

Publication Date: May 27, 2025

Reflection Date: June 1, 2025 - [Seventh Sunday of Easter - Ascension](#)

A Franciscan Journey Toward Pentecost

On [Ascension Sunday on June 1](#), we are invited to a time for renewed faith, hope, and love in the Holy Spirit. We are asked to await the promise of the Father after Jesus' ascension into heaven—to “stay,” to practically maintain a contemplative posture in anticipation of the Spirit. We who have been baptized in Christ have also born into new life with him this Easter season, renewing our baptismal consecration. Now, at the end of this period of celebration, we anticipate the birthday of the Church. And so, as a family who might prepare to mark the birthday of a loved one, this is our week to recollect ourselves, take stock, and see what we need for the party!



Within Christianity, Franciscanism is one of the renowned wisdom traditions of the Church, that is, a spiritual and intellectual tradition that was patterned from the experiences of praying, thinking, and living the marrow of the Gospel. This being the case, we should feel affirmed in our lives of faith in action as we approach Pentecost with “a sincere heart and in absolute trust...hold unwaveringly to our confession that gives us hope” (Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:19-23).

Part of the promise that we profess as Franciscans in living the gospel is to be missionary disciples who work towards building up the reign of God by our works of peacemaking, penance, and care for the planet. How better to do this than to ask the Holy Spirit to bless those parts of our lives where we are actively instantiating God's kingdom by our witness to Jesus' nonviolent works of mercy?

Bonaventure of Bagnoregio, in his commentary on Ecclesiastes, astutely connected the promise of the Holy Spirit in our lives to the promise of a new creation in heaven, saying that creation is like a “promise ring” of the fulfillment that is to come. Therefore, in God's cosmic covenant with us, we are called in our kinship and guardianship of all to be committed to the care of each other and the rest of creation as a testament to the Risen One, for “he who made the promise is trustworthy.”

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Suggested Action: Have you registered for the upcoming FAN webinar [“What Can We Do? The Top 10 Most Effective Nonviolent Actions to Meet This Moment”](#)? Consider this opportunity

to grow in your promise to God and Spirit-led commitment to care for our common home. It will be held June 4 at 4PM ET/1PM PT.

Suggested Petitions:

For a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit as we await the promise of the Father, we pray to the Lord.

For hearts renewed in peacemaking and care for creation, we pray to the Lord.

Prayer

Jesus who ascended into heaven, help us to see this moment in life and history as an opportunity to continued commitment to preaching and living your Good News, to ascend above the challenges of our age. Give us a muscular hope, one driven by the Spirit into making your love known in a substantial way in our nation and our common home. We ask that you bless your Church and Leo XIV as we celebrate the promise and the kingdom you've given us.

Amen

FAN's Virtual Benefit is Just Two Weeks Away

Please join us on Zoom for FAN's biggest fundraising event of the year, *"I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me: A Century of Franciscan Solidarity with Migrants"* on **Wednesday, June 11 at 7PM ET / 4PM PT.**

This special evening will include an exciting announcement about FAN's work, the premiere of a short documentary on our staff's visit to the parish of St. Francis of Assisi, the presentation of the Franciscan Justice Circle Award, a panel discussion, and more. Your presence and support are deeply appreciated.

[Register today!](#)



Coming Up: Top 10 Nonviolent Actions to Meet This Moment

Wednesday, June 4 at 4 PM ET / 1 PM PT on Zoom

FAN and Pace e Bene invite you to an engaging new webinar exploring the most impactful nonviolent actions happening across the U.S. today.

Nonviolence experts Maria Stephan and Rivera Sun will highlight ten powerful campaigns—from quiet acts of resistance to large-scale protests—and offer strategic insight into how these efforts are making a difference. Learn how you can take part in meaningful action in your community.



[Click here to register](#)

40-Day Solidarity Fast for Gaza



Organized by Veterans For Peace

Join Christians for Ceasefire and Just Peace and many other partners in a **solidarity fast for Gaza**, organized by Veterans For Peace, from **May 22 to June 30**. As the UN warns of mass infant deaths, we fast in protest and prayer, calling for humanitarian aid to Gaza. You can sign up to be an individual faster in many different ways or an organizational sponsor here: <https://www.fosna.org/2025gazafast>

Take Action with FAN

Congress is quickly advancing the 2025–2026 budget, and FAN urges support for a moral budget that protects the vulnerable, supports immigrants, cares for creation, and promotes community safety. [Click here to take action for a moral budget.](#)

FAN urges Congress to restore legal support for unaccompanied minors in immigration court. Children should not face complex legal proceedings alone. [Click here to contact Congress about legal services for children.](#)

Our partners at the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns are calling for action to prevent mass deportations that could separate families and impact U.S. citizen children. [Click here to take action to protect families.](#)

Immigrant religious workers serve our communities but face deportation due to visa backlogs and outdated policies. The Religious Workforce Protection Act lets them stay while waiting for green cards. [Click here to take action with Jesuit Refugee Service USA.](#)



Celebrate Laudato Si' Week, May 24-31



For **LAUDATO SI' WEEK 2025**, consider hosting a watch party of the film "The Letter" (2 hours) which tells the story of a journey to Rome of frontline leaders to discuss the encyclical letter Laudato Si' with Pope Francis. Discuss what you can do together to care for our common home. Pray the

Creation Novena— a nine day prayer for our common home. Reach out to friends and start a Laudato Si' book club (over 6 sessions for its 6 chapters). A wide variety of educational and prayer resources are available online from the [Laudato Si' Movement](#).

This May, FAN joined 46 interfaith organizations in signing onto a Laudato Si' 10th anniversary letter to all members of Congress and to the Administration. Together, we are asking for restored funding and staffing of the Environmental Protection Agency, restoration of efforts within all of government to address climate change, environmental protections for

communities over-burdened by pollution, and a transition to a renewable energy economy that leaves no one behind. [Click here to read the full text of the letter.](#)

Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

The recently formed **St. Louis FJC** continues the JustFaith program *Just Action! How to Advocate and Mobilize for Justice*, and have chosen to focus on the issue of affordable housing in the St. Louis area. They meet in person at a local church once a month.

The **Phoenix Area FJC** members are involved in a variety of actions and activities including Laudato Si' Week, local marches and protests, advocating at state and national levels for support of people with disabilities; and peace and non-violence education and events.

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

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

St. Louis FJC: Sun. June 1 at 4:30 pm CT In Person

Mid-Hudson Valley FJC: Tues. June 3 at 12:00 pm ET over Zoom

Kansas FJC: Tues. June 3 at 7:00 pm CT over Zoom

Ohio FJC: Wed. June 4 at 7:00 pm ET over Zoom

Virtual FJC (ltd. mobility): Thurs. June 5 at 11:00 am PT / 2:00 pm ET over Zoom

SoCal FJC: Thurs. June 5 at 6:00 pm PT over Zoom

Chicagoland FJC: Sat. June 7 at 10:00 am CT 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.