

# Christian Prayer: August

## *Make me a channel of your peace*

*Prayers are often attributed to great spiritual teachers. But as we have seen elsewhere in this resource, the attributions are often erroneous. The same is the case with the prayer here, that is commonly attributed to St Francis. However it actually seems to have been composed in the early years of the 20th Century, almost 800 years after St Francis. However it is a beautiful prayer for peace, reconciliation and renewal. It is especially appropriate to pray during holidays and in this month which sees the anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.*

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me bring love.  
Where there is offence, let me bring pardon.  
Where there is discord, let me bring union.  
Where there is error, let me bring truth.  
Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.  
Where there is despair, let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness, let me bring your light.  
Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.  
O Master, let me not seek as much  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love,  
for it is in giving that one receives,  
it is in self-forgetting that one finds,  
it is in pardoning that one is pardoned,  
it is in dying that one is raised to eternal life.

*We do have a number of prayers that have their origin with St Francis.*

*One is the following, which Francis prayed in 1205/6  
in front of the Crucifix of San Damiano,  
during the early days of his spiritual conversion.*

Most High, glorious God,  
enlighten the darkness of my heart  
and give me  
true faith,  
certain hope,  
and perfect charity,  
sense and knowledge,  
Lord, that I may carry out  
Your holy and true command.

