

Publication Date: March 24, 2026

Reflection Date: March 29, 2026 - [Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion](#)

## Finding His Passion

Young people who are discerning a vocation or career path are often urged to find and pursue their passions. In the readings for [Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion](#), we are reminded that God's passion is...us and our salvation. Strictly speaking, of course, the *passio* of Jesus marks an event or series of events—his arrest, trial, condemnation, execution, and burial. That it occurred during Passover, the annual celebration of Israel's liberation from slavery in Egypt, which God's salvific work continues, is fundamental to its meaning.



Photo by Grant Whitty on Unsplash

While our readings are filled with drama and vivid images of self-sacrifice, suffering, and death, they are ultimately about *love* and the lengths to which God was willing to go to manifest that love to the world. The reading of the Passion Narrative, like the reading from the Gospel of John on Good Friday, invites all assembled to not only participate in a way unique to those liturgies but to immerse themselves in the mystery and power of God's love.

Jesus accepted the mantle of the suffering servant in Isaiah. He experienced the pain of apparent abandonment, eloquently evoked in Psalm 22. As St. Paul describes in his Letter to the Philippians, the Son of God surrendered his divine privilege first through his incarnation and ultimately in his obedient acceptance of death on an instrument of torture and terror. Through his almost incomprehensible humility, he was exalted.

Our continued celebration today and throughout Holy Week and the Easter Triduum is a testament to God's abiding love and, sadly, a counterpoint to how difficult it remains for the human family to accept it and allow it to transform us and our relationships, from the interpersonal to the international. Two millennia after the time of Jesus, our world remains afflicted by countless forms of oppression and violence, often aided and abetted by advanced technologies. We have access to more knowledge than ever, but we have gained little wisdom, and the consequences continue to fall heaviest on the poorest and most vulnerable.

In Jerusalem many centuries ago, Jesus showed his passion for us. May our passion for him and for the gospel he preached grow in us and be manifested more fully everywhere, from our homes to our workplaces, from our streets to the centers of political and economic power throughout the world.

***John Celichowski, OFM Cap.***

*FAN Board Member*

**Suggested Action:** Take some time this week to read one of the Passion Narratives from the gospels (Matthew 26:14-27:66, Mark 14:1-15:47, Luke 22:1-23:56; John 13:1-19:42) and ponder Fr. Zosima's observation in Dostoyevsky's classic novel, *The Brothers Karamazov*: "love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing compared with love in dreams."

**Suggested Petitions:**

*That we may humbly accept the love of God that was so humbly offered to us in Jesus.*

*That our passion for our faith and the gospel will become stronger than our allegiance to any political tribe.*

**Prayer**

**Dear Lord,**

**We pray that the world will embrace the peace of Christ through a deeper commitment to the common good as well as the justice, reverence for human life, and dignity that are the foundation of true peace between nations.**

**Amen.**

**Take Action for Immigration Reform**



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. Meetings for several key states are currently full, but FAN is looking for constituents from Texas to sign up. Also, FAN staff can advise you on how to set up your own meeting. All meetings with Senate offices will be held on Zoom, and FAN staff will

provide everything you need to feel comfortable and prepared. Please [click here to fill out an interest form](#).

## 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 later this week**. We hope you will join us.



## Taking a Stand Against Islamophobia



FAN staff joined other Christian, Jewish, and Muslim organizations to visit House of Representatives Speaker Mike Johnson and other representatives to ask them to apologize for recent Islamophobic

remarks within their caucus. The group reminded these members of Congress that pluralism, religious freedom, and diversity are among our highest ideals as Americans and people of faith.

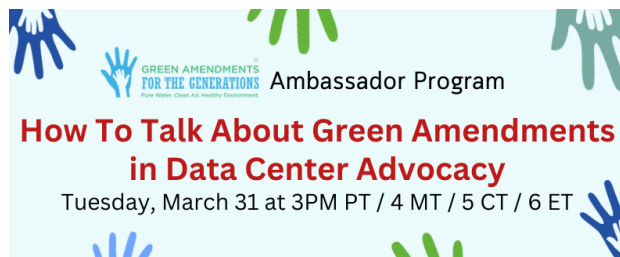
## Stop the War with Iran!

The war continues to rage on in Iran and Lebanon. The White House is asking Congress for another \$200 billion for the war. Now is the time to **mobilize your local coalition** and show up at your local congressional offices, perhaps with an organized vigil. Congress will be in recess from March 28 to (approximately) April 12. Many representatives will likely be around their home district or state during this time.



Here is a [sample vigil](#) that FAN used in Washington DC outside Congress on March 5. To amplify your voice, you can invite the local press. Other possible actions include: setting up a meeting with your representative or dropping off a letter at the member's office, calling for an end to the war, constructive diplomacy, and peacebuilding initiatives, while encouraging them to vote against the Iran War supplemental. Please send us any pictures or a brief report of your efforts!

## AI Data Center Advocacy Webinar on March 31



Are you concerned about the proliferation of AI Data Centers across the US? Passing state-level constitutional Green Amendments is one critical way to protect our right to a clean, safe, and healthy environment and to obligate state & local governments to act as the trustee of the state's natural resources. Join *Green Amendments For The Generations*, a FAN

partner, for their "How to Talk About Green Amendments in Data Center Advocacy" webinar on **Tuesday, March 31 at 6:00 PM ET/5PM CT/4 PM MT/3PM PT**.

[Register for the training on Zoom](#)

## Franciscan Justice Circles

Members of the **Mid-Hudson Valley FJC** are taking action in various ways: supporting college students, making several calls a week to elected officials' offices about issues of peace and justice, attending weekly public witness gatherings, helping with Catholic Charities immigration legal clinic, and writing letters to civic and church leaders. Letters were written about the need to pass HR 4696 / S.2468: Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929, concerns around gun violence and the need for safe storage, and in opposition to a proposed detention center in the area.

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

**CT-RI FJC:** Tue. March 24 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

**Texas FJC:** Tue. March 24 at 7:15 pm CT / 6:15 pm MT via Zoom

**Massachusetts FJC:** Wed. March 25 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

**W. Pennsylvania FJC:** Thu. March 26 at 7:30 pm ET via Zoom

**SE Wisconsin FJC:** Fri. March 27 at 3:00 pm CT via Zoom

**Twin Cities Metro FJC:** Mon. March 30 at 7:00 pm CT via Zoom

**Ohio FJC:** Wed. April 1 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

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

**Chicagoland FJC:** Sat. April 4 at 10:00 am CT via Zoom

**Virtual NY / St. Kateri Tekawitha FJC:** Mon. April 6 at 3:00 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](#).