

1 February 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

May the Lord Give You Peace. In this edition of the Joy of Francis I am offering you a recitation of what has come to be called "A Franciscan Blessings." It appears that it may have been originally written by Sister Ruth Marlene Fox, OSB, of Sacred Heart Monastery, Richardton, North Dakota. Therefore, from time to time it is referred to as a Benedictine blessing. I don't think St. Francis or St. Benedict would care to which of them we gave credit for it, only that we honor the people referenced in the blessing.

I am looking forward to a year of working together to contribute to a world filled with love, justice, peace, and being in integrity with all of creation.



## *A Franciscan Blessing*

**"May God bless you with a restless discomfort about easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may seek truth boldly and love deep within your heart.**

**May God bless you with holy anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.**

**May God bless you with the gift of tears to shed with those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.**

**May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you really CAN make a difference in this world, so that you are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.**

**And the blessing of God the Supreme Majesty and our Creator, Jesus Christ the Incarnate Word who is our brother and Saviour, and the Holy Spirit, our Advocate and Guide, be with you and remain with you, this day and forevermore.**

**Amen."**

Peace and All Good,  
Patricia Grace. JPIC Animator  
St. Francis Region