

Reginald Unterseher

The Peace Prayer of St. Francis

SATB divisi



About the words

Here are two Franciscan authorities who say that St. Francis did not write the poem that has become known as "the Peace Prayer of St. Francis."

First, here is a quote and a link to a Franciscan web site:

"The Peace Prayer of St. Francis is a famous prayer which first appeared around the year 1915 A.D., and which embodies the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi's simplicity and poverty.

According to Father Kajetan Esser, OFM, the author of the critical edition of St. Francis's Writings, the Peace Prayer of St. Francis is most certainly not one of the writings of St. Francis."

<http://www.franciscan-archive.org/patriarcha/peace.html>

Second, here is a quote and link to a site that contains the original French words:

The Origin of the Peace Prayer of St. Francis
by Dr. Christian Renoux, Associate Professor of the University of Orleans,
France

"The first appearance of the Peace Prayer occurred in France in 1912 in a small spiritual magazine called La Clochette (The Little Bell). It was published in Paris by a Catholic association known as La Ligue de la Sainte-Messe (The Holy Mass League), founded in 1901 by a French priest, Father Esther Bouquerel (1855-1923). The prayer bore the title of 'Belle prière à faire pendant la messe' (A Beautiful Prayer to Say During the Mass), and was published anonymously. The author could possibly have been Father Bouquerel himself, but the identity of the author remains a mystery."

<http://www.franciscan-archive.org/franciscana/peace.html>

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dedicated to

Colleen Clark, John Umbarger, Ken Hagel, Molly Harris, Jeff Hendler, Mike Schwenk, Lee Wetherell,
 Budd Massengale, Monsignor Dillon, Toure Bourama, Lisa Brown, Mike Miller, Dean Mitchell, Bud Russell,
 Dick Hoch, Diane Hoch, Pat Kenny, Joel Rogo, Ginny Quinley, Christine Barnes, Sandy Matheson,
 Rip Shepherd, Albert Escalera, Joe Gallegos, Chuck Vannoy, Judy Hoxie, Phil Simpson,
 Susan Darrington, Jan Francis, Don Brauer, Alma Cahn, Rob Harris,
 Mikhail Alnajjar, Jack Simington, Stephen Eriksen,
 and The Interfaith Quest for Peace

Anonymous, ca. 1915 (see note)

Reginald Unterseher
August 9-September 16, 2002 (r.05)

♩ = 58, rubato
mp *cresc.*

Lord, make me an in - stru - ment of thy peace, Lord, make me an in - stru - ment of thy

6 *mf* *p*

peace, Lord, make me an in - stru - ment of thy peace, of thy peace,

13 **A** *moving ahead freely* *mf* *p*

Wherethere is ha - tred, let me sow love. Wherethere is in - ju - ry,

17 *mf* *p*

par - don. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is de -

20 *slowing down*

spair, hope. Where there is dark - ness, light. And where there is

24 **B** ♩ = 64 *flowing*

sad - ness, joy. O Di - vine Mas - ter, O
sad - ness, joy. O Di - vine Mas - -
sad - ness, joy. O Di - vine Mas -
sad - ness, joy. O Di - vine



removed for security
thanks for understanding
www.reginaldunterseher.com

- ter, O Di - vine Mas - ter, Grant that I may
Mas - ter, O Di - vine Mas - ter, Grant that I may

31

seek to be con- soled, as to con - sole. To be un-der-
 seek to con - sole, grant that I may
 seek to con - sole, grant that I may
 seek to con - sole, grant that I may

35

stood as to un - der - stand Not so much to be loved, to
 seek to un - der - stand Not so much to be loved, to
 seek to un - der - stand Not so much to be loved, to
 seek to un - der - stand Not so much to be loved, to

39

be loved, as to love. For it is in
 be loved, as to love. For it is in
 be loved, as to love. For it is in
 be loved, as to love. For it is in

43

giv - ing that we re - ceive, it is in par-don - ing that we are

giv - ing that we re - ceive, it is in par-don - ing that we are

giv - ing that we re - ceive, it is in par-don - ing that we are

giv - ing that we re - ceive, it is in par-don - ing that we are

46

tempo primo

par-doned, and it is in dy - ing, in dy - ing, that we are born to e -

par-doned, and it is in dy - ing, in dy - ing, that we are born to e -

par-doned, and it is in dy - ing, in dy - ing, that we are born to e -

par-doned, and it is in dy - ing, in dy - ing, that we are born to e -

50

slowing

ter - nal life, E - ter - nal life.

ter - nal life, E - ter - nal life.

ter - nal life, E - ter - nal life.

ter - nal life, E - ter - nal life.