

Publication Date: August 26, 2025

Reflection Date: August 31, 2025 - [Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

Yes, especially at dinner parties

At a dinner party for a friar celebrating his Diamond (60th) Jubilee of vows, having just finished praying solemn evening prayer and enjoyed some appetizers, we gathered around the set tables. One of our older friars decided to accompany our Jubilarian to his table and sit to his right at the head of one table. Without missing a beat, the Jubilarian asked the other friar to kindly sit elsewhere as he wanted one of his specially invited guests to sit in that place. A couple of us couldn't help but chuckle, recalling the parable from the Gospel of Luke (14:7-14) in which Jesus tells the story of the man who claims a place of honor at a banquet, only to be told to go lower.



So, yes, in many and all circumstances, especially at dinner parties, we are called by God to be meek and humble of heart!

This year during the upcoming Season of Creation, let us also take a hint from the latter part of parable to be read on the [Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time](#): as hosts of God's abundant harvest banquet, let us "invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind" of Creation. As we journey towards the end of this Jubilee year of hope, how can we, as Pope Leo XIV encouraged in his [Message for the 10th World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation](#), also exercise small but great acts of charity "with love and perseverance, [and] sow many seeds of justice [that] contribute to the growth of peace and the renewal of hope?" Can we invite neighbors to help restore a local community garden, park, or historic site crippled by neglect and disrepair? Can we help the impaired habitats, endangered species, air and waterways of our shared lands be better protected and cared for through advocacy with FAN? Can we help those blinded by division, harm, or truth-decay see the glory of God well alive in the goodness of our common home? Get them off the couch, away from the talking-heads, doomscrolling and misinformation, and out for a walk!?

Pope Leo XIV reminds us in the message cited above that, "Environmental justice can no longer be regarded as an abstract concept or a distant goal. It is an urgent need that involves much more than simply protecting the environment." May it be so at our dinner party of creation!

Brother Cristofer Fernández, OFM Conv.

[Order of Friars Minor Conventual](#), [Our Lady of the Angels Province](#)

Vice Chair, OLA Justice, Peace, & Integrity of Creation Commission

[Franciscan Voice](#), Creation Section Animator/Editor

Suggested Action: As the Season of Creation begins in September, join FAN and the Franciscan family for a "[Pilgrimage of Hope for Creation](#)" in your local diocese or region and consider making it in person or doing a prayerful activity that same day/weekend in solidarity. Search online, if this isn't possible look for opportunities to care for Creation this month, whether

that's in direct contact with Sister Mother Earth or serving your local poor or downtrodden neighbors.

Suggested Petitions:

For the ecologists of heart and hands, that with "prayer, determination and concrete actions" their witness to the "caress of God" may be a healing and hope-filled sight to our world, let us pray to the Lord.

For our nation, may the Spirit-led practice of political humility and prudence help us overcome all divisiveness, hatred, and bigotry by the wisdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Prayer

**Jesus the Cultivator,
Who knew both how to be a dinner guest and party host,
You know the abundance of life, of clinking glasses and celebratory spirits. This
Season of Creation, may we grow seeds of peace and hope like you did, everywhere,
generously, and with wild abandon. Help us to anticipate inviting those who are
normally not seated at the harvest banquet, help us share your goodness with
Others, whether at farm or at table.**

Amen.

Urgent! 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 Zeldin 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!

Insert Br. Jacek quote



Welcome, Claire!

FAN staff is thrilled to welcome Claire Fisher as FAN's new Advocacy Associate. She is from northern New Jersey and is spending this year in service with Franciscan Mission Service, with FAN as her site placement. Claire is passionate about Catholic Social Thought and the Franciscan tradition and is excited to bring her energy and dedication to advocacy work.

Please join in giving Claire a warm FAN welcome! [Click here to send Claire a welcome message.](#)



Uphold Dignity & Community in Washington, D.C.



life. As people of faith and conscience, we know that genuine safety comes from dignity,

The Administration has justified the unprecedented action of declaring a “public safety emergency” to deploy the National Guard and federal agents across Washington, D.C. beginning August 11. But this claim is false: the Department of Justice reports violent crime in D.C. is at its lowest levels in 30 years. Since Section 740 of the D.C. Home Rule Act was invoked, homeless encampments have been forcibly cleared. ICE is detaining residents. Military-style checkpoints have been established, targeting vulnerable communities and disrupting daily

community investment, and trust, not militarization or scapegoating. [Click here to ask your member of Congress to support dignity and community investment, not militarization.](#)

FAN Shows Up

On August 18, FAN staff joined a Catholic delegation on Capitol Hill that visited all 115 Catholic members of the House of Representatives, asking them to support [HR 3565](#), the Block the Bombs Act. Members of the delegation, including Fr. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM, Sr. Marie Lucey OSF, Sr. Maria Orlandini OSF, Rosie Davila, and Claire Fisher echoed [the call](#) of Pope Leo XIV in their call to support the Block the Bombs Act, "Let the fighting cease immediately, let humanitarian aid be provided to the exhausted civilian population, and may all hostages be released." [Click here](#) to watch a video of the delegation.



Hope in a Time of Peril: September 10



You're invited to *Hope in a Time of Peril*, an interfaith webinar hosted by the Interfaith Immigration Coalition and cosponsored by FAN on Wednesday, September 10 at 6 PM ET. This gathering will focus on how faith communities can mobilize for change, join together in these difficult times, and stand with our immigrant brothers and sisters. [Click here to register.](#)

Franciscan Justice Circles

Members of the **Mid-Hudson Valley FJC** joined Pax Christi Hudson Valley at its annual Peace Mass in August at a local Franciscan parish. Members of the **Metro DC-area FJC** participated in a peace vigil in front of the White House on August 9, marking the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki. Participants prayed for peace, shared memories from survivors of the bombing, and called for the abolition of nuclear weapons. For more information, see [Beginner's Guide to Nuclear Weapons](#) | [Back from the Brink](#).



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

CT - RI FJC: Tues. Aug. 26 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

Texas FJC: Tues. Aug. 26 at 7:15 pm CT via Zoom

W. PA FJC: Thur. Aug. 28 at 7:30 pm ET via Zoom

Mid-Hudson Valley FJC: Tues. Sept. 2 at 12:00 pm ET via Zoom

Kansas FJC: Tues. Sept. 2 at 7:00 pm CT via Zoom

Ohio FJC: Wed. Sept. 3 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

Virtual FJC (ltd. mobility): Thur. Sept. 4 at 11:00 am PT / 2:00 pm ET via Zoom

Chicagoland FJC: Sat. Sept. 6 at 10:00 am CT 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](#).