

Publication Date: September 8, 2026

Reflection Date: September 13, 2026 - [Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

Anger Danger

There is an old saying that says, “Holding onto a resentment or ruminating over an injury is like drinking poison and expecting the other person(s) to get sick.” Perhaps it is no coincidence that, for English-speakers, “anger” lies within the word “danger.”



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In the readings from the [Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#), the ancient sage Sirach observed: “Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight.” All of us can imagine a time or situation in which we held onto our anger for too long. The reasons may range from the biological (the high we experienced from a flood of adrenaline), to the strategic (waiting for the right time to go off in retaliation against our malefactor), to the putatively moral (self-righteous rage).

We live in a time and culture in which many people—from drivers during rush hour to public leaders at 2:00 AM—feel entitled to vent their rage publicly and crudely. Unfortunately, AI and algorithm-driven social media platforms often allow, amplify, and even encourage such messages. For those who own and operate these platforms, fear and anger are profit centers. Like viruses, they spread easily and can be difficult to contain.

Thankfully, the Lord has given us an antidote and a vaccine. The antidote, Sirach and Jesus remind us, is forgiveness: not ignoring or discounting an injury or injustice but, rather, refusing to allow it to possess, distract, or oppress us. Forgiveness is letting go of whatever could otherwise bind us. The vaccine is mercy: recalling our own sinfulness and God’s great mercy toward us and making a compassionate and open space for others in our minds and hearts. May we join St. Paul in remembering that “whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s”—all of us.

Fr. John Celichowski OFM Cap.

FAN Board Member

Suggested Action: Examine your news sources, apps, social media feeds, and podcasts. Then examine your conscience. Remove or delete content that tends to poison your mind, heart and soul, and add something that enlightens and nourishes them.

Suggested Petitions:

For the Church, that we may be a “field hospital” of compassion and mercy, especially for those on society’s margins and those whom we find difficult to love and accept, we pray to the Lord.

For the leaders of nations, that they may hold with greater reverence and humility the platforms they possess by virtue of their offices, we pray to the Lord.

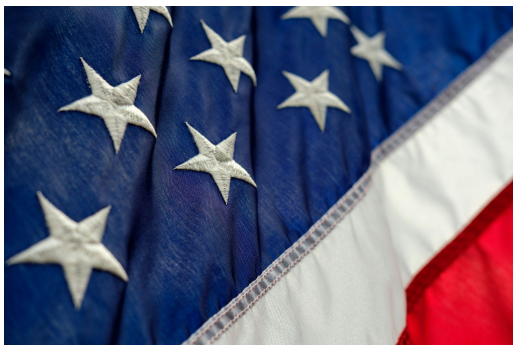
For a greater spirit of unity in our country, founded on mutual respect and our common human dignity, we may find healthy, nonviolent, and effective ways to resolve our differences, we pray to the Lord.

Prayer

Merciful Lord, protect our hearts from the poison of lingering resentment, and grant us the strength to choose forgiveness over the dangerous lure of righteous anger. Help us to mirror Your abundant mercy toward others, remembering our shared human brokenness and finding our ultimate peace in belonging to You.

Amen.

FAN Remembers 25th Anniversary of 9/11



On this anniversary of September 11, we pause in prayerful solidarity to honor the lives lost and recommit ourselves to our Franciscan vocation as instruments of peace. Guided by Saint Francis's call to sow love where there is hatred, we reject the forces of fear, division, and violence that continue to fracture our global family. Today, we stand in our dedication to nonviolence and justice, advocating for a world built on mutual respect, and a commitment to the dignity of all God's creation.

Tomorrow: Firearm Suicide Prevention Day



Firearm Suicide Prevention Day, is part of Suicide Prevention Month and was created to educate about America's growing firearm suicide crisis and promote the importance of storing firearms securely – which means locked, unloaded, and separate from ammunition – as an essential component of suicide prevention. Firearm suicide is a growing public health crisis in America. Firearms are the most common method of suicide in the United

States. On average, [we lose 74 people to firearm suicide every single day](#), which is more than are lost to firearms homicide and unintentional shootings combined.

To honor this day, we invite you to **send a letter to the editor** using this template

[\[Letter to the Editor Template button\]](#)

If someone you know is struggling or in crisis, call or text 988 or visit 988lifeline.org which is the suicide and crisis lifeline which provides 27/7 free and confidential support.

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, and 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, Franciscan Action Network Franciscan Federation, and Interfaith Public Health Network. Join us!

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



Season of Creation: Week Two

The Roadless Rule is a very popular policy. **Over 115 members of the House and Senate are cosponsors of the Roadless Area Conservation Act (H.R.3930 and S.2042)** which would codify the Roadless Rule so that, in the future, only an act of Congress could roll back protections for roadless areas within our National Forests.

In June 2025, the U.S. administration issued an initial intent to revoke the rule and portrayed these vital protections as overly burdensome regulations. **In August 2026**, the U.S. Forest Service filed a proposed rule to rescind the rule in its entirety ([official](#)

[publication](#)) with a hard deadline for final public feedback of September 21, 2026. **As of September 2026**, the Roadless Rule Conservation Act has [90 cosponsors](#) in the House and [26 cosponsors](#) in the Senate. Are your three Members of Congress cosponsors? If so, please email your MOCs to thank them. If not, please ask your MOCs to move quickly to cosponsor the act. [More information is here.](#)

[TAKE ACTION BUTTON]

Legislative 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. This year, we will be advocating on Capitol Hill for two interconnected issues: democracy & immigration.



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 less than 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

At the request of a fellow Franciscan, members of the **New Mexico FJC** joined others in Albuquerque in signing names of Palestinian children killed in the last three years on a section of the Shroud of Remembrance and Solidarity with Gaza Children. More information on this awareness-raising campaign can be found on the website [Gaza Children Shroud](#).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reading, PA FJC: Sun. Sep. 13 at 2:00 pm ET via Zoom

NY State virtual St. Kateri FJC: Mon. Sep. 14 at 3:00 pm ET via Zoom

Richmond & Central VA FJC: Mon. Sep. 14 at 7:00 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](#).