

Publication Date: May 13, 2025

Reflection Date: [May 18, 2025: Fifth Sunday of Easter](#)

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## As I Have Loved You

After sharing the Last Supper, Jesus focused his disciples' attention by saying: "I will be with you only a little while longer."

We read this passage on the [5th Sunday of Easter](#). We are over halfway through our time focusing on the glorified Christ. Soon, we will meditate on the Ascension and celebrate the feast of Pentecost. Our lives march forward.

Can we ever put off taking Jesus' message and example to heart?



Like those at table with Jesus, our Lord always seeks to help us focus on what is most important in our lives. The words of Jesus that night summarize what should be most important in the lives of all followers of Christ: "As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The Acts of the Apostles describes Paul establishing church communities alongside Barnabas. Their spreading of Jesus' message brought new people to the church and required the appointment of helpers to carry on their ministry.

The Book of Revelation describes the conclusion of the Church's journey as "a new heaven and a new earth" coming into being where "God's dwelling is with the human race ... and God himself will always be with them as their God." John concludes the account of his mystical vision with the One on the throne saying: "Behold, I make all things new."

Just as Paul and Barnabas appointed leaders to continue Christ's mission, and as Pope Leo XIV calls us to build bridges of love and peace, FAN is taking action this May Recess by meeting with Congressional offices to advocate for just and compassionate policies. As Pope Leo reminds us, "Humanity needs Christ as the bridge to allow it to be reached by God and by his love." [Join FAN in building those bridges](#)—through dialogue, presence, and faithful action.

As we celebrate the newness of Pope Leo, let us also open ourselves to helping God to bring about a new earth through the love we share with one another as Christ's church.

### ***Toby Harkleroad***

*Director of Mission Advancement for the Religious of Jesus and Mary*

**Suggested Action:** Consider joining FAN's May Recess meetings to advocate for moral budget decisions that support vulnerable communities. [Learn more here.](#)

**Suggested Petitions:**

*For the Church, that we may love one another as Christ has loved us.  
For Pope Leo XIV, that his leadership may build bridges of peace.*

**Prayer:**

**Jesus, you call us to love one another as you have loved us.**

**Help us take your words to heart.**

**Guide us to build bridges, welcome others,  
and live as true disciples.**

**May your love renew the world through us.**

**Amen.**

## **Immigration Webinar - May 15 7PM ET**

Join us this Thursday, May 15 at 7 PM ET for a vital informational webinar on immigration. We'll cover TPS, refugee resettlement, religious worker visas, and unaccompanied children, with insights from Lauren Esterle of Acacia Center for Justice, David Spicer of USCCB, Sr. Marie Lucey, and Eileen DeGuire. There will be time for Q&A, and the webinar will be recorded. Don't miss this chance to learn and take faithful action for immigrant communities.

[Click here to register](#)

FRANCISCAN ACTION NETWORK PRESENTS:  
**IMMIGRATION UPDATE**

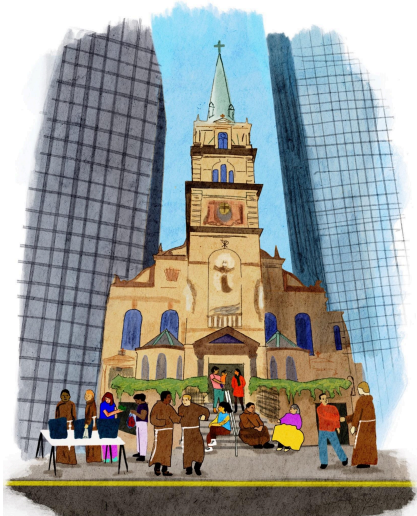
OUR SPEAKERS

 <b>Eileen DeGuire</b> Legislative Director	 <b>Sr. Marie Lucey, OSF</b> Associate Director
 <b>Lauren Esterle</b> Acacia Center for Justice	 <b>David Spicer</b> USCCB

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

**MAY 15 2025**  
**7PM ET**

## June 11, 7PM ET: “I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me”



You're invited to join the Franciscan Action Network for 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.

Instead of a traditional gala, FAN staff will be serving a meal to neighbors in need at St. Francis of Assisi Church in New York City. We invite you to be part of this meaningful evening by purchasing a ticket, donating your meal, and gathering with us online to celebrate 100 years of Franciscan witness alongside migrant communities.

[Click here for more details.](#)

[Click here to register](#)

## Take Action with FAN

Speak up for moral spending decisions by our government. Last month, many of you supported our sign-on letter for the FY2026 federal budget. 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!](#)



**FAN SHOWS UP  
for a  
MORAL BUDGET**

**We need your voice!**

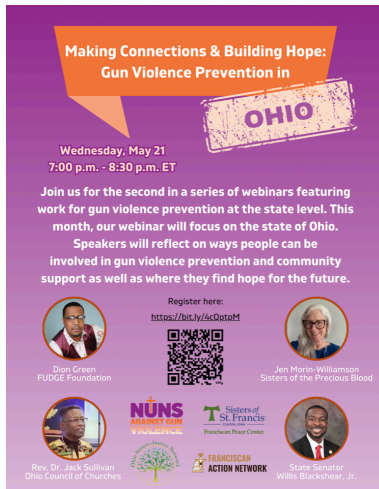
Please sign-up now for an  
in-district visit with your Senator over the  
Memorial Day Recess, May 27-30.



**FRANCISCAN  
ACTION NETWORK**

All materials and training provided!

## Nuns Against Gun Violence - May 21 at 7PM



Join Nuns Against Gun Violence for the FAN cosponsored second webinar in the "Making Connections & Building Hope" series, focused on Ohio's gun violence prevention efforts. On Wed. May 21, 2025, from 7-8:30 PM ET, Ohio State Senator Willis Blackshear, Jr. and other leaders will discuss key state-level initiatives and ways to get involved in creating safer communities. [Click here to register.](https://bit.ly/3c0n8eH)

## Christians for Ceasefire and Just Peace

On Tuesday, May 6, over 60 people visited **all the House Congressional offices**, while other **Christian leaders including Just Peace fellow Eli McCarthy and FAN Executive Director Michele Dunne held a press conference**. This was on the same day that American Christians for Israel held their advocacy day, calling for unconditional support to the Israeli government despite the fact that it has cut off all supplies to Gaza essential for human survival, including water, food, medicine, and fuel. Leaders said during the press conference that such measures are inconsistent with what it means to follow Jesus, who said that God's love is for all people. See Christians for Ceasefire's [congressional leave behind](#) and [media advisory](#).



## Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

Members of the **NYC-Area FJC** advocated before state legislators in favor of the [NY For All](#) bill, legislation that prohibits New York's state and local government agencies, including police and sheriffs, from collaborating with ICE, disclosing sensitive information, and diverting personnel or other resources to further federal immigration enforcement. Also on the level of state advocacy, FJC members have continued seeking collaboration around the bill: New York Food Safety and Chemical Disclosure Act.

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

**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

**Driftless Region FJC** (MN, WI): Mon. May 19 at 6:00 pm CT over Zoom

**Boston FJC:** Wed. May 21 at 7:00 pm ET over Zoom

**SE Wisconsin FJC:** Thur. May 22 at 4:00 pm CT over Zoom

**Central Indiana FJC:** Fri. May 23 at 1:00 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 [FJCinfo@franciscanaction.org](mailto:FJCinfo@franciscanaction.org).