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Reflection Date: August 2, 2026 - [Eighteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time](#)

A Mindset of Abundance

When I was younger, my parents used to read my 'Bible for Young Readers' to me before bed. Between my mother as my catechesis teacher and my father actively in Catholic education for adult converts, I had my fair share of 'read alouds' from the gospels. One of my favorites was the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, a story warmly titled "A Nice Lunch" in the children's Bible.

But what made this a "nice lunch"?



When the crowd gathered around Jesus, as we hear in the gospel reading for the [Eighteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time](#), the disciples saw only a crisis of scarcity. Looking at the thousands of hungry people, their immediate reaction was rooted in fear and self-preservation: "dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus, however, operated from a divine reality of abundance. Taking the offering, He gave thanks, broke the bread, and sustained the entire crowd with twelve baskets of leftovers to spare.

Our modern culture operates continuously on that same fear-driven narrative of scarcity. It tells us that resources, shelter, and care are strictly limited, forcing communities to compete for survival. St. Francis and St. Clare challenged this mindset by showing us that true spiritual

poverty is not an embrace of lack, but an intentional opening of our hands to relinquish the illusion of ownership. St. Francis recognized that all Creation belongs to God and that we belong to Creation.

When love and justice guide our distribution, *there is always enough*.

In our advocacy for social and economic justice, we often hear from political leaders that housing the unhoused or protecting the vulnerable costs too much. The recent passage of **The 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act** demonstrates what happens when faith communities reject our nation's scarcity mindset. By expanding affordable shelter and codifying disaster recovery tools, this new law aligns our societal structures with the truth that housing is a fundamental human right rooted in Catholic Social Teaching.

When we organize around solidarity rather than fear, our modest efforts are multiplied by grace. Suddenly, all are able to enjoy "a nice lunch" and we turn "not enough" into a feast where no one is turned away.

Claire Fisher

Advocacy Associate

Suggested Action: Watch our mini-documentary on FAN's trip to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit to see the Franciscan commitment to human dignity from the direct service of Franciscans in the field to FAN's advocacy work. [Watch here](#).

Suggested Petitions:

For trusting in abundance, may we reject the fear of scarcity and trust in God's abundance, sharing what we have with open hands and loving hearts, we pray to the Lord.

For economic and housing justice, may our leaders and advocates protect the vulnerable and ensure safe, affordable housing as a fundamental human right for all, we pray to the Lord.

For hearts of solidarity, may our small acts of advocacy and care be multiplied by grace, turning "not enough" into a feast where no one is turned away, we pray to the Lord.

Prayer

Source of all abundance, forgive our fear of scarcity and teach us to trust in your providence.

Following the example of St. Francis and St. Clare, grant us open hands and courageous hearts. Multiply our efforts for justice, housing, and care, so that all your children may know dignity, shelter, and a place at your table. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

FAN at the EPA and Upcoming Webinar on the Arctic

The Arctic: "The Sacred Place Where Life Begins"

Tuesday, August 25, 2026
7:00 PM EDT - 8:00 PM EDT

An unexpected trip to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is soul changing. **Franciscan Sister Joan Brown** will share about her experience of this sacred place that the Gwich'in people call "the sacred place where life begins." Join us for FAN's next webinar to learn how we can protect the Arctic from oil and gas development. Register [here](#).



On July 24, FAN and our partner organizations delivered 2,441 signatures calling on EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin to protect human health, defend vulnerable communities, and uphold our shared responsibility to care for God's creation. We gathered together outside the EPA for a prayer vigil. Here are some additional [photos](#) and [videos](#).

Protect Dreamers, TPS Holders, and Undocumented Youth



With the end of TPS for Haiti and Syria, ongoing delays in DACA renewals, and reports of DACA recipients being targeted for detention and deportation, the [American Dream and Promise Act \(H.R. 1589\)](#) would provide Dreamers ten years of conditional permanent residence and cancel removal proceedings. Dreamers and TPS holders who arrived on or before July 1, 2024 would be eligible for lawful permanent resident status and both groups would be protected from deportation

while their applications are pending.

There is an effort among some members of the House to move H.R. 1589 forward through what is called a "discharge petition." If the petition reaches 218 signatures, Speaker Mike Johnson must bring it to the floor within two legislative days. As of last week, the legislation, reintroduced in February 2025, has 216 cosponsors. We urge you to [contact your](#)

[Representatives in Congress](#) and ask them to sign Rep. Sylvia Garcia's (TX-29) Discharge Petition. The House will be back in session in September and able to take action.

Advocacy Works: Historic Housing Victory

Your Faithful Advocacy Made the Difference!

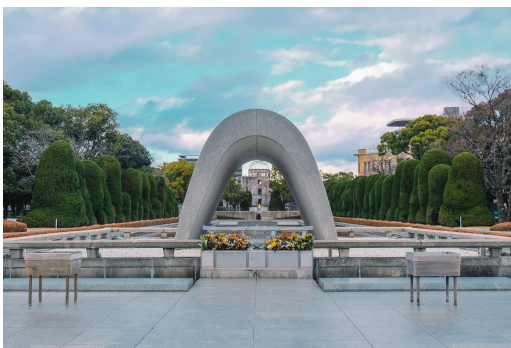
Thanks to persistent emails, phone calls, and public witness, the [21st Century ROAD to Housing Act](#) is officially law. This bipartisan legislation marks a historic step forward in protecting human dignity and making housing accessible for all.

Here are some highlights of what the new law achieves:

- Limits Corporate Speculation: Keeps single-family homes in the hands of everyday families, not mass corporate buyers.
- Expands Affordable Supply: Modernizes Housing and Urban Development tools and eases zoning barriers to convert unused spaces into homes.
- Supports Unhoused Neighbors: Codifies permanent disaster relief housing and expands resources for veterans experiencing homelessness.



Prayers and Action for Peace



Hiroshima Nagasaki Prayer Service: Marking the 81st anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing, people of faith are invited to gather virtually for a prayer service honoring the victims and calling for nuclear abolition on **August 6 at 6:00 pm CDT/ 7:00 pm EDT / 5:00 pm MDT / 4:00 pm PDT**. Hosted by the Franciscan Peace Center and the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, and co-sponsored by FAN and 36 congregations and peace organizations, this year's theme is "From

Remembrance to Abolition." All are welcome. Register [here](#).

In Congress: The U.S. House of Representatives passed a new **War Powers Resolution** on July 23 in light of the administration restarting its bombing campaign in Iran and its claims that

the previous WPR no longer has standing. Senate Democrats have blocked the **National Defense Authorization Act** so far. Thank you for your advocacy on these issues!

As part of our economic leverage initiatives, consider joining the Break the Bonds campaign to divest from Israeli bonds in state, city budgets, pensions, endowments, and other investment structures. Here are some resources to learn more and get involved:

[Jewish Voice for Peace Break the Bonds Campaign and National tool-kit](#)

[US Campaign for Palestinian Rights](#): tool-kit on Israeli Bonds

[American Friends Service Committee divestment](#) tips including Israeli Bonds

[Ohio divestment resource](#) for Israeli Bonds

Join Us for FAN's 2026 Conference

FAN's annual leadership conference brings Franciscan-hearted people from different locations, generations, vocations, and backgrounds together to learn, grow, connect, and build a movement for justice. Registration open for the **2026 Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference: Ours to do** on **November 7-9, 2026** in the Washington DC area with early bird registration prices available 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](#).



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Franciscan Justice Circles

Members of the **Colorado FJC** are hosting and participating in Franciscan Mountain Nature Retreats and Season of creation Living Water Series as well as an ongoing effort to write letters to the editor regarding immigration detention. As a Circle they have signed on to a letter of faith organizations to Congressional leaders expressing outrage regarding the recent ICE killings in Texas and Maine and seeking accountability.

The **Bay Area & Northern CA FJC** members are currently working on "No Coal in Oakland" to prevent a coal terminal from being built in the City of Oakland.

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

Connecticut-Rhode Island FJC: Tue. July 28 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

Texas FJC: Tue. July 28 at 7:15 pm CT / 6:15 pm MT via Zoom

Central Maryland FJC: Thur. July 30 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

SE Wisconsin FJC: Fri. July 31 at 4:00 pm CT via Zoom

Georgia FJC: Mon. Aug. 3 at 1:00 pm ET via Zoom
Mid-Hudson Valley FJC: Tue. Aug. 4 at 12:00 pm ET via Zoom
Kansas FJC: Tue. Aug. 4 at 7:00 pm CT via Zoom
Ohio FJC: Wed. Aug. 5 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom
SoCal FJC: Thur. Aug. 6 at 6:00 pm PT via Zoom
Metro DC-Area FJC: Sat. Aug. 8 at 10:00 am ET in person
Virtual NY-state St. Kateri FJC: Mon. Aug. 10 at 3:00 pm via Zoom
Richmond,VA-Area FJC: Mon. Aug. 10 at 3:00 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](#).