

Publication Date: June 16, 2026

Reflection Date: June 21, 2026 - [Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

Creating Space for Peace & Goodness to Flourish

The readings for the [Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#) call us to fear no one. Indeed, fear can be the driving force that silences others and ultimately oppresses and dehumanizes them. The prophets of the Old Testament were no strangers to such treatment. These messengers of God were often rejected by the very people they were sent to help. Jeremiah's own words express his fear: "I hear the whisperings of many: 'Terror on every side! Denounce! Let us denounce him!' All those who were my friends are on the watch for any misstep of mine. 'Perhaps he will be trapped; then we can prevail and take our vengeance on him.'"



Photo by Andy Holmes on Unsplash

Jesus' words "fear no one" reflect the opposition and contempt he faced from religious and civil leaders who feared the loss of their influence and status. They conspired to silence him and discredit his teachings. We often hear of the Pharisees, Scribes, and Sadducees, however there were also political groups like the Herodians, those who supported the Roman government and its ruler Herod Antipas, who behaved this way.

Following Christ Jesus is no easy task, especially in today's culture with its harsh public discourse. How can we create safe and caring spaces so that others, even the smallest of creatures, can live and flourish without fear?

Interestingly, Jesus' lesson to his disciples also speaks of God's care for even the sparrows. For the last week I've watched a robin build a nest in the light above our front door. Even now as I write, she sits preparing to bring forth new life and protect her young. It is both a gift and a lesson to create the spaces where God's smallest creatures and all people can live without fear and in peace so that life can prosper and thrive.

This care and concern for each person and all of creation animates our shared approach to building a truly flourishing society. From how we treat one another to the spaces we create in our local communities to the vital advocacy work we do through the Franciscan Action Network, we have the opportunity to turn from fear and foster the peace and goodness that God desires for all.

Margaret Magee OSF

FAN Board Member

Suggested Action: When faced with unjust policies that disregard people and creation, we cannot remain silent. The gospel is more than a spiritual message; it is a moral guide to deepen our relationship with God, one another, and all of creation. The weekly FAN newsletter provides many opportunities to speak out on pressing issues with links to contact members of Congress and different ways to take action. Take action below and share the newsletter with others who share our commitment to building a more just society.

Suggested Petitions:

For those living in fear and oppression, that we may bring light and hope, we pray.

For the grace to create spaces of peace and healing for the earth and for all people, we pray

Prayer

God, Spirit of all goodness and love, open within us quiet places where fear cannot dwell. Help us to create spaces and opportunities for others to know and experience your loving presence and grace. May we be your light, bringing hope and truth to those living in darkness and fear.

Amen.

FAN's Benefit Is Tonight

There is still time to join us for FAN's most important fundraiser of the year, our annual online Benefit, ***Dignity First: Nourishing Lives, Transforming Communities***, tonight, Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 7:00 pm Eastern Time on Zoom.

The Franciscan commitment to human dignity is reflected in everything from FAN's advocacy to the direct service provided to those in need. This is not a traditional sit-down dinner. Instead, guests are invited to join a live online program that highlights the connection between advocacy and service through the work of FAN, the **Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit**, and **Sr. Norma Pimentel's** ministry with migrants on the U.S.-Mexico border.



Rosie Davila

Join us for an evening of storytelling, inspiration, and community as we reflect on what it means to put human dignity first and build a more just and compassionate world. We look forward to seeing you tonight. Together, we can nourish lives, transform communities, and put dignity first.

Register now and [join us](#) tonight at 7:00 pm ET / 6:00 pm CT / 5:00 pm MT / 4:00 pm PT & MST.

Preventing Human Trafficking at the World Cup



**ALLIANCE TO END
HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Founded and Supported by U.S. Catholic Sisters

The World Cup, the exciting global soccer competition, has kicked off in host countries Mexico, Canada, and the United States. Along with the fun and excitement, however, comes a recognition that major sporting events bring unique challenges in preventing human trafficking. In response, the Alliance to End Human Trafficking has put together a helpful [toolkit](#). You can also watch their [webinar](#) on this subject.

Pope Leo's Magnifica Humanitas: A Strong Case for Nonviolence

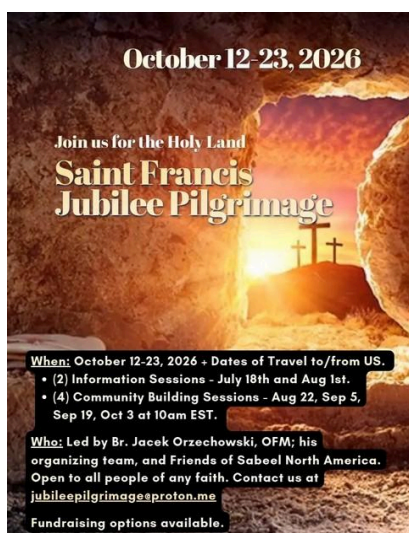
Pope Leo XIV's *Magnifica Humanitas* has many key passages affirming a nonviolent approach to resolving differences and building peace. These include: Disarming AI means freeing it from the mentality of "armed" competition, which today is not limited simply to the military context, but is also an economic and cognitive phenomenon (110). "...it is important to reaffirm that the "just war" theory, which has all too often been used to justify any kind of war, is now outdated (192)." "No algorithm can make war morally acceptable (198)."



Interfaith Action for Palestine, July 5-7 — [Fill out the interest form](#) to provide Christian witness/advocacy and counter the Christians United for Israel's (CUFI) Annual Lobby Summit in Washington DC.

Sign the petition: [Catholics Call on the USCCB to Protect Taybeh](#), which is a predominantly Christian village in the West Bank. They have faced serious attacks by Israeli settlers including a large fire this past week. The petition will close on June 19, 2026, after which it will be delivered to the USCCB. You are also encouraged to contact Congress regarding the surge of terrorist settler violence on our friends at Taybeh. Friends of Sabeel North America [calling and writing tool to Protect Taybeh](#).

Saint Francis Jubilee Pilgrimage



Br. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM along with several other Franciscan-hearted people are inviting you to consider joining them for Saint Francis Jubilee Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, October 12-23, 2026. Organized with [Friends of Sabeel North America](#), it is open to people from different faith traditions who welcome an opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and act in solidarity with the Palestinian people. Fundraising options are available. To find out more details, please contact the organizing team at jubileepilgrimage@proton.me.

Also, please watch a short [video](#) with a message from Br. Jacek and a special invitation from Fr. Bashar Fawadleh, a Palestinian Catholic priest and pastor of Christ the Redeemer Church in Taybeh, the West Bank.

Don't Miss Out on Early Bird Conference Price

Registration is open for the **2026 Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference: Ours to do** on **November 7-9, 2026** with early bird registration prices through **July 15**. 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. Learn more, hear from people who attended last year's conference and register [here](#). Sponsorship information is available [here](#).



Franciscan Justice Circles

The **Colorado FJC** collaborated on a letter to formally request the University of Colorado Board of Regents to end its contract with Key Lime Air due to the company's involvement in ICE deportation flights. The letter was submitted for public comment for the upcoming board meeting and urged the university to uphold its institutional values of human dignity by cutting ties with the contractor. Many of the circle members are either University of Colorado alumni themselves or have family ties to the university's staff or alumni community.

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

Michigan FJC: Wed. June 16 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

Virtual FJC (ltd. mobility): Thur. June 18 at 11:00 am PT / 2:00 pm ET via Zoom

Pacific Northwest FJC: Thur. June 18 at 1:00 pm PT via Zoom

NYC-area FJC: Thur. June 18 at 7:30 pm ET via Zoom

Arizona FJC: Thur. June 18 at 6:30 pm MST via Zoom

Asheville, NC FJC: Sun. June 21 at 3:30 pm ET In Person

Colorado FJC: Mon. June 22 at 7:00 pm MT via Zoom

Bay Area & Northern CA FJC: Mon. June 22 at 7:00 pm PT via Zoom

CT-RI FJC: Tue. June 23 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

Texas FJC: Tue. June 23 at 7:15 pm CT / 6:15 pm MT via Zoom

Winston-Salem FJC: Wed. June 24 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

Massachusetts FJC: Thur. June 25 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

W. Pennsylvania FJC: Thur. June 25 at 7:30 pm ET via Zoom

SE Wisconsin FJC: Fri. June 26 at 4:00 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](#).