

Publication Date: August 12, 2025

Reflection Date: August 17, 2025 - [Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

Getting ourselves ready

Out of all of the prophets, I particularly like Jeremiah. Why? Because he never wanted to be a prophet! God called him when he was still a kid, and told him, “*Get yourself ready.*” He did, but it led to opposition, prison, and being left to die in a cistern for speaking truth. His words made people uncomfortable; they made people want to kill him.



I thought of Jeremiah recently while watching [The Berrigans: Devout and Dangerous](#) with my mom and aunt in an event commemorating the horrific bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The lives of Dan and Phil Berrigan as well as Liz McAlister (whom I was lucky enough to meet after the Kings Bay Plowshares action) echo Jeremiah’s prophetic witness. For decades, they stood against war, nuclear weapons, and all forms of violence. Liz is part of my “great cloud of witnesses,” the people the book of Hebrews tells us to look to when we feel tired or uncertain.

Following Jesus is not always easy. In fact, it is rarely easy. In Luke’s Gospel, Jesus says his presence will bring *division*, not peace. Living the gospel fully will challenge people. It might even divide us from those we love. I feel lucky to work for Franciscan Action Network, where we wrestle with this reality, recognizing that staying faithful to Jesus is not going to have us winning any popularity contests.

Lately I’ve been sitting with a lot of questions: *Where am I meant to be in the world? How can I be faithful to the nonviolent Jesus?* I sometimes feel frustrated that I don’t have all the answers...just this nebulous longing. But maybe the restlessness is holy too. Maybe that’s where God comes in, in the moments where I’m questioning. If you’re wrestling with questions, I invite you to pause and ask: *Where is God calling me?* I’m starting to realize that this questioning is a part of getting ourselves ready; it’s a part of our prayer. If you feel that ache or restlessness, I invite you to sit there with me and trust that God is there with us.

Rosie Davila

Communications and Development Coordinator, Franciscan Action Network

[Artist](#), *Pace e Bene Campaign Nonviolence*

Suggested Action: As you’re asking how God is calling you to take action during this time, I invite you to tap into the power of nonviolent, organized action. For inspiration, consider watching a webinar that FAN and Pace e Bene hosted earlier this summer, [The Top 10 Most Effective Nonviolent Actions to Meet this Moment](#). It will leave you inspired and can help you get ready for action!

Suggested Petitions:

For strength and peace while sitting with our questions, we pray to the Lord.

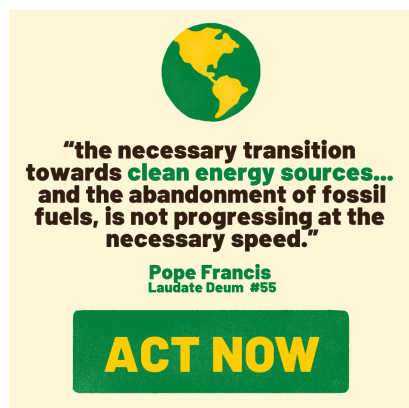
For bravery to be modern-day prophets, like Liz, Phil, and Dan, we pray to the Lord.

Prayer

Dear God, I trust that you are calling me even in my questions.
Please help me to have the courage to follow you even when it's hard.
Help me to love others as you have loved me.

Amen.

Urgent! Only 20 more days to act. Sign EPA petition.



Please use the public comment period to urge the EPA to do what is right: do not repeal the Endangerment Finding and deny the health impacts of climate pollution. Please take action by September 1, 2025!

[Sign EPA Petition](#)

What's happening?

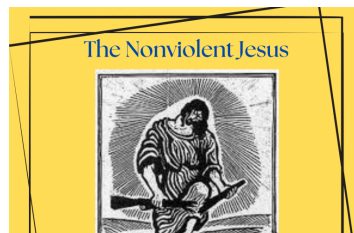
EPA Administrator Lee Zelden proposes repealing the Endangerment Finding, which would dismantle the legal basis and duty for the government to regulate greenhouse gases from vehicles and power plants. This repeal threatens the EPA's legal authority to limit climate pollution. Climate change is real and urgent, as Pope Francis called it "one of humanity's principal challenges." The U.S. has both moral and legal obligations to reduce emissions and protect vulnerable communities. Without the Endangerment Finding, the EPA forfeits its legal authority to limit climate pollution.

Learn more!

Endangerment Finding from [Inside Climate News](#).
Pollution impacts of this repeal from the [Environmental Defense Fund](#).
EPA comment process and public hearings from Regulations.gov [here](#).

Michele Dunne on *The Nonviolent Jesus Podcast*

FAN's Executive Director, Michele Dunne, recently joined Fr. John Dear on *The Nonviolent Jesus Podcast* for a rich conversation about Franciscan spirituality, justice, and nonviolence. She reflects on the mission of FAN and Justice Circles across the U.S. In the episode, Michele shares her



perspective on the 800th anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi's *Canticle of the Sun* and the urgent need to heal the broken relationship between humanity and creation. She also speaks about staying grounded in a sense of purpose, seeking God's will, and showing up for "the next right thing." [Click here](#) to listen to the podcast.

Franciscans & U.N. Climate Change Conference



In 2024, the global average temperature surpassed 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels—the Paris Agreement threshold to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change. **Against this backdrop, the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Brazil, November 10-21, 2025, will be critical for preserving our Common Home.**

With no planned presence from U.S. government officials, including the State Department, the role of other U.S. stakeholders is even more vital in showing commitment to the Paris Agreement and the International Treaty on Climate Change (2016). **A large Franciscan delegation will be in Brazil.**

Before COP30, [Franciscans International](#) will host three 1-hour webinars at 11am EST: The History of Global Climate Efforts (19 August), Our Prophetic Mission (16 September), and The Document of the Episcopal Conference of the Global South (7 October). [Click here to register for FI's first webinar.](#)

Sept. 1 – Oct. 4, 2025

Franciscan Family and Pilgrimages of Hope for Creation

As the anniversaries of the *Canticle of the Creatures*, *Laudato Si'*, and the Jubilee Year are celebrated, communities across the U.S. will unite through Pilgrimages of Hope for Creation during the Season of Creation (Sept 1 - Oct 4, 2025).

Pilgrimages can be short walks, longer treks, or visits to places of natural or ecological significance. All share the mission to restore our relationship with God, each other, and the Earth, and renew commitment to caring for creation.

Learn more or watch a Franciscan Family [training webinar on YouTube](#) (released June 18).



Ask Your Representative to Support Refugees this August Recess



Senators and Members of Congress are back home for August recess, a period when they hold town halls, attend public events, and listen to their constituents. FAN joins our partners in encouraging our network to meet with your representatives at home and make your voice heard in support of refugees and immigrants in your community, as tens of thousands of refugees have been left stranded overseas due to the Trump

administration's refugee ban.

To find a town hall, a list of sample questions, and policy asks, check out this [Recess Advocacy Guide](#) from CWS.

Franciscan Justice Circles

While the **New Mexico FJC** usually meets virtually, they met in person in July in Albuquerque, helping to foster their connections and mutual support in discerning ways to translate Franciscan values into action in their state. Members reflected on Laudato Si', the invitation to create a Laudato Si' plan, and they shared various upcoming opportunities: making calls to members of Congress, joining nonviolent public witness gatherings, planning/participating in Pilgrimage of Hope for Creation and a social concerns retreat.

The newly formed **Pacific Northwest FJC** meets virtually and they will be exploring topics of Catholic Social Teaching and exploring possible avenues and partnerships to educate oneself on dialogue and speaking across divides with nonviolent Franciscan spirits.

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

CT - RI FJC: Tues. Aug. 12 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

DE Valley FJC (DE, NJ, PA): Tues. Aug. 12 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

National monthly FJC call: Wed. Aug. 13 at 1:00 pm PT / 4:00 pm ET via Zoom

Driftless Region FJC (WI, MN): Mon. Aug. 18 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

Pacific Northwest FJC: Thur. Aug. 21 at 1:00 pm PT via Zoom

Boston-area FJC: Thur. Aug. 21 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

Phoenix-area FJC: Thur. Aug. 21 at 5:00 pm MST via Zoom

SoCal FJC: Thur. Aug. 21 at 6:00 pm PT via Zoom

SE Wisconsin FJC: Mon. Aug. 25 at 7:00 pm CT via Zoom

Colorado FJC: Mon. Aug. 25 at 7:00 pm MT via Zoom

To find out more about any of the [FJC](#) gatherings coming up or for information about joining or forming a Circle, please sign up [HERE](#).