

# COMPASSIONATE COMPANIONS

St Peregrine Ministry News  
Vol 1 No 2, Summer 2022



Welcome! The Servite St Peregrine Ministry serves with the desire that each person living with cancer and other serious illness, along with those who love and care for them, might experience hope, peace and healing. This reflection is focused on 'peace,' as we pray that each of us might experience the inner peace that is rooted in faith and trust in our compassionate God, even in the midst of suffering and challenging life changes. However, the news of these past months – war in Ukraine and elsewhere, mass shootings of innocent people, political debates about access to and use of assault weapons – necessarily broadens any thoughtful consideration of peace. We desire not only internal peace, but also a true peace between persons and all God's creatures: in our families, neighborhoods, cities, nations, and on earth, our common home.

The story of Servite St Peregrine Laziosi is not only about God's power to heal illness, but can also inspire our efforts at peacemaking. The young Peregrine, decades before the miraculous healing of his cancerous leg, was part of a gang during a violent time in Italy.

## Peace in our Hearts and our World



When he assaulted members of an opposing party, which included St Philip Benizi, he was deeply touched by the surprisingly peaceful and understanding reaction of Philip, amid the violence. The angry young protester became a person of peace! Undoubtedly, his confidence in the crucified and risen Christ to heal his leg, years later, had its roots in God's transformation of his whole self as a youth!

We are invited, perhaps challenged, to believe that the God to whom we turn for bodily healing can also tend the wounds of a broken and divided society, and touch the lives of people, young and older, who suffer from a sickness just as deadly as cancer, which manifests itself in hatred, bigotry, and violence. Although the news is full of tragic stories, we are followers of One who was raised to life after a violent death, who walked through the walls of a room where his disciples were hiding in fear, and spoke a word which changed their lives...PEACE! "My peace I give to you!" Before He sends them out to mission, he grounds their relationships in peace. The breath of his Spirit transformed frightened disciples into courageous peacemakers. And despite today's many 'walls,' built to separate us or protect us from what threatens

### St Peregrine Ministry Mission Statement

**Inspired by Mary at the foot of the Cross, and by our brother friar St. Peregrine, OSM, patron saint of those living with cancer, we Servites accompany and support persons who suffer from serious illness, especially cancer, along with their loved ones and caregivers. We offer our faith, compassion and prayerful intercession, that they may experience hope, peace and the healing presence of God in their lives.**

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# “Praise God”

Dear Friends of St. Peregrine, OSM,

Glory and Praise to God for His beauty of Summertime and the healing sunshine on our face. As we hear in Psalm 111:2, “Great are the works of the Lord; they are studied by all who delight in them.”

Our healing mission today is to pray for one another’s peacemaking and to help anyone who is a refugee, living away from their homeland. We all need healing in our homes, too, to strengthen our physical bodies, minds, spirit and souls. May the Peace of Christ be with us.

Last March, I gave a healing mission to the people of St. Joseph’s Parish in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. The Pastor, Fr. Jared, has set up a local shrine of St. Peregrine at their baptismal font, upfront in church. One parishioner said to me that the healing mission was a true blessing for their parish. We prayed for all of you who have a serious illness, your caregivers, and for peace of mind and heart.

A young man named Vincent, fifteen years old, came to our National Shrine this past Holy Thursday morning with his family from Wisconsin. It was the one-year anniversary of when he first came to St. Peregrine to pray that all would be well again from his cancer. The

whole family received a blessing and peace, as he is now in remission. Praise God.

My grade school classmate Carol sent me good news that her cancer and her sister’s cancer are retreating as they are praying with St. Peregrine, OSM and Blessed Mother Mary as well.

From 3 Jn. 1:2... “Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul.”

As we pray that all go well for others, how do we show them peace?

What is the result when we peacefully treat strangers as friends?

How might we express peace in our way of companioning persons with serious illness?

Please send me your notes of thanksgiving, and also stories of how you help in the peacemaking process for others, in the spirit of St Philip and the conversion of St. Peregrine.

God bless you, your family, friends and caregivers,

**- Fr. Chris Krymski, OSM**

Your donation will help us to continue the good works of our Ministry Office in publishing and distributing this newsletter free of charge to parishes, hospitals and prayer centers across the country. Please visit [www.servite.org/product/give-now/](http://www.servite.org/product/give-now/) to help us spread the good word that others are praying for those with serious illness. Thank you !



*What can separate us from the love of God? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. And as we share God's love with our brothers and sisters, God's other children, there is no tyrant who can resist us, no oppression that cannot be ended, no hunger that cannot be fed, no wound that cannot be healed, no hatred that cannot be turned to love, no dream that cannot be fulfilled.*

- Bishop Desmond Tutu

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us, there is no obstacle, no political fight, no illness or hospital wall, and no barrage of tragic news which can stop the Risen Christ from passing through any personal or societal barricade, to offer us that same gift of peace and reconciliation! Pope Francis wrote, "May we be won over by the peace of Christ! Peace is possible; peace is a duty; peace is everyone's primary responsibility!" You and I, then, are to be peace, as Philip was to Peregrine, and as Peregrine then witnessed to others, and still intercedes for us in healing divisions as well as bodies.

The peace offered by Jesus, however, is not merely an absence of conflict, or a calm feeling inside. In the Scriptures, peace is the more embracing 'shalom,' a wholeness consisting of mercy, goodness, joy, and right relationships: with oneself, other persons and cultures, the Earth, and the larger whole of which all are a part. It's God's dream for the world as it should be, nothing missing, nothing broken, everything made new and whole. Does this sound too good to be true? Perhaps, especially to one who is a victim of violence or who feels isolated because of illness. But, along with St Paul, "we are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair...struck down, but not destroyed." With faith that

Christ's peace/shalom is even fuller than an end to violence, we pray for a conversion of heart against any form of violence, and we work to transform systems and structures that inflict suffering on any creature. For building peace is not just foreign policy, but 'interior spiritual politics.'

Violence and peace first clash in the human heart. Peace requires people who are at peace internally and who can be its ambassadors. No matter the external circumstances, we are asked to bring to the world the peace that reigns within. Those of us who suffer in any way may become the most energized of pray-ers for an end to all forms of suffering, and for the healing of all creation. But can we really make a difference in areas of social justice, disease, war and the environment? If it makes a difference to any one of us, it's making a difference to the world we live in. There's only one way to find out! Let us ask ourselves what we are *for*, and not just what we are *against*. The empowering Spirit is still with and in us. Blessed are the Peacemakers in our world!

- Fr. John Fontana, OSM



## PRAYER

**God, our Healer, grant us grace to accept our illness and to remember that we, your children, are more than our health condition. Our strength comes from your Holy Spirit, who blesses us with courage to overcome our fears. Your medicine is love which allows our hearts to be at peace. May we accept the things we cannot control, and, like St Peregrine, may we allow You to guide us, through all of our experiences, toward inner wholeness and harmony with all. Thank you, God, for always giving us life, healing, peace and wisdom in abundance. Amen.**

## ORACIÓN

**"Oh Dios, nuestro Sanador, concédenos la gracia de aceptar nuestra enfermedad este día y recordar nuestra identidad como hijos e hijas de Dios. Somos más que nuestra condición de salud. Nuestra fuerza proviene de tu Espíritu Santo, que nos bendice con valentía y amor. Tu medicina es el amor para superar nuestros miedos y ansiedades, y para permitir que nuestros corazones estén en paz. Que aceptemos las cosas que no podemos controlar y, como San Peregrino, que permitamos que nos guíes, a través de todas nuestras experiencias, hacia la integridad interior y la armonía con todos. Gracias, Dios, por darnos siempre vida, salud, paz y sabiduría en abundancia. En Nombre de Jesús, por favor concede esta petición. Amén.**

# Thank you St Peregrine

- Thank you, God. Please help my faith, my family, friends, freedom and future. Thank you for all my gifts from you, most of all your love. Thank you, Almighty God, Amen.
- Thank you, God, for healing recovery and that all will be okay...God bless.
- Thank you, God and St. Peregrine for good news of test results.
- Thank you so much St. Peregrine for your intercession for the full recovery of Danny and Aaron from their colon cancer.
- Thank you for getting me this far with my right leg problems.
- Thank you for every step taken toward peace and healing on the city streets of Chicago and in Eastern Europe.



# For prayerful reflection

*People of prayer have no weapons, but trust in God's disarming power*

Scripture to ponder: (Philippians 4:6-7) There is no need to worry; but ask God for what you need with a thankful heart. Then God's peace, which is so much greater than we can understand or imagine, will keep your hearts and minds quiet and at rest, in union with Christ Jesus.

A question to ponder: As you announce peace with your mouth, make sure that greater peace is in your hearts. How might St Peregrine's conversion to peace, in a violent environment, inspire me to promote healing of relationships and of our divided society? How am I sharing the gift of peace given me by Jesus? How might I do it even better?

An action to consider: A monk in Ukraine said that the absence of open conversation with each other is one big cause of violence, since the whole truth emerges only from the dialogue. Is there someone with whom I disagree, or who is very different than me, with whom I might initiate a conversation, rather than ignore or remain distant, for the sake of greater peace? How might I become a more welcoming, hospitable listener, especially to one who is ill or to a 'stranger' whom I might treat as a friend?

## Para la reflexión en oración

*Las personas de oración no tienen armas, sino confianza en el poder desarmante de Dios*

Escritura para meditar: (Filipenses 4:6-7) No hay necesidad de preocuparse; pero pídele a Dios lo que necesitas con un corazón agradecido. Entonces la paz de Dios, que es mucho más grande de lo que podemos entender o imaginar, mantendrá sus corazones y mentes tranquilos y en reposo, en unión con Cristo Jesús.

Una pregunta para meditar: Al anunciar la paz con la boca, asegúrense de que haya una mayor paz en sus corazones. ¿Cómo podría la conversión de San Peregrino a la paz, en un ambiente violento, inspirarme a promover la sanación de las relaciones y de nuestra sociedad dividida? ¿Cómo estoy compartiendo el don de la paz que me dio Jesús? ¿Cómo podría hacerlo aún mejor?

Una acción a considerar: Un monje en Ucrania dijo que la ausencia de una conversación abierta entre sí es una gran causa de violencia, ya que toda la verdad emerge solo del diálogo. ¿Hay alguien con quien no estoy de acuerdo, o que es muy diferente a mí, con quien podría iniciar una conversación, en lugar de ignorar o permanecer distante, por el bien de una mayor paz? ¿Cómo podría convertirme en un oyente más acogedor y hospitalario, especialmente para alguien que está enfermo o para un "desconocido" a quien podría tratar como un amigo?

**St. Peregrine Ministry is:**

*Companionship & Support, with Faith, Compassion & Prayer toward Hope, Peace & Healing*

**A healing Mass, and blessing with the relic of St. Peregrine, is celebrated monthly at the National Shrine of St. Peregrine (in Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica, 3121 W Jackson Blvd, Chicago). The Mass is celebrated in English at 11AM on the third Saturday of each month, and in Spanish at 11AM on the second Saturday each month. All are invited. Please visit and subscribe to our YouTube channel "Servite St. Peregrine Healing Ministry."**

**Mensualmente se celebra una Misa de sanación y una bendición con la reliquia de San Peregrino en el Santuario Nacional de San Peregrino (en la Basílica de Nuestra Señora de los Dolores, 3121 W Jackson Blvd, Chicago). La Misa se celebra en español a las 11 am el segundo sábado de cada mes, y en inglés a las 11 am el tercer sábado de cada mes. Todos están invitados. Por favor visite y suscríbese a nuestro canal de YouTube "Servite St. Peregrine Healing Ministry."**