

FRANCISCAN MEDIA

Monday of the First Week of Advent: Peace and Good

The creative power of God draws people together. We recognize that creative power stirring in our lives and respond to it. “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,” the people say in the First Reading from Isaiah. They are drawn by what they see there.

From the beginning, Francis encouraged this inviting approach:

In all his preaching, before he proposed the word of God to those gathered about, he first prayed for peace for them, saying: “The Lord give you peace.” He always most devoutly announced peace to men and women, to all he met and overtook. For this reason many who had hated peace and had hated also salvation embraced peace, through the cooperation of the Lord, with all their heart and were made children of peace and seekers after eternal salvation.

Francis used gentle persuasion and good example rather than bullying and condemnation to lead people to Christ. Peace is the greatest promise the Lord offers his disciples. It’s the great promise of this season.

For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, “Peace be within you.” For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

—Psalm 122:8–9