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Reflection Date: August 16, 2026 - [Twentieth Sunday In Ordinary Time](#)

Justice Rooted in Love

“Observe what is right, do what is just; for my salvation is about to come, my justice, about to be revealed.” — Isaiah 56:1

This passage appears in the readings for the [Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#), which is speaking to a community returning from exile. They are trying to rebuild their life together after old patterns of injustice had failed them. The prophets are not describing a transaction (*do justice so God will act*) nor a passive waiting (*God will act whether you do anything or not*). They are pointing to a reality already unfolding: God’s justice is moving toward the people, and their task is to align their lives with it.



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Such alignment requires looking honestly at what is real. The old ways did not work. Social life must be rebuilt with fairness. The injustices that fractured the community must not be repeated. And the circle of belonging must widen. Isaiah 56 goes on to welcome those once excluded from the covenant. Justice, in this vision, is not gatekeeping. It is expanding the table.

Isaiah’s call resonates with Micah 6:8, which names the posture needed for this kind of rebuilding: to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God. Not what is trendy or easy, but what is faithful. Justice work will ruffle feathers. Advocacy will sometimes be

confrontational. And unless it is rooted in love, it becomes brittle. Unless it is grounded in humility, it becomes noise. Justice that hopes to heal must rise from something deeper than outrage.

Fr. Richard Rohr, in *The Tears of Things*, writes that beneath anger is sadness, and beneath sadness is love. The prophets' anger grew out of heartbreak, and their heartbreak grew out of love. When anger is rooted in love, it has a place to return to. It becomes anchored and capable of pointing toward healing rather than harm. Anger on its own cannot bear good fruit.

This is why community matters. Like a flower that cannot live long once cut from its source, justice work cannot survive if disconnected from relationship, prayer, reflection, and the people who help us stay grounded in love. As you continue your justice and advocacy work, how do you stay rooted in love?

Brady Young

Manager of Communications & Member Engagement, Franciscan Federation

Suggested Action: If you are seeking a community to support that grounding, we invite you to join a [Franciscan Justice Circle](#) through FAN and to [join The Piazza](#), the Franciscan Federation's new online community for Franciscans and Franciscan-hearted people.

Suggested Petitions: For justice rooted in love, may our work for fairness and dignity always rise from compassion rather than anger, and lead us toward healing rather than harm, we pray to the Lord.

For communities rebuilding trust, may we widen the circle of belonging, welcome those who have felt excluded, and shape relationships that reflect God's justice, we pray to the Lord.

For hearts that stay grounded, may our advocacy be nourished by prayer, reflection, and community, so that our efforts bear good fruit and remain anchored in humility, we pray to the Lord.

Prayer:

God of justice, help us see what is real, love what is true, and walk humbly with you. **Amen.**

Today: Feast of Saint Clare!

On the Feast of St. Clare, we honor a revolutionary leader who abandoned her status to champion radical equality and shared dignity. Today, may her fearless vision inspire us to build a more just and compassionate world. Please pray with us below. FAN's



printable prayer and pledge for this celebration can also be found [here](#).

August Recess Peace Advocacy

This August is a prime opportunity to engage your congressional representatives, who will be away from DC and in their home districts/states.



We encourage you to check their websites for **town hall or public event opportunities**, where you can engage your representative either in a private handshake chat or offering a public comment/question. This is a great way to have some face time that can translate into more effective responsiveness. We encourage you to ask your members any of the following: 1) What are they doing to stop the fruitless U.S./Israeli war

with Iran? 2) Will they vote no on the National Defense Authorization Act, which massively inflates military spending and includes a provision to integrate the Israeli and U.S. militaries?

Urge Your Senator: Protest TPS For Haiti

Our last attempt to save Haitian lives and keep families together is for the Senate to pass Senate Bill S. 4814, which will extend Haitian TPS for the next three years. [Please call and email your Senators](#) and urge them to vote YES on Senate Bill S. 4814. Even if you have contacted them before, we urge you to again and to encourage a loved one to call as well.

A phone script can be found [here](#).



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

A trip to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge can be soul-changing. **Franciscan Sister Joan Brown** will share her experience of what the

Gwichin 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](#).

Early Bird Prices for FAN's Conference End on Saturday

FAN's annual leadership conference brings Franciscan-hearted people together to learn, grow, connect, and build a movement for justice. Registration is 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 this Saturday, 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. Register [here](#).



Franciscan Justice Circles

The **Winston-Salem, NC FJC** joined a local Moral Monday event in Winston-Salem, organized by the NC Poor People's Campaign. The speakers encouraged all to make a plan for voting and helping other voters to make sure they could participate in the election process. There was a great sense of uplifting joy and community as they prayed and sang together with their neighbors.



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

Connecticut - Rhode Island FJC: Tue. Aug. 11 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom
DE Valley FJC (PA, DE, NJ): Tue. Aug. 11 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom
New Mexico FJC: Tue. Aug. 11 at 6:30 pm MT via Zoom
Monthly National FJC call: Wed. Aug. 12 at 1:00 pm PT / 4:00 pm ET via Zoom
Bay Area & Northern CA FJC: Wed. Aug. 12 at 7:00 pm PT via Zoom
Rochester, NY-area FJC: Thur. Aug. 13 at 3:30 pm ET via Zoom
Central Indiana FJC: Fri. Aug. 14 at 1:00 pm ET via Zoom
Four Lakes FJC (WI): Sat. Aug. 15 at 1:30 pm CT In Person
Georgia FJC: Mon. Aug. 17 at 1:00 pm ET via Zoom
Michigan FJC: Wed. Aug. 19 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom
Virtual FJC (ltd. mobility): Thur. Aug. 20 at 11:00 am PT/2:00 pm ET via Zoom
Pacific Northwest FJC: Thur. Aug. 20 at 1:00 pm PT via Zoom
Asheville, NC FJC: Thur. Aug. 20 at 6:00 pm ET via Zoom
NYC-area FJC: Thur. Aug. 20 at 7:30 pm ET via Zoom

Arizona FJC: Thur. Aug. 20 at 6:30 pm MST via Zoom

Chicagoland FJC: Sat. Aug. 22 at 10:00 am 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](#).