Publication Date: November 3, 2026
Reflection Date: November 8, 2026 - Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

There is No Time to Waste

In the gospel reading (Matthew 25:1-13) for the Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, we hear: “stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.” For those without faith, this could engender anything from a live-and-let-live epicureanism to a fearful, anxious nihilism. But for people who believe that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, this serves merely to remind us: our time here on earth is limited and precious. It is suffused with meaning–a transcendent purpose that can and should reverberate through all our actions.



Sourced from Unsplash

There is no time to waste in letting love transform our lives and the lives of those around us. There is no time to waste in becoming an instrument of peace, a co-creator with God in building the Kingdom. We’ve got work to do–and it begins again each morning.

Over the past few months, I have seen this urgency and hunger for justice from countless members of the Franciscan Action Network, as we engage in our shared work of safeguarding our democracy. From volunteering to serve as a poll chaplain or poll worker to engaging in civil dialogue to praying for these efforts and our democracy, I have been inspired by the enthusiasm and dedication of so many Franciscan-hearted people.

While some of this work has generated news coverage, it was not motivated by the desire for recognition or acclaim, but by the simple desire to be faithful. I am grateful to each and every one of you.On this Election Day and moving forward, let us continue the work. Our democracy depends on everyday people who recognize the fierce urgency of now.

Robert Christian

FAN Director of Strategy

Suggested Action: Through volunteering, prayer, voting, and/or helping others to vote, do your part to ensure that we have a peaceful, just election today.

Suggested Petition: *For our democracy, that it may be fully participatory with free and fair elections that are conducted in a safe, peaceful manner,* ***we pray to the Lord.***

For members of the Franciscan Action Network who are serving as poll chaplains and poll workers today, ***we pray to the Lord.***

Prayer: God, From the halls of Philadelphia to the Edmund Pettus bridge, Americans have displayed courage and a willingness to sacrifice to build and preserve a republic. Through grave trials, setbacks, and injustices, our highest ideals have been tested over time. Please help us to preserve this republic, to fully realize our highest ideals, and, beyond that, to build the common good, where all may flourish, including the poor and marginalized. **Amen.**

Today: Make Your Plan to Vote!

This Election Day, our Franciscan tradition reminds us that voting is a sacred act of love for our neighbors, creation, and the common good. Participating in democracy ensures the voices of the vulnerable are heard and our shared future is shaped with compassion. If you haven't voted yet, make your voice count. Find your polling place at Vote.gov and remember that if you are in line before polls close, you have the right to vote. If you have already voted, we invite you to watch our election eve prayer vigil from last night.

Pray for Poll Chaplains & Poll Workers

Thank you to all of our deployed poll workers & poll chaplains across the country. In states all across the United States, we have been able to recruit over 300 poll workers and 375 poll chaplains. We would like to thank all of our election day volunteers for their commitment to democracy and the common good. Please pray for their ability to serve with faith and in safety today.

Just Peace Action Opportunities

Gaza Children's Shroud Coming to DC
Join us in DC for some major actions centered around the Gaza Children's Shroud which has the inscribed names of 20,000 Palestinian children killed during the Gaza war since 2023. Events are planned from Nov. 12-22, with large prayerful mobilizations on Nov. 12 (at the House of Representatives), 13 (religious site procession), and 16 (Senate). Many Catholic priests are helping to organize the event, including Franciscans. You can watch this video to learn more about the Shroud.

Catholic Theologian Letter to USCCB regarding the war in Iran
If you are a Catholic theologian, please consider signing on to and sharing this letter with other theologians from the U.S. and abroad before October 23. The letter expresses its appreciation for previous efforts by particular bishops and encourages the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops to speak out clearly during their November national gathering.

This Week: Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference

From November 7-9, 170 Franciscan-hearted participants will gather in the DC area for our annual Franciscan Justice Leadership Conference. Attendees include students and staff from 10 colleges, FJC members, Franciscan religious, Secular Franciscans, and more. Our weekend will culminate in an advocacy day on Capitol Hill, which you can participate in even from home! We will be providing virtual advocacy opportunities on the morning of November 9 to couple with our in-person meetings. Please pray for the conference participants and the Hill staffers we will be meeting with.

Shop our Webstore!

You can show your support for Franciscan values and faith-based advocacy by wearing FAN and Franciscan Justice Circle merchandise, including t-shirts and sweatshirts. When you wear our shirts or hoodies, you show your support for justice, peace, creation, and human dignity, and you open the possibility of conversations with others about those values. Shop the collection here.

Franciscan Justice Circles

The **Bay Area & Northern CA FJC** wrote a sign-on letter and has been busy gathering hundreds of signatures to add to the letter to Governor Newsom urging the commutation of roughly 600 death row sentences in the state of California. The **SoCal FJC** has collaborated in collecting these signatures as well, in order to deliver a strongly supported request to the governor.

Upcoming Franciscan Justice Circle (FJC) gatherings:

Kansas FJC: Tue. Nov. 3 at 7:00 pm CT via Zoom
Ohio FJC: Wed. Nov. 4 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom
Virtual FJC (ltd. mobility): Thur. Nov. 5 at 11:00 am PT / 2:00 pm ET via Zoom
Central MD FJC: Thur. Nov. 5 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom
Chicagoland FJC: Sat. Nov. 7 at 10:00 am CT via Zoom
Central VA FJC: Mon. Nov. 9 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**.