



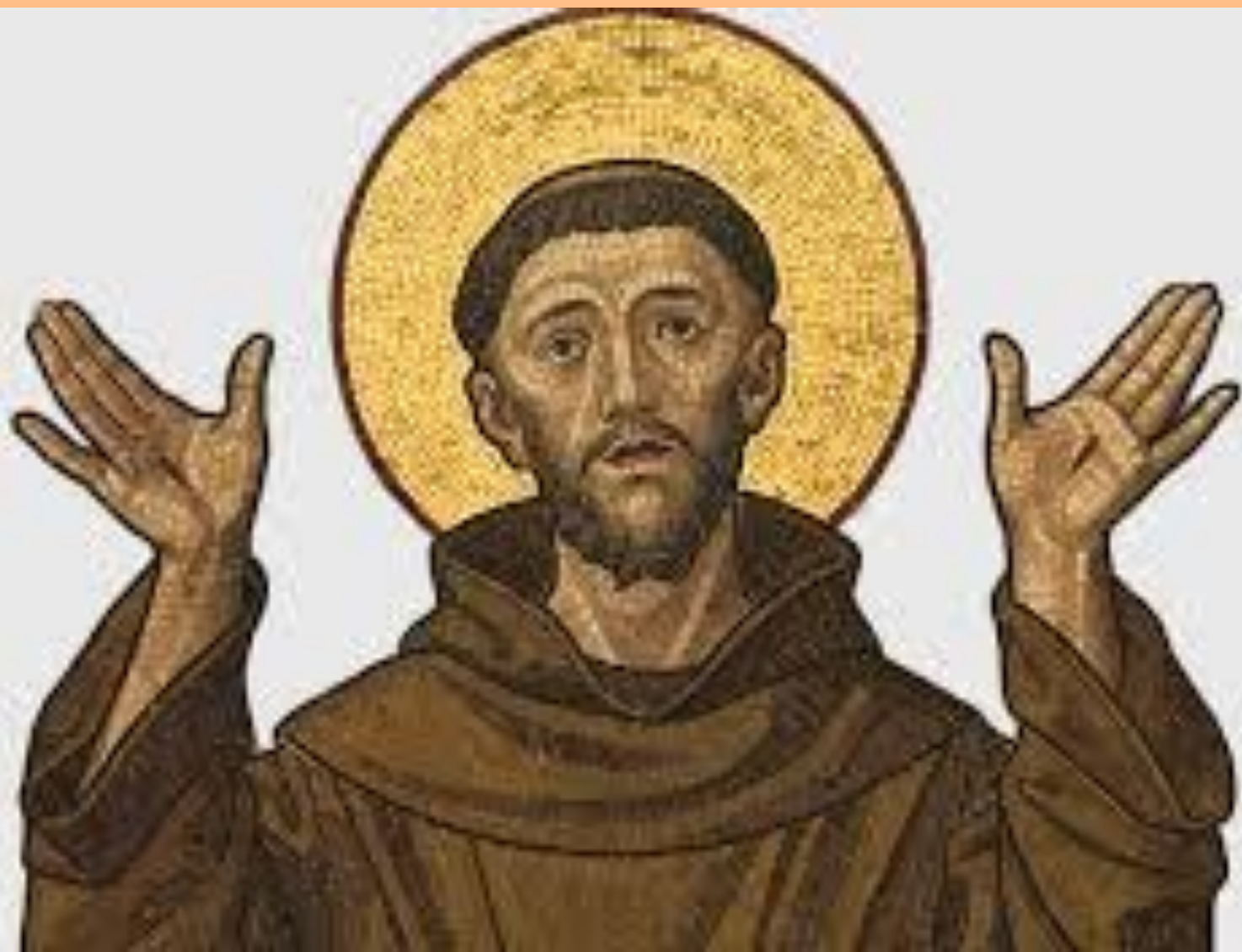
*Welcome*



# **FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY**

**Imitating Christ  
in the Footsteps of  
St. Francis  
of Assisi  
Sharing: 2**

## 2. INSTRUMENT OF PEACE



- **St. Francis was a **man of peace**.**
- **Everyday we pray the prayer ascribed to St. Francis: “Lord, Make me an **instrument of peace**”.**
- **Pope John Paul II wrote on the occasion of the World Day of Peace, 1 January 1990, that Francis "invited all of creation – animals, plants, natural forces, even Brother Sun and Sister Moon – to give honour and praise to the Lord. The poor man of Assisi gives us striking witness that when we are **at peace with God** we are better able to devote ourselves to building up that **peace with all creation** which is inseparable from peace among all peoples”.**

- **One of the significant events in the life of St Francis of Assisi was the meeting between him and Sultan al-Malik al-Kamil, who ruled Egypt, Palestine and Syria during the Fifth and Sixth Crusades. His primary motivation was to bring a message of peace to the Sultan and bring an end to the war between two religions. If he did not succeed in his mission of peace, he wanted to die as a martyr. He so impressed the Sultan that, while he did not convert him to Christianity, he won his respect and the custody of the Holy Places and Shrines in the Holy Land.**
- **Francis was a changed man from this meeting. In his Rule of 1221, the so-called Earlier Rule, he advised the friars to submit to the non-Christian authorities when they go among Muslims and others who do not practise Christianity, and not engage in disputes or disagreements, only proclaiming the Gospel when it pleases God.**

# 7 VERSES FROM THE WORD OF GOD

An open book with a worn, brown leather cover is shown from a top-down perspective. The pages are aged and yellowed. The words "God's Word" are written across the center of the open pages in a large, elegant, black cursive script. The book is held open by a small, light-colored metal fastener at the bottom center.

*God's Word*

# 1. JESUS IS THE PRINCE OF PEACE

**Isaiah 9:6-7a**

***For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace.**  
Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.***

# 2. JESUS BROUGHT GOD'S PEACE

**Luke 2:13-14**

***Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,***

***“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth **peace to those** on whom his favor rests.”***



# 3. JESUS LEFT PEACE WITH US

John 14:27

*Peace I leave with you;  
my peace I give you. I do not give to  
you as the world gives. Do not let your  
hearts be troubled and  
do not be afraid.*

# 4. THE RISEN JESUS GREETED WITH PEACE

**John 20:19-29**

**On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”**

# 5. JESUS TAUGHT US TO OFFER PEACE

Lk 10:5

“When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you.”

# 6. PEACE MAKING IS A BLESSING

**Matt. 5:9**

**Jesus said,**

**“Blessed are the **peacemakers,****

**because**

**they will be called sons of God”**

# 7. PEACE MAKERS ARE RIGHTEOUS

James 3:17-18

The fruit of righteousness  
is sown in peace  
by those who make peace.

# POPE FRANCIS THE PEACE MAKER

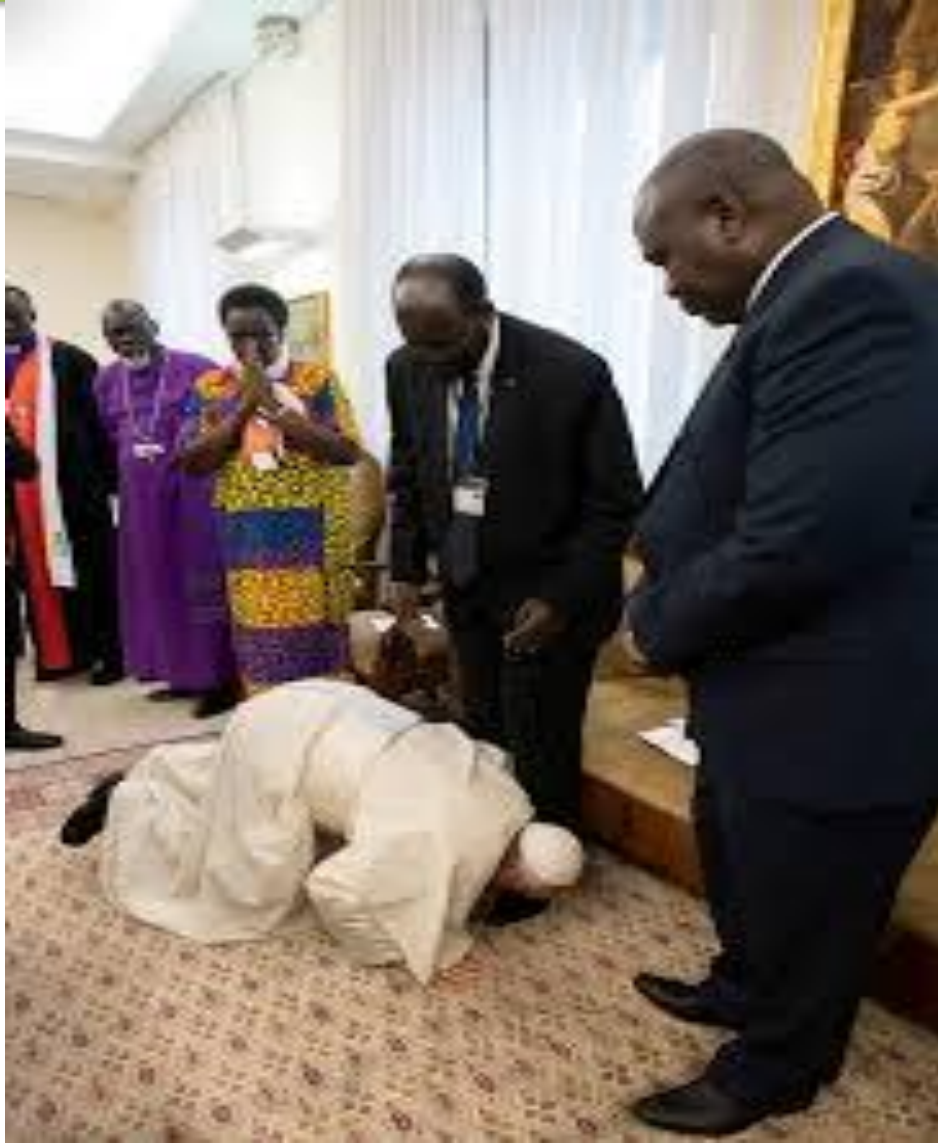


# 1. PEACE BT USA AND CUBA



- **Pope Francis sent letters to Barack Obama and the Cuban president Raul Castro in 2014. Both leaders acknowledged the importance of his appeal in their statements announcing the breakthrough.**
- **The Vatican said the pope's letters called on the two countries "to resolve humanitarian questions of common interest, including the situation of certain prisoners, in order to initiate a new phase in relations".**

## 2. PEACE IN SOUTH SUDAN



- Pope Francis has kissed the feet of South Sudan's previously warring leaders during a two-day spiritual retreat at the Vatican in 2019. "I am asking you as a brother to stay in peace. I am asking you with my heart, let us go forward," the 82-year-old pontiff said after he performed the rare gesture.



# 3. PEACE INITIATIVE IN VATICAN



- **Pope Francis took part in the World Meeting on Human Fraternity being held in Rome and at the Vatican May 10-11, 2024. The meeting brought Nobel laureates, government officials, scientists, experts, athletes, artists and children to a series of roundtable discussions aimed at strengthening solidarity and peace.**

# 4. PEACE INITIATIVE IN G7 SUMMIT



- Pope Francis discussed peace efforts in Ukraine and Gaza in a series of personal meetings with world leaders during the G7 summit in June 2024.
- He attended the meeting in Borgo Egnazia, near Bari in southern Italy, on the invitation of Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, becoming the **first pope to address the G7.**

## Colossians 1:20

Jesus reconciled all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made **peace** through the blood of His cross.

**LET US  
BE INSTRUMENTS OF PEACE,  
Amen.**

**God Bless you!**

