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Reflection Date: September 7, 2025 - [Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

How much more 'til it's enough?

I was baptized Catholic but grew up Methodist. I loved my Methodist church—the social holiness, the exuberant singing, the friendly congregation. When I was 15, I decided it was time to start driving myself to the local Catholic parish, and I started reading the Deuterocanonical books. I immediately loved the Book of Wisdom, and I ran to my parents, saying, “You really have to read this!” They kindly supported my enthusiasm.



The reading from the Book of Wisdom for the [Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time](#) brings me back to that over-eager 15-year-old. “Unsure are our plans,” it tells us. Chronic illness, disappointment, unthinkable violence, and grief remind us of this daily. And yet, in every age, God has been our refuge.

But what does refuge mean when violence keeps breaking into our schools, churches, neighborhoods? When immigrant families are torn apart? When little children leave for school and never come home?

I am heartbroken because we have been here before. As I prayed with Wisdom this week in the wake of the shooting in Minneapolis, I returned to a poem I wrote and illustrated after the Uvalde shooting, [When I Was Ten](#). I wish it were no longer relevant. The poem isn't just a memory of childhood; it's a lament for our world. It recalls fourth-grade art class, hiding in dark corners during active shooter drills, school cancelled because of threats, marches that felt like screaming into the wind. It ends with the question that still haunts me every day: *How much more 'til it's enough?* That question echoes for every young person raised in the shadow of gun violence, every teacher, and every parent wondering if their child will make it home.

Wisdom calls us to humility before God, but humility is not passive. It does not mean shrugging our shoulders or resigning to endless loss. It means asking with fierce honesty, “How much more 'til it's enough?” It means refusing to let gun violence shape our children's future. It means finding one another in grief, in protest, and in persistent work for a culture of nonviolence. Every day, I am grateful to work for Franciscan Action Network, alongside you and our partners, for a future without gun violence. Refuge, as Wisdom reminds us, is not escape. It is God alive in us, urging us to speak, act, and work for a world made new.

Rosie Davila

Communications and Development Coordinator

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

Suggested Action: Today, consider learning about [ERPO \(Extreme Risk Protection Order\)](#). These “red flag” laws allow family members or law enforcement to ask a court to temporarily remove firearms from someone who may pose a danger to themselves or others. If your state does not have ERPO laws, consider writing to your Members of Congress to ask them to support such measures. If your state already has ERPO laws, consider [educating yourself](#) and others about how to use them as well as joining a [Franciscan Justice Circle](#) to find a community working for change.

Suggested Petitions:

For all children and young people who face fear or violence, that they may be surrounded by safety, love, and hope, we pray.

For ourselves, that we may carry the lessons of our youth into acts of mercy and justice in the world, we pray.

Prayer

**God of mercy,
Open our hearts to hold the pain around us without losing hope.
Teach us to turn grief into action, fear into courage,
And tears into compassion.
Help us in our work for peace.**

Amen.

Art to celebrate the Season of Creation, Sept. 1 - Oct. 4



Thanks to the generosity [Sr. Mariella Erdmann O.S.F.](#), of the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity of Manitowoc Wisconsin, FAN is thrilled to share a Canticle of the Creatures series of 7 art pieces for use by FAN's network to celebrate the Season of Creation. Use of any image requires photo credit, please. Thank you Sr. Mariella!

[Download images here.](#)

Canticle of the Creatures, Sister Mariella Erdmann O.S.F. of the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity of Manitowoc, WI

World Court Rules on Protecting the Climate

In late July 2025, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued a landmark ruling that countries have a legal obligation to protect the climate and prevent harm from climate change. “We were very, very, very excited and happy,” said Budi Tjahjono, international advocacy director for Franciscans International, in [an interview](#) with *National Catholic Reporter* (McElwee, 2025).

This landmark decision comes at a critical moment as Budi Tjahjono and over 300 Franciscans plan to attend COP30, the 2025 United Nations Climate Change Conference, in November, to inform discussions and drive action. It is reported that the United States will officially sit out this very consequential summit. The Court seemed to be speaking to the US in part of its judgement. It states that countries that are not parties to the main climate treaties (e.g. Paris Agreement of 2015) are still bound by very similar obligations under international customary law – applicable to all countries.



[Click here](#) to learn more about the ruling from EarthBeat of the National Catholic Reporter.

Christians for Ceasefire and Just Peace

On August 26, the Latin Patriarchate and the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem released [a powerful joint statement](#) condemning the forced displacement of civilians in Gaza and urging an immediate end to the violence. The Patriarchs reaffirmed that “there can be no future based on captivity, displacement of Palestinians, or revenge” and called on the international community to act for peace. Please read and share.

Complicit Companies Campaign - Expose and Divest: A large coalition of Christian organizations (including Friends of Sabeel North America, American Friends Service Committee, and Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace) is launching an economic resistance campaign focused on tech company [Palantir](#) and energy company [Chevron](#). Palantir has supported the Israeli government's policies in Gaza through artificial intelligence and surveillance contracts with the Israeli military, and Chevron provides revenue through gas pipelines. The campaign aims to create economic and political pressure to reduce corporate support for the Israel government's policies and help shift U.S. policy to end the ethnic cleansing in Gaza and the West Bank (see [theory of change](#)). The coalition seeks organizational, religious community, institutional (national, regional, state, or local) [endorsements for the campaign here](#). A web page is forthcoming with more details along with an individual and organizational action commitment form.

Procession for Migrants and Refugees

The Archdiocese of Washington and Jesuit Refugee Service will host a Procession in Solidarity and Prayer

MASS TO COMMEMORATE
THE 11th WORLD DAY OF



with Migrants and Refugees on **Sunday, September 28**, from **2:30 - 6:30 PM ET** in Washington DC. This event marks the World Day of Migrants and Refugees and the Jubilee of Migrants, concluding with Mass celebrated by Cardinal McElroy. [Click here](#) to learn more. For those outside of DC, the event will be livestreamed on YouTube.

FAN Shows Up



On August 22, 2025, Sr. Maria Orlandini, Rosie Davila, Merwyn De Mello, and Sr. Marie Lucey joined an Interfaith Prayer Vigil in Washington, D.C., standing in solidarity with immigrants and lifting up prayers for peace in the city. Learn more about this and other actions on [FAN Shows Up](#).

Franciscan Justice Circles

Members of the recently formed **Western PA FJC** have been participating in collaborative actions in their communities such as a prayer vigil in front of the office of their U.S. Rep. in favor of humane treatment and policies towards immigrant community members, regularly praying in front of the local ICE office, and helping to carry out educational events in a park on topics such as food insecurity, media literacy and health care.

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

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

Richmond VA FJC: Mon. Sept. 8 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

DE Valley FJC (PA, DE, NJ): Tues. Sept. 9 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

Monthly national FJCs call: Wed. Sept. 10 at 4:00 pm ET 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](#).