

# Augsburg Reading Club

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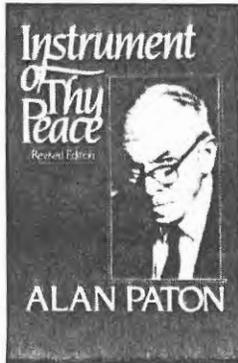
November 1982

Dear Reading Club Member:

The main selection this month is INSTRUMENT OF THY PEACE (*Revised Edition*) by Alan Paton (Seabury Press, 124 pages, paperback, \$6.95). Alan Paton has revised this classic book of 21 meditations on the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi, "Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace." The celebration of the 800th birthday of St. Francis was on October 4, 1982.

The meditations each begin with either a passage of Scripture or a phrase from St. Francis' prayer. Following the meditation by Paton, there is a thoughtful prayer to help the reader communicate feelings to God. Here is a book to be read slowly, thoughtfully, and expectantly. //

In his preface to the revised edition, Paton writes, "This book is written for sinners, and by one of them. It is written for those who wish with all their hearts to be better, purer, less selfish, more useful; for those who do not wish to be cold in love, and who know that being cold in love is perhaps the worst sin of them all; for those who wish to keep their faith bright and burning in a dark and faithless world; for those who seek not so much to lean on God as to be the active instruments of his peace."



He continues, "More and more as time goes by the memory of Francis of Assisi comes to be treasured by the whole Christian world. Christians disagree about many things, but they seldom, perhaps never, disagree about St. Francis. It is impossible for any Christian to hear or read or pray the immortal "Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace," and not realize that he or she is in the presence of holiness."

Alan Paton, noted author, concerned Anglican layman, teacher, and advocate of racial justice in South Africa writes out of his own struggle to be the instrument he seeks to describe. He is best known for his novel, Cry, the Beloved Country!

We will send you a copy of *INSTRUMENT OF THY PEACE* if we do not hear from you by November 15th.