

Faith in Action Ministry Prayer

April 2020

We Act for Justice



Leader: We call ourselves Franciscan or Franciscan-hearted, but what does that really mean? For this year, we offer you attributes that were developed by the staff at the FRC. Grounded in the spirituality and practice of Saints Francis and Clare, and then building on an understanding of the Franciscan charism and the core elements of Franciscan leadership, FRC staff developed this set of attributes. Attributes are behaviors that exemplify the values we hold dear. Let us now explore these attributes as they connect to our mission and

the projects of the Faith in Action Ministry.

This month we will explore the attribute: **We Act for Justice**

Scripture:

Isaiah 1:17

Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

Proverb 31:8-9

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Reader 1:

At the Franciscan Renewal Center, we respect the dignity of every person. Yet, far too often we see evidence of individuals and families—here, locally, as well as nationally and globally—whose basic human needs are not met, and whose ability to live a life of dignity is impaired or threatened. Our Franciscan tradition calls us to respond to and serve the needs of others with discernment and mindful action. There are many documented cases of action for justice by not only Francis, but also his followers.

- Margaret of Cortona who ultimately chose to live in poverty and established a hospital for the sick, homeless and impoverished.
- Anthony of Padua known for his powerful preaching and undying love and devotion to the poor and sick.
- Marianne Cope known for her work caring for persons suffering from leprosy.

Reader 2: What do we hear some of our community members saying about our action for justice?

“It means we want for others what we claim to want for ourselves. We want to be able to have our essential needs met, don’t we? Everyone should have that, in the world and here in Arizona.”

“This is where the rubber hits the road in living our faith, to act with justice. It’s connected with that first attribute, I think. We pray as if it all depends on God, but we put all our efforts into making the necessary changes in society.”

Leader: Sharing-- *How is this Franciscan?*

We commit ourselves to joining in solidarity with those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. This means we are called to be in right relationship with all people, all creation and be mindful of our human impact. Pause for a moment of reflection before sharing:

(Read questions, then pause and then share....)

1. What is the difference between compassion and justice? What does it mean to be in solidarity?
2. How does your ministry show this attribute of action for justice? How is that connected to being in right relationship?
3. In this time of uncertainty and in the midst of a global crisis, how do we as individuals or as ministry teams “act for justice”?

Closing:

God of Life and Justice enliven us with your Spirit. Renew in us the breath of hope and change. We share the questionings of all those who want to build a more human world, a world where hunger is no longer the daily fare for so many, a world at peace, a world where all may live in dignity and freedom. ***We confess that we often turn away. We ask that you, the God of courage be with us, keeping our hearts and minds open to new understandings and fresh ways. Amen.*** [LJL]