

Publication Date: July 22, 2025

Reflection Date: July 27, 2025 - [Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

## This Is Who We Are

In the gospel readings from the [Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#), Jesus gives the disciples the “Our Father” prayer. To me, it’s a reminder of the importance of going back to basics and the foundations of our faith. This is one of the things that has made it easier for me to continue this work and has made me appreciate the shared values of the Franciscan and Christian communities.



One of the last events I participated in as Legislative Director at FAN was the June 24 Sisters Speak Out rally. Seeing so many sisters and allies from all over the country show up to DC in 100° heat, while others held parallel events all over the country, was inspirational and emotion-provoking for me. We all came together to speak and pray about issues facing our country and bills in Congress that would hurt vulnerable populations. As someone who has had a complicated relationship with her faith, I felt validated and grateful for our community seeing people with my shared faith foundation speak out on issues that I feel passionately about and am actively working on. It was a reminder that as Catholics and followers of Christ, we are called to speak out for and protect the vulnerable.

It is very easy to get caught up in the ritual, tradition, and technicalities of our faith, but at our core, this is who we are. Jesus reached out to the poor and called us to care for them. Exodus 22:15 commands us that we “shall not oppress or afflict a resident alien, for you were once aliens residing in the land of Egypt.” St. Francis said that, to God, “Praise we can give. And care for and of all God has created outside the Trinity, beginning with Jesus himself who sums up and contains all of creation in his own divine nature.” Catholic Social Teaching stems from scripture and catechism, all of which are fundamental to our faith.

We, as Franciscans and people of faith, need to remember our roots and what we are called to do. To once again quote what St. Francis said near the end of his life, “I have done what is mine to do. May Christ teach you what is yours.”

I want to thank each and every one of you for all of your engagement with and support throughout my year serving at FAN through the Franciscan Mission Service. I learned so much, and credit much of that learning to interacting and working with FAN’s network. Peace and all good!

***Eileen DeGuire***

***Former Franciscan Action Network Legislative Director***

**Suggested Action:** Reflect on what you value from your faith, and what it calls you to do. How can you act on that call?

**Suggested Petitions:**

*That we answer God's call to protect and respect the dignity of all creation... we pray*

*For all of those suffering in some way right now, particularly those who are in unsafe situations... we pray*

**Prayer (from unknown author):**

**Today, O God of all days,  
give me an experience of your heart.  
Draw me deep into your very being,  
into the core of your love for me, others, and the world.  
Give me a glimpse of others the way you see others:  
loving them, forgiving them,  
and delighting in the way they give glory to God  
through their very existence.  
Help me to discern out of that open place of deep affection  
so that I too might be a useful vessel of your love in the world.**

**Please Note:** The FAN newsletter will be on holiday for the next two weeks. There will be no issues on Tuesday, July 29 and Tuesday, August 5. We'll resume the following week. Thank you for your understanding!

## **Gaza Church Compound Attacked: Ceasefire Now**

The Israeli military struck the Holy Family Parish compound in Gaza, killing three people and injuring nine others, on July 17. The compound had served as a sanctuary for families who had already lost their homes and livelihoods. Among the wounded is the parish priest, Fr. Gabriel Romanelli.



The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem issued a [statement](#) condemning the targeting of innocent civilians and of a sacred place,” and adding “However, this tragedy is not greater or more terrible than the many others that have befallen Gaza. Many other innocent civilians have also been harmed, displaced and killed. Death, suffering and destruction are everywhere... This horrific war must come to a complete end—so that we may commence the long work of restoring human dignity.”

The Franciscan Action Network continues to call for an immediate **ceasefire and a just peace**, and we join **Pope Leo XIV** and **Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa** in calling for an end to this violence. [Click here to urge](#) Congress to block U.S. export of certain offensive weapons to Israel.

## FAN is hiring!

Please help us to recruit a dynamic Communications Coordinator. This is a full-time staff position, located in Washington DC, and is open immediately. This is a fast-paced position with significant room for creativity that offers an outstanding opportunity to play a pivotal role within a faith-based advocacy organization.



FAN is a nondiscriminatory, nonpartisan 501(c)3 organization and is committed to building a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community among staff, board, and our broader network.

[Click here to read the full job description.](#) To apply, send a resume and cover letter to [jobs@franciscanaction.org](mailto:jobs@franciscanaction.org).

## Keep Current on Creation Care

**Did you know?** Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins announced that the U.S. administration intends to rescind the Roadless Rule—the most important land and forest protection measure in generations. The National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Policy (2001) protects 58 million acres of America's national forests from industrial logging and other sources of extractive harm. The Roadless Rule protects roadless areas in National Forests from new roadbuilding, which makes it impossible for logging companies to clearcut those areas.

Do you want to help protect our national forests and other essential environmental protections? Stay informed with FAN's monthly environmental newsletter— *The Current*.



**FAN curates the news for you!** Sign-up for *The Current*, FAN's monthly environmental advocacy newsletter, which features relevant online action items, news headlines, and event listings.

[Sign up today!](#)

## Youth Pilgrims for Creation Launch Call, August 13

Catholic communities across the United States are organizing local **Pilgrimages of Hope for Creation** ([click here](#)), during the Season of Creation (September 1 - October 4), as sacred opportunities to pray for the grace to encounter Christ in Creation and renew our relationships with God, the Earth, and one another. Join a launch call to learn more about how passionate youth are leading pilgrimages within their communities!

Launch Call (Zoom) on August 13 at 11am PT / 2pm ET ([click here to register](#)).

## Protect Medicaid & Families First Events July 23-26

This month marks the 60th anniversary of Medicaid. From July 23 to 26, Caring Across Generations and organizations from across the country are holding a 60-hour Protect Medicaid vigil on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. in response to the devastating federal budget cuts that Congress just passed. RSVP to attend the vigil [here](#).

Following the vigil on Saturday, July 26, Families First actions will convene across the country to honor and continue the fight for the families and children impacted by cuts to care. Click [here](#) to find an event near you.



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## Franciscan Justice Circles

This month, the **DE Valley FJC** reflected on the national budget bill that passed, exploring the cuts to food and health care programs for those of us who are most vulnerable and the impacts they will have and seeking to interpret these policies through a faith and Franciscan values lens.

The **SoCal FJC** recently reflected on St. Francis' praise of God through the Canticle, all the trials he experienced and what that means for us today in our own time and place. Members also shared about issues important to them and ideas for taking action within local communities to promote integrity of creation, peace and justice.

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

**CT & RI FJC:** Tues. July 22 at 7:00 pm ET over Zoom

**Texas FJC:** Tues. July 22 at 7:15 pm CT / 6:15 MT over Zoom

**SE Wisconsin FJC:** Thur. July 24 at 4:00 pm CT over Zoom

**Richmond VA FJC:** Mon. July 28 at 7:00 pm ET over Zoom



**Pittsburgh-area FJC:** Thur. July 31 at 7:30 pm ET over Zoom

**SoCal FJC:** Thur. July 31 at 6:00 pm PT over Zoom

**Chicagoland FJC:** Sat. Aug 2 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 express your interest [HERE](#).