

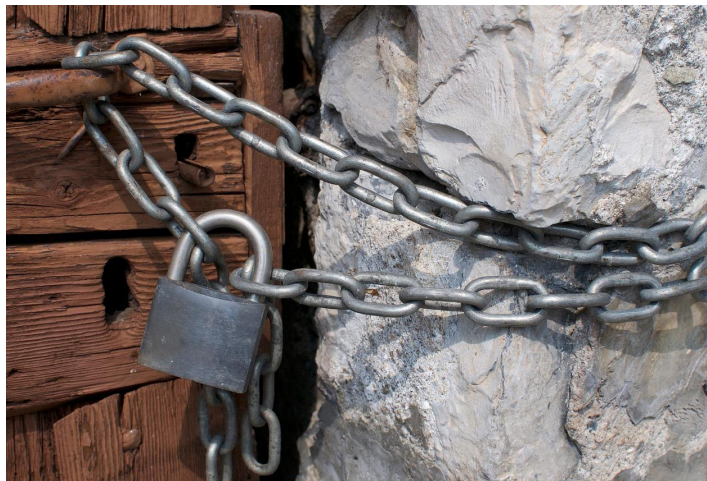
Publication Date: October 7, 2025

Reflection Date: October 12, 2025 - [Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

The Word of God Cannot be Chained

We could reflect on the readings for this [Twenty-Eighth Sunday](#) in Ordinary Time and focus on the disease of leprosy. We might consider how lepers were reviled, ostracized, and through religious rituals, declared dead within their communities. We might even ponder the clear message of God's restorative healing and the importance of expressing gratitude.

All this would acknowledge the healing of Naaman (2 Kings 5:14-17), the military commander who Elisha directed to bathe in the Jordan. It would also remind us of the ten lepers healed by Jesus, who asked, "Where are the other nine?" when only one, a Samaritan, returned to thank him (Luke 17:11-19).



Our challenge though is to understand what scripture calls us to hear and do in our present time, in our current cultural milieu. Paul's Letter to Timothy reminds us that our true focus must always be Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, who can never be chained or silenced. We profess that all people are made in the image of God. We are baptized into Christ, to be living words of God, yet do we always live up to our call?

The word of God cannot be chained or silenced. Increasingly, people are becoming disposable, losing jobs simply because they speak out about injustice. Today, when people are being maltreated and ostracized, simply for who they are or for their country of origin, what is our response?

The Brazilian writer Paulo Coelho said, "If you want to control someone, all you have to do is to make them feel afraid." In the past, fear became the driving force for how people treated those suffering with leprosy. Francis of Assisi would not allow himself to be chained in fear as he embraced the leper. To what are we being called today?

At Franciscan Action Network, we are called to break free from the chains of that fear—and help to liberate others by promoting policies that affirm the dignity of every person. Through

encounter and by working for a more just social order, we can resist marginalization and fearlessly build a culture where all are valued.

Margaret Magee OSF

FAN Board Member, Franciscan Sister of Allegany

Suggested Action: Our presence and care are so needed in our local communities and neighborhoods. Gather with a few people, family members or those in your community for prayer and conversation. Share on the Sunday's scriptures and this reflection. Who are the vulnerable and ostracized in your local community? How can you reach out to them in support and compassion? May we be the presence of Christ, bringing healing and goodness to others.

Suggested Petitions:

God, Source of Life, heal us.

For all people experiencing oppression, vulnerability and fear, we pray.

For children and youth affected by violence in their homes, their neighborhoods, and schools, we pray.

For wisdom and courage to speak out and stand with those suffering injustice, we pray.

Prayer

God, creator of all life, help us to recognize and revere the beauty of your creation. May we see in every human being the image and goodness of Christ, who dwells among us and calls us to be living words, proclaiming the gospel with our lives. Instill in us the desire and the passion to live in courageous hope, without fear, and stand in solidarity with those experiencing violence and oppression.

Amen.

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

Please save the date! Registration link to follow.

The *Right to a Clean and Healthy Environment* is a fundamental human right, defined by the United Nations and upheld by the International Court of Justice. Franciscans International, as they prepare to join COP30, the United

Nations Climate Change Conference in Brazil, Nov. 10-21, will join us to share about the global community's resolve to tackle the climate crisis to preserve our rights and health. Additional speakers will present on the profound need for deep change and how the Franciscan-hearted are uniquely called to act with urgency at the national and state levels. Save the date to join us on Thursday, November 6!

Watch: FAN's Virtual Transitus Video



FAN's virtual Transitus service took place on October 2. Carolyn Townes, OFS, led a moving, powerful meditation, helping participants to connect the passing of St. Francis to our own lives, which was followed by group sharing. If you missed the event or wish to view it again, please find the recording [here](#). While designed for the Transitus, the reflections and questions offer a valuable opportunity to engage in self-reflection on any given day.

Franciscans Speak Against Political Violence

FAN Board members Sr. Kathy Dougherty and Sr. Margaret Magee, FAN institutional member Sr. Liz Fuhr, and Executive Director Michele Dunne were among more than 150 faith leaders who endorsed a recent [statement](#) denouncing all forms of political violence and supporting freedom of speech and religious liberty. Citing recent attacks on political figures, the statement says that "violence is never the answer" and asks all political leaders to "call for an end to violence, violent and divisive rhetoric, and to commit to seeking shared values through civil discourse and dialogue." As the statement concludes, "As people of faith, we believe that every person is made in the image and likeness of God and has inalienable dignity and worth. It is because of this that we believe that free speech is fundamental to our democracy, and it must be protected."

**FAITH LEADERS DENOUNCE
ALL FORMS OF POLITICAL
VIOLENCE AND ATTACKS ON
FREE SPEECH AND
NONPROFIT INDEPENDENCE**

Christians for Ceasefire and Just Peace

Complicit Corporations Campaign: More than 35 Christian organizations have launched an economic resistance campaign focused on tech company [Palantir](#) and [Chevron](#). 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 this [webpage](#) with more details and theory of change. For individual and organization *action* commitments, fill out [this form](#). Here is a [tool-kit](#) for Chevron actions.

Congress: [Contact your representative](#) to support the Block the Bombs Act (HR 3565).

October 14: A Webinar with Sr. Helen Prejean, CSJ



On October 14, 2025 at 7:00 PM (ET), the Felician Sisters of North America and Felician Services, Inc. (FSI), invite you to participate in this webinar with the captivating Sr. Helen Prejean, CSJ, whose Ministry Against the Death Penalty continues the momentum it built upon the publishing of *Dead Man Walking* in 1993. The webinar will explore the present moment, faith, and the effort to end the death penalty in the United States.

Click here to register [today](#).

Franciscan Justice Circles

A **Central Indiana FJC** member had his Letter to the Editor on democracy concerns published in a local newspaper, and others have engaged in dialogue requesting a pastoral letter regarding the impacts of immigration policy on their community and the need for compassion and support.

Some members of the **Ohio FJC** signed on to an open letter joint statement from the Coalition of Haitian-American and U.S. Faith Leaders and Clergy denouncing threats against clergy supporting Haitian immigrants. The joint statement was made in response to recent threats targeting clergy and Haitian families in Springfield OH and to stand in solidarity with those in Springfield and across the country who have come under attack.

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

National monthly FJC call: Wed. Oct. 8 at 1:00 pm PT / 4:00 pm ET via Zoom

NYC-Area FJC: Thur. Oct. 9 at 7:30 pm ET via Zoom

Central Indiana FJC: Fri. Oct. 10 at 1:00 pm ET via Zoom

DC-Area FJC: Sat. Oct. 11 at 10:00 am ET In Person

New Mexico FJC: Sat. Oct. 11 at 2:00 pm MT In Person

Richmond, VA-area FJC: Mon. Oct. 13 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

Bay Area FJC: Mon. Oct. 13 at 10:00 pm PT via Zoom

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

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](#).