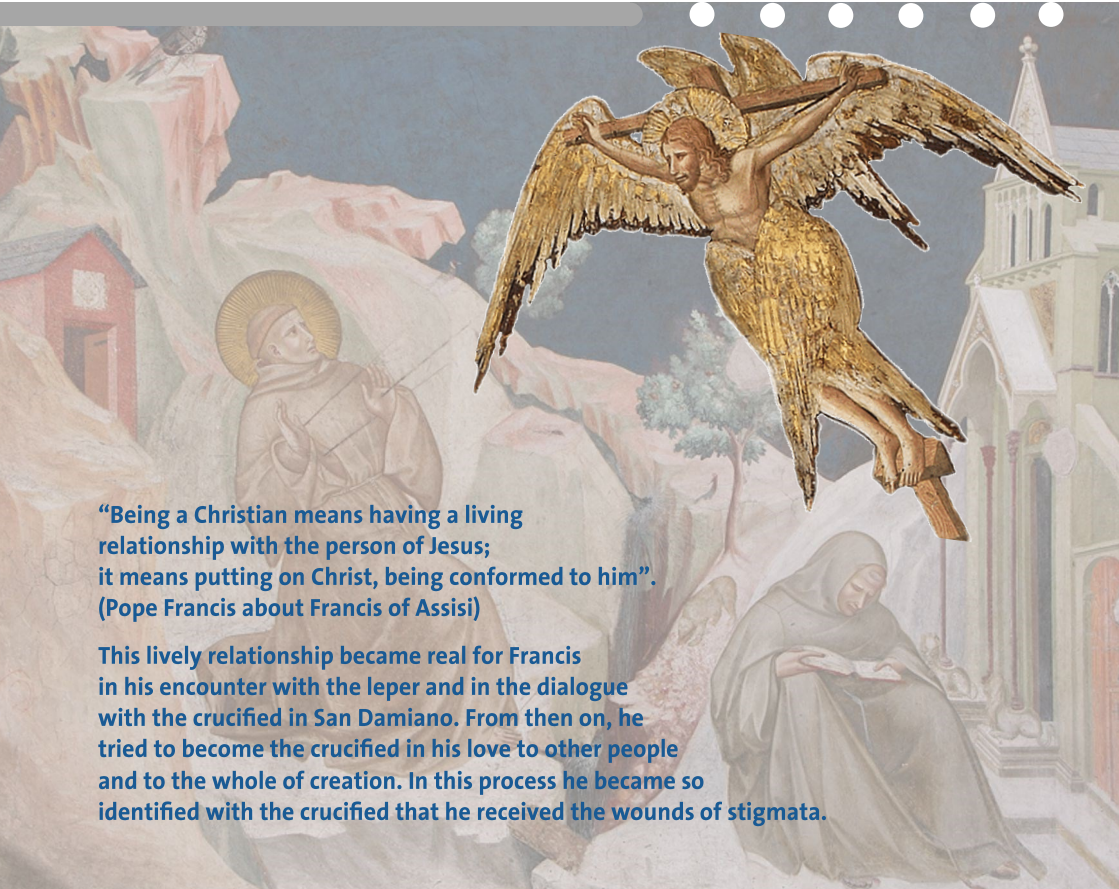




Franciscans International

A voice at the United Nations

Contemplating the Five Wounds of Jesus



“Being a Christian means having a living relationship with the person of Jesus; it means putting on Christ, being conformed to him”.
(Pope Francis about Francis of Assisi)

This lively relationship became real for Francis in his encounter with the leper and in the dialogue with the crucified in San Damiano. From then on, he tried to become the crucified in his love to other people and to the whole of creation. In this process he became so identified with the crucified that he received the wounds of stigmata.

www.franciscansinternational.org



Flight and Rejection



Exploitation of People and Nature



Hunger

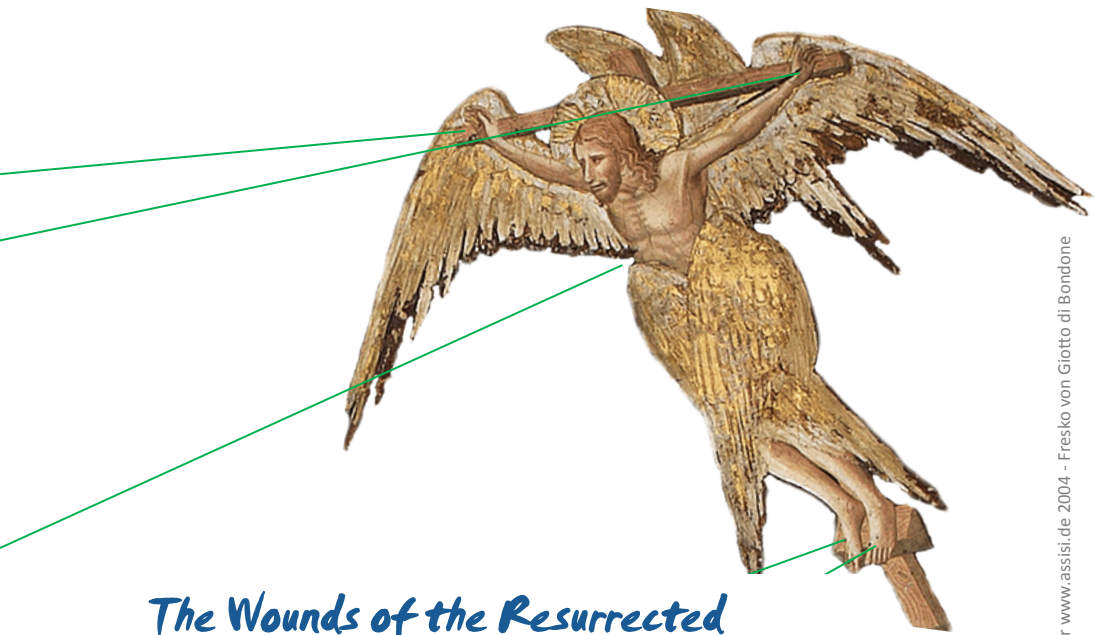


Human Trafficking



Early Forced Marriage





The Wounds of the Resurrected

**The disciples were still talking about this when Jesus himself suddenly stood among them. He said, "May peace be with you!" They were surprised and terrified. They thought they were seeing a ghost. Jesus said to them, "Why are you troubled? Why do you have doubts in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is really I. Touch me and see."
(Lc 24, 36-39a)**

Francis was marked by the 5 wounds of Jesus and now, contemplating these wounds, we would like to look at people today who carry the mark of these wounds.

When Jesus encountered his disciples after his resurrection he invited them to touch his wounded hands, feet and side. In this contemplation and prayer we invite you to enter into a lively relationship with this wounded Jesus, so we are touched by both the wounds of the risen Jesus and the wounded people of our time. We do this in the hope that we receive both healing and life.

*God we ask you to heal us and our wounded sisters and brothers,
and grant us the life of Jesus Christ, the wounded Jesus. Amen*





NO WAY

YOU WILL NOT MAKE AUSTRALIA HOME



Flight and Rejection

When the Wise Men had left, Joseph had a dream. In the dream an angel of the Lord appeared to him. “Get up!” the angel said. “Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you to come back. Herod is going to search for the child. He wants to kill him.” Joseph got up. During the night, he left for Egypt with the child and his mother Mary. (Mt 2, 13f.)

Asylum seekers in Australia: It is unimaginable suffering that causes people to flee their country, but this flight does not end their suffering because they experience life-threatening dangers on the way. When they are in sight of their destination they experience a lack of welcome. The Australian government has campaigned to make it clear that these suffering people are not welcome in Australia. Thousands of asylum seekers, including hundreds of children, are intercepted and moved to detention centres in other poor countries.

The governor of Israel at the time was threatened by the birth of this child Jesus, whose family had to flee for their lives into Egypt. In many countries asylum seekers experience they are not welcome and their lives are at risk. God let us not forget that you gave us the earth as our home for all peoples and that you created us as one family of sisters and brothers in Jesus your son. Amen





Exploitation of People and Nature

Jesus called them together. He said, “You know about those who are rulers of the nations. They hold power over their people. Their high officials order them around. (Mk 10,42)

The Mines in Columbia: We experience the misuse of power by people in authority both in politics and in the economy, through the exploitation of the earth’s resources to profit a few privileged individuals, and at the same time mistreat the dignity and rights of workers. In the region of Santueban in Colombia the mining of gold and silver leads to the poisoning of drinking water, destroying the natural environment and the rights of workers. These mines in Columbia are one example of similar countless mining projects in all regions of our world. The misuse of power is not only perpetrated by corrupt governments where the resources are found, but also by those responsible people in countries who profit from the outputs of these mines in Europe and North America.

Looking at those who misuse their power, Jesus asked his followers to serve and not mistreat others. God, let us use our gifts and talents for the use and enjoyment of all so that everyone can share in the fruits of your creation. Amen





Hunger

Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him. They said, “Send the crowd away. They can go to the nearby villages and countryside. There they can find food and a place to stay. There is nothing here.” Jesus replied, “You give them something to eat.” (Lc 9, 12-13a)

Hunger in India: Hunger is not just a consequence of natural disasters or failed harvests, but is a result of unscrupulous speculation on the futures market and on exploitative national and international economic systems. In addition, many people are denied their right to food through corruption and social discrimination as can be found in India. Although all Indian citizens have the legal right to access basic food, they are inhibited by inept and corrupt administrative practices. A large proportion of the population are the so-called Dalits or ‘Untouchables’ who live in extreme poverty without adequate food supplies.

In compassion for hungry people, Jesus asks his disciples to supply them with food and instructs them to bring what they have to the table. God help us to share the fruits of the earth and works of human hands in a just and fair way, so that everyone shares in the banquet. Amen





Human Trafficking

‘Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the Law?’ Jesus replied, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind.’ This is the first and most important commandment. And the second is like it. ‘Love your neighbour as you love your self.’ (Mt 22, 36-39)

Human Trafficking in Germany. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is founded on rights and dignity of every person. As believers we are convinced that this dignity is a gift of the Creator. This why human beings must never be subject to slavery or traded as property. Slavery is not just a phenomenon of ancient times, there are more slaves in our world today than ever before. The price of slaves has never been cheaper. In recent times Germany has experienced a boom in the trade of humans because of the legalisation of prostitution. Women especially are traded as expendable goods.

The love of God and neighbour is for Jesus two sides of the one coin. Through his encounters with the excluded, he showed how to live this way of life. God we thank you that you love and accept everyone of us, so help us to treat each other with respect and dignity. Amen





Bildnachweis: 2014 Human Rights Watch

Early Forced Marriage

People were also bringing babies to Jesus. They wanted him to touch them. When the disciples saw this, they told the people to stop. But Jesus asked the children to come to him. “Let the little children come to me,” he said. “Don’t keep them away. God’s kingdom belongs to people like them.”

(Lc 18, 15-17)

Early Forced Marriage in Cameroon: In Cameroon there is still a practice that young girls are forced to marry older men. Cameroon is not an exception in this practice, because one third of all girls who marry are under 18 years in developing countries. These young girls are robbed of their childhood and of any opportunity for education. The root cause is often extreme poverty and the view that girls are of less value.

For Jesus the care of children is deeply embedded in his heart. He asks the people to see children as an example of how to lead a good life. God, often we try to form children in our own ideas and beliefs without respecting their wisdom and goodness. Grant us the openness to learn the lessons of life from them and to listen attentively to their hopes and dreams. Amen

