

Publication Date: March 3, 2026

Reflection Date: March 8, 2026 - [Third Sunday of Lent](#)

Strike the Rock

As God's hands and feet on Earth, we are given an immense privilege along with an immense responsibility. It's up to us to share His word and to make His face known. What an honor and a gift! And what a responsibility.

In the first reading for the [Third Sunday of Lent](#), we hear that as Moses is escaping from Egypt, he is tired, frustrated, and thirsty. As Moses begs God to help him find something to drink, God tells him, "Go over there in front of the people... holding in your hand, as you go, the staff with which you struck the river. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb. Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink."



Francesco Bacchiacca - Moses Striking the Rock

God could have struck the rock Himself or made the rock provide fresh water all on its own. Instead, God gave Moses the gift and responsibility of agency in gathering the water himself.

In 2026, like Moses in this reading, we too might feel tired, frustrated, and thirsty. I'm tired of seeing immigrants being mistreated, voting rights being threatened, and my sisters and brothers going hungry while so many others are living in luxury. I'm thirsty for justice.

When I cry out to God with these concerns and emotions, God's response mirrors His words to Moses: "Strike the rock."

While I know the ultimate power rests with the Lord, there is a lot of action and ‘striking’ I can do on Earth. When I meet with my locally elected leaders, attend a peaceful protest, or participate in FAN’s action alerts, I am striking the modern day rock. I am using the carefully curated gifts God has given me: my voice and my power.

The best part about this is that we do not have to do it alone. God tells Moses, “I will be standing there in front of you,” just as He stands with us in this time of uncertainty.

How blessed are we that we can place our faith, hope, and trust in the Lord while, at the same time, following his command to strike the rock?

Claire Fisher

FAN Advocacy Associate

Suggested Action: While we thirst for increased justice in our voting system, I invite you to [sign onto our action alert](#), emailing your representatives to vote NO on the upcoming 2026 Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act, requiring individuals to provide documentary proof of U.S. citizenship when registering to vote in federal elections.

Suggested Petitions:

For the Church and for all who follow Christ: that we may embrace both the privilege and responsibility of being God’s hands and feet in the world, courageously sharing His love and truth, even when we feel tired or discouraged, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who hunger and thirst for justice: that God may strengthen them, protect their dignity, and raise up faithful people to “strike the rock” and bring forth living water, let us pray to the Lord.

For our own hearts: that when we feel frustrated, weary, or powerless, we may trust that the Lord stands before us, guiding our actions and blessing our efforts, and that we may boldly use our voices and gifts for the common good, let us pray to the Lord.

Prayer

Loving God,

You call us to be Your hands and feet in a world that longs for healing. When we grow tired and thirsty for justice, remind us that You stand before us, just as You stood before Moses. Give us the courage to strike the rock — to act with faith, to speak with love, and to serve with perseverance.

Strengthen us in our responsibility, steady us in our hope, and help us trust that You are working through us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Amen.

FAN's Response to US Military Action in Iran

FAN released the following statement in response to US military action in Iran:

As followers of Jesus in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi, Franciscan Action Network urges our U.S political leaders to stop the bombing and war in Iran, which are causing immense human suffering. Jesus told us to love our enemies and St. Francis urged us to be peacemakers. Negotiations are a better way to resolve issues regarding Iran's nuclear and missile programs, and empirical research shows that strategic nonviolent resistance campaigns are twice as effective as wars or violent revolutions against an authoritarian government. Even in the rare times when violence topples a regime, it inevitably leads to more cycles of violence that might include civil war, military coups, political corruption, and generational trauma. We pray for all victims of this conflict, and urge an immediate end to violence and return to diplomacy.



Pray: Please consider joining Secular Franciscans in the United States to pray the Franciscan Crown Rosary for Peace in a Time of Violence **this evening at 7:30 PM ET**. Please register [here](#).

Act: Please consider phoning your representatives in Congress here to tell them to stop this war. Members of Congress pay close attention to how many calls they receive for and against any action.

'Present Dynamics in Palestine and Effective Action Opportunities' Webinar

Present Dynamics in Palestine and
Effective Action Opportunities
Tuesday, March 3
1:00-2:30 PM ET

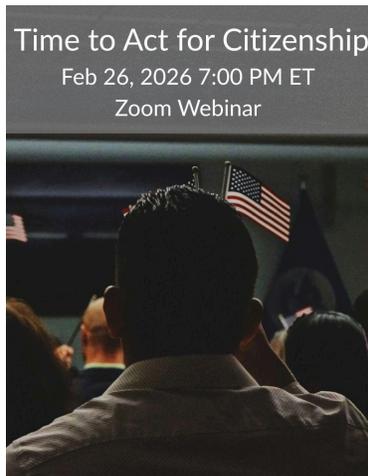


What is happening on the ground in Gaza and the West Bank today? How is it related to the current U.S. and Israeli war against Iran? What strategic nonviolent actions might we take in pursuit of a just peace? Join us today, **Tuesday, March 3, 1:00-2:30 PM ET**, in reflection and discussion at this critical time as attacks and annexation increase in the West Bank, while killing continues in Gaza along with aid being significantly restricted.

The webinar will feature the following panelists: Omar Haramy, Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center, Jerusalem; Amira Musallam, Unarmed Civilian Protection in Palestine, Bethlehem; Rabbi Alissa Wise, Rabbis for Ceasefire, U.S.; Br. Jacek Orzechowski, Franciscan, OFM, Siena College; Olivia Katbi, National Coalition to Boycott Chevron, U.S.; and Nusaiba Mubarak, American Friends Service Committee.

[Click here](#) to register.

'Time to Act for Citizenship' Webinar and Advocacy Days



On February 26, FAN hosted our 'Time to Act for Citizenship' webinar, which offered an overview of the current immigration landscape, a reflection on why a pathway to citizenship matters, and practical ways to take action. You can view the recording [here](#).

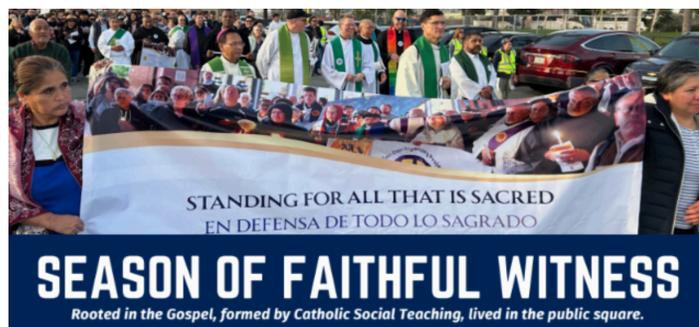
Please join the Franciscan Action Network's **Advocacy Days, April 13–17**, where we'll focus on advancing the Dream Act of 2025, a bipartisan bill introduced by Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dick Durbin. This legislation would create a long-overdue pathway to citizenship for Dreamers and undocumented 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](#).

A Season of Faithful Witness: A Pastoral Call to Hope

Across our country, many families are facing uncertainty and strain. In this moment, we are called to prayer, to seek moral clarity rooted in the gospel, and to offer faithful public witness grounded in Catholic social teaching. FAN invites you to consider joining a national effort, the **Season of Faithful Witness**, from Ash Wednesday through Corpus Christi, to engage in prayerful discernment

and shared moments of peaceful public witness. Together, we can seek to respond to this moment not in anger, but in hope—affirming the dignity of every person and the common good.



Visit the Season of Faithful Witness [website](#) to learn more and download a toolkit. You will also receive invitations to share national moments of prayer and witness.

Franciscan Justice Circles

Members of the **SE Wisconsin FJC** participate in several local initiatives including affordable housing, peacekeeping training, weekly prayerful witness outside immigration offices, and other peacemaking public witness opportunities.

With two major concerns of the **Twin Cities FJC** being immigration raids and protecting the right to vote, members are taking many actions, including a plan to participate in a large joyful Palm Sunday procession from the cathedral to the capitol building as a public witness.

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

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

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

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

Virtual FJC: Thur. March 5 at 2:00 pm ET via Zoom

Chicagoland FJC: Sat. March 7 at 10:00 am CT via Zoom

Richmond, VA-area FJC: Mon. March 9 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

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

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

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](#).