

# FRANCES PERKINS CENTER

**Frances Perkins** had the wisdom and courage to re-imagine the future of our nation amidst perilous times. Her pioneering leadership and enduring legacy changed our country, exemplifying the best of American ideals and aspirations.

*Icon written by Iconographer Suzanne Schleck  
located at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Newcastle, Maine.*

To appreciate thoroughly the life and accomplishments of Frances Perkins, a great agent of social change who served as Secretary of Labor throughout FDR's tenure, requires recognizing that faith was the foundation of who she was and all that she did. Paying attention to this foundation is not easy, however. Faith can be notoriously difficult to describe, and Frances did not readily speak about hers, especially during her many years as a civil servant and public figure.

For insight into this remarkable woman, I encourage you to read an article I wrote for The Living Church, [Frances Perkins—The Saint Behind the New Deal](#), which is highlighted on the Frances Perkins Center [website](#). It illustrates that she was a person of faith in the most promising sense of the word.



The Episcopal Church honors Frances with an annual feast day on **May 13**.

Frances Perkins honored her vocation by promoting, and often delivering, justice and material blessing for everyone, especially those most in need. She summed up her service as Labor Secretary in these memorable words: "I came to Washington to work for God, FDR, and the millions of forgotten, plain common workingmen."

Her faith was nourished by a social Christianity that was needed in her time and remains essential as we face many of the same challenges today. We look forward to bringing new programs where we can explore this heritage together.

*(The Rev.) Charles Hoffacker  
Frances Perkins Center Board of Directors  
Priest of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington*

**Give thanks for Frances Perkins  
and her prophetic stand,  
that gained social security  
for people of this land.  
An advocate for justice,  
by Christian faith inspired,  
she fought for human dignity  
with zeal that never tired.**

Stanza about Frances Perkins added to the hymn: "*By All Your Saints Still Striving.*"

*Written by the Revered Byron Stuhlman,  
Retired Priest and member of St. Andrew's  
Episcopal Church in Newcastle, ME.*