Publication Date: June 10, 2025

Reflection Date: June 15, 2025 - The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Playing with God

Three Persons in One God, basic to our faith. What a relief that we don't have to understand this core belief, just accept it as mystery! Even the most brilliant human mind is finite. Accept and revel in the expansive, creative mystery of God as community.

In the swirl of somber, disheartening daily news, welcome the good news for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity on June 15. In a reading from Proverbs, we are invited to listen to Wisdom; in an excerpt from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans we are encouraged to hope; and in the Gospel of John we hear Jesus' assurance that the Spirit will be with us. God is Creator, God is Redeemer, and God is Spirit, bound in loving community, sharing love and life for all of Creation, for us humans.

The work we do to promote the gospel, Catholic social teaching, and Franciscan values in areas of justice, peace, and integrity of creation is serious work, demanding and challenging work. But to sustain us when our labor seems fruitless, we need times of respite and refreshment.

In Proverbs, the Wisdom of God reminds us that she was beside the Creator "as his craftsman," "his delight day by day, playing before him," "playing on the surface of his earth." The reading moved me to remember the games I played as a child with other children. Even in old age, I am a child of God. Can I imagine myself playing with God? Which game would I like us to play? Do I believe that God delights in me? Imagining playing with God could lift our hearts, refresh our spirits, strengthen our hope, and "hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Romans 5:5).

As you experience refreshment in playing with God, please consider supporting FAN's work by joining us on Wednesday, June 11 for "I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me," an event exploring the beautiful Franciscan heritage of serving migrants and the current challenges to that work.

Sr. Marie Lucey, OSF FAN Associate Director

<u>Suggested Action:</u> As you explore the relationships within the Holy Trinity, explore your relationships with people seeking shelter through upcoming webinars related to migrants by FAN and USCCB (details below).

<u>Suggested Petitions:</u> That we may live into the loving relationship named the Holy Trinity that we are called to embrace each day, let us pray.

That we may believe with gratitude that God delights in us, let us pray.

Prayer

God
Disguised as a myriad things and
Playing a game of Tag
Has kissed you and said,
"You're it---

I mean, you're Really IT!"

Now it does not matter What you believe or feel

For something wonderful, Major-league Wonderful Is someday going To

Happen.

(Prayer attributed to Sufi Master Hafiz)

FAN's Benefit is Tomorrow!

FAN's annual Benefit, *I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me: A Century of Franciscan Solidarity with Migrants*, is happening **tomorrow at 7PM ET!** There's still time to join us in this joyful celebration of gospel-rooted justice and compassion.

The program includes a mini-documentary about Franciscan service to the poor, including migrants, at St. Francis of Assisi Church in New York City; an interview with Franciscan leaders serving migrants across the United States; our annual Franciscan Justice Award; and an exciting announcement about FAN's work. You don't want to miss this!

Come hear inspiring stories and support the work of FAN. **Get your ticket today** and be part of this special evening.

Register today

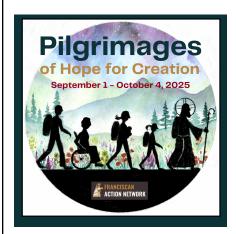
In Case You Missed Our Nonviolence Webinar

Thank you to everyone who joined "What Can We Do? The Top 10 Most Effective Nonviolent Actions To Meet This Moment," co-hosted by the Franciscan Action Network and Pace e

Bene, on June 4. We're especially grateful to our presenters, Rivera Sun and Maria Stephan, for their powerful insights and strategies rooted in active nonviolence and for the many resources they shared. <u>Click here</u> to watch the webinar recording.

June 18 – Pilgrimages of Hope for Creation: Franciscan Family Information Session

11 a.m. Pacific / 12 p.m. Mountain / 1 p.m. Central / 2 p.m. Eastern



As we celebrate the anniversaries of the Canticle of the Creatures, Laudato Si', and the Jubilee Year, Catholic communities across the United States will unite through **Pilgrimages of Hope for Creation** during the Season of Creation (September 1 – October 4, 2025). Together we will pray for the grace to encounter Christ in the natural world and restore our relationships with God, Creation, and one another.

As Franciscans we have an opportunity and responsibility to share the Canticle as part of these pilgrimages. Please join the OFM/Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe, OFM Conv/Province of Our Lady of the Angels, and Franciscan Action Network as we discuss what it means to participate

in this national effort.

The June 18 webinar will be recorded, and resources will be sent to all who register.

Click here to register for the June 18 webinar

Opportunities to Support Refugees and Migrants

Join the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for a timely webinar, "No Safe Place? Refugee Protection in a Fractured World," on Tuesday, June 18 at 2 PM ET. The discussion will explore current challenges facing refugees and those who accompany them. Click here to register.

Then, consider joining or supporting an Interfaith Caravan to the ICE Detention Center in Basile, Louisiana, organized by Christians for Ceasefire and a Just Peace,



departing from Washington, DC and Atlanta on June 20-22. The caravan will include prayer, public witness, and calls for humane treatment of migrants. <u>Click here to register.</u>

Franciscan Federation Event with Sr. Ilia Delio



Join the Franciscan Federation on **Saturday, June 28 at 12 PM ET / 9 AM PT** for a virtual roundtable exploring Franciscan spirituality and care for our common home featuring Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF, Keith Warner, OFM, and Pamela Wood, the authors of *Care for Creation: A Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth*.

This event celebrates the 800th anniversary of the *Canticle of the Creatures*, bringing together key voices in Franciscan eco-theology to reflect on the intersection of faith and environmental justice. <u>Click here to register.</u>

FAN Director Interviewed on Friar Time

Season 2 of *Friar Time*, the OFM video show, debuted on June 7, featuring conversations on faith, justice, and the future. The first episode, *"The State of the World,"* includes an interview with FAN's Executive Director, Michele Dunne OFS, conducted by Fr. David Convertino, OFM.

Together, they explore today's most pressing global issues through a Franciscan lens. Watch the episode here: Friar Time S2 E1: The State of The World

Franciscan Justice Circle Updates

While the **CT-RI FJC** members have been advocating for several environmental bills at the state legislature, they've also raised their voices at the national level in support of nuclear disarmament. Additionally the FJC continues to reflect more deeply on the ways that plastics impact our lives and God's creation and get better equipped for action through reading *Plastic Jesus. Real Faith in a Synthetic World*.

The **Kansas FJC** is focusing on the topic of peace as part of a course on living Catholic social teaching. Members continue to share their activities and actions in support of those who are most vulnerable and creation.

Upcoming Franciscan Justice Circle (FJC) gatherings:

DE Valley FJC: Tues. June 10 at 7:00 pm ET over Zoom **New Mexico FJC**: Tues. June 10 at 7:00 pm MT over Zoom **Rochester FJC**: Thur. June 12 at 3:30 pm ET over Zoom

Twin Cities (MN) FJC: Thur. June 12 at 7:00 pm CT over Zoom

SoCal FJC: Thur. June 12 at 6:00 pm PT over Zoom

DC-Area FJC: Sat. June 14 In Person, participating in local action **Driftless Region FJC**: Mon. June 16 at 7:00 pm CT over Zoom

Monthly national FJCs call: Wed. June 18 at 4:00 pm ET / 1:00 pm PT over Zoom

Boston FJC: Wed. June 18 at 7:00 pm ET over Zoom **Phoenix FJC**: Thur. June 19 at 5:00 pm MST over Zoom

Pacific Northwest FJC: Thur. June 19 at 7:00 pm PT over Zoom

Central IN: Fri. June 20 at 1:00 pm ET over Zoom

To find out more about any of the <u>FJC</u> gatherings coming up or for information about joining or forming a Circle, please contact Nora Pfeiffer at <u>FJCinfo@franciscanaction.org</u>.