**A Reflection
on the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi
on the Feast of St. Francis, October 4th, 2018**

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

**Where there is hatred, let me sow love…**

When politics tempt me to hate the other side,

when my envy delights in the putting down of another,

****when my thoughts walk the paths of anger’s edge:

**teach me to love as you have loved me…**

**Where there is injury, pardon…**

When words cut sharp as knives,

when idle gossip tears apart,

when careless deeds wound deep:

**teach me to pardon and heal**

**as you have healed and pardoned me…**

**Where there is despair, hope…**

Teach me, Lord, to hope when I’m unsure of many things,

to trust when I want so much to give up,

to believe when I’m confused and lost in doubt,

**and teach me to share your truth and my hope in you**

**with those who struggle or have none…**

**Where there is darkness, light…**

Teach me, Lord, to trust in your light when I cannot find it,

to walk by your light when the shadows deepen,

to stand firm in your light when darkness threatens

**and to share your light and its warmth with all who seek it…**

**Where there is sadness, joy…**

Lighten my heart with the gifts of your Spirit,

touch all that aches with the peace of your presence,

lift my heart’s burdens

**and free me to share the gift of your joy, the joy of your grace…**

**O Divine Master… Help me find my peace in making peace with others,**

**help me come to know your love in learning to love those I know,**

**and let the needs of others’ hearts help me learn what I most need…**

**Teach me to give from my heart as your heart gives to me,**

**teach me to pardon others as freely as you forgive me**

**and deepen my faith that in your dying I rise to life, forever with you…**

**With Brother Francis I offer this prayer, my God, this day and all through the days ahead… Amen.**