valley FJC: Tues. May 6 at 12:00 pm ET over Zoom
NYC-Area FJC: Tues. May 6 at 7:30 pm ET over Zoom
Kansas FJC: Tues. May 6 at 7:00 pm CT over Zoom
Ohio FJC: Wed. May 7 at 7:00 pm ET over Zoom
Rochester, NY FJC: Thur. May 8 at 3:30 pm ET over Zoom
DC-Area FJC: Sat. May 10 at 10:00 am ET in person

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.