

**ST MARY OF THE ANGELS FRATERNITY
ORDER OF THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN
THE ANGELUS * SEPTEMBER 19, 2021**



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SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT'S MESSAGE

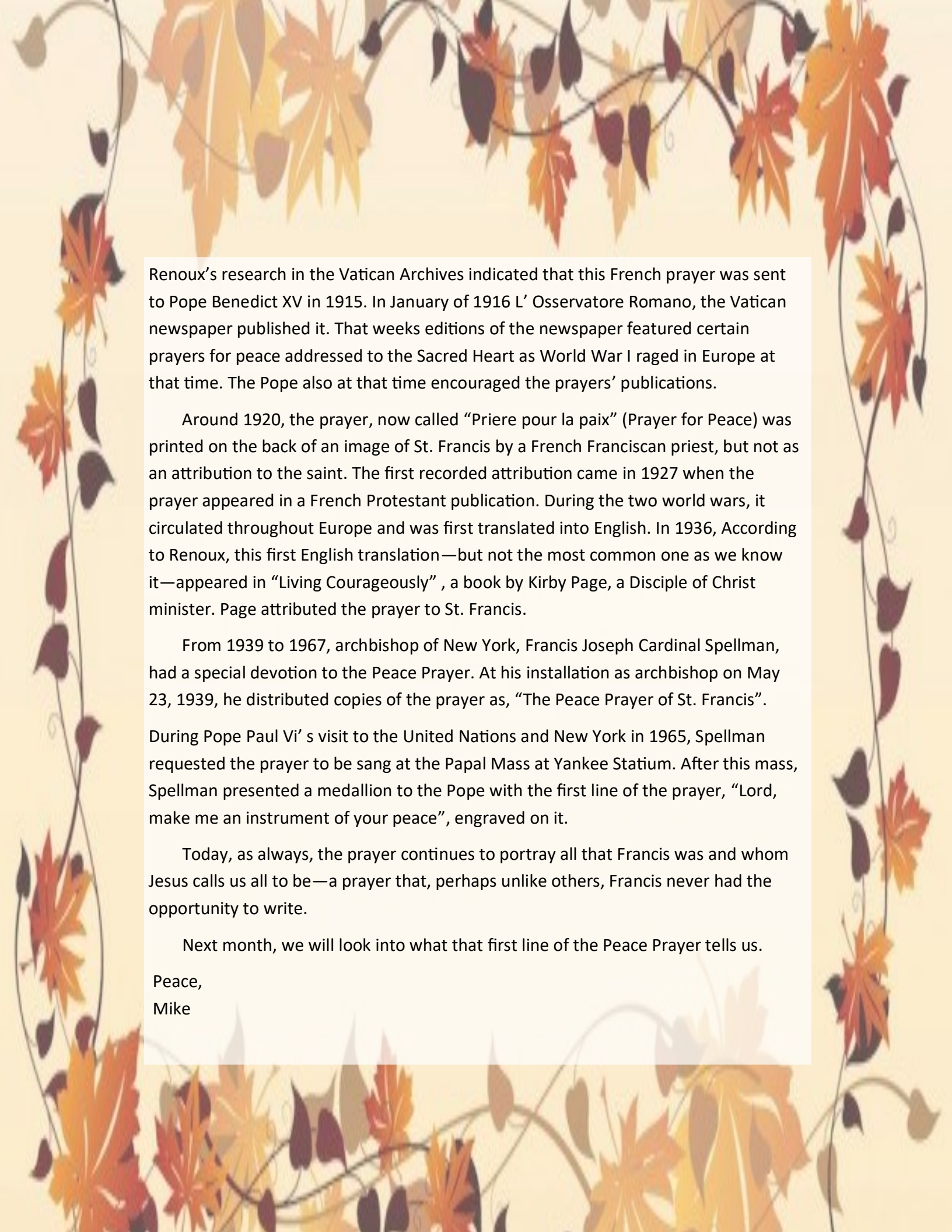
September, 2021

Starting with this month and for the next several months, my articles will expound on the clauses of a prayer we as Franciscans are very familiar with: The Peace Prayer of St. Francis. They are based on a book I recently read entitled, "Instruments Of Christ, Reflections on the Peace Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi" by Albert Haase, OFM. And published by Franciscan Media. Please read the book when you have the opportunity for I feel it gives you much insight into why we pray this prayer as Franciscans.

The Peace Prayer has been prayed not only in Christian churches, but in Jewish synagogues as well as by Muslims. We have seen it displayed ornamentally as in written in fine calligraphy, mounted on plaques, or framed. It has been memorized, like I have, and prayed in formal settings like in sessions of the United States Senate and at the inauguration of Margaret Thatcher as prime minister. It has been delivered at the funerals of Mother Theresa of Calcutta and Diana, Princess of Wales. Let us not leave out all of the occasions of its musical versions at weddings, anniversaries, ordinations, retreats, and of course our own rituals, such as our professions. The Peace Prayer is truly for all our times and peoples.

Most Franciscans and most other people know this prayer by its title, "The Peace Prayer of St. Francis". But many are not aware that St. Francis was not its author, nor do we know just how it became attributed with the saint. The French scholar, Christian Renoux, who has done extensive research into the history of this prayer, still refers to it as "a riddle to be solved". He claimed that the prayer as we know it has its roots in the twentieth century. This in spite of his finding of a French prayer having a similarity to the first part of the Peace Prayer. This prayer can be traced back to the early eleventh century—nearly two hundred years before the birth of St. Francis.

The first appearance of the Peace Prayer was in 1912 when a French priest by the name of Esther Bouquerel published it in his magazine, "La Clochette". It was a magazine put out by La Ligue de la Sainte-Messe (The Holy Mass League) which Bouquerel founded in 1901. The prayer was published under the title, "Belle priere a faire pendent la messe" (A Beautiful Prayer to Say During Mass). Since there was no author's name accompanying the prayer, Renoux presumed the possibility that the author was Bouquerel himself.

A decorative border of autumn leaves and vines surrounds the text. The leaves are in shades of orange, red, and brown, and the vines are dark brown with small leaves.

Renoux's research in the Vatican Archives indicated that this French prayer was sent to Pope Benedict XV in 1915. In January of 1916 *L' Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper published it. That weeks editions of the newspaper featured certain prayers for peace addressed to the Sacred Heart as World War I raged in Europe at that time. The Pope also at that time encouraged the prayers' publications.

Around 1920, the prayer, now called "Priere pour la paix" (Prayer for Peace) was printed on the back of an image of St. Francis by a French Franciscan priest, but not as an attribution to the saint. The first recorded attribution came in 1927 when the prayer appeared in a French Protestant publication. During the two world wars, it circulated throughout Europe and was first translated into English. In 1936, According to Renoux, this first English translation—but not the most common one as we know it—appeared in "Living Courageously" , a book by Kirby Page, a Disciple of Christ minister. Page attributed the prayer to St. Francis.

From 1939 to 1967, archbishop of New York, Francis Joseph Cardinal Spellman, had a special devotion to the Peace Prayer. At his installation as archbishop on May 23, 1939, he distributed copies of the prayer as, "The Peace Prayer of St. Francis".

During Pope Paul Vi' s visit to the United Nations and New York in 1965, Spellman requested the prayer to be sang at the Papal Mass at Yankee Statium. After this mass, Spellman presented a medallion to the Pope with the first line of the prayer, "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace", engraved on it.

Today, as always, the prayer continues to portray all that Francis was and whom Jesus calls us all to be—a prayer that, perhaps unlike others, Francis never had the opportunity to write.

Next month, we will look into what that first line of the Peace Prayer tells us.

Peace,
Mike

LETS REALLY CELEBRATE THESE AMAZING AUGUST FEAST DAYS!

St. THERESA OF CALCUTTA— SEPTEMBER 5



The whole of Mother Teresa's life and labour bore witness to the joy of loving, the greatness and dignity of every human person, the value of little things done faithfully and with love, and the surpassing worth of friendship with God. But there was another heroic side of this great woman that was revealed only after her death. Hidden from all eyes, hidden even from those closest to her, was her interior life marked by an experience of a deep, painful and abiding feeling of being separated from God, even rejected by Him, along with an ever-increasing longing for His love. She called her inner experience, "the darkness." The "painful night" of her soul, which began around the time she started her work for the poor and continued to the end of her life, led Mother Teresa to an ever more profound union with God. Through the darkness, she mystically participated in the thirst of Jesus, in His painful and burning longing for love, and she shared in the interior desolation of the poor. ..

ST. JEROME—SEPTEMBER 30

One of the greatest Biblical scholars of Christendom, Saint Jerome was born of Christian parents at Stridon in Dalmatia around the year 345. Educated at the local school, he then studied rhetoric in Rome for eight years, before returning to Aquilea to set up a community of ascetics.

When that community broke up after three years Jerome went to the east. He met an old hermit named Malchus, who inspired the saint to live in a bare cell, dressed in sack-cloth, studying the Scripture .


...Here too he began his finest work. Commissioned by the pope, he began to revise the Latin version of the psalms and the New Testament, with immense care and scholarship.

Jerome eventually translated the whole of the Bible into the Latin version which is known as the Vulgate. But when Damasus died, his enemies forced the saint to leave Rome....



Reference:

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2020-09-30>



Happy Birthday to Dale Eppig on September 8th!

Pray for the needs and intentions of our fraternity members.

The September Mass for the living and deceased members of St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity is Saturday, September 4th at 8:30 a.m. at the Shrine of St. Jude Church

Please donate non-perishable food items at the St. Stephen's Food Pantry at St. Jude's. See www.facebook.com/StStephenfoodpantry for details.

Blessings, Genie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are now meeting on the third Sunday of the month.

Lilian Soriano will be leading the discussion on "Live Like Francis",
Chapter 18 - Humility the twin of the poverty (page 80).

Come prepared to share..

Tom McGrath will be leading the Christian prayer.

Your Franciscan Saints September Feast Day from our directory or a
favorite Franciscan September Saint.

If you don't know the feast day, seek Catholic Saints Feast Days on the
internet and come prepared to share about them.

PILGRIMAGE AT THE EMMITSBURG GROTTTO

The Pilgrimage is on **September 11, 2021** at the **Emmitsburg Grotto**

We will meet at the **Saint Joseph Church** at **10 am**.

Mass will be held at the Grotto,

Please bring money for lunch.



Receive a daily email featuring, in monthly rotation,
The Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order, the Admonitions of St. Francis, an
article from the OFS General Constitutions, the USA National Statutes, Little
Flowers of St. Francis, a Franciscan quote, and additionally, the Franciscan saint
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Prayer to Our Lady of Sorrows

*Our mother of sorrows, with strength
from above you stood by the cross,
sharing in the sufferings of Jesus, and
with tender care you bore him in your
arms, mourning and weeping.*

*We praise you for your faith, which
accepted the life God planned for you.
We praise you for your hope, which
trusted that God would do great things in
you. We praise you for your love in
bearing with Jesus the sorrows of his
passion.*

*Holy Mary, may we follow your
example, and stand by all your children
who need comfort and love.*

*Mother of God, stand by us in our trials
and care for us in our many needs. Pray
for us now and at the hour of our death.*

Amen!



GBL HC-103
Printed in Italy

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Our move to Our Lady of Grace was seamless and grace-filled.

Father Jim welcomed us warmly in person and even had goody bags waiting for us. Its clear Father expects our prayerful and loving presence to be felt throughout the parish and I know we won't let him down.

The round tables and chairs were both comfortable and conducive to our small group discussions. Tom successfully set up Zoom and our out of area members were able to participate even in small groups thanks to Michael Oliver.

It was definitely a good move!

Our pilgrimage to honor St. Joseph by visiting St. Joseph's Church in Emmitsburg on September 11th promises to be a very special spiritual event.

John DiBenedeto will be taking a Franciscan Saint's name at the church. Connie will be joining us by Zoom to do the same. Perhaps Greg, Mark, Jennifer and Annette will also take this opportunity to take the name of the Franciscan Saint if their choice by zoom.

The prayer we use was written with love by Genie and is included herein.

I know that I am grateful daily that I was able "to take" of taking the names of St Padre Pio and St Agnes of Prague.

This month we will begin a new practice of presenting a brief highlight about our chosen saints at our meeting. Anyone with a Saint whose feast day falls in September is invited (and expected) to present something about your name Saint!

This is an opportunity to draw more closely into this privilege we have exercised and honor our dear name saints.

Please try to participate!

Finally, please remember to try your best this month to honor Our Lady of Sorrows. September is the month devoted in her honor. Perhaps you could honor her through saying a Rosary of Our Lady's sorrows or a litany, or honoring a picture of her.

God bless us all!

Susan

