

St. Francis, Bringer of Peace

By Fr. Glenn McDonald, CSB

Just before the new year began, I had the pleasure to give a retreat about St. Francis. Learning about his extraordinary life and his closeness to God was a wonderful gift. Francis had a special connection to all of creation. He gave away all his possessions to care for the poor, healed lepers, preached to birds, and even befriended a wild wolf. Francis brought peace to whomever he encountered.

The more I learned about Francis, the more I wondered, “How does he do it?” Then I rediscovered for myself the prayer of St. Francis, which beautifully captures his way of bringing peace to all.

As we begin 2024, I invite you to make peace a part of your year with a little help from St. Francis.

The Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your 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;

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 that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.