

Publication Date: March 17, 2026

Reflection Date: March 22, 2026 - [Fifth Sunday of Lent](#)

And Jesus Wept

All of us have wept over the death of a beloved person—a parent, a brother, a sister, a friend, or most painful of all, a child. Even if the person we love has been very ill and we are grateful that he or she no longer suffers, we mourn the loss of their physical presence in our lives.

It is a comfort to know that Jesus, the fully human Incarnate God, also wept. Though there is no record of it, we can assume that Jesus wept when Joseph died. In the gospel reading for the [Fifth Sunday of Lent](#), we are told that Jesus wept after the death of his friend, Lazarus.

For me, a question emerges: for whom did Jesus weep? Tears do not come when he learns that Lazarus is very ill. In fact, he is moved by the Spirit to determine that he will raise Lazarus from the dead. Whether or not Lazarus was already enjoying eternal life, I leave for theologians to ponder, but Jesus deliberately waits for four days before he goes to meet Martha and Mary though he knows they are grieving. When Jesus arrives and is greeted by Martha, he still does not weep.

It is only when Mary and her friends arrive in tears that Jesus “became perturbed and deeply troubled,” and he weeps with them. Jesus weeps with the mourners, not for Lazarus, whom he will call forth from the grave. In shedding tears with the mourners, I think of Jesus weeping with you, with me, who grieve when a beloved person dies. He knows our pain and cries with us.



Photo by Claudia Wolff on Unsplash

This is also Martha's shining moment. When asked by Jesus if she believes that he is "the resurrection and the life," this practical, no-nonsense woman doesn't hesitate to say, "Yes, Lord, I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God..." Martha is the first disciple to make this clear proclamation of faith.

When someone I love dies, I pray for Martha's staunch faith in resurrection. I pray "God, I believe, help my unbelief." When I consider my own death, I pray to embrace Death as Sister, as Francis did.

In this Lenten Season, our hearts also reach out to the mourning families and friends of those killed in violent conflicts around the world, especially in Ukraine, Palestine, Sudan, Lebanon, and the US-initiated war in Iran which is spreading conflict across the Middle East. We grieve with immigrant families in this country who live in fear and whose lives and families are torn apart by ICE federal agents. As resurrection people, we recommit ourselves to work for just peace and nonviolent resolutions to these conflicts.

Sr. Marie Lucey, OSF

FAN Associate Director

Suggested Action: If you were unable to join the March 3 FAN webinar, "Present Dynamics in Palestine and Effective Action Opportunities," please watch the recording [here](#) and consider how you can support these suffering people.

Suggested Petitions:

Jesus, give us hearts that weep with those who mourn the death of loved ones killed by violent actions.

Jesus, you who rose from the dead, strengthen our belief in our own resurrection to eternal life.

Prayer

Lord, God of peace, we bless you and we thank you

because you have sent us your beloved Son Jesus.

Open yet more our hearts to the needs of all our brothers and sisters,

so that we may be better able to build a true peace.

Remember all who are in pain, who suffer and die in the cause of a more just world.

For the people of every race, of every tongue, may your kingdom come.

Amen.

(St. Pope Paul VI)

Take Action for Immigration Reform & Democracy



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. Meetings for NY, PA, and MD are currently full, but FAN is looking for constituents from NC, CA, TX, and FL to sign up

soon. 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](#).

Today, with an imminent vote on the Senate floor, you can take action by calling your Senators to encourage them to **oppose passage of the SAVE Act**. The SAVE Act would prevent millions of eligible voters from participating in elections because they lack documentation and/or have changed their names through marriage. Opposing this act is an important step in defending voter rights and making sure that all eligible Americans can make their voices heard. You can [click here](#) to find the contact information for your Senators.

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.

See highlights and hear from people who attended last year's conference [here](#). 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.** We hope you will join us.

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](#).

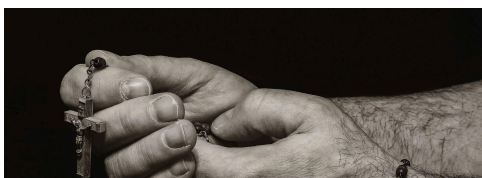
A Just Peace Analysis of War with Iran

FAN Just Peace Fellow Eli McCarthy offers critical [reflections](#) on the war with Iran from a just peace moral framework. This ecumenical movement of just peace has been increasingly gaining traction in the Catholic Church, the World Council of Churches, and various Christian denominations. The reflection highlights the key limits of some traditional ways of assessing war, along with the value of Christians focusing on just peace moral reasoning and the practical steps this may offer to break the cycle of violence and build a more sustainable peace.



FAN also joined with a wide range of organizations in [opposing](#) any additional funding for the war in Iran.

Franciscan Crown Rosary for Peace in Time of Violence



The Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Commission of the Secular Franciscan Order–USA is inviting the public to attend a virtual prayer service for peace:

SE Wisconsin FJC: Fri. March 27 at 3:00 pm CT 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](#).