

**PEACE PRAYER  
OF  
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

*Lord, make me an instrument of  
your peace;  
where there is hatred, 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 pardoning that we are  
pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are  
born  
to eternal life.*

**Franciscans International**, in  
collaboration with **Felician  
College**, Lodi, New Jersey, USA,  
is co-sponsoring their Late  
Afternoon Workshop:

**“Issues of Trust: Using  
Civilian Satellites and  
Military Hardware to  
Facilitate Nuclear  
Disarmament”**

**Websites:**

[www.franciscansinternational.org](http://www.franciscansinternational.org)  
[www.franfed.org](http://www.franfed.org)  
[www.franciscanaction.org](http://www.franciscanaction.org)  
[www.un.org](http://www.un.org)

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**for Peace and Development:  
Disarm Now!**



**62<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
DPI/NGO Conference**



**MEXICO CITY, MEXICO**

**9-11 September 2009**

## **TOMORROW'S HOPE: A World with Heart**

**Franciscans International envisions a world in which the dignity of every person in the human family is realized.**

Franciscans commit themselves to practice non-violence in their daily lives and to educate others in this way of life. They strive to disarm themselves of attitudes, opinions and values that are contrary to peace.

Acknowledging the power of evil, Franciscans choose non-violent resistance to those actions and social structures which embody racism, sexism, militarism and political and economic exploitation.

In June 2009 the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, told his Advisory Board, "...disarmament and non-proliferation are linked inextricably to development, human rights and peace." Previously, on October 24, 2008, the Secretary-General had outlined a five-point nuclear disarmament plan, while addressing the East/West Institute at UN Headquarters. **Franciscans International** strongly supports these five points.

**The Millennium Development Goals**, especially: the eradication of extreme hunger and poverty, access to education, environmental sustainability and global partnership for development, are part of the Franciscan agenda.

The amount of money spent on military expenditures worldwide is staggering. Even a fraction of these monies could be used to accomplish the Millennium Development Goals. US military spending accounts for 48 percent, or almost half, of the world's total military

spending. This equals US\$711 billion as of 2008. US military spending is 5.8 times more than China, 10.2 times more than Russia and 98.6 times more than Iran. (Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, 2/2008)

The present world system is raping the world of resources. It is not sufficient for individuals to change their behavior and values, but a global stance must be sought that will eradicate centuries of consumerism and individualism. The selfishness that underlies the global economic system must be replaced by a group mentality of "all for one and one for all." Our survival as a species depends on our ability to cast out possessiveness and greed. The limits of "enough" have to be strongly established to provide for all humanity. The attitude of "more" must be balanced with the attitude of "enough." Too long we have trained our youth to acquire rather than to share. Radical ideas and honest intentions are needed to resolve these problems.

**St. Francis of Assisi** felt very strongly about dialogue. He understood the non-appropriation of all things to include one's own opinion, personal belongings and the resources of the world. This radical attitude provides a basis for dialogue. Though non-possessiveness does not necessarily mean divesting oneself of everything, it does mean getting priorities straight. Francis' negotiations between the Church and the State, and the bishop and mayor of Assisi attest to the necessity of dialogue to attain peace. Francis also faced the "enemy," the Sultan of Egypt, Malik-al-Kamil, a Muslim. In the process there was conversion on both men's parts. They reached an understanding of

each other's perspective and an appreciation of diversity.

**Diplomacy and dialogue are essential to any disarmament.** Those most directly affected by the arms race need to be brought to the table of discussion. Any "World Summit" needs to include the poor, the marginalized, and the voiceless. Too often people and nations are told by powerful states what they need, how they should govern themselves and what they should do with their resources. Decisions should be made on the level of implementation. People require ownership if they are to develop and maintain their freedom and dignity.

Another area of grave concern is the centuries of hatred and bio-psycho-sociological damage to individuals, as well as whole nations of people. The demobilizing of combatants, the restoration of psychological functioning, the learning of pro-social behaviors, acquiring of new skills, the healing of the victims and the dialoguing among combatants and victims are but a few of the mammoth procedures in the process of disarmament. Disarmament, then, is not simply the demilitarizing of the world. That is only the first step. The rehabilitation of the human race for peace keeping, peace-making and peace building is the challenge of the century.



**Tomorrow's Hope is that a world with heart can become a reality.**

**If we can organize for war, we can organize for peace.**