

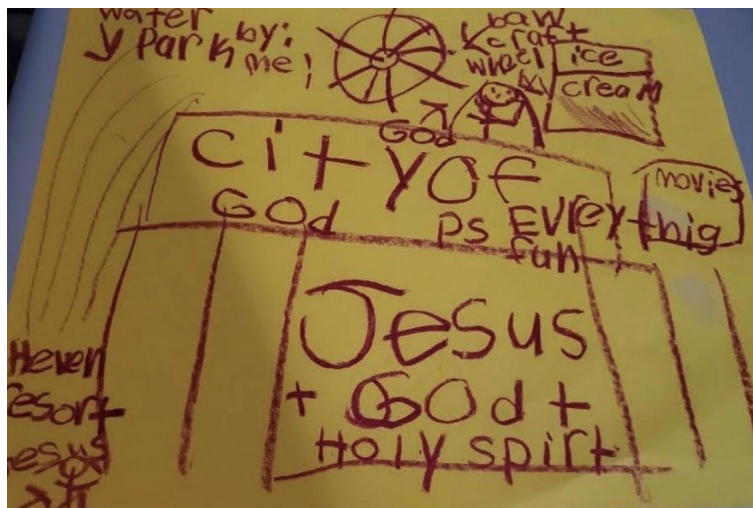
Publication Date: September 15, 2026

Reflection Date: September 20, 2026 - [Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

For Your Benefit

In the readings for the [Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#), St. Paul writes to the Philippians, “I long to depart this life and be with Christ, for that is far better. Yet that I remain in the flesh is more necessary for your benefit.”

When I was five years old, I drew a photo of what I thought Heaven would be like. It included a ferris wheel, a water park and a movie theater. Even at five, I knew that being with the Lord in eternity will be far better than being on Earth, just as Paul said.



However, what Paul also reminds us of is that **being in the flesh** is our vocation. Our earthly life is not always easy, especially when I know what awaits me in my future with the Lord, but I remind myself that my time here is all for other's benefit. **If I was in Heaven right now, I would not be able to complete my vocation of being the hands and feet of Christ.**

Each time I open my email, it's a chance to share the love of God. Each morning I commute to the office, every time I call my family or laugh at night with my roommates; each moment is an opportunity to honor the Lord.

As an emerging advocate, I know the most important moments of this vocation are when I am standing up for my sisters and brothers. I can attempt to make Heaven on Earth a reality for my brothers and sisters who are marginalized. The beautiful portion of this is it can take many formats. Participating in the annual Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference, creating and completing action alerts, calling my representatives and attending demonstrations are all ways I live out this call

Being the hands and feet of Christ is an honor, a challenge, and a privilege. By being those hands and feet, I come closer each day to appreciating my vocation and spending eternity with the Lord, whether or not Heaven includes a water park.

Claire Fisher

FAN Communications Coordinator

Suggested Action: Be the hands and feet of Christ for our Haitian sisters and brothers by [emailing your representatives](#) and urging them to renew TPS status for Haitians.

Suggested Petitions:

*For our faith community, that while we hope for eternity with God, we may embrace our earthly calling with joy and gratitude, **we pray to the Lord.***

*For all called to be the hands and feet of Christ, that in our daily routines and work we may offer every moment to God's love, **we pray to the Lord.***

*For all advocates for justice that are inspired by Saint Francis, that we might stand with marginalized brothers and sisters to always be in pursuit of bringing Heaven's peace to Earth, **we pray to the Lord.***

Prayer: Heavenly Father, while our hearts long to be home with You in eternity, we thank You for the sacred gift of our earthly vocation. Strengthen us to serve faithfully as Your hands and feet by standing with our marginalized brothers and sisters. May our daily work, relationships, and advocacy bring a reflection of Your heavenly kingdom to Earth today.

Amen.

FAN Welcomes Jim & Alex!



Alex Pham, a current master's student at the Catholic University of America, will be interning with FAN for the fall semester! Alex will be working on our conference logistics, website management and more.



Jim Cummins, currently living in Maryland, is a member of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps. Using his previous experience with convention management, Jim will be helping us coordinate our upcoming conference and future events! FAN is thrilled to welcome Alex & Jim onto our team.

Season of Creation: Week Three



Urge your elected officials to protect our oceans and stop plastic pollution! 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? (*Fratelli Tutti*, 2020) One way to do so is to take action to **reduce plastics pollution at the local and federal levels.**

FAN urges its network to join the grassroots movement of people working to reduce plastic pollution in their towns and cities via [Beyond Plastics](#). Please visit Beyond Plastics website to browse a map of what's happening in your area.

Consider getting your Franciscan Justice Circle involved in supporting their work or joining a Beyond Plastics Local Group near you.

Beyond Plastics offers free virtual grassroots organizing training, organizing tools, access to a growing network of like-minded advocates, and ongoing support. [More information is here.](#)

International Day of Peace Resource Guide

In anticipation of the International Day of Peace on September 21, the Sisters of St. Francis of Clinton, Iowa have created a resource guide including a collection of prayers, reflections, activities, and action opportunities. Please view the full guide [here!](#)



Novena for the Eighth Centenary of St. Francis

 NINE AROUND ONE

From **September 25 to October 3, 2026**, the Franciscan Friars Conventual offer the text for a [novena](#), nine evenings of prayer culminating on the night Francis died 800 years ago. This novena can be prayed in a church, a religious community's chapel, or around a dining table.

Nine Around One: A Novena of Companions is now available in English [here](#), and in Spanish, Italian, and Polish [here](#).

Time is Running Out to Register for Our Conference

Registration is closing for the **2026 Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference: Ours to do** on November 7-9, 2026 in the Washington DC area, **but will close just two weeks on October 1**. 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. This year, we will be advocating on Capitol Hill for two interconnected issues: democracy & immigration. Learn more, hear from people who attended last year's conference and register [here](#). Sponsorship information is available [here](#).



Franciscan Justice Circles

The **Michigan FJC** submitted Letters to the Editor (LTE) in six newspapers in their state expressing concern for the violence occurring at the hands of ICE and DHS, calling for accountability and an end to dehumanizing policies, and the LTE was published in four papers. Members of the **Colorado FJC** and the **Bay Area & Northern CA FJC** also submitted similar Letters to the Editor and some were published. (Photo of recent in person gathering of Colorado FJC.)



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

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

Nationwide Interfaith Embodying Jesus FJC by the Companions of Francis & Clare:
Wed. Sep. 16 from 6:30-8:00 pm ET via Zoom

Virtual FJC (ltd. mobility): Thur. Sep.17 at 11:00 am PT / 2:00 pm ET via Zoom

Pacific Northwest FJC: Thur. Sep.17 at 1:00 pm PT via Zoom

Asheville, NC FJC: Thur. Sep.17 at 6:00 pm ET via Zoom

Metro NYC-area FJC: Thur. Sep.17 at 7:30 pm ET via Zoom

SoCal FJC: Thur. Sep.17 at 6:00 pm PT via Zoom

Arizona FJC: Thur. Sep.17 at 6:30 pm MST via Zoom

Georgia FJC: Mon. Sep. 21 at 1:00 pm ET 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](#).