

Publication Date: September 1, 2026

Reflection Date: September 6, 2026 - [Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

An Effort to Dissuade



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In the readings for the [Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time](#), Ezekiel and Jesus describe what to do about the faults of another. Ezekiel covers the duty to *warn* the wicked, and Jesus describes the duty to face another member of the faith community, pointing out what that person has done to offend. Ezekiel warns that if the wicked one ignores the warning, punishment will ensue and it won't be the messenger's fault. However, failure to warn means not only will the wicked one be punished, but the appointed messenger will be held responsible.

We must convey the message so as to “dissuade the wicked from his way.” Exactly how much effort to dissuade is expected? A brief mention in passing? Quick email or telephone call? A letter? A knock-down, drag-out, shouting confrontation?

What does God expect from us to change the mind of, say, people persecuting undocumented persons? A letter to an elected representative? Do we need to march and protest in front of immigration centers? Are we called to actively deter immigration enforcement agents? What about other issues that threaten the sanctity of human life: euthanasia, abortion, capital punishment, or war? More letters? Demonstrations? A refusal to pay taxes? What is ours to do?

Jesus expects us to recognize another's action as sinful. It's not judgment—it is evaluating behavior based on God's Word. It requires careful, prayerful discernment, humility, and a desire to restore relationships.

Once we recognize another's actions, we may need to move next to confrontation, something that makes most of us uncomfortable. If we get past the confrontation part, but our intervention doesn't work, then we move to...shunning? That would be easy to assume, but how did Jesus

treat Gentiles and tax collectors? Did He ignore them? No. He healed, reached out, and even dined with Zacchaeus. He called Matthew to follow Him.

And Jesus expects us to respectfully, humbly, and **firmly** speak of God's teachings on the issues of our day: the dignity of the human person; peace and reconciliation; care of creation; right relationship of justice. It's not an easy task. However, this is one of our most important calls in the pursuit of justice.

Sister Karen Stapleton

Poor Clares of Westerfield, NJ & FAN Board Member

Suggested Action: Review the ['Take Action'](#) page on the FAN website and select one action to complete.

Suggested Petitions:

That all people of good will work together to demand policies that respect human dignity, we pray to the Lord.

For an end to the mentality of death, from reckless driving, to weapons and drugs, to abortion, to capital punishment and war, we pray to the Lord.

Prayer

Good and gentle Jesus, we want our sisters and brothers to follow Your way and not the way of the Evil One. Help us to reach out fearlessly to bring about conversion by our gentleness of speech, the Spirit's wisdom, and Your love shining through us.

Amen.

Welcome, Gabby!



FAN staff is thrilled to welcome Gabriella "Gabby" Dudajek as FAN's new Advocacy Associate. She is from New Jersey and is spending this year in service with Franciscan Mission Service, with FAN as her site placement. Her advocacy portfolio will be poverty alleviation, specifically access to housing, anti-hunger programs, and healthcare.

Please join us in giving Gabby a warm FAN welcome! [Click here to send her a welcome](#)

[message.](#)

Today: World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation



FAN invites you to celebrate the "[Season of Creation](#)" with us. This is a period dedicated to ecological conversion and renewed commitment that begins today and concludes on October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. In his [message](#) for today, Pope Leo XIV wrote, "We are once again invited to contemplate the gift of life and to cherish the earth that sustains it, for they are tangible ways of offering praise to our Creator." To

recognize this season, FAN will be sending **weekly action opportunities** to promote care for creation on the national level.

This week, please urge Congress to protect the Arctic and keep polluters out of public lands in Alaska! Cherished national parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests, and other public lands and waters across Alaska— places of deep ecological, spiritual, and cultural significance – are at risk of harmful extraction by corporate polluters that seek to increase drilling, logging, and mining. [More information is available here.](#)

[TAKE ACTION BUTTON]

Upcoming Webinar: Moving Beyond Plastics in a "Throwaway Culture"

How do we resist a "throwaway culture" and embrace a "better kind of politics" that seeks the common good, prioritizes the poor, and protects the environment? **Judith Enck**, author of "[The Problem with Plastic](#)" and founder of **Beyond Plastics**, will share with us about the impacts of plastics on Mother Earth and on vulnerable communities, along with how we can get involved at the local and state levels to cut toxic plastic pollution. **Students from Siena University** will also share their work to combat plastics pollution in the state of New York.

Thursday, September 10, 2026: 7:00 PM EDT - 8:00 PM EDT



This webinar is offered in partnership with the Catholic Climate Covenant, the Franciscan Federation, and Interfaith Public Health Network. Join us!

[\[Register Here Button\]](#)

Just Peace and Active Nonviolence



U.S. Christian Clergy denied entry to the West Bank: After sending over 450 people the past 3 years, the first full delegation with Sabeel, a Jerusalem-based, ecumenical liberation theology organization, has been denied entry. Respond here: [Seek Investigation, Accountability, and Review of Israel's Treatment of U.S. Citizens.](#)

[Palestine Advocacy Days](#), September 20-22: Americans for Justice in Palestine Action warmly

invites you to participate in Washington DC.

[Complicit Corporation Campaign to Expose, Divest, and Boycott Chevron and Palantir](#): recent successes in the broader movement- 1) Mass General Brigham hospital in Mass. ceased talks on a Palantir partnership after massive resistance. 2) Arizona Senator Ruben Gallego donated the \$17,500 his campaign received from Palantir to Arizona Undocumented Workers Relief Fund and also committed to not accepting Palantir contributions going forward. 3) [Sign this petition](#) calling on the World Food Program to drop Palantir.

Exciting Update 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. **Tomorrow**, we will be revealing the two legislative topics that we will be advocating on during our Capitol Hill visits. Stay tuned for that exciting announcement!

Registration is open for the **2026 Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference: Ours to do** on **November 7-9, 2026** in the Washington DC area, but will close in just one month on October 1. 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 **Colorado FJC** met in person with the in-district office of their U.S. Senator Michael Bennet with a primary ask of opposing the [Stop Climate Shakedowns Act of 2026](#). It was an encouraging meeting and they were able to present leave behind material asking for support for TPS for Haiti and concerns over the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

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

Mid-Hudson Valley FJC: Tue. Sept. 1 at 12:00 pm ET via Zoom

Kansas FJC: Tue. Sept. 1 at 7:00 pm CT via Zoom

Ohio FJC: Wed. Sept. 2 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

Virtual FJC (ltd. mobility): Thur. Sept. 3 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

Central Maryland FJC: Thur. Sept. 3 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

Chicagoland FJC: Sat. Sept. 5 at 10:00 am CT via Zoom

Connecticut-Rhode Island FJC: Tue. Sept. 8 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

DE-Valley FJC (DE, NJ, PA): Tue. Sept. 8 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

New Mexico FJC: Tue. Sept. 8 at 6:30 pm MT via Zoom

Monthly National FJCs call: Wed. Sept. 9 at 1:00 pm PT / 4:00 pm ET via Zoom

Bay Area & Northern CA FJC: Wed. Sept. 9 at 7:00 pm PT via Zoom

Rochester, NY FJC: Thur. Sept. 10 at 3:30 pm ET via Zoom

Central IN FJC: Fri. Sept. 11 at 1:00 pm ET via Zoom

Metro DC-Area FJC: Sat. Sept. 12 at 10:00 am ET in person

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](#).