

Publication Date: April 14, 2026

Reflection Date: April 19, 2026 - [Third Sunday of Easter](#)

## Walking with Others

In the gospel reading for the [Third Sunday of Easter](#), we hear of the Emmaus journey in which two disciples meet the risen Jesus. For those faced with challenging or even devastating situations, as well as those engaged in a process of discernment, the story's lessons remain essential. With war, growing global tension, political unrest, and terrorist attacks at home and abroad, no one is immune from the devastation and misery that is broadcast into our homes daily.

Are we attentive to the suffering and anguish of those directly affected by war and violence? How is it affecting us and the lives of our children? How do we make sense of it all? Where is our hope?

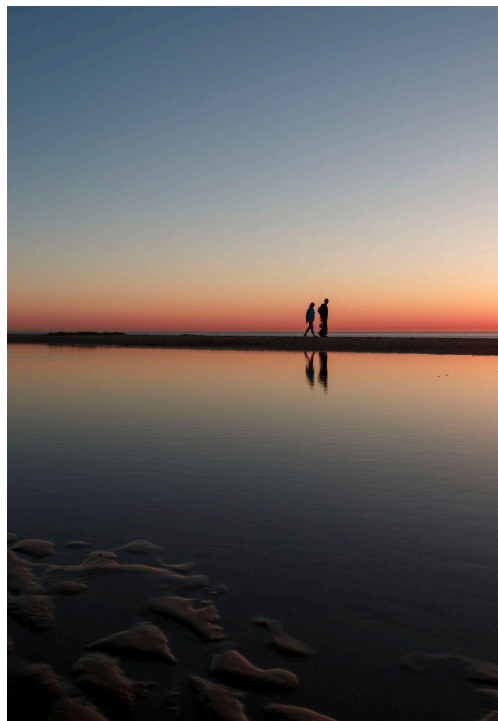


Photo by Geoffroy Hauwen on Unsplash

In this gospel passage, two disciples of Jesus are walking home from Jerusalem just days following his death by crucifixion. Imagine their anguish. Their hope had been extinguished. They speculate about the women's claim of finding an empty tomb.

While deep in conversation, struggling to make sense of it all, they encounter a stranger. This stranger engages with them in their doubts and questions, bringing clarity and insight from the ancient scriptures. Arriving in Emmaus, they invite him to stay, and as he prays and breaks bread, their eyes are opened, recognizing the Christ.

In times of discouragement, doubt, or discernment, walking and sharing with others is essential. Through engagement in FAN webinars on current issues or joining a [Franciscan Justice Circle](#), we are invited to explore and ponder the insights and opinions of others, especially those who are unfamiliar to us. Gathering together in person or online provides opportunities to deepen and broaden our limited—and perhaps emotionally laden—grasp of local and global situations that can be disturbing and violent. Our Franciscan spirituality calls us to a life ‘en via’, a life on the way, walking together as sisters and brothers, sharing our journey, our hopes, and our fears.

## ***Margaret Magee OSF***

*Franciscan Sisters of Allegany*

**Suggested Action:** Check out tonight’s FAN [webinar](#) on hunger issues and invite others to join with you for ongoing sharing and discussion.

### **Suggested Petitions:**

*For those whose lives have been shattered by war, violence, and oppression, that they may find strength and hope in the faith and company of others, we pray to the Lord.*

*For peaceful resolutions to the conflicts in Ukraine, in the Middle East, and throughout the world, that world leaders learn to listen to the cries of those most affected by the cruelties of war and aggression, we pray to the Lord.*

*For those who have journeyed and those who continue to journey with us, may we see in them the presence of Christ and the gift of God’s love in our lives, we pray to the Lord.*

## **Prayer**

**Gracious God, help us to be attentive to your presence on our Emmaus journeys. May we walk together and be responsive to the presence of Christ within us and among us. Through prayer, scripture, and our encounters with others, may our hearts burn within us for peace, justice, and the healing of our world.**

**Amen.**

## People of Faith Mobilize for Peace

“War divides; hope unites. Arrogance tramples upon others; love lifts up. Idolatry blinds us; the living God enlightens.”

Pope Leo XIV  
Vigil of Prayer for  
Peace  
4/11/26



On Saturday, April 11, Pope Leo XIV delivered a prophetic, powerful [message for peace](#) during a prayer vigil at St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican. He said, “Enough of the idolatry of self and money! Enough of the display of power! Enough of war! True strength is shown in serving life.” The Vigil included people of various continents coming together to light candles with fire from the Lamp of Peace in Assisi. On April 8, the Pope [called](#) on people of good will to contact their political leaders and congressional representatives.

To take action, you can use this [action alert](#) to ask your representatives to take 3 steps to end the war with Iran: enact a War Powers Resolution, oppose massive proposed increases to military spending, and block further weapons transfers to Israel.

**Updates:** Nearly 50 Christian organizations have endorsed the [Complicit Corporation Campaign](#) campaign. This effort is focused on leveraging economic pressure to stop the wars in Iran and Lebanon as well as the annexation and killing in the West Bank and Gaza.

In the ongoing effort to [Boycott Chevron](#), the New Orleans French Quarter Festival dropped Chevron as a sponsor. You can encourage the National Cherry Blossom Festival to do the same by [signing the petition here](#). In similar efforts to [Purge Palantir](#), the [New York City Public Hospitals](#) and the Jesuit [University of San Francisco](#) divested from Palantir, while the Sisters of St. Joseph [submitted a shareholder resolution](#) to Palantir. The Sisters of Mercy have an [Action Alert](#) to Congress on Palantir.

## Join our Webinar Tonight on Addressing Hunger in the U.S.

FAN invites you to participate in tonight's webinar '**Advocating for a Just Farm Bill**', the second event in our anti-hunger campaign, *Fishes & Loaves*. **Tonight**, at 4 pm PDT & MST / 5 pm MDT / 6 pm CDT / 7 pm EDT, we will learn about government spending on programs to feed the hungry in the U.S., including 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](#).

## Urge Passage of the DREAM Act



FAN's Immigration Advocacy Days are in full swing! This week, over 50 constituents are meeting with Senators from California, Texas, New York, Maryland, and Pennsylvania to raise awareness for the [DREAM Act of 2025](#), a bipartisan bill that would give more security to people brought to the U.S. as children. As a part of these Advocacy Days, FAN staff will be dropping off letters to Senate offices on Capitol Hill. Please [add your name and message to the letter here](#).

## Don't miss out! Register today for the Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference 2026

Register now 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](#).



## Advocacy Works: Voting Rights Updates



Efforts to advance the SAVE Act have stalled in the Senate, blocking legislation that would have imposed multiple new constraints that would have disenfranchised many legal voters. Thank you for the many messages you sent to Congress to block this harmful bill! The administration has now issued a sweeping executive order, "[Ensuring Citizenship Verification and Integrity in Federal Elections](#)," aimed at restricting mail-in voting. Voting rights groups, states, and advocates have already filed [multiple lawsuits](#) challenging the order, arguing it is unconstitutional and infringes on states' authority over elections, with cases now moving through federal courts.

## Franciscan Justice Circles



Members of the **Siena U. FJC** along with the Laudato Si' Center for Integral Ecology and other students in the state participated in a Pilgrimage of Hope for Climate Justice to the NY State Capitol on March 23. Together they held a press conference to lift up the imperative of enacting policies that protect our common home, and were joined by the chairman of the Committee on Environmental Conservation. Highlights can be viewed [here](#).

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

**St. Bonaventure U. FJC:** Wed. Apr. 15 at 12:30 pm ET In Person

**Central Maryland FJC:** Wed. Apr. 15 at 7:00 pm ET In Person & via Zoom

**Michigan FJC:** Wed. Apr. 15 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

**Virtual FJC (ltd. mobility):** Thur. Apr. 16 at 11:00 am PT / 2:00 pm ET via Zoom

**Pacific Northwest FJC:** Thur. Apr. 16 at 1:00 pm PT via Zoom

**Arizona FJC:** Thur. Apr. 16 at 5:00 pm MST via Zoom

**Winston-Salem NC FJC:** Thur. Apr. 16 at 7:00 pm ET In Person & via Zoom

**NYC-Area FJC:** Thur. Apr. 16 at 7:30 pm ET via Zoom

**Driftless Region FJC (WI, MN):** Mon. Apr. 20 at 6:00 pm CT via Zoom

**Kansas FJC:** Tue. Apr. 21 at 7:00 pm CT via Zoom

**SoCal FJC and Bay Area FJC:** Thur. Apr. 23 at 7:00 pm PT 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](#).

