

A Pastor's Perspective

June 29, 2025 Bulletin



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Follow-up to the Eucharistic Procession: *What an inspiring sight it was to see just over 100 people walking in procession, led by the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament on last Sunday Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ! This walk was a beautiful public witness to our belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Many thanks to the clergy (Fr. Kilian, Fr. Valles, Deacon Tim and Deacon Mike), the Knights of Columbus, Mary O'Roak (Parish Council), the sacristans (Jason & Christine Lyons), altar servers, and the ministers of hospitality (Michael and Julie CoWallis) who made this sacred sojourn possible. Special thanks also go out to the Hampden Police Department who accompanied our procession, to ensure orderliness and safety.*

Praying for Peace in our Families, Communities, Nation and World: *By the time you read this column, the 44 pilgrims from our parish will be in Italy. Landing in Rome on July 26, we will immediately board a bus and travel north for three hours (approximately 175 miles) to the tiny town of Assisi. What a wonderfully appropriate way to begin our pilgrimage! This remote and rural setting will provide us with a retreat-like respite. Having visited Assisi in October 2016, its natural beauty on the slopes of Mount Subasio is exceeded only by its serenity. I certainly experienced this profoundly deep and abiding peace on my first/last to Assisi. I look forward to embracing it again.*

Just a month earlier, in September 2016, Pope Francis had traveled to Assisi to take part in the World Day of Prayer for Peace with other religious leaders – his visit also commemorated the 30th anniversary of Saint John Paul II's unprecedented initiative that resulted in the 1986 Summit for Peace, also held in Assisi. At the time, he stated: "If the world is going to continue, and men and women are to survive in it, it cannot do without prayer. This is the permanent lesson of Assisi. It is the lesson of St. Francis, who embodied an attractive ideal for us." Although the inter-faith participants (Catholic, Orthodox, Mainline and Evangelical Christians; Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, etc.) could not offer a common prayer (because of different creeds and confessions), nonetheless, these spiritual leaders gathered to support one another's prayers for peace.

"If the world is going to continue ..." Saint John Paul II's words were and are prophetic. They resonate to this very day, as we witness mounting tensions among various peoples and nations.

So, as our group prays in Assisi for genuine and lasting peace, please join us in offering the words of St. Francis of Assisi, himself a prophet and pilgrim of peace:

*Lord, make me an instrument of your
peace.*

*Where there is hated, let me sow love.
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to
eternal life. Amen.*

I close this column with the greeting used by St. Francis and St. Claire of Assisi:

*Peace and all good,
Msgr. Andrew Dubois*