

Publication Date: June 24, 2025

Reflection Date: June 29, 2025 - [Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles](#)

## The Race We Run

The [Feast of Saints Peter and Paul](#) reminds us that faith is not passive; it is lived, risked, and proclaimed. Both apostles faced persecution, yet they kept showing up. “I have kept the faith,” Paul writes. “The Lord stood by me and gave me strength.”



Last fall, I stood outside a congressional office during the Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference, nervously preparing to speak about an issue close to my heart: protecting farm workers from heat-related illness through the Farm Bill. My great-grandmother died after not receiving medical care during a heat wave while working in the fields. I thought of Paul and his proclamation of the gospel. That’s what we do at FAN: we show up, even if our voices shake.

This week, we also give thanks for our colleague Eileen DeGuire, who is stepping into a new and exciting chapter. Eileen has taught me a lot about how to show up faithfully. Sometimes it looks like reading every word of a bill, carefully breaking down complex immigration and legislative issues for our network, or reaching out to a congressional office yet again. Watching Eileen work reminded me that the race Paul talks about is often slow and steady, but we are faithful nevertheless.

May we continue that race with courage—advocating, praying, and building a Church that stands with the vulnerable and keeps going, together.

### ***Rosie Davila***

*Communications and Development Coordinator, FAN  
Artist, Pace e Bene Campaign Nonviolence*

**Suggested Action:** Catholic Sisters and allies will visit gather at the Capitol to call for a federal budget rooted in justice. Consider [taking action here](#) in solidarity.

### **Suggested Petitions:**

*For the courage to show up with faith, even when our voices shake, we pray to the Lord.  
In gratitude for those who run the long race for justice, we pray to the Lord.*

### **Prayer**

**God of Peter and Paul,  
Give us courage to live our faith boldly—**

to speak truth, seek justice, and stand with the vulnerable,  
even when we are afraid.

Thank you for the witness of those who show up faithfully,  
day after day, step after step.

Strengthen us to keep going, together.

Amen.

## A Transformative Gift from the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration



We are honored to share the news that the **Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration** have made a landmark **\$2 million gift** to FAN. This extraordinary investment will significantly expand our capacity to build an intergenerational movement for justice, peace, and care for creation through our [Franciscan Justice Circles](#), our [annual leadership](#)

[conference](#), and more. Read more about it in [the press release](#).

[Click here to watch the video announcement](#) and hear more about this powerful new partnership rooted in shared Franciscan values from FSPA President Sr. Sue Ernster.

We are deeply grateful to the FSPA Sisters for their partnership in our mission. This gift is a pivotal moment, but we still need the ongoing support of our broader network to fully realize our vision and make FAN's work sustainable. Thank you for your ongoing engagement and support for our work together!

## Gratitude for Eileen DeGuire

FAN extends our heartfelt thanks to Eileen DeGuire, our Legislative Director and Franciscan Mission Service volunteer, as she transitions from FAN to a new position. Eileen's passion for justice and her ability to connect policy with Franciscan values have made a lasting impact on us and our network. We will miss her and send her off with our prayers and gratitude.

[Click here to send Eileen a thank you message.](#)



Button: [What Happens When You Take Action With Us: Delivering Letters to Congress](#)

FAN will welcome a new FMS missionary in mid-August.

## Today: Catholic Sisters Speak Out for Justice



This morning, Catholic Sisters and allies are gathering in at the U.S. Capitol for [Sisters Speak Out: A Prayer and Public Witness for Immigrants and a Just Economy](#). FAN staff will be there, praying and standing with the sisters as they call for a federal budget rooted in dignity, equity, and care for creation.

You can join the national event in Washington, DC at 10 AM ET, take [action through our alert](#), participate in [an echo event](#), or [email Sr. Marie Lucey](#) if you're hosting an echo event in your community.

## Join USCCB in Promoting Just Immigration

FAN joins the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in raising concerns about provisions in the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" before the Senate that double down on an unsustainable enforcement-only approach to immigration, while unjustly placing immigrant and mixed-status families at a profound disadvantage. [Click here to take action](#) with the USCCB.

In a recent [reflection](#), USCCB President Archbishop Broglio said, "In the context of a gravely deficient immigration system, the mass arrest and removal of our neighbors, friends and family members on the basis of immigration status alone, particularly in ways that are arbitrary or without due process, represent a profound social crisis before which no person of good will can remain silent."

## Reflecting on Alternatives to Bombing Iran

As violence escalates between Israel and Iran, the U.S. has joined the conflict with airstrikes on Iranian nuclear facilities, deepening a cycle of destruction. As Franciscan-hearted people, we are called to work for nonviolence and just peace.

In a new reflection, FAN's Just Peace Fellow Eli McCarthy outlines immediate steps the U.S. can take to pursue a just peace: renewed diplomacy, acknowledgment of harm, de-escalation, and re-humanizing all sides. [Read more here.](#)

## Franciscan Justice Circles

The **Reading, PA FJC** has been busy reaching out to their elected officials on a number of issues: to PA's U.S. senators in support of Oak Flat and the Environmental Justice for All Act; to the Reading mayor and state governors in support of endorsing the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty; to state legislators in favor of plans for clean energy as well as S.1201, Strengthening Immigration Procedures Act of 2025. They've been learning more about H.Res.126, Celebrating the Legacy and Contributions of Immigrants and Opposing Discriminatory Immigration Policies.

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

**CT - RI FJC:** Tues. June 24 at 7:00 pm ET over Zoom

**Texas FJC:** Tues. June 24 at 7:15 pm CT over Zoom

**Pittsburgh Metro FJC:** Thur. June 26 at 7:30 pm ET over Zoom

**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

**Chicagoland FJC:** Sat. July 5 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](mailto:FJCinfo@franciscanaction.org).