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Reflection Date: April 5, 2026 - [The Resurrection of the Lord, The Mass of Easter Day](#)

Be Like Mary Magdalene

A sense of precarity haunts the American psyche at the present moment. Many feel squeezed—with growing inequality hollowing out the middle class, along with an affordability crisis rooted in high long-term inflation in healthcare, childcare, education, and housing. Recent inflation in food and energy costs have increased the pressure.



Giovanni Girolamo Savoldo - Mary Magdalene (1535-1540)

The spectre of A.I., meanwhile, and the possibility that it will wipe out millions of both white-collar and blue-collar jobs in the United States, has only intensified the anxiety and fear in our society.

For those who care about the common good, the dismantling of environmental protections, gutting of life-saving foreign aid, evisceration of democratic norms, promotion of merciless anti-immigrant policies, and countless other disappointments have added sadness, or even despair, to these feelings of anxiety.

And many people are experiencing these emotions alone and isolated, as an epidemic of loneliness has swept across the nation.

How do we keep the faith? How do we have courage in this moment? I humbly suggest: let's be like Mary Magdalene.

In the gospel readings on [Easter Sunday](#), with the followers of Jesus devastated by his death, scattered and scared, confused and feeling defeated, Mary Magdalene is at the tomb. She shows up. She keeps the faith.

And the Apostle to the Apostles is the first to see the empty tomb and witness the resurrection of Christ. While every [Ozymandias](#), whether their empire stretches across a continent or resides in a home or workplace, will have their hubristic delusions shattered, ending in ruin and covered in sand, faith, hope, and love will endure all things. Love has conquered death itself.

There is injustice at this present moment. There is uncertainty. Just as there was when civil rights heroes approached the Pettus Bridge, the White Rose movement told the truth about Hitler and the Nazis, Saint Oscar Romero refused to be silent, and Mary Magdalene showed up at the tomb.

We are wise to remember that fear, uncertainty, and disappointment are not new—and that those who fomented and profited off of these and their projects are now dust, unlike the Kingdom of God. So let us keep the faith and take courage.

Mary Magdalene did not know that Jesus had conquered death, but she still had the courage and faith to show up. We know the tomb was empty. So as new challenges emerge and inevitable setbacks occur, inspired by the transformational hope of Easter, let us remain committed to building a more just world and fostering the communion that our hearts truly desire.

And, as part of one [network](#), committed to care for God's creation, human rights, and justice, peace, and dignity for all, especially the poor and marginalized, let us follow Mary Magdalene's lead and do it together. We know that ultimately Love is undefeated.

Robert Christian

FAN Director of Communications

Suggested Action: Across the country, dioceses, religious communities, and [Franciscan Justice Circles](#) are taking a stand against dehumanizing immigration policies and standing with our immigrant brothers and sisters in a time of fear and uncertainty. Look for an opportunity to get involved in these efforts.

Suggested Petitions:

For the courage to face difficult challenges and grave injustices, we pray to the Lord.

For the hope to persevere through disappointment and setbacks, we pray to the Lord.

Prayer

God,

Saints like Mary Magdalene inspire us with their courage and faithfulness. Please help us to follow their lead so that we can build a culture of solidarity, inclusion, love, and justice—overturning this throwaway culture that is destroying your creation, discarding the poor and marginalized, and denying people their most basic rights.

Amen.

It's here! Register now for the Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference 2026

Register today for the **2026 Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference: *Ours to do*** on November 7-9, 2026.

This is the moment to gather with like-minded advocates in **Washington, D.C.** for justice, peace, and care for creation. Through Franciscan formation, inspiring speakers, hands-on training, and civic engagement on Capitol Hill, we'll explore how to live out our Franciscan values and advocate for a more just and peaceful world.

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

Ready to attend? [Click here to register](#). Do you want to build the conference and make it accessible to more people? Sponsorship information is available [here](#).



'Advocating for a Just Farm Bill' Webinar



FAN invites you to participate in our upcoming webinar '**Advocating for a Just Farm Bill**', the second event in our anti-hunger campaign, *Fishes & Loaves*. On **Tuesday, April 14** at 4 pm PDT & MST / 5 pm MDT / 6 pm CDT / 7 pm EDT, we will learn about the Farm Bill and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This one-hour webinar will offer

prayer, updates, and clear actions that we as Franciscan-hearted people can take to protect food and nutrition programs in challenging times. Register [here](#).

In time of war, shifting to a ‘Just Peace’ approach

At the *National Catholic Reporter*, FAN Just Peace Fellow Eli McCarthy writes, “The Catholic Nonviolence Initiative, of which I’m a part, has been arguing for a shift in focus for the church, a recentering of active nonviolence and just peace. Active nonviolence entails a positive reverence for human dignity and life; and just peace reasoning draws on comprehensive active nonviolence for effective practices to engage conflict constructively, break cycles of violence and build sustainable peace.”



You can read the full article [here](#).

Spreading Franciscan Messages at ‘No Kings’ Rallies



With messages like “Blessed are the merciful” and “Do Justice, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly,” FAN staff and the Washington DC Franciscan Justice Circle participated in the ‘No Kings’ rally for democracy in Washington DC on March 28. They were joined by Franciscan Justice Circles and Franciscan-hearted people from across the country who shared similar messages at their local rallies. Reports indicate that over 8 million participated in these nonpartisan rallies to protect American democracy.

As a next step, you are invited to join an upcoming nonpartisan national interfaith town hall, which is cosponsored by FAN: **Building Momentum from No Kings**, taking place Tuesday, March 31 at 7:00 PM ET. You can register for the town hall [here](#).

Protest and Prayer Outside ICE Headquarters

FAN staff joined partner organizations outside ICE Headquarters in Washington DC on March 24 to mark the feast of St. Oscar Romero. Reflecting upon Romero’s words and witness, those in attendance called for an end to inhumane immigration practices. *Global Sisters Report* has an excellent [summary of the event](#), which states: “Among those displaying posters of Romero, Franciscan



Srs. Marie Lucey and Maria Orlandini, of the Franciscan Action Network, took turns reading the names of people deported, those who have died in ICE detention centers, and three U.S. citizens killed by federal agents in the past 12 months: Ruben Martinez, of South Padre Island, Texas, and Minnesotans Alex Pretti and Renee Good.”

Franciscan Justice Circles

In March some members of the **Michigan FJC** went to Lansing to advocate with members of the state legislature on gun violence prevention measures in three areas: protection for domestic violence survivors, prevention of gun trafficking and gun industry accountability. It was noted that through gun violence prevention policy changes in recent years, less violence has occurred in the state: accidental shootings are down 60%; homicide rates are down as low as they were in the 1960s; and over 400 guns were taken from people’s possession who were in a situation of being at risk to themselves or others.

This month, members of the **Richmond, VA-area FJC** attended a Nehemiah Action gathering of a couple thousand people of faith to meet with the city mayor and other local officials addressing three areas of local injustice and suffering: affordable and safe housing, gun violence prevention, and mental health access for youth.

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

Ohio FJC: Wed. April 1 at 7:00 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

Mid-Hudson Valley FJC: Tue. April 7 at 12:00 pm ET via Zoom

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

Monthly national FJCs call: Wed. April 8 at 4:00 pm ET / 1:00 pm PT via Zoom

Bay Area & Northern CA FJC: Wed. April 8 at 7:00 pm PT via Zoom

Rochester, NY FJC: Thur. April 9 at 3:30 pm ET via Zoom

SoCal FJC: Thur. April 9 at 6:00 pm PT via Zoom

Central Indiana FJC: Fri. April 10 at 1:00 pm ET via Zoom

Metro DC-area FJC: Sat. April 11 at 10:00 am ET In Person

New Mexico FJC: Sat. April 11 at 2:00 pm MT In Person

Richmond, VA-area FJC: Mon. April 13 at 7:00 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](#).