

Publication Date: July 1, 2025

Reflection Date: July 6, 2025 - [Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

## Encountering Our Shared Humanity

The Mass readings for the [Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#) offer a profound yet absolutely timely reflection on mission, hospitality, and the dignity of all people, reminding us that the Kingdom of God is here and accessible to all.

Jesus appoints 72 disciples and sends them out, instructing them to travel light and rely on the hospitality of those they encounter. This directive emphasizes radical trust in community and mutual care. In a world often marked by division and exclusion, Jesus' words challenge us to embrace a spirit of openness – welcoming the stranger, honoring the dignity of those we encounter, and recognizing that every person carries the Imago Dei, the image of God.

The disciples are told to proclaim peace upon entering a home. I love this and think we all need to do this upon entering anyone's home. This peace is not merely a greeting but has transforming power. It is an invitation to justice, reconciliation, and healing. Jesus calls us to be bearers of peace, not just in words but in action. It urges us to stand against systems of oppression, to advocate for the marginalized, and to ensure that dignity is upheld in every encounter. We are called to bring Jesus to everyone we meet and to be the gospel they may not get to read.

Jesus also warns that some will reject this message, yet the disciples are not to retaliate or use any type of force. Instead, they are to shake the dust from their feet and move on to the next encounter. This teaches us that justice work is not about coercion or force but about faithful witness. We are called to persist in love, even when met with resistance, trusting that the seeds of justice will take root in their own time. It is not our timing, but God's timing.

Again, we are reminded that the mission of Jesus is one of radical inclusion. It is a call to recognize the sacred worth and value of every person, to extend hospitality without condition, and to work tirelessly for a world where peace and justice reign. This is the ongoing work of the Franciscan Action Network as we advocate for justice, peace, care for creation, and the dignity of all. May we always be challenged to recognize the worth and dignity of every person we encounter, seeing the face of Jesus in each one of them.

***Carolyn D. Townes, OFS***

*Former FAN Board Member*

*Convener of Virtual Franciscan Justice Circle*

**Suggested Action:** Consider calling your members of Congress today to urge them to support a moral budget, one that reflects Franciscan values: care for creation, compassion for the vulnerable, and a commitment to the common good. [Click here to find your members of Congress.](#)

Suggested Petitions: God of peace, grant us the courage to go forth like lambs among wolves, trusting in your protection as we work for justice and equity. Help us embrace vulnerability as a path to authentic encounters across divides of status, class, and privilege.

## Prayer

**Gracious God, you have called us to be messengers of your peace in a world torn by division and injustice. Send us forth with hearts wide open to your inclusive love. May we carry no baggage of prejudice, no burden of superiority, but only your message of dignity and justice for all people. Help us to see your face in every person we encounter, especially those pushed to the margins. In Jesus' name we pray.**

**Amen.**

## Urge Your Senators: Care for the Poor & Protect God's Creation

Congress is currently considering the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (H.R.1)— however, it is anything but beautiful. A vote is expected in the Senate shortly, but there is still time to call for a moral, Franciscan budget. Please, call your Senators today and tell them to vote **"NO"** on H.R.1.

Please prayerfully review the [U.S. Bishops recent June 26 letter to Congress](#) and decide on your specific talking points. Locate your Senators' phone numbers [here](#). Feel free to use the following script. Or, speak from the heart. Sharing personal experience and emphasizing your faith is encouraged!

"Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, I am a constituent from (city/town). I am also a (pastor/religious/ parishioner) of (parish/ community). It is because of my faith that I am calling to urge Senator \_\_\_\_\_ to courageously **vote "NO" on H.R.1** and to instead find creative ways to protect human dignity and uphold the common good.

Optional talking points:

- It is the responsibility of politicians to promote and protect the common good, including by working to overcome great wealth inequality. This bill does not answer this call. It takes from the poor to give to the wealthy.
- It provides tax breaks for some while undermining the social safety net for others through major cuts to nutrition assistance and Medicaid.
- It fails to protect families and children by promoting an enforcement-only approach to immigration and eroding access to legal protections.
- It harms God's creation and future generations through cuts to clean energy incentives and environmental programs.
- Please tell the Senator to **vote no on H.R.1**.

## Thank You for Supporting *Sisters Speak Out*

Thank you to everyone who joined *Sisters Speak Out* on Tuesday, June 24, standing with Catholic Sisters from across the U.S. and the world to call for a moral budget and compassionate immigration policies. We're grateful to all who completed our action alert as well. This week, we formally delivered your letters to Senate offices. [Click here to read more](#) about the Sisters Speak Out event.



## Laudato Si' delivered to all Catholic Members of Congress

On June 25, over 100 "Pilgrims of Hope for Creation" delivered blessed copies of [Laudato Si](#), Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical, to all 148 Catholic members of Congress. FAN joined with Catholic Climate Covenant and others for this hopeful action. Each copy included a [cover letter](#), [discernment questions](#), and a Cantic of Creatures prayer card.



This effort is part of the broader "Pilgrimages of Hope for Creation" happening across the U.S. during the Season of Creation (September 1 to October 4, 2025). From parish walks to hikes through forests, all pilgrimages share a mission: to renew our relationship with God, one

another, and the Earth. Learn more on [FAN's website](#).

Button: [Pilgrimage of Hope for Creation](#)

## Help Protect Oak Flat



On June 23, Apache Stronghold petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to rehear their case to protect Oak Flat, sacred Apache land in Arizona, from destruction by Resolution Copper. The proposed mine would harm both religious freedom and water resources.

Justice Gorsuch dissented from the Court's refusal to hear the case, calling it a serious mistake. In consideration of the [letter from Apache Stronghold](#) to the President, we are invited to [call our representatives](#), asking them to request that the President meet with Apache Stronghold.

## Pilgrimage to Assisi – April 22–29, 2026



Join the Franciscan Action Network and Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service for a transformative one-week pilgrimage to Assisi, Italy in April 2026. Led by Dr. Ken Butigan, Friar Michael Lasky, OFM Conv., and FAN Executive Director Michele Dunne, OFS, we will walk in the footsteps of St. Francis and St. Clare as we deepen our commitment to gospel nonviolence through prayer, study, and community. [Learn more here](#) and consider registering to join for this powerful journey while there are still spots available.

## Franciscan Justice Circles

The **Twin Cities FJC** used the film [The Sultan and the Saint](#) to spur conversation about encountering the “other,” peacemaking and hospitality. They also joined together in prayer before attending public gatherings with other community members to peacefully stand up for maintaining democracy structures that help to ensure the dignity and equal participation of all citizens.

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

**Denver Area FJC:** Mon. June 30 at 7:00 pm MT over Zoom

**Kansas FJC:** Tues. July 1 at 7:00 pm CT over Zoom

**Ohio FJC:** Wed. July 2 at 7:00 pm ET over Zoom

**CT - RI FJC:** Tues. July 8 at 7:00 pm ET over Zoom

**DE Valley FJC:** Tues. July 8 at 7:00 pm ET over Zoom

**New Mexico FJC:** Tues. July 8 at 6:30 pm MT over Zoom

**SoCal FJC:** Thurs. July 10 at 6:00 pm PT over Zoom

**Central Indiana FJC:** Fri. July 11 at 1:00 pm ET over Zoom

**DC-Area FJC:** Sat. July 12 at 10:00 am ET In Person

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).