

Publication Date: May 6, 2025

Reflection Date: [May 11, 2025: Fourth Sunday of Easter](#)

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## Following the Voice of Love

In John's Gospel (10:27-30), Jesus says: "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me."

My daughter's softball game ended, and Maeve asked for a few extra minutes on the playground. I circled up with the other moms to catch up on the neighborhood gossip. One mom told us a story of her daughter, Isabel, having her bike stolen just two nights prior from their city rowhouse's rear parking pad. Isabel had forgotten to lock it up. Another mom in our gossip circle was the hero of this story. She had seen Isabel's bike whizz by earlier that afternoon, easily recognizable with its pink basket and purple horn. The mom had called out, "hey kid, you have Isabel's bike." The young person stopped his joy ride, and after a brief exchange with the mom, acknowledged as much. He jumped off the bike and ran. Hearing this story, another mom in our circle exclaimed, "Don't mess with city moms!"



I giggled at that exclamation but I wondered: Really? He just stopped? Why? I mean, he was on a fast, pink getaway bike. Why stop? Why not just start riding again? Why return the bike?

Sometimes we hear a voice that arrests us for a moment— that compels us to stop and reflect. But, how often do we give up the wind-in-our hair joy ride because of mixed feelings and costs? To do so might mean we have to give up too much. But Jesus assures us of eternal life if we follow His voice. What might feel like giving up and loss is really a return to right relationship with our neighbors.

In *Laudato Si'*, the late Pope Francis calls us to re-evaluate how private property is understood and used, particularly in relation to environmental stewardship and social justice. Property is for the common good.

Jesus, the good shepherd, do you call out to me? When you do, do I stop? How can I return to you and to my neighbor in love? What bicycle am I riding?

FAN's weekly newsletters present us with the opportunity to stop every Tuesday to listen for Jesus's voice, to reflect, and to take action for the love of our neighbor. Thanks for doing so each week! And, thanks to all the moms out there who seek to use their voice prophetically in family and community. Happy Mother's Day!

***Nora Collins***

*Director of Creation Care*

**Suggested Action:**

As the 10th anniversary of Ladauto Si' approaches on May 24, 2025, stop to hear the voice of Jesus in the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth. [Click here to urge Congress to protect clean energy tax credits in the upcoming budget reconciliation bill.](#)

**Suggested Petitions:**

That we might hear the voice of Jesus and have the courage to follow Him, we pray.

**Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, stop me. Help me to hear your voice amid all the noise in my life. Give me a discerning heart to reflect and come to know your will for my life in family and community. Where I am falling short, return me to love of my neighbor and family. Do not allow me to harden my heart. Soften me to your sweet voice. Give me courage to love more fully.

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

The board and staff of the Franciscan Action Network invite you to our annual benefit, *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.

In place of a gala, FAN staff will sponsor and serve a meal to neighbors in need at St. Francis of Assisi Church in New York City. We invite you to support this effort by sponsoring or purchasing a ticket, donating your meal, and joining us online to honor a century of Franciscan solidarity with migrants. [Click here for more details.](#)

[Click here to register](#)



## Immigration Webinar - May 15 7PM ET

We invite you to join FAN staff and friends on **Thursday, May 15 at 7 PM ET** for an important conversation on current immigration issues. We will share updates and insights on key topics including **Temporary Protected Status (TPS), refugee resettlement, religious worker visas, and the treatment of unaccompanied children**. David Spicer (USCCB), Lauren Esterle (Acacia Center for Justice), Sr. Marie Lucey, and Eileen DeGuire will be speaking. There will be a time for Q&A and the webinar will be recorded. This is a chance to learn, connect, and explore how we can take faithful action in support of immigrant communities.

[Click here to register](#)

FRANCISCAN ACTION NETWORK PRESENTS:  
**IMMIGRATION UPDATE**

OUR SPEAKERS

Eileen De Guire  
Legislative Director

Sr. Marie Lucey, OSF  
Associate Director

Lauren Esterle  
Acacia Center for Justice

David Spicer  
USCCB

MAY 15 2025

7PM ET

Register at [franciscanaction.org/events](https://franciscanaction.org/events)

## Register Now for FJLC 2025: Love in Action

Spots are filling up for the **2025 Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference: *Love in Action***, October 18–20 at the Yours Truly Hotel in Washington, DC.

This event brings together people of all ages to explore justice, peace, and care for creation through engaging speakers, advocacy training, and Capitol Hill meetings. Join us in DC to deepen Franciscan values and take action on today's pressing issues. [Click here to learn more here.](#)

[\[Register Now\]](#)



## Take Action with FAN



Speak up for moral spending decisions by our government. 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 on the budget for the Memorial Day recess (May 27-30). [Click here to learn more.](#)

[Express Your Interest Here!](#)

Over 500 Franciscan advocates sent 1500+ messages for Earth Day! You can still take action. [Click here](#) to urge Congress to protect clean energy tax credits, which create jobs and fight climate change. 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: Weapons made in the U.S. fuel violence in Haiti. The Franciscan Action Network and Quixote Center are petitioning Homeland Security to address weapons trafficking and protect Haitian migrants. [Click here to sign by May 9, 2025.](#)

## Franciscan Prayer for Conclave Tonight

As our Church continues to mourn the passing of Pope Francis and prepares for the sacred time of the conclave, the Franciscan Federation invites you to join a virtual prayer service on Tuesday, May 7, at 8 pm ET/5 pm PT. This gathering will be a time of prayer and reflection on the eve of the conclave, as we unite our hearts to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, for the needs of our Church, and for our next pope. Register [here](#).

## Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

Several members of the **Ohio FJC** have been contacting elected officials about the need for a ceasefire and just peace in Gaza, stopping fracking in Ohio state parks, and several have participated in peaceful marches calling attention to needs of the most vulnerable.

The **Driftless Region FJC** (WI, MN) continues reading *Ecological Spirituality* by Diarmuid O'Murchu as spiritual enrichment and encouragement for their many actions in favor of creation on the personal and communal level.

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

**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

**Richmond, VA FJC:** Mon. May 12 at 7:00 pm ET over Zoom

**CT-RI FJC:** Tues. May 13 at 7:00 pm ET over Zoom

**Delaware Valley FJC:** Tues. May 13 at 7:00 pm ET over Zoom

**New Mexico FJC:** Tues. May 13 at 7:00 pm MT over Zoom

**Virtual FJC:** Thur. May 15 at 11:00 am PT / 2:00 pm ET over Zoom

**Phoenix-Area FJC:** Thur. May 15 at 11:00 am PT / 2:00 pm ET 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 [FJInfo@franciscanaction.org](mailto:FJInfo@franciscanaction.org).