

Publication Date: January 27, 2026

Reflection Date: February 1, 2026 - [Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

## Living the Beatitudes Every day and in Minneapolis

Living the good news Christ proclaimed is not a theoretical exercise. Every day, we have to think about how to apply the gospel in our workplaces, families, and communities—and then we must devote prayer and contemplation to figuring out the impact of the lives we live on our understanding of the gospel.



The Scriptures are pretty clear about how we are to love our neighbors and those who see us as enemies, all while seeking justice. The gospel reading for the [Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#) includes the Beatitudes, a powerful source of inspiration and guidance.

We are called to show mercy, be poor in spirit, and hunger for righteousness in our everyday lives, but sometimes we may also feel compelled to step outside of our normal routine to be peacemakers, to mourn, and perhaps even to risk being persecuted for the sake of righteousness. With that in mind, I made the decision to get in my car and drive to Minneapolis when colleagues in ministry there asked for us to be their neighbors as they feel like so many in their community—whether immigrants or people trying to love their immigrant neighbors—are being treated as enemies by our government.

I was present with local and national leaders from numerous faiths and denominations from Jan. 22 to 25. I witnessed many things that give me great hope, like walking alongside 50,000

Minnesotans in the streets of Minneapolis. But I was also present to grieve with people on those streets after blood was spilt.

We need the gospel in our lives, and we need to make sure that we are taking our realities back to the gospel. The world is not theoretical and, each day, all of us are being asked to love our neighbors and pray for those who hurt us in unprecedented ways. We must do the hard work of prayer, contemplation, and action in the world as it exists today, just as Christ proclaimed the good news amidst the brutal realities of the times he chose to enter.

**Suggested Action:** As Franciscan-hearted people, we are called to stand with our immigrant brothers and sisters. Opposing additional funding for detention centers and ICE's operations is an important step in defending their dignity and well-being. [Click here](#) to take action.

**Suggested Petitions:**

*Lord, please help us to mourn with those who mourn.*

*Lord, please help us to pursue justice without ever abandoning mercy*

**Prayer**

**God,**

**We turn to the Beatitudes for inspiration and guidance. As we reread these powerful lines of the gospel, help us to reflect upon how we might live these out in our daily lives, venture out beyond our comfort zones, and build your Kingdom:**

**"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.**

**Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.**

**Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.**

**Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.**

**Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.**

**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.**

**Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.**

**Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."**

**Amen.**

## FAN Statement on Killings in Minnesota



As Franciscans, we consider all people, including immigrants, to be our brothers and sisters. We must defend their lives and rights, and we express solidarity with the people of Minnesota who have done so. We are deeply saddened and troubled by the loss of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, who were protesting nonviolently when they were killed by ICE agents. We are alarmed by the escalating violence in Minnesota and we call for full legal accountability in these cases as well as an end to the ICE operation that has terrified residents. We must say no to escalating violence as well as dehumanizing and untruthful language, and call persistently for compassionate immigration policies, a return to democratic norms, and the rule of law throughout

our nation.

## Join us Thursday: Prayer for Immigrant Justice and Rule of Law

Please join FAN staff and friends for a Franciscan witness and prayer for immigrant justice and rule of law this **Thursday, January 29, at 7PM ET / 4PM PT**. In response to the events in Minneapolis, we invite you to hear testimonies from FAN staff, our Franciscan Justice Circle in the Twin Cities, and other Franciscans about what they are seeing on the ground, what to bear in mind as we try to care for our immigrant neighbors and uphold the law, and time for discussion and prayer. [Click here](#) to sign up. This event is cosponsored by the Franciscan Federation and the Order of Friars Minor/Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



## Tonight! **WORKSHOP: The Green Amendments Movement**



### People's Action Guide to Uplifting & Enforcing Green Amendment Protections

**WORKSHOP: The Green Amendments Movement with a focus on the Generations' People's Action Guides**

**Tuesday, January 27, 2026**

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

[REGISTER HERE FOR TONIGHT'S WORKSHOP.](#)

Please join FAN for our third webinar in “The Right to a Clean and Healthy Environment” series. With the **Generations' People's Action Guides** "hot off the press" as of last week, FAN is delighted to host a training webinar on how to best support the Green Amendments Movement in your state.

[The Green Amendments for the Generations](#), a FAN partner, produced two guides— one for states with Green Amendments and one for states working to secure them. The guides break down the work for Green Amendments at every step along the way, from the concept of constitutional environmental rights, to the victories that have affirmed their legal strength, to education and outreach tips to build a Green Amendment coalition. We will talk more in depth about what is in each guide, how you can access and use them in your state-level advocacy work, and answer questions.

## What you Can Do: Freeze Funding for ICE



Please contact your senators today to oppose additional funding for the Department of Homeland Security, which includes ICE, at this time until issues regarding ICE methods and rule of law are resolved. [Click here](#) to take action.

Both chambers of Congress have already passed 6 of the 12 bills funding the Federal government. There are now discussions about whether to advance the 5 remaining funding bills other than that for DHS to avoid large portions of the government shutting down on January 30. You can [learn more here](#).

On January 20, Sr. Marie Lucey and Rosie Davila joined the American Friends Service Committee and other partners from Interfaith Immigration Coalition to deliver 13,000 signatures to the

US Department of Homeland Security. The petition urged DHS to recognize the value of immigrants in our communities.

## March for Life 2026

FAN Executive Director Michele Dunne, Director of Advocacy Sr. Maria Orlandini, OSF, and Director of Communications Robert Christian joined a delegation of Capuchin friars and Secular Franciscans to march in the annual March for Life in Washington DC on Friday, January 23. They marched with a consistent ethic of life message of protecting life from violence, poverty, environmental destruction, and other threats, while creating a culture of welcome for all people at all stages of life, including migrants. The March features a diverse array of messages; it was encouraging to see a good number of young people embracing 'consistent life' messages and a broad commitment to safeguarding human life and dignity.



## Franciscan Justice Circles

The **New Mexico FJC** invited a guest to provide historical context on how the U.S. immigration system developed and how it's broken in addition to outlining ways to help immigrants locally, including volunteer opportunities with organizations supporting families affected by detention or deportation of breadwinners. During the brief New Mexico legislative session, the Circle hopes to engage legislators, especially on immigration and environmental issues. Circle members look to join in a Permian Basin immersion pilgrimage focused on prayerful reflection on the environmental and human impacts of oil and gas extraction in New Mexico and Texas.

For the **Phoenix, AZ - area FJC**, their focus has been on peace, environment and supporting immigrant neighbors in their community. Collectively the Circle is planning to hold an online prayer vigil next month and is collaborating with groups connected to a nearby Detention Center. The FJC is considering submitting LTEs and individual members attend court hearings and vigils in support of migrants.

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

**Texas FJC:** Tue. Jan. 27 at 7:15 pm CT / 6:15 MT via Zoom

**CT-RI FJC:** Tue. Jan. 27 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

**San Francisco Bay Area FJC:** Wed. Jan. 28 at 7:00 pm PT via Zoom

**SoCal FJC:** Thur. Jan. 29 at 6:00 pm PT via Zoom

**Mid-Hudson Valley FJC:** Tue. Feb. 3 at 12:00 pm ET via Zoom

**Kansas FJC:** Tue. Feb. 3 at 7:00 pm CT via Zoom

**Ohio FJC:** Wed. Feb. 4 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

**Virtual FJC (ltd. mobility):** Thur. Feb. 5 at 11:00 am PT / 2:00 pm ET via Zoom

**Chicagoland FJC:** Sat. Feb. 7 at 10:00 am In Person

**Asheville, NC FJC:** Sun. Feb. 15 at 3:30 pm In Person

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](#).