

Publication Date: March 10, 2026

Reflection Date: March 15, 2026 - [Fourth Sunday of Lent](#)

Doing God's Work While It Is Day

On the [Fourth Sunday of Lent](#), we hear the story of Jesus giving sight to a man born blind (John 9)—a miracle that stirs a tremendous amount of controversy. Everyone gets in trouble in this story: Jesus, the Pharisees, the man who is healed, and even the man's parents.

This particular healing is costly for Jesus; he meets the man and heals him on a Saturday, violating sabbath regulations. Jesus even gives something from his own body to make the mud with which he heals the man. The healing infuriates the Pharisees, who get into an argument over it with Jesus and try to intimidate the man who is healed (and his parents) in an effort to discredit the miracle.



El Greco - Christ Healing the Blind

And there is also trouble in the story from the first book of Samuel (1 Samuel 16). The prophet is sent to anoint David as the new king of Israel, but that was beyond inconvenient—it was dangerous. There already was a king on the throne of Israel at that time, Saul. And it was irregular to say the least to anoint the youngest of Jesse's sons rather than the oldest. But Samuel obeys God and does the unexpected, trusting that "Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart."

When Jesus sees the man born blind and decides to heal him, he says, "We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day." This is the message for me: I have to do God's work today, while I am alive and strong enough to do it, whether it is convenient or inconvenient.

I have to trust that God knows better than I do, even if the things God calls me to do are sometimes misunderstood or ridiculed by others.

What is God calling you to do today? Serve the hungry, heal the sick, stand with the victims of war or oppression? Do some of these actions take you outside your comfort zone? Trust in God and know that you do not need to walk alone; consider finding a [Franciscan Justice Circle](#) near you. As Paul reminded the Ephesians (Ch 5), “Awake o sleeper, and Christ will give you light.”

Michele Dunne, OFS

Executive Director, Franciscan Action Network

Suggested Action: This fourth week of Lent, ask God to guide you to carry out one bold action of healing, service, solidarity, or advocacy.

Suggested Petitions:

For our sisters and brothers in Iran and elsewhere in the Middle East enduring the suffering and terror of war, we pray.

For courage to call our elected and appointed leaders to account for the consequences of their decisions in our country and in the world, we pray.

Prayer (based on Psalm 23)

Gracious God, give me the stillness to hear your voice

and the courage to do the work for which you have anointed me.

Enliven my joy as I recall your many blessings:

You anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

Only goodness and kindness follow me

all the days of my life;

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

for years to come.

Amen.

Join FAN for Advocacy Days



Please join the Franciscan Action Network's **Advocacy Days, April 13–17**, where we'll focus on advancing the Dream Act of 2025, a bipartisan bill introduced by Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dick Durbin. This legislation would create a long-overdue pathway to citizenship for Dreamers and undocumented young people who have grown up in our communities. FAN will arrange meetings with Senate offices from key states and will advise you how to arrange meetings for other states. All meetings with Senate offices will be held on Zoom, and FAN staff will both accompany you and provide everything

you need to feel comfortable and prepared. If you're interested in participating, please [click here to fill out an interest form](#).

'Present Dynamics in Palestine and Effective Action Opportunities' Webinar

On March 3, at FAN's **'Present Dynamics in Palestine and Effective Action Opportunities'** webinar, a panel of experts discussed what is happening on the ground in Gaza and the West Bank today, how it is related to the current U.S. and Israeli war against Iran, and the strategic nonviolent actions that might be taken in pursuit of a just peace. You can view the full event [here](#).

On March 5, FAN Just Peace Fellow Eli McCarthy and Executive Director Michele Dunne participated in a faith witness and prayer vigil on Capitol Hill, calling on Congress to stop the war in Iran and support diplomacy and peacebuilding.

To take action, you can urge your representatives in Congress to cut off the sale of various deadly weapons to Israel through FAN's **Block the Bombs** action alert [here](#).



Save the Date! Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference 2026



Mark your calendars for **November 7-9, 2026**, because you won't want to miss the **2026 Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference: *Ours to do!***

This is the moment to gather with like-minded advocates in **Washington, D.C.** for justice, peace, and care for creation. Through inspiring speakers, hands-on workshops, and civic engagement on Capitol Hill, we'll explore how to live out our Franciscan values and lead the charge for a more just and peaceful world. Stay tuned for more details, and get ready to join us for an event that will empower you and your community to make a lasting impact. Registration opens in late March.

FAN Accepting Summer Internship Applications

Are you interested in becoming FAN's next summer intern—or do you know someone who might be great in this role? Applications are now open **until April 1** for this full-time position (35 hours/ week for up to 10 weeks) during the summer semester. This is a paid position based in Washington DC that offers substantive experience and training in advancing justice, peace, care for creation, and human dignity. More information is available [here](#).



Faithful Witness Training Series



FAN is a cosponsor of the **Season of Faithful Witness**, which invites communities to prayerful courage and Gospel-centered response in this moment of challenge and hope. Please [join](#) a training series designed to support local leaders in organizing powerful and prayerful faithful witness gatherings in their communities:

March 12: Outreach & Building Your Team

March 18: Relationship Building 101

March 26: Grounding Witness in Catholic Tradition

April 9: Media Training

You can sign up for these training sessions [here](#).

Franciscan Justice Circles

The **Reading, PA FJC** has sent letters to PA House and Senate legislators in support of several bills including HB 2028, Ending the Criminalization of Homelessness and SB 1089, the Shelter First Act, and the Stop Citizenship Abuse and Misrepresentation Act (SCAM Act, S3674). The Circle continues to track several Congressional bills re: the environment and immigration. At a more local level, they wrote a letter to their County Commissioners urging recycling of styrofoam in their county. Some FJC members are planning to go to the March 28 No Kings Rally.

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

CT-RI FJC: Tue. March 10 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

DE Valley FJC: Tue. March 10 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

New Mexico FJC: Tue. March 10 at 6:30 pm MT via Zoom

Monthly national FJCs call: Wed. March 11 at 4:00 pm ET / 1:00 pm PT via Zoom

Bay Area FJC: Wed. March 11 at 7:00 pm PT via Zoom

Rochester, NY FJC: Thur. March 12 at 3:30 pm ET via Zoom

SoCal FJC: Thur. March 12 at 6:00 pm PT via Zoom

DC-area FJC: Sat. March 14 at 10:00 am ET In Person

Four Lakes FJC (WI): Sat. March 14 at 1:00 pm CT In Person

Driftless Region FJC (WI, MN): Mon. March 16 at 6:00 pm CT via Zoom

St. Bonaventure U. FJC: March 18 at 12:30 pm ET In Person

Michigan FJC: Wed. March 18 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

Virtual FJC (ltd. mobility): Thur. March 19 at 11:00 am PT/ 2:00 pm ET via Zoom

Pacific Northwest FJC: Thur. March 19 at 1:00 pm PT via Zoom

Winston-Salem, NC FJC: Thur. March 19 at 7:00 pm ET In Person & via Zoom

Phoenix-area FJC: Thur. March 19 at 1:00 pm PT via Zoom

NYC-area FJC: Thur. March 19 at 1:00 pm PT via Zoom

Central Indiana FJC: Fri. March 20 at 1:00 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](#).