



Sacred Heart Province
October 4, 2020



Feast of St. Francis

"Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace!"

MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT (KURK VAN SICKLE)

Make me an instrument, God, of thy peace as I let go, as I release.

Make me an instrument, humble and free as I awaken the living Christ in me.

Make me an instrument, God, of thy peace, as I give love, love I receive.

Make me an instrument, humble and free as I awaken the living Christ in me.

FORGIVENESS:

- (1) Recall the ways we have acted in separation from others.
(*Moment of silence.*)
- (2) Jesus, Lamb of God, nonviolent one, who touches brokenness with mercy, lead us to peace.

ST. FRANCIS' PRAISES OF GOD-BROTHER LEO (SHORT VERSION):

- (3) You alone are holy, Lord: wonderful are your deeds: you are strong, you are great, You are the most high, Almighty God, Holy One.
- (4) You are love, You are Wisdom, Humility. You are Patience, You are Beauty.
- (5) You are three in One, God above all other gods; You are Good, the highest Good, our living Beloved One, our true God.
- (6) You are Courage and Gentleness; you protect and strengthen us. You are our Hope and our Joy.
- (7) You are our love, Beloved One: full, eternal life. You are our hope our faith, our Brother, all merciful, our savior.

READING: FRANCIS' LETTER TO A MINISTER:

- (8) "May the Lord bless you! I speak to you, as best I can, about the state of your soul. You must consider as grace all that impedes you from loving God and whoever has become an impediment to you, whether brothers, sisters, or others, even if they lay hands on you. And may you want it to be this way and not otherwise. And let this be for you the true obedience of God, for I know with certitude that is true obedience. And love those who do those things to you and do not wish anything different from them unless it is something our God shall have given you ... Our friends, therefore, are all those who unjustly bring us distress and anguish, shame and injury, sorrow and punishment, martyrdom and death. We must love them greatly for we will possess eternal life because of what they bring us." *(Moment of silence)*

PRAYER RESPONSE:

- (9) Francis longed to be led by the Spirit of God. This same desire is ours today as we seek to serve God through lives of continuous conversion. Francis urged us to love God with our whole heart, our whole soul and mind, with all our strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves.
- (10) *Gracious God may we stand before you humbly and come to recognize your goodness in all that touches our lives.*
- (11) Francis prayed that we would always make our hearts a dwelling place and home for God so that we might grow in love for God and one another.
- (12) *Loving God, may it become obvious that we are joyful and happy in you and willing to serve others, especially the poor and the unloved.*
- (13) Francis constantly reminded his brothers that as they announced peace with their lips, it was even more important that they carry it within their own hearts. Everyone should be moved to peace, good will and mercy because of their gentleness.
- (14) *Gentle God, may our openness to your Spirit and our willingness to forgive and ask pardon, teach us the ways of peace, justice and mercy in a graced and fragile world cherished by You.*

Let us pause a minute to add our own petitions in the quiet of our hearts.

In closing, I would like to extend to each of you Francis' special blessing:

*May God bless and keep you.
May God's face shine upon you.
And may God turn to you and give you peace.*