

*To Be an Instrument of GOD's Peace*

**I. MATTHEW 28:18-20 – The Great Commission**

18 Then JESUS approached and said to them, “All power in Heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in The Name of The Father, and of The Son, and of The HOLY SPIRIT,

20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of The Age.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 1, NAB, MATTHEW 28:18-20.

## **II. Saint Francis of Assisi**

In the early 1200's in Italy, a wealthy young man by the name of Francis, having lived a riotous life of luxury, carousing, military service and illness, one day heard The Voice of The Lord when in The Church of San Damiano, "Francis, repair my falling house!"<sup>2</sup>

In 1210 The then Pope recognized The Order of The Franciscans. When Saint Francis sent his Monks out to minister, he is said to have instructed them, "Go forth and preach The Gospel of CHRIST at all times. And when necessary, use words!"<sup>3</sup>

Francis turned from a life of wealthy privilege to care for the sick and the poor and to build up again The Church. He was called to a life of being in the world, but not of the world; to be at Peace with GOD and man; to be an instrument and center of GOD's Peace to others and to himself.

Saint Francis of Assisi was called to be a vessel of Divine compassion; to be a channel of GOD's Love; to embrace a life of poverty and service for CHRIST's Sake and for the sake of others; to be a beacon of True Love of GOD and man in action, as well as in word. Indeed, we may hear Saint Francis instructing us, "Go forth and preach The Gospel of CHRIST at all times. And when necessary, use words!"

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<sup>2</sup> 2, Kiefer, "Francis of Assisi, Friar," p 1, paragraph 1.

<sup>3</sup> 2, Ibid., p 1, paragraph 5.

### **III. Being Used as Instruments of GOD's Peace**

So we see in the life of Saint Francis, as he followed CHRIST and The Apostles, how we too can make a profound difference for Good in this world in both the big and in the small events and meetings of our lives! We are all called to love of GOD & others above self, fulfilling of The Two Great Commandments; to live lives with The Fruits of The Spirit, bringing forth Good Works; to walk in humility.

Further, to be in service to those who are in need, ill, poor, destitute and dying – the forgotten ones; to be filled with GOD's Peace, fully in the world, but not of the world; to preach The Gospel at all times, not only in words, but even more so in deeds; to live The Great Commission of The Good News of CHRIST's Love. Thus may we truly be used as instruments of GOD's Peace for others, especially those in need, and even for ourselves!

#### **IV. A Prayer with Saint Francis of Assisi**

Let us come before The LORD, each according to his and her own Tradition:

The LORD be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up unto The LORD!

Let us give thanks unto The LORD!

It is right to give Him thanks and praise!

Let us pray as did Saint Francis of Assisi:

“Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

Where there is injury, pardon.

Where there is doubt, Faith.

Where there is despair, hope.

Where there is darkness, light.

And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,

grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled  
as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive.

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.

And it is in dying unto Thee, O CHRIST,  
that we are reborn to eternal life...!”<sup>4</sup>

AMEN!

Let us go forth to love and serve The LORD!

Thanks be to GOD!

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<sup>4</sup> 3, Saint Francis, Adapted from “Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi.”

**V. References**

1. New American Bible. U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/books-of-the-bible/index.cfm>

2. “Francis of Assisi, Friar.” James E. Kiefer. Biographical Sketches of Memorable Christians of the Past. Retrieved 11/04/2004.

<http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bio/258.html>

3. “Peace Prayer of Saint Francis.” Saint Francis of Assisi. Loyola Press. New link on 4/18/2020.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/prayer/traditional-catholic-prayers/saints-prayers/peace-prayer-of-saint-francis/>