

prayer of st francis latin

Understanding the Prayer of St. Francis in Latin

The Prayer of St. Francis Latin is a cherished piece of Christian literature that embodies the spirit of peace, humility, and service. Often recited in various Christian traditions, this prayer is attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, a 13th-century Italian friar who is venerated for his deep devotion to God and his commitment to living a life of simplicity and compassion. In this article, we will explore the origins of the prayer, its English translation, its significance, and its enduring legacy in both liturgical and personal contexts.

The Origins of the Prayer

The Prayer of St. Francis is believed to have been composed by St. Francis himself, although some scholars debate its authorship. The prayer is often associated with the Franciscan movement, which emphasizes poverty, humility, and a profound love for all of creation.

1. **Historical Context:** St. Francis lived during a time of great social upheaval in the early 1200s. The Catholic Church was powerful, but many people were disillusioned with its wealth and corruption. In response, St. Francis renounced his family wealth and embraced a life of poverty, focusing on serving the marginalized and promoting peace.
2. **Spiritual Influence:** The prayer encapsulates the core values of St. Francis's teachings—selflessness, love, and a desire to be an instrument of God's peace. It encourages individuals to seek harmony and understanding in their relationships, both with others and within themselves.

The Latin Text of the Prayer

The Prayer of St. Francis is often recited in its original Latin form, which adds an element of reverence and tradition. Below is the Latin text of the prayer:

Domine, fac me instrumentum pacis tui.
Ubi odio, ego metiam caritatem;
Ubi iniuria, ego metiam veniam;
Ubi dubium, ego metiam fidem;
Ubi despere, ego metiam spem;
Ubi tenebrae, ego metiam lucem;
Ubi tristitia, ego metiam gaudium.

O magne Domine, fa mihi ut non tam quaeram

Ut consolari, sed ut consolarer;
Ut intelligere, sed ut intelligere;
Ut amari, sed ut amare;
Nam qui dant, accipiunt;
Et qui se perdunt, inveniunt;
Et qui perdunt, vivunt.
Amen.

Translation and Meaning

The Prayer of St. Francis is often translated into English, allowing a broader audience to connect with its message. Here is a commonly accepted English translation:

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 in pardoning that w

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the 'Prayer of St. Francis' in Latin?

The 'Prayer of St. Francis' in Latin is often referred to as 'Oratio Sancti Francisci' and begins with 'Domine, fac me instrumentum pacis...'.

What is the significance of the 'Prayer of St. Francis'?

The 'Prayer of St. Francis' emphasizes peace, humility, and service to others, reflecting St. Francis's life and teachings.

Is the 'Prayer of St. Francis' traditionally used in any specific religious services?

Yes, the 'Prayer of St. Francis' is commonly used in Catholic services, especially during Mass and on the Feast of St. Francis.

How has the 'Prayer of St. Francis' influenced modern spirituality?

The 'Prayer of St. Francis' has inspired many modern spiritual movements by promoting messages of peace, reconciliation, and environmental stewardship.

Where can I find the full text of the 'Prayer of St. Francis' in Latin?

The full text of the 'Prayer of St. Francis' in Latin can be found in various liturgical books, online resources, and Catholic prayer apps.

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