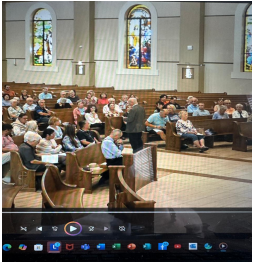


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Mission Statement: Living the Spirit of Assisi

The Franciscan Ministry of Peace promotes the “Spirit of Assisi” by working for peace through prayer, action, music, education, and advocacy for the protection of all life God has created in our Common Home. The Spirit of Assisi began on October 27, 1986, when Pope John Paul II hosted more than 172 spiritual leaders from around the world to pray together for global peace.

We believe true peace grows through dialogue, common ground, and recognizing one another as beloved creations of God. Guided by Francis of Assisi, we seek to continue his vision of harmony with all people and all creation.

We live this mission through prayer, action, and education. We invite you to join our outreach by becoming a Prayer Partner, supporting monthly giving to outreach centers in your area, taking and living the Pledge of Nonviolence, and helping share the need for peace in our world.



The Kingdom of God and Community of Creation

This past year, I have been reading and reflecting a lot about the Kingdom of God. As I have read *Laudato Si*, Scripture, and articles concerning Francis of Assisi and creation, some ideas have come to mind. Jesus is quoted as saying in Luke 17:21 “that the Kingdom of God is in your midst.” How exciting to know that it is already among us! If this is true, how does the Kingdom of God reveal itself? I propose that it does so in one another, in creation, and in God's love as expressed in time, place, events, and the community of creation.

God's goodness is expressed in the Creator has made. Francis of Assisi realized this so well that he called all creation brothers and sisters (see the *Canticle of the Creatures*). In Francis' mind, there was a wholeness in all creation because God created all, in love, and called it good.

This wholeness/peace/shalom of creation is the starting point for our searching for our place in the Community of Creation/Kingdom of God, by asking who we are, who is the gift, and who has given the gift? What is our relationship to all that God has created, and what steps can we take to love, honor, and participate in the Community of Creation?

Franciscan Ministry of Peace sees the value of this understanding of the Community of Creation, and indeed, it is the heart of our mission to promote peace in the world. The lens to see all as gift—created in the image of God—and in relationship with one another affords us to rejoice in the words of Jesus, “The Kingdom of God is in you.” We celebrate this month the Season of Creation. We rejoice in the gift.

News

White Socks for Safety

This month, our ministry is offering a 'White Socks for Safety' campaign to help those who are experiencing housing insecurity with socks that can help them. You can help us at Franciscan Ministry of Peace with our local Mission, or you can bundle up socks for your local Mission and outreach to help those who are in need. White Socks are a must for caring for the feet of those who are on the streets, since walking is their main source of transportation. The number one concern for those who are experiencing housing insecurity is healthy, dry feet. If you can help us directly, please send white tube socks, or white footies, or any kind of white socks to 5490 Laurel Oak Drive, Winter Haven, Florida, 33880.

Play for Peace Event



On August 29th, Franciscan Ministry of Peace participated in the 'Play Music on the Porch Day: Play for Peace' event. Kim Conley, Louis Canter, and others gathered to sing and play music as a way to find peace through the gift of music. Music of Joni Mitchell, The Beatles, Peter, Paul, and Mary, Bob Dylan, Dolly Parton, and others were shared as part of the global event,

Clare of Assisi Retreat

On August 30th, Sr. Colleen, Sr. Jo, and Bro. Louis presented a day long retreat at Franciscan Center in Tampa. Topics on Clare and community, contemplation, and creation were discussed and reflected upon through dialogue, music, and stories. This was a live and Zoom event.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/YSlis4d0gutwJjo6D-0tSZV1e29eviUyaQVaH98pRkPYs9dPR5zzHRZHrjgLRh3t.3MAUCmYIsN4C5DZB>

Calendar of Events

September 6: Mass at the Oratory
September 13: Mass at the Oratory
September 20: Mass at the Oratory
September 27 Mass at the Oratory

September 27: Midday Prayer on Zoom

