

Publication Date: June 30, 2026

Reflection Date: July 5, 2026 - [Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

A Different King and a Different Revolution

This weekend, we who are blessed to live in the United States celebrate our nation's semiquincentennial—that's a seven-syllable word for the 250th Anniversary of our nation's founding. More to the point, it marks 250 years since the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the 56 delegates to the Continental Congress in 1776.

Many of us are familiar with the document's majestic language—the “self-evident” truths of the fundamental equality of all [men], our God-given and fundamental rights to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,” and the right of people to throw off and replace repressive government with one that will humbly and diligently serve them.



John Trumbull - Declaration of Independence

That's why it may seem odd that our first reading and responsorial psalm for the [Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#) both extoll a king—albeit one who is the polar opposite of George III of England and all other tyrants before or since. God is a different kind of king: just and impartial instead of tyrannical and corrupt; peaceful rather than warmongering; gracious and merciful rather than petty and vindictive, good to all, not just his supporters; faithful in word and deed; holy; and compassionate to all, especially the struggling and vulnerable.

Jesus, the Son of God, embodied the virtues of his Father. Instead of calling his disciples to serve him, he asked them to bring their work and burdens to him. The yoke he invited them to take upon their shoulders was the one he already bore. They could learn from him as he walked and worked with them. In doing so, they would be living according to the Spirit rather than the flesh.

As the spiritual descendants of those disciples, we are called to a revolution of mind and heart, one that is manifested in words and deeds that are different than what the world and worldly leaders extol and encourage. It is to the Lord and to the gospel that we are called to mutually pledge “our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.”

As we reflect upon our nation’s highest ideals on this anniversary, we are invited to bring this revolution to bear on the challenges of our day, working together as the Franciscan Action Network to advance a more just future for this nation, one that reflects the God of justice.

John Celichowski, OFM Cap.

FAN Board Member

Suggested Action: Register to vote. Consider candidates for offices based not on party affiliation but on the values of the gospel and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST). Here’s a [link](#) to an overview of CST provided by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Vote!

Suggested Petitions:

For our nation and our leaders, that they and the policies they promote will better reflect the values of justice, peace, compassion, and human dignity.

For those who have fought and died in our nation’s many wars, that God may grant them eternal rest and peace and give comfort to all who mourn them.

For a greater spirit of unity in our country, founded on respect for each other, the proper functioning of our institutions, and the rule of law.

For all who perform works of humble public service, that they may see the fruits of their labor.

Prayer

God,

Please help us to renew our nation by living out our highest ideals and fostering a justice that is rooted in the value and dignity of every person. Help us to foster a freedom that allows all people to truly flourish and to be who you made them to be.

Amen.

Urge your Senator: Protect Temporary Protected Status for Haiti



Please urge your Senators to support S. 4814—

legislation that would require the Secretary of Homeland Security to designate Haiti for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and ensure that Haitian TPS holders are not forced to return to dangerous and unstable conditions.

Last Thursday, June 25, the Supreme Court allowed the administration to continue its aggressive immigration crackdown by issuing rulings in two cases. The justices ruled that the administration can terminate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 350,000 people from Haiti and 6,100 from Syria. The ruling clears a path for the potential

deportation of hundreds of thousands of more people, many of whom have lived in the U.S. for decades. Thursday's decision is likely to have implications for TPS holders from about a dozen other countries as well. In a separate ruling, the court has said that the administration can turn away migrants arriving at the U.S. Mexico border and prevent them from applying for asylum. FAN will continue to advocate for asylum seekers as well.

[Click here](#) for more information.

TAKE ACTION BUTTON

<https://franciscanactionnetwork.salsalabs.org/protecttps>

Urge Congress: Support Creative Peacebuilding

Dear brothers and sisters, there are certainly binding responsibilities that fall to the leaders of nations.

To them we cry out: Stop!

It is time for peace!

Sit at the table of dialogue and mediation, not at the table where rearmament is planned and deadly actions are decided!

Pope Leo, April 2026



Congress urgently needs to hear from us on the value of supporting creative peacebuilding and voting 'no' on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which includes a significant increase in Pentagon Spending to \$1.15 trillion.

Right now, Congress is considering a substantial increase in Pentagon funding that would mark the largest military budget in U.S. history. Meanwhile, funding for critical, lifesaving social programs and non-military tools for preventing violence and building just peace abroad continues to be sharply cut.

As people of Franciscan hearts, faith and conscience, we recognize that true, sustainable security comes from housing, health care, education, diplomacy, creative peacebuilding, and courageous nonviolent resistance — not ever-larger military budgets that benefit weapons contractors over working families. [Take action now.](#)

Brother, Sister, Robot: Being Franciscan in an age of AI

Webinar: "Brother, Sister, Robot: Being Franciscan in an age of AI"

Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF, PhD

Thursday, July 9

7pm ET/6pm CT/4pm PT



On July 9, we welcome Sr. Ilia Delio, OSF, PhD, a leading theologian in science and religion, for a timely reflection on what it means to live a Franciscan life in an age shaped by artificial intelligence— **"Brother, Sister, Robot: Being Franciscan in an age of AI."** With Pope Leo's new encyclical raising fresh questions about AI, human dignity, and the future of community, Sr. Ilia will explore how the Franciscan values of poverty, minority, and community can guide us through this rapidly changing landscape. We will ask: **is AI a threat to human dignity or can it promote human community and planetary life?**

Join us for this second webinar session in our four-part series, Franciscan Eco-Spirituality: Renewing Our Vision in a Jubilee Year, hosted by the Intergenerational Eco-Justice & Spirituality Network (IEJSN) of the Franciscan Federation in collaboration with FAN, Catholic Climate Covenant, and Interfaith Public Health Network.

[Register](#) (button)

'What Is Yours to Do?': Listen to 'Tomorrow's American Catholic' Podcast



FAN Executive Director Michele Dunne is featured on the 'Tomorrow's American Catholic' podcast. In the episode, she shares her spiritual journey and the gradual revelation of her Franciscan vocation, discusses FAN and our efforts to advance justice, and offers her thoughts on the relationship between

Franciscan spirituality and activism. You can listen to the full episode [here](#).

Early Bird Price Extended for 2026 Conference

Registration is open for the **2026 Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference: Ours to do** on **November 7-9, 2026** in Washington DC with early bird registration prices now extended through **August 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

Members of the **NYC-area FJC** have been active in a variety of ways: joining Season of Faithful Witness procession on Corpus Christi Sunday with hundreds of people walking with signs and symbols in support of Catholic social teaching, particularly for the welcome of immigrants ([video](#)); fielding phone calls for detained migrants; accompanying people to immigration hearings at the court; and advocating for food justice policies at the state-level. Two food justice state bills passed through the legislature this year thanks to support from constituents and people of faith, like the FJC.

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

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

Central MD FJC: Thur. July 2 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

NY State Virtual St. Kateri FJC: Mon. July 6 at 3:00 pm ET via Zoom

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

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

Monthly National FJCs Call: Wed. July 8 at 1:00 pm PT / 4:00 pm ET via Zoom

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

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

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

Chicagoland FJC: Sat. July 11 at 10:00 am CT via Zoom

New Mexico FJC: Sat. July 11 at 4:00 pm MT In Person

Asheville, NC FJC: Sun. July 12 at 3:30 pm ET In Person

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