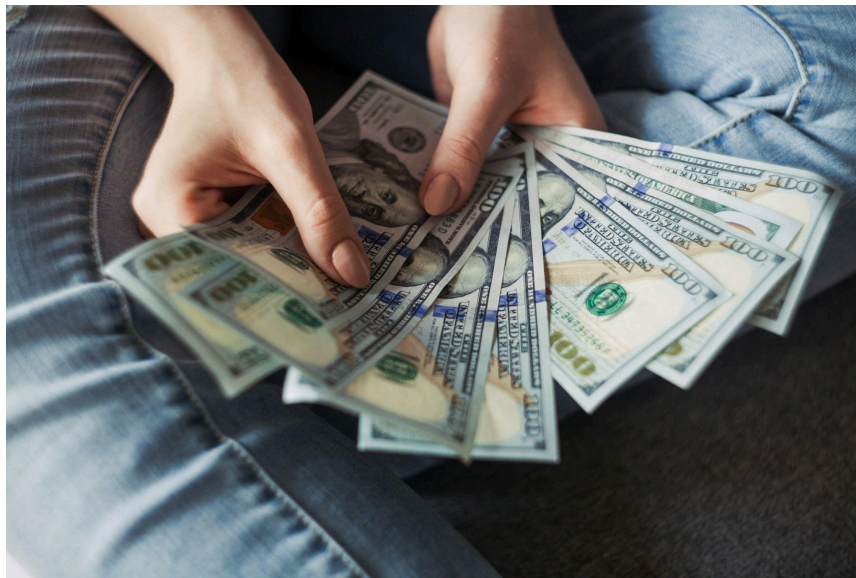


Publication Date: September 16, 2025

Reflection Date: September 21, 2025 - [Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

You cannot serve both God and mammon

“You cannot serve both God and mammon.” In the passage from the Gospel of Luke for the [Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#), Jesus’ choice of the word “serve” emphasizes the freedom that can come from a simple life and just dealings. St. Francis insisted that his friars should be free of possessions, because, as he put it, the more we have, the more we need to protect and to worry about. The wealth we seek to liberate us becomes our master.



This teaching, so familiar to us, is set against the ways of the world, which more often resemble those called out by the prophet Amos in the first reading, “...who trample upon the needy and destroy the poor of the land!” Pope Francis unpacked an important and subtle manifestation of this in his writings on the “deified market” ([Evangelii Gaudium, 56](#)), where the logic of wealth acquisition becomes absolute, and the poor and creation are sacrificially “trampled” by irresponsible resource extraction, unrestrained consumption, and colonial style exploitation. To more fully realize the freedom and tranquility of choosing God over mammon, we can reduce our participation in these harmful processes.

Jesus urges us to seek “true wealth,” by being trustworthy with the transitory, “dishonest wealth” available to us in this life. Our country has been given much, and more is expected of us. In addition to honesty and fairness in transactions, we can expend our diverse resources and expertise to oppose a storm of orders, regulations, and policies that increase harm for those at the bottom. Working for justice is pleasing to the Lord. Even the smallest actions can make a difference—can build into a movement. The Franciscan Action Network serves such an effort, across the Franciscan Family, with prayer, expertise, connections and opportunities for action. The prophet Amos had hard words for the people during a time of conspicuous wealth and great

inequality, but he also had a healing prescription: instead of sacrifices, “let justice roll on like a river, and righteousness like a mighty stream!”

Joe Makley, OFS

*Animator, Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Commission
Secular Franciscan Order-USA*

Suggested Action: Organize a justice fair at your faith community with speakers on local justice issues, with opportunities to volunteer or make donations.

Suggested Petitions:

For the poor, the marginalized, and all who are trampled under the weight of unjust systems, that their cries may be heard and their dignity affirmed, we pray to the Lord

For those who work to expose and resist these unjust economic systems that exploit the poor and the earth and who seek to ensure that their own lives are lived in fidelity to the Gospel, we pray to the Lord

Prayer

Lord Jesus, be merciful to us in our weaknesses

Open our eyes to the times when the feet that trample the poor are our own.

Open our ears to what we sound like when our words are unaccompanied by actions.

Show us when our economic decisions lead to the suffering of others not seen.

Help us to expend the gifts we’ve been given, even to the emptying of ourselves.

Lead us to the wealth that is real.

Amen.

FAN’s Response to the Killing of Charlie Kirk and the Culture of Violence in the US

As followers of Jesus in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi, the Franciscan Action Network values the sacredness of life and deplores the use of violence. We are deeply distressed by the murder of political commentator Charlie Kirk. We express our sorrow about the loss of his life as well as our concern about the broader trend of enmity, violence, and guns that is threatening all that we hold dear in the United States—from the safety of our children to American democracy itself. When hatred toward those with different political beliefs consumes our hearts, we lose our ability to build the common good together. When guns permeate our country with little to no regulation, it makes all of us less safe and secure.

We pray for the family and friends of Charlie Kirk and for all who have experienced loss and trauma from this culture of violence. Inspired by our Franciscan adherence to nonviolence, we recommit to achieving necessary gun control as well as building a culture of dialogue and mutual respect across differences.



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Transitus Service - Thursday, October 2 at 7PM ET



You are warmly invited to a **Virtual Transitus Service** hosted by Franciscan Justice Circles across the U.S. on **Thursday, October 2 at 7 pm ET / 6 pm CT / 5 pm MT / 4 pm PT on Zoom**. This will be a Transitus like no other, when we not only remember the precious passing of our spiritual father, St. Francis of Assisi, but we also connect his experience to our own. Don't miss this unique opportunity to reflect on the meaning of the life and passing of St. Francis as well as to connect with one another in our shared work for peace and justice. [Click here to register.](https://tinyurl.com/282efbrw)

Pilgrimages of Hope for Creation- please share your pictures!

Last weekend, FAN's Director of Campaigns and Creation Care, Nora Collins, and her family participated in a [Pilgrimage of Hope for Creation](#) for the Season of Creation in Baltimore. Green Teams from two city parishes did a litter pilgrimage— picking up litter en route to a meet-up prayer spot in the beautiful Inner Harbor. FAN is eager to share your pilgrimage experiences and pictures with FAN's advocacy network too. Please send your pictures to Nora at: ncollins@franciscanaction.org



Nonviolence and the Arts Webinar

Consider joining the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative for their fall webinar series, *The World will be Saved by Beauty*. Rosie Davila, on FAN staff, will be speaking on a panel of artists about nonviolence and the arts on Monday, September 22, from 7:00 - 8:30 ET. [Click here to register.](#)



Brandon Bauer, Associate Professor of Art, St. Norbert College and consultant to the Center for Artistic Activism



Becky McIntyre is a freelance community artist, printmaker, muralist, and digital artist living in Philadelphia.



Rosie Davila, Art & Media Coordinator for Peace & Bene Nonviolence Service and the Franciscan Action Network



Robert Shetterly has been painting a series of portraits titled: "Americans Who Tell the Truth." for the past 20 years.

Franciscans on the Road to the U.N. Climate Conference Webinar

Why can non-governmental organizations such as Franciscans International take part in United Nations debates and conferences? How does a UN Climate Conference actually work? What are the issues that Franciscans will raise during [COP30](#)?

Register now to join Franciscans International for a virtual webinar discussion of COP30 (hosted in November in Brazil) and Franciscan advocacy priorities on 16 September (11:00 New York / 17:00 Geneva): <https://bit.ly/FI-COP30-16Sept>



Toolkit: Migrants, Missionaries of Hope From Justice for Immigrants

The **2025 National Migration Week Toolkit**, created by Justice for Immigrants (USCCB), is designed to support communities in observing **National Migration Week (September 22–28)** and the **World Day of Migrants and Refugees (October 4–5)**.

Centered on the theme “Migrants, Missionaries of Hope,” the toolkit invites the faithful to reflect on the courage and witness of migrants through prayer, pilgrimage, liturgy, and community action. Rooted in the Jubilee Year of Hope, the toolkit includes pastoral resources, historical reflections, ideas for parish engagement, and practical ways to advocate for and accompany migrants.

[Check out this year's toolkit.](#)

Franciscan Justice Circles

Members of the **Colorado FJC** gathered for a Season of Creation pilgrimage to connect not only with the beautiful Walden Ponds in Boulder, but also with each other and God. On the pilgrimage they shared readings, stories, poems, prayers and food. Being pilgrims together brought them into both greater contact with God through creation as well as through their fellowship as a Franciscan Justice Circle.



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

St. Bonaventure U. FJC: Wed. Sept. 17 at 12:30 pm ET In Person

Boston FJC: Wed. Sept. 17 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

Virtual FJC (ltd. mobility): Thur. Sept. 18 at 11:00 am PT / 2:00 pm ET via Zoom

Pacific Northwest FJC: Thur. Sept. 18 at 1:00 pm PT via Zoom

Phoenix-area FJC: Thur. Sept. 18 at 5:00 pm MST via Zoom

SE Wisconsin FJC: Mon. Sept. 22 at 7:00 pm CT via Zoom

Colorado FJC: Mon. Sept. 22 at 7:00 pm MT via Zoom

Texas FJC: Tues. Sept. 23 at 7:15 pm CT / 6:15 pm MT via Zoom

W. Pennsylvania FJC: Thur. Sept. 25 at 7:30 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](#).