

Franciscan Action Network

2018 Annual Report



Dear Friends:
Peace and All Good!

Saint Francis of Assisi is credited with saying, “Start by doing what's necessary. Then do what's possible and suddenly you are doing the impossible.” The Franciscan Action Network (FAN) has been doing the impossible for 10 years, thanks to your continued support. We are honored to work with you as together we continue bringing a Franciscan voice to the public sphere as we engage the issues so important to Franciscans and all people of faith.

How time flies! Ten years ago 150 Franciscans gathered in Baltimore for a meeting which resulted in the creation of the Franciscan Action Network (FAN). FAN was commissioned to present a unified Franciscan voice for peace and justice in Washington, D.C. Since the early days, FAN has grown into a well-respected organization representing Franciscans and Franciscan hearted people throughout the USA. FAN has become known in Washington D.C. and beyond as being rooted in the Gospel values of Jesus Christ as inspired by Saint Francis & Saint Clare of Assisi.

Through the prayers and support of the Franciscan Family, we have been able to come this far by collaborating with faith-based groups and secular partners on important social justice advocacy issues. We have also been the lead organizers for a variety of campaigns including [Fast 4 Families](#) where we advocated for immigration reform, the People's Climate Marches in both [NYC](#) and [DC](#), [Pope Francis' Visit to the U.S.](#) and [screenings of the “Sultan and the Saint”](#) docudrama. While continuing with these projects we look forward to accomplishing new initiatives in 2019, as we begin the next ten years of FAN.

Looking to the future, we seek to continue hearing and responding to the cry of the planet and the cry of the poor, ever mindful of the words of Saint Clare, “Love that cannot suffer with, is not worthy of that name.”

From the Executive Director, Patrick Carolan

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Franciscan Action Network Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for your enduring support - your passion for justice, your voices, your prayers, and the generosity of your time and your financial support. It is through the dedication and generosity of our members and friends that FAN has grown to become the well-respected organization it is today.

The staff and board have reflected throughout 2018 on the origins and the hopes in the creation of FAN, the challenges we have faced and the achievements attained, yet with the clear knowledge that our work is far from done! Our Franciscan spirituality and intellectual tradition are sought and embraced by more and more people who yearn for deeper values to guide and connect them with others. FAN's foundation, rooted in our Franciscan spirit and life, is built on relationships and we are greatly encouraged by those new faces we meet.

In this challenging time, we hold tightly to our Franciscan spirituality and intellectual tradition which emphasizes the dignity of every person, the beauty and reflection of God in all creation, and the gospel transformation necessary to ensure justice and peace for all people. Francis' conversion began in the Church of San Damiano, when he heard the voice of the Christ in the image of the crucifix, call to him, "Go, Francis and repair my house, which as you see is falling into ruin." Throughout the course of his life, Francis grew in the realization that the "house" that was in need of repair was his own contemporary society and the Church. Today Franciscans continue to respond to the call to evangelize and to be the presence of Christ by their example, both in society and in the Church.

Following the examples of those who have gone before us, we are committed to promote the work of justice, peace and the integrity of creation in a spirit of humble service, giving "testimony in word and work", being the change that is needed today. We are deeply grateful for your continued support and prayers as together we work to be the agents of change and the instruments of God's presence in and for our world.

From the President, Sr. Margaret Magee, OSF

2018 Accomplishments

Celebrating our 10th Anniversary in 2018, the members of FAN look back to appreciate the accomplishment of many things. With increasing our presence on Capitol Hill and in the streets of Washington D.C., we met with legislators, prayed, protested, and risked arrest advocating for justice and civil discourse on issues related to our priorities of Poverty, Human Rights, Peacebuilding, and Care for Creation.

Consistent Ethic of Life

- Voter Guide - A Call to Holiness: A 2018 Mid-term Election Issue Guide for Voters - FAN staff helped write and develop with a number of national Catholic advocacy organizations in D.C. and distributed to members across the country.
- Act to End Racism rally in D.C. (*Pictured*) - FAN worked with the Archdiocese of Washington, the Diocese of Arlington, the USCCB, and other partners. There was a significantly large Franciscan presence at the event, due in part to the participation of many Franciscan Friars in formation supporting the march and its events. FAN staff member, Sr. Maria Orlandini, was among those practicing civil disobedience and arrested that day.
- FAN participated in the 2018: Pro-Life Rally in January, the Catholic Day of Action for Dreamers in February, the March for Our Lives to End Gun Violence in March, and the Love Has No Borders Event in December, held in San Diego.



Immigration/Human Dignity

- FAN and Franciscans were in the forefront for the Catholic Day for Dreamers. Conventual Franciscan Bishop John Stowe began the day celebrating Mass for those gathered and later led a prayer for those practicing civil disobedience. FAN's Sr. Marie Lucey was among those arrested in the Senate office building rotunda. *(Pictured)*
- FAN participated in the June Faith Week of Advocacy for Immigrants and Refugees in Capitol Hill.
- FAN honored three immigration advocacy partner organizations at our 10th Anniversary celebration in November – CASA, NAKASEC, and the Interfaith Immigration Coalition.
- FAN's Sr. Maria Orlandini spoke at a Human Trafficking Program at Trinity College in D.C.



Peacebuilding

- Patrick Carolan, Sr. Marie Lucey, Friar Michael Lasky (FAN board vice president) joined our partners at Unity Production Foundation in the promotion of the docudrama *The Sultan and the Saint*, with its European-Premier sponsored by the Franciscan Friars Conventual in both Rome and Assisi.
- Patrick and Friar Michael also participated in the screening of the film and panel discussion in London. While there they also met with representatives of the Franciscan Family in the UK who are looking at the possibility beginning a FAN in Great Britain. *(Pictured)*
- Sr. Maria Orlandini represented FAN as part of an Emergency Faith Delegation sent to Honduras to counter the violence suffered by the poor and vulnerable in that country after a flawed presidential election in November.
- FAN continues its work with Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence, advocating for gun safety legislation and promoting the December Sabbath Vigils.



Care for Creation

- World Parliament of Religions – Patrick Carolan participated on two panels concerning the environment.
- [Living the Change](#) – Collaborating with GreenFaith, FAN collected personal commitments of sustainable living, ahead of the COP in December.
- State of Appalachia Conference – FAN partnered and helped plan this discussion on the issue of Just Transition.
- FAN co-sponsored the St. Francis Forum of the Franciscan Friars Conventual, focusing on Environmental Justice from an interfaith perspective, as well as a symposium with representatives of Federal Agencies, to explore potential avenues of collaboration. *(Pictured)*
- [HBO Vice-News](#) featured Patrick Carolan in a piece concerning Environmental Justice.



Franciscan Solidarity Tables

- As part of FAN's strategic planning, we are preparing to launch a new initiative in 2019 called: Franciscan Solidarity Tables (FSTs).
- Br. Ed Falsey, OFM Conv. is the newest FAN staff member, hired to be the director of the program.
- Jason Miller (*Pictured, far right*) has shifted his work at FAN to concentrate on developing and laying a solid foundation for connecting FAN and its work in D.C. more specifically, to grassroots Franciscans and Franciscan hearted people, through the creation of the FSTs across the USA.



The Franciscan Family

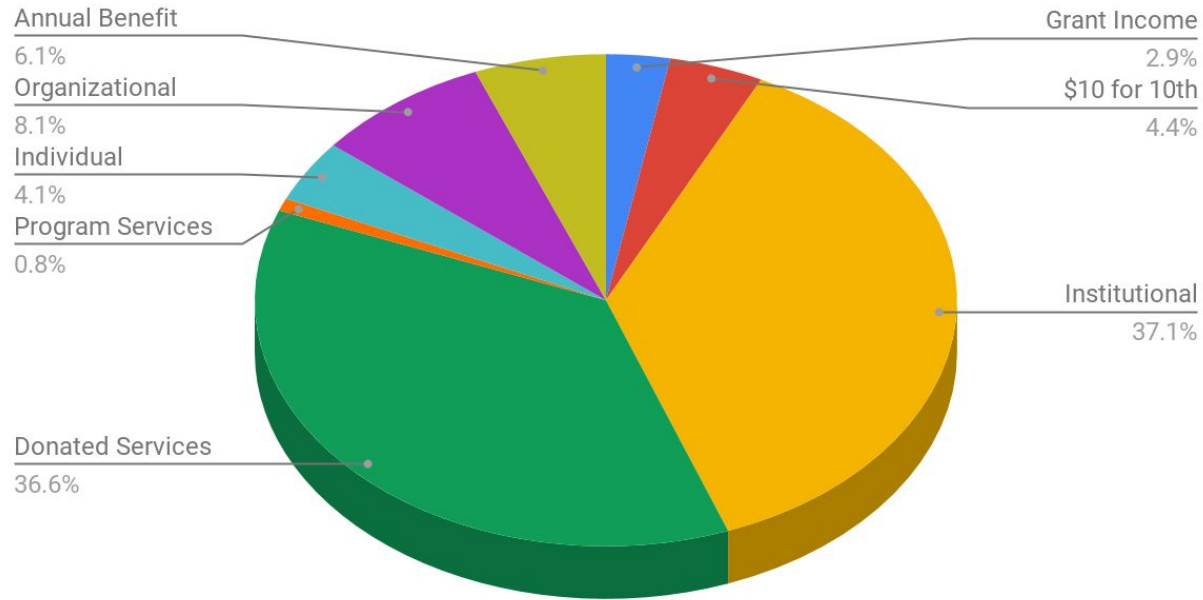
- FAN continues to respond to requests from the Franciscan Family and to be present at events such as the annual Franciscan Federation Gathering and assist the members of FAN in their various community work for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation.
- As 2019 is the 800th Anniversary of the historic encounter between the Sultan Malik Al-Kamil and Saint Francis, FAN has laid the groundwork in 2018 for fruitful interfaith encounters between Muslims and Christians through nationwide screenings of *The Sultan and The Saint*. (Pictured) FAN looks forward to commemorating this extraordinary encounter of two faith filled individuals who took considerable risks in the name of peace.



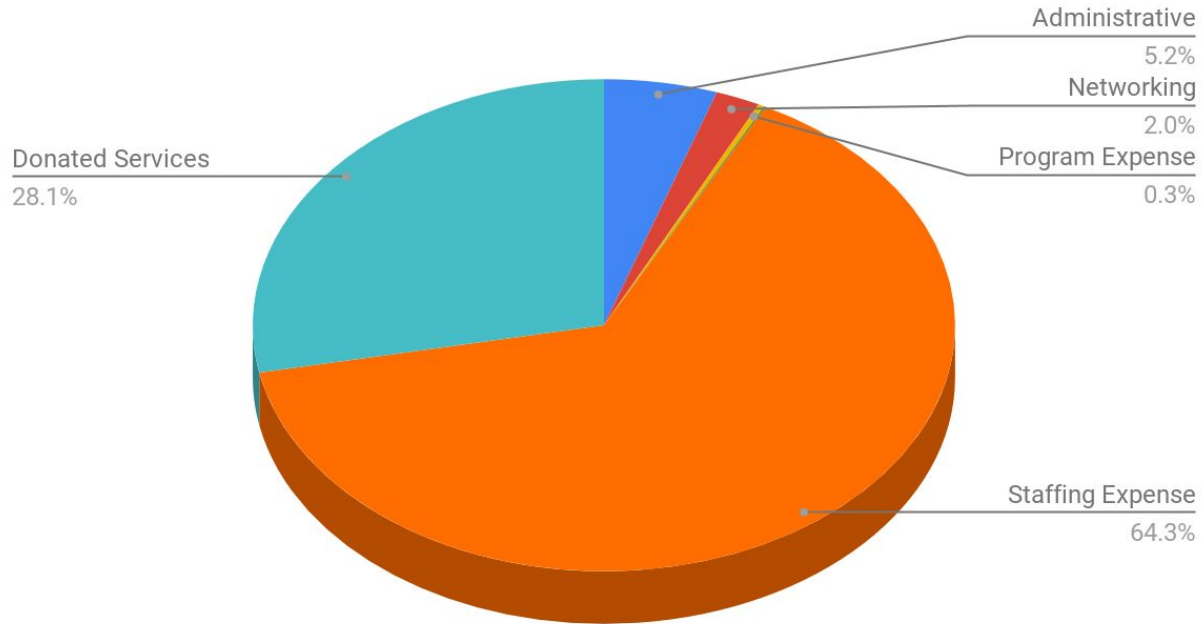
FAN Financials

FAN's primary source of ongoing funding is from our institutional members. Their financial support is essential as together we engage the issues so important to Franciscans and all people of faith.

2018 Income



2018 Expenses



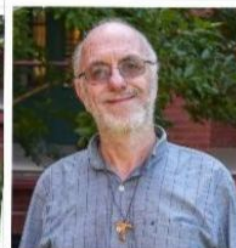


Franciscan Action Network at work in Washington, D.C.

FAN Staff



**Sr. Marie Lucey,
OSF**



Patrick Carolan



**Sr. Maria Orlandini,
OSF**



Janine Walsh



**Br. Ed Falsey, OFM
Conv.**



Jason Miller