

Publication Date: October 14, 2025

Reflection Date: October 19, 2025 - [Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

Our Efforts Are Never in Vain

The readings for the [29th Sunday of Ordinary Time](#) teach us valuable lessons about our responsibility to participate actively and persist in achieving justice and protecting the vulnerable from those who seek to oppress them.

The first reading from Exodus (17:8-13) inspires us to work as a community, especially in times of adversity, in our pursuit of justice. When we speak collectively, our voice holds significant influence over our legislators, shaping legislation for the common good and the well-being of our entire community.



“Our help is in the Lord.” The responsorial psalm (121) serves as a reminder that our God is always with us, even in the moments when we feel most alone. It reassures us that our efforts, no matter how small they may seem, are never in vain.

Paul urges Timothy (2 Timothy 3:14-4:2), and us, to cling to the teachings of our gospel in the hard times, such as when the “leaders” of his day could have arrested him or had him fired for speaking out against the lessons of the gospel or truth to power. How can we join with others to speak truth to power today? Paul encourages us to “remain faithful to what you have learned and believed” and to “be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient.”

In the Gospel, Luke calls us not only to listen to the most vulnerable and poor in our society but to work with them actively. Reflecting on the Gospel reading prompts us to ask, “Who are the most vulnerable in our society today, and how am I working with them and others to relieve their oppression?”

Franciscan-hearted people, both Catholic and non-Catholic, gather in most states and areas of the country as [Franciscan Justice Circles](#). These circles are a powerful instrument for our times, enabling us to work in the non-violent and active spirit of St. Francis, rooted in Gospel love and courage, to pray together and act with and for the vulnerable of our day.

Maryann Mueller, CSSF

Justice and Peace Coordinator, Felician Sisters of North America

Suggested Action: Join, even for one meeting, the Franciscan Justice Circle in your area. To locate the next meeting near you, [please click here](#).

Suggested Petitions:

For all who work together, in community, to promote justice, in the face of adversity, we pray to the Lord.

For all who face great challenges, that they will remember that God is always with us and even our smallest efforts are not in vain, we pray to the Lord.

Prayer

Creator of us all, help me to see the most vulnerable in our society today and show me how to work with them. Ever present God, help me to see how you have been with me in the hard times of my life.

Amen.

This week: Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference



The 2025 Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference: *Love in Action*, will take place October 18-20 in Washington, D.C. One hundred fifty young adults, students, Franciscans, and advocates for faith-based justice will come together for advocacy training, worship, prayer, fellowship, dynamic speakers, and Congressional meetings. Dr. C. Vanessa White, tenured Associate Professor of Spirituality and Ministry at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and Director of the Certificate in Black Theology and Ministry, will deliver the “Moved by the Spirit: Love, Hope, and Justice in Action” keynote address.

This is an important and exciting event that takes a great deal of preparation. **Please join us in praying for the conference:**

Holy God of Justice and Mercy,

During this Jubilee Year, we call upon You to bless our pilgrimage to Washington D.C. for the Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference to advocate for justice, liberation, and the protection of the most vulnerable.

Fill our hearts with hope, love, and faith so we remain steadfast in our mission to bemoan oppression and promote your vision for all your creation.

We pray for fair pathways to citizenship for immigrants and for protection and dignity for all migrants.

We pray for peace in the Middle East, for an end to war and the crisis in Gaza, and for the prohibition of the distribution of weapons of war to Israel.

God have mercy on us, and forgive us for being complacent about violence and injustice.

Bless and guide our gathering and provide abundant graces for our time together so more people come to know your goodness and love.

We pray this through Jesus the nonviolent peacemaker, friend to the marginalized and servant of the poor, in communion with Saints Francis and Clare, and in the union with the Holy Spirit, the animator of peace.

Amen.

You can follow the conference at home on social media by monitoring the official #FJLC25 hashtag. Finally, **you can join us, as we head to Capitol Hill, to advocate for policy change. We will send out an action alert during the conference so that our entire community can all advocate for the common good together!**

The Right to a Clean and Healthy Environment

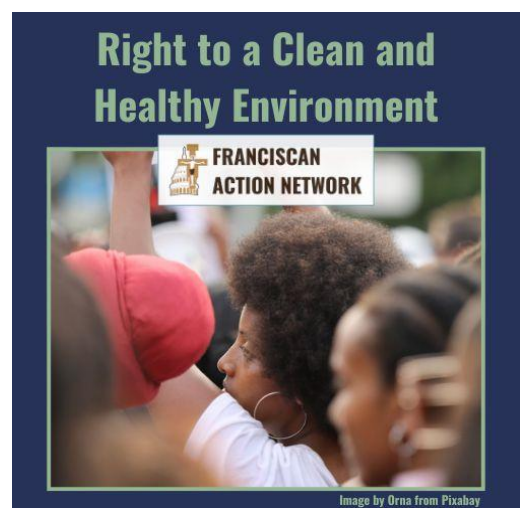
Webinar: A Right to a Clean and Healthy Environment

Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025

Time: 7pm ET / 6pm CT / 5pm MT / 4pm PT

Sign up today: [here](#)

Please join us! Learn about the global community's resolve to tackle the climate crisis and preserve our human right to a clean and healthy environment on **November 6, 2025, 7pm ET** (6pm CT / 5pm MT / 4pm PT) in our latest webinar, cosponsored by Franciscans International. FAN's network is invited to spend a year studying this right and seeking to join state-level advocacy efforts to enshrine this right in U.S. state constitutions— via the national Green Amendments Movement. This first webinar, in a series of three (December 2, 2025 and January 2026 events will follow), will focus on the right



as defined by the United Nations, upheld by the International Court of Justice, and uplifted by Franciscan communities across the globe.

Pope Leo XIV Releases “Dilexi Te”

Pope Leo illustrates that the church’s mission to the poor “is not something that just a few people have done at a few times.

It’s not something exceptional.

It’s something essential to Christianity — and the preferential option for the poor is not optional, it’s essential.”

—
FAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MICHELE DUNNE
IN OSV NEWS

Pope Leo XIV has released his first apostolic exhortation, [Dilexi Te](#). The document is a powerful call to embrace the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable. The pope makes it clear that all Christians are called to transform the world through love of others, especially the poor, through both works of mercy and the transformation of unjust social structures. OSV News [interviewed](#) FAN executive director Michele Dunne, who explained how Pope Leo makes it clear that “care for the poor is at the very heart of the church from the very beginning.” She noted, “It’s not something exceptional. It’s something essential to Christianity—and the preferential option for the poor is not optional, it’s essential.”

Christians for Ceasefire and Just Peace

Complicit Corporations Campaign - Expose and Divest: A group of Christians, including FAN’s Peace Fellow Eli McCarthy, met with the Chevron Government Affairs office in Washington D.C. on Oct. 7. The group explained and delivered a [letter](#) to the CEO and Board of Directors, while sharing stories about human suffering and encouraging Chevron to use its leverage as a corporate partner with the Israeli government to influence them to ensure a permanent ceasefire and humanitarian aid. The group called on Chevron to halt their gas and oil operations. They shared the [UN report](#) (par. 58-60, p. 16-17) that identified Chevron as one of the complicit companies in an “economy of genocide.”

Congress: [Contact your representative](#) to support the Block the Bombs act (HR 3565) to incentivize Israel to comply with the ceasefire agreement.



Franciscan Justice Circles

Members of the **Driftless Region FJC** (W Wisconsin & SE Minnesota) are exploring the topics of environmental justice and environmental racism in their region, and ways they can take action and advocate. Oil pipelines, such as Line 3 and Line 5, that threaten the right to clean water and also ignore the sovereignty of Indigenous tribes, are a regional and ongoing issue.

Members of the **Chicagoland FJC** organized a Pilgrimage of Hope for Creation in Cicero, an environmental justice community, pausing to pray near a waste transfer facility and a coal tar processing plant. The intent was to be one with Creation and God, while experiencing the environment of their sisters and brothers. Community members and FJC members walked the pilgrimage together, an example of solidarity, one of the hallmarks of a Franciscan Justice Circle.

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

Mid-Hudson Valley FJC: Tues. Oct. 14 at 12:00 pm ET via Zoom

CT-RI FJC: Tues. Oct. 14 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

Delaware Valley FJC: Tues. Oct. 14 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

Kansas FJC: Tues. Oct. 14 at 7:00 pm CT via Zoom

St. Bonaventure U. FJC: Wed. Oct. 15 at 12:30pm ET In Person

Virtual FJC (ltd. mobility): Thur. Oct. 16 at 11:00 am PT / 2:00 pm ET via Zoom

Pacific Northwest FJC: Thur. Oct. 16 at 1:00 pm PT via Zoom

Boston-area FJC: Thur. Oct. 16 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

Phoenix-area FJC: Thur. Oct. 16 at 5:00 pm MST via Zoom

Driftless Region FJC (SW WI and SE MN): Mon. Oct. 20 at 6:00 pm CT via Zoom

W. Pennsylvania FJC: Thur. Oct. 23 at 7:30 pm ET via Zoom

Reading, PA FJC: Sun. Oct. 26 at 2:00 pm ET In Person & 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](#).