

Publication Date: May 20, 2025

Reflection Date: May 25, 2025 - [Sixth Sunday of Easter](#)

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## Blocking Out the Noise

The reading from Acts of the Apostles for the [Sixth Sunday of Easter](#) struck me as a very relevant one. Paul, Barnabas, and some of the other disciples heard from “some who had come down from Judea” that they would not be saved if they hadn’t been circumcised. Being the critical thinkers that they were, Paul and Barnabas decided to check with the experts: the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. In doing so, they learned that the people from Judea were misinformed. This clarity helped the disciples and many of the other followers of Jesus.



In today’s environment, there are many people “com[ing] down from Judea” who say they know how things must be done without necessarily having authoritative information. While politics/government is a clear example, we see it in countless other areas, such as the environment, health, and education. At the end of the reading, in their letter, the apostles and elders make it clear what is real and what the disciples are to do.

While today’s information landscape might seem more complicated than that of the first century A.D., it’s important to cultivate your own “group of apostles”- sources and people you can turn to who have reliable information and will counsel you in a way that is consistent with your values. For example, I know that I can talk to my mom and best friend, and that they will encourage me but also tell me the truth. I also know that I can count on experts in FAN’s partner faith organizations to tell me what is going on and what to expect in terms of legislation and policy.

Consuming information today can feel like drinking from a firehose. We need filters and guidance to make it through. Whether it’s friends, family, or other sources of information and counsel, we all need ways to block out the noise and discern what is true.

***Eileen DeGuire***  
***Legislative Director***

### **Suggested Action:**

Take a quiet moment in nature to honor this Laudato Si’ week and reflect on who or what your apostles and elders are, and for whom you might play that role.

**Suggested Petitions:**

For calmness and peace in all aspects of life, *we pray to the Lord.*

For leaders, may they focus on what's important, *we pray to the Lord.*

**Prayer (from John Greenleaf Whittier):**

Dear Lord and Father of humankind,  
Forgive our foolish ways;  
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,  
In purer lives Thy service find,  
In deeper reverence, praise.  
Drop Thy still dews of quietness,  
Till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess  
The beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
Thy coolness and Thy balm;  
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still, small voice of calm.

Amen

## **2026 Peace and Justice Pilgrimage to Assisi**

You are invited to join a Peace and Justice Pilgrimage to Assisi, Italy **April 22–29, 2026**. Organized by FAN and Pace e Bene, the trip includes visits to many Franciscan sites in and around Assisi. Pilgrimage guides Fr. Mike Lasky OFM Conv. and Dr. Ken Butigan will lead participants in reflection on the witness of Francis and Clare, the call to peace, justice, and nonviolence, and what it means for our lives today. Please register soon, as this trip is bound to fill up.

[Click here to learn more and apply](#)

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

FAN's most important fundraiser of the year is almost here! *I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me: A Century of Franciscan Solidarity with Migrants* will take place on **Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 7 PM ET on Zoom.**

Instead of a traditional gala dinner, FAN staff will serve a meal to neighbors in need at St. Francis of Assisi Church in New York City. You're invited to be part of this powerful night—purchase a ticket, donate your meal, and join the **online** gathering to celebrate 100 years of Franciscan witness alongside migrant communities. [Click here for more details.](#)

[Click here to register](#)

## Top 10 Nonviolent Actions to Meet This Moment: Wednesday June 4, 7PM ET

FAN and Pace e Bene are excited to bring you a new webinar: "What Can We Do? The Top 10 Most Effective Nonviolent Actions to Meet This Moment" on Wednesday, June 4, at 4 PM ET/1 PM PT.

Nonviolence experts Maria Stephan and Rivera Sun will assess the top ten most effective nonviolent campaigns that are addressing current challenges in the United States. We'll look at efforts including boycotts, quiet resistance, mass protests, and other ways to stop harm. This webinar will put them into strategic context and include suggestions about how people can show up most effectively and strategically. [Click here to register.](#)



## Take Action Now for a Moral Budget

The FY25 and FY26 budget and appropriations processes are moving quickly through Congress. Please join FAN in asking our Members of Congress for a comprehensively **MORAL BUDGET** which prioritizes spending on **vulnerable populations, protection and support for immigrants and refugees, care for creation, and safety for communities.**

[Click here to take action](#)



## Thank you for joining our Immigration Webinar

Thank you to everyone who attended our immigration webinar on May 15. If you missed it or would like to revisit the conversation, you can [watch the full recording here](#). The presentation [slides are also available here](#).

Pax Christi USA is hosting a webinar on immigration on **Thursday, May 22 at 8 PM ET**. This webinar will focus on the rise in mass deportations and the realities inside ICE detention centers. [Click here to register](#).

## Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

The **DE Valley FJC** delved into actions inspired by the call to transformation and action that Laudato Si' invited all people of good will to consider, as part of their reflection on the 10th anniversary of the encyclical letter this month. To help, a guest speaker from St. Joseph's U. shared about their sustainability initiative.

There are two new FJCs just getting started in the Northwest (meets virtually) as well as at a Franciscan parish in Mount Saint Francis, Indiana.

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

**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

**Denver FJC:** Mon. May 26 at 7:00 pm MT over Zoom

**CT-RI FJC:** Tues. May 27 at 7:00 pm ET over Zoom

**Texas FJC:** Tues. May 27 at 7:15 pm CT over Zoom

**Boston FJC:** Wed. May 28 at 7:00 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).