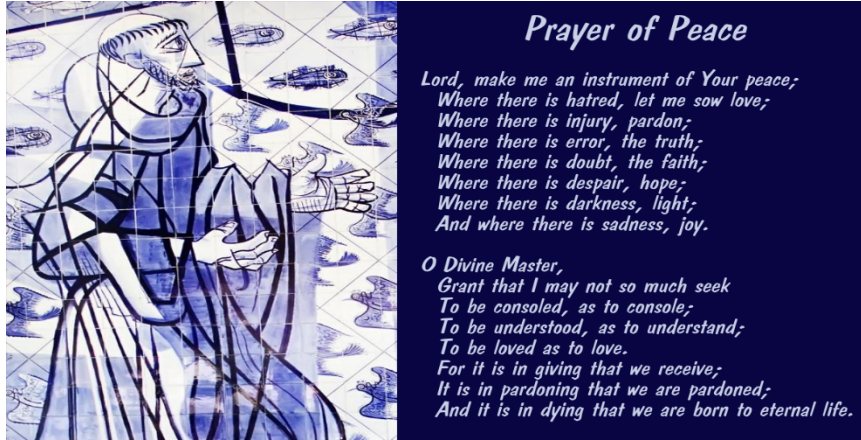


Ongoing Formation (10)

Reflection on last month's resolution:

Topic Peacemaking



Franciscans are called to be people of peace, non-violence and reconciliation in our families, church, community and world. To be an agent of peace, a peacemaker like Francis, by crossing enemy lines, showing respect and love and proclaiming the mercy of God. (Padre Pio Centre)

Rule: Chapter Two Rule 19

Mindful that they are bearers of peace which must be built up unceasingly, they should seek out ways of unity and fraternal harmony through dialogue, trusting in the presence of the divine seed in everyone and in the transforming power of love and pardon.

Constitutions: Article 23.1,23.2,23.3

23.1 Peace is the work of justice and the fruit of reconciliation and of fraternal love. Secular Franciscans are called to be bearers of peace in their families and in society:

- *They should see to the proposal and spreading of peaceful ideas and attitudes*
- *They should develop their own initiatives and should collaborate, individually and as a fraternity, with initiatives of the Pope, the local Churches and the Franciscan family*
- *They should collaborate with those movements and institutions which promote peace while respecting its authentic foundations.*

23.2 While acknowledging both the personal and National right to legitimate defence, they should respect the choice of those who, because of conscientious objection, refuse to bear arms.

23.3 To preserve peace in the family, the brothers and sisters should, in due time, make a last will and testament for disposition of their goods.

Scripture: Isaiah 52:7

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion "Your God reigns."

Writings of St Francis:

Fioretti

While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart.

Legend of Three Companions

As he later testified, he learned a greeting of this sort by the Lord's revelation;" May the Lord give you peace!" Therefore, in all his preaching, he greeted the people at the beginning of his sermon with a proclamation of peace.

Church documents:

Pacem in Terris John XXIII 1963

Peace on Earth – which man throughout the ages has so longed for and sought after – can never be established, never guaranteed, except by diligent observance of the divinely established order.(n1)

Human society, as we here picture it ,demands that men be guided by justice, respect the rights of others and do their duty. It demands too that they be animated by such love as will make them feel the needs of others as their own,and induce them to share their goods with others, and to strive in the world to make all men alike heirs to the noblest of intellectual and spiritual values.(n 36)

Points to ponder:

1. What actions in your own life are focused on peacemaking? How do you work to keep peace?
2. Which line of the Peace Prayer most speaks to you? Why?

Resolution: For the next month, what is one specific action that you could undertake to increase peace? It may be within your family or with society as a whole or even within the fraternity.