



Msgr. Mike's Blog | Assisi

October, 2016

Two weeks ago Pope Francis traveled to Assisi marking the 30th anniversary of the day when Pope John Paul II first gathered there with religious leaders from around the world for a Day of Prayer and Fasting for Peace. Every year since that time the leaders of the world's main religions have come to Assisi to pray for peace and to renew their commitment to work together to attain it.

Representatives from Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and other traditions gathered for two days of discussions and one day of prayer. Pope Francis was there to pray with the Patriarch Bartholomew, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch, the chief rabbi of Israel and Muslim leaders from 17 Islamic states.



This Tuesday on the Feast of St. Francis, fifty pilgrims from St. Mary's in Shrewsbury and Uxbridge and Our Lady of the Lake in Leominster will travel to Assisi and pray at the tomb of St. Francis. We will stand in the very same place where Pope Francis prayed so recently. We, too, will be praying for peace throughout the world, especially in the war-torn countries of the Middle East. We will pray for our Christian brothers and sisters and all the people of Syria who face the threat of death each day from the continued bombings in Aleppo. We will pray for families and especially the children who cannot escape from their homes and who cannot receive the humanitarian aid and medical care that they so desperately need. And we will pray for the many refugees who have been driven from their homes and homelands because of war and terrorism.

Assisi is the city of the great saint of peace. Through the intercession of St. Francis may peace come to all peoples. May the Lord make us all instruments of His peace.

Jr. Michael Rose