

"FOLLOW ME!"

Luke 9:23



Monthly Newsletter of The BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF PENANCE of St. Francis

March 2011

BONAVENTURE AND HIS LESSONS ON ST. FRANCIS:

Chapter III—The Foundation of the Order—the Rule is approved



7. As he was living there by the church of our Lady, Francis prayed to her who had conceived the Word, full of grace and truth, begging her insistently and with tears to become his Advocate.

Then he was granted the true spirit of the Gospel by the intercession of the Mother of Mercy and he brought it to fruition. He was at Mass one day on the feast of one of the apostles and the passage of the Gospel where our Lord sends out his disciples to preach and tells them how they are to live according to the Gospel was read. When Francis heard that they were not to provide gold or silver or copper to fill their purses, that they were not to have a wallet for the journey or a second coat, no shoes or staff, he was overjoyed. He grasped the meaning of the passage immediately in his love for apostolic poverty and committed it to memory. "This is what I want," he exclaimed. "This is what I love for with all my heart." There and then he took

off his shoes and laid aside his staff. He conceived a horror of money or wealth of any kind and he wore only one tunic, changing his leather belt for a rope. The whole desire of his heart was to put what he had heard into practice and conform to the rule of life given to the Apostles in everything.

By divine inspiration he now began to strive after Gospel perfection, inviting others to lead a life of penance. His words were full of the power of the Holy Spirit, never empty or ridiculous, and they went straight to the heart, so that his hearers were amazed. In all his sermons he began by wishing his hearers peace, saying to them, "God give you peace," a form of greeting which he had learned by a revelation, as he afterwards asserted. He was moved by the spirit of the prophets and he proclaimed peace and salvation. By his salutary warnings he united in the bond of true peace great numbers of people who had been at enmity with Christ and far from salvation.

Bonaventure—Major Life of St. Francis (1263)



VISITOR'S MESSAGE

Homily by Fr. Robert Altier: Ash Wednesday

As we begin this holy season of Lent, we are reminded of our sinfulness. At the end of

Mass today, in the distribution of ashes, we will hear the words: *Remember, man, that you are dust and to dust you shall return.* That was one of

the punishments for Original Sin. It is the statement of the Lord that He made to Adam at the very end of the discourse where God metes out all the punishments for what Adam and Eve had done. It reminds us of our sinfulness. This holy season, then, is a call to overcome sin. As Saint Paul said in the second reading, "We are ambassadors for Christ; God, as it were, appealing through us, 'Be reconciled to God'."

That is what the Lord is looking for - it is for reconciliation, it is for growth in holiness. As we saw in the readings on Sunday that we are to remove oppression, false speech, malice, and so on from our midst, that is what God is looking for. He is not asking that we remove M&M's™ and candy bars and ice cream from our midst. But He is asking that we would remove sin and that we would replace it with virtue. So as you begin this holy season, really look seriously at your life and ask the Lord to help you see what needs to be removed and what needs to be added. In other words, do not just simply take something away, but also increase your prayer. Look at what you can do for the Lord. What acts of virtue and holiness can you add into your day? How can you grow? We want to remove all the areas of sin, but we want to replace those with virtue, with holiness.

As we go through the day, I should also point out, as Our Lord said in the Gospel, "Be careful not to be performing religious acts for people to see."

** This text was transcribed from the audio recording of a homily by Father Robert Altier with minimal editing.*



ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE...ON LENT

RULE: ARTICLE 9

They are to fast daily, except on account of infirmity or any other need, throughout the

fast of St. Martin from after said day until Christmas, and throughout the greater fast from Carnival Sunday until Easter.

As we enter Lent a glance at the Rule tells us we should take it seriously. Anyone professed in the BSP, or beyond Novice 2 formation in the BSP, should be doing their best to apply the articles in the Rule that call for fasting and abstinence. The 'greater fast' is Lent in Article 9. We are to fast

Sometimes what happens is that people get very embarrassed about the fact that they will have the ashes on their head. Other people, having no clue that today is Ash Wednesday, will be happy to point out to you that you have some dirt on your head and that you need to get it taken off. But be careful that you do not go around making sure that people are trying to look at you; it is the wrong reason. In other words, [wanting] people to know that you have been to Mass this morning and strut around with pride for doing that; it is the wrong reason. It is a symbol of death; it is not a symbol of arrogance, although our arrogance is the cause of death. But nonetheless, we need to be humble.

We need to remember why this is happening: it is to remind us of our need for penance, it is to remind us of our own mortality. Our call now and what these ashes remind us of is the need for repentance, the need for reconciliation with God. And [they are] a reminder of death because if we can consider death and know that it is not too terribly far away for any of us. It helps us, then, to put things in a different perspective, to look at all the things of life and say, "Of what use is most of this stuff? I can't take it with me. In fact, a lot of it is going to drag me the wrong direction." And so, that stuff becomes death. We need to choose life and reject death and reject all of the works of death—Satan and everything about him—so that we can choose God, be reconciled with Him, and move in the direction of eternity.



"throughout" it, although the modern tenets of the Church do not require that any longer. They only require fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and abstinence on Fridays in Lent. It is up to each of us to decide how we will live the Rule.

It is noteworthy that although the Rule speaks of fasting and abstinence in a number of places nowhere does the Rule say how to fast or abstain. It is left to each one to decide what that means, or it was well understood in those times what it meant to fast. Probably from the Church's definition of fasting and abstinence which was no doubt better known then even than today. Fasting and abstaining on the prescribed days is defined as a precept of the Church in the Catechism of the

Catholic Church in section 2043, and the Church still does provide a definition of fasting and abstinence, which follows.

CURRENT CHURCH REGULATIONS ON FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

Fast: The law of fast prescribes that only one full meal a day be taken; but it does not forbid taking some nourishment at two other times during the day. The two smaller meals should be sufficient to maintain strength according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including ordinary, homogenized milk and fruit juices, are allowed. Malted milks, milk shakes, and the like are not included in the term "milk." All those from eighteen years of age to the beginning of their sixtieth year are bound by the law of fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Abstinence: The law of abstinence forbids the eating of meat, but not eggs, milk products, nor condiments of any kind, even though made from animal fat. Forbidden are the flesh meat of warm-blooded animals and all parts of such animals. This does not include meat juices, broths, soups, lards, gravies, sauces, animal fats, and liquid foods made from meat. Also allowed are fish and all such cold-blooded animals such as frogs, shellfish, clams, turtles, oysters, crabs, and lobsters. All those who have completed their fourteenth year are bound to the law of abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday and on all the Fridays of Lent.

Most of us who have been fasting regularly following the Rule have defined how we will fast, but we might want to try something different this Lent. Obviously, fasting from food is a requirement unless we cannot do that for health reasons. People with certain illnesses or allergies or other health concerns, like diabetes, are usually given a medical diet which fulfills these requirements to fast or abstain all year long for them under the Rule. It might be worthwhile to ponder how we might fast in different ways if we cannot fast from food or

want to do something extra. We can be creative here. Whatever we do God will be happy with us.

We know a woman, a belated BSP member, who told us that she once fasted from jelly beans during Lent. She loved jelly beans. She put a dish of them on the center of the kitchen table during Lent and had none, to make her fast real. At the end of Lent she was walking by the dish and said to herself. "I am glad I gave them up this Lent." She had a locution. She heard with her physical ears the Lord say: "I am glad you gave them up too." Wasn't that a gift! But, it shows that our Lord is aware and appreciative of all we do, however small.

On the positive side, practice more virtue, pray more. Be more charitable. Fast from unkind words. Ditch your anger. Do more than your share of the work that must be done without complaint or comment. Smile when you don't feel like smiling. Compliment people whenever you can. Go out of your way even to say 'Hi' to people especially those you would rather avoid and thanks to others, especially your spouse and children, for things they do for you. We all can improve on that!

Watch Mel Gibson's movie on Good Friday: "The Passion of the Christ.", or in some other way ponder deeply the Passion of our Lord during Lent. Say the Stations of the Cross more often.

On Sundays fasting and abstinence is relaxed. Take a breath. Take a break. Plow into it again on Monday morning. Don't forget when Lent is over there is no fasting or abstinence during the Octave of Easter; the eight days after Easter, including Easter.

Whatever you do make this the 'best' Lent ever, and Easter will be brighter than ever. Have fun doing it. If you like, take a piece of it with you through the rest of the year. It is pleasing to God that we do penance, and the world needs it. We need it too.

May the Lord bless and lead us all.

Bruce and Shelley Fahey BSP Administrators - Morning Star Chapter - Minnesota



"Stop entertaining those vain fears. Remember it is not feeling which constitutes guilt but the consent to such feelings. Only the free will is capable of good or evil. But when the will sighs under the trial of the tempter and does not will what is presented to it, there is not only no fault but there is virtue."

St. Padre Pio

Why no meat on Fridays in Lent?

BY FATHER MICHAEL VAN SLOUN - FOR THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT

Catholics abstain from flesh meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and the Fridays in Lent. Abstinence is one of our oldest Christian traditions.

"From the first century, the day of the crucifixion has been traditionally observed as a day of abstaining from flesh meat ('black fast') to honor Christ who sacrificed his flesh on a Friday," according to "The Catholic Source Book."

Written up as law

Up until 1966, church law prohibited meat on all Fridays throughout the entire year. The new law was promulgated in 1983 in the revised Code of Canon Law, which states: "Abstinence [is] to be observed on Ash Wednesday and on the Friday of the Passion and Death of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Canon 1251).

"All persons who have completed their fourteenth year are bound by the law of abstinence" (Canon 1252).

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops extended this law to include all Fridays in Lent.

Since Jesus sacrificed his flesh for us on Good Friday, we refrain from eating flesh meat in his honor on Fridays. Flesh meat included the meat of mammals and poultry, and the main foods that come under this heading are beef and pork, chicken and turkey. While flesh is prohibited, the non-flesh products of these animals are not (like milk, cheese, butter and eggs).

Fish do not belong to the flesh meat category. The Latin word for meat, "caro," from which we get

English words like "carnivore" and "carnivorous," applies strictly to flesh meat and has never been understood to include fish.

Furthermore, in former times, flesh meat was more expensive, eaten only occasionally and associated with feasting and rejoicing; whereas fish was cheap, eaten more often and not associated with celebrations.



- Abstinence is a form of penance. Penance expresses sorrow and contrition for our wrongdoing, indicates our intention to turn away from sin and turn back to God, and makes reparation for our sins. It helps to cancel the debt and pay the penalties incurred by our transgressions.

- Abstinence is a form of asceticism, the practice of self-denial to grow in holiness. Jesus asks his disciples to deny themselves and take up their cross (Matthew 16:24).

- Abstinence is a sober way to practice simplicity and austerity, to deny the cravings of our bodies to honor Jesus who practiced the ultimate form of self-denial when he gave his body for us on the cross.

Thus, to give up flesh meat on Fridays, only to feast on lobster tail or Alaskan king crab, is to defeat the ascetical purpose of abstinence. Less is more!

There are countless options for simple Friday meatless dinners: pancakes, waffles, soup and rolls, chipped tuna on toast, macaroni and cheese, fried egg sandwiches, grilled cheese sandwiches, cheese pizza and, of course, fish.



NO GREATER LOVE by Paul Beery BSP

"Jesus said to them: 'Now that the dead rise again, Moses also showed at the bush, when he called the Lord, the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. For He is not the God of the dead, but of the living: for all live to Him.'" (Luke 20:37)

The world is in chaos today. For those who would be about problem-solving, the question arises: why? We who live by the Word of God know the answer to that question from Sacred Scripture.

From the time of Adam and Eve to the present, mankind suffers the consequences of infidelity to its Creator.

In the Office of Readings we have been listening to the lamentations of Job the past several weeks. What an incredible outpouring of the human spirit in time of trouble! Job represents all of us in trying to deal with the human condition when disaster strikes: he complains. God's answer is so special:

*"Let Me tell you; God is greater than man. Why then do you make complaint against Him that He gives no account of His doings? For **God does speak, though one perceive it not.** In a dream, in a vision of the night (when deep sleep falls upon men), as they slumber in their beds. It is then He opens the ears of men and as a warning to them, terrifies them; by turning man from evil and keeping pride away from him, He withholds his soul from the pit and his life from passing to the grave."* (Job 33:12-18)

Perhaps every generation feels the end is near, that evil couldn't get any worse. I echo that sentiment, and have never had such anxiety for the future course of the world. When the people of Israel turned away from God they were punished. Today tiny Israel is about to be surrounded by their enemies with nary a friend in sight. Chances are all the Arab and Muslim nations currently in turmoil will end up with a more radical Islamist government than they now have. They will also be armed, as never before, with weapons of mass destruction, probably including nuclear weapons. The holocaust took place a mere seventy years ago. Will there be another one? Will only Israel be punished, or will all be punished? The descendants of the Philistines, after all, have their eyes on a much bigger prize.

God also gives a way out. Moses has been blamed for bringing the children of Israel to the only place in the Middle East that was not adrift in oil. Turns out he is blameless. Recently a huge discovery of natural gas and oil was made off the coast of Israel, within its territorial waters, appropriately called "Leviathan." As their former allies turn off the supply of energy - and cheap energy means freedom - Israel will be able to tap into its own supplies, and perhaps even begin to export rather than import.

Radical Islam is an external threat to the Chosen People today. But there is a more insidious internal threat, exposed by none other than the Mother of God. In her many "Visitations," she has warned of coming tribulations unless we put our house in order. Our Blessed Mother got our continuing attention at Fatima in a very clever way. She told the children a secret.

Everyone loves to hear secrets. Mary revealed a profound secret to the children at Fatima in 1917

that was to be revealed in 1960. It wasn't. There was much speculation on what the message was and why it was only partially revealed later on. It was said by some that it was fulfilled with the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II. Few believed it. Finally Pope Benedict re-opened the case last May on his way to Fatima, Portugal. Following are his exact words:

"Beyond this great vision of the suffering of the Pope, which we can in substance refer to John Paul II, **are indicated future realities of the Church which are little by little developing and revealing themselves.** Thus, it is true that beyond the moment indicated in the vision, it is spoken, it is seen, the necessity of **a passion of the Church that naturally is reflected in the person of the Pope; but the Pope is in the Church, and therefore the sufferings of the Church are what is announced...**

"As for the novelty that we can discover today in this message, it is that **attacks on the Pope and the Church do not come only from outside, but the sufferings of the Church come precisely from within the Church,** from sins that exist in the Church. This has always been known, but today we see it **in a really terrifying way;** that the **greatest persecution of the Church does not come from enemies outside, but arises from sin in the Church."**

Friends, ponder that statement a moment. In spite of all the outside forces persecuting the Church today, beginning with Islamic Jihadists who have killed **millions of Catholics/Christians** throughout the world the past 30 years, and ending with "non-violent" attacks on the Church from Secular Socialist forces "converting" millions of Christians into de-facto apostasy, Pope Benedict insists: **"The greatest persecution of the Church does not come from enemies outside, but arises from sin in the Church."**

And who would like to guess what that sin is? Those of us who have lived through Vatican II and its aftermath don't need a refresher course on how the Council was used as an excuse to open the windows and invite the Sexual Revolution into the Church. It appears sexual sin is the most widespread epidemic in the world—and the Church—to such a degree I have heard it called the third most serious crisis the Catholic Church has ever faced. The reaction to Pope Paul VI's encyclical "Humanae Vitae" in 1968 was just the beginning of the enemy within eating away at the moral fiber of the Church.

The clerical child sexual abuse scandal was next,

which was so devastating in Ireland that Pope Benedict personally intervened, an unprecedented move. In America 90% of the child sexual abuse came from homosexual priests, mostly directed at preteen and teenage boys. The damage done to those young souls lasts a lifetime. To understand the gravity of the situation, read what St. Peter Damian had to say about homosexual clerical sexual abuse in the Church a thousand years ago, for he is unconstrained by modern political correctness; he very direct, able to tell the truth which we in the modern age seem unable to do for fear of offending someone, seeming too judgmental, or not being compassionate.

It's difficult to determine who is most at fault: abusive individuals themselves, those who never brought them to justice but moved them around to prey on new victims, those who allowed openly gay men into seminaries in the first place, or "theologians" and others who justified the greatest sexual perversion known to mankind, calling it an acceptable "alternative lifestyle." Liberal "Red Letter" Christians have officially excommunicated Paul the Apostle from Sacred Scripture, for he had the temerity to condemn homosexuality. In my opinion, the homosexual network within the Church is one of the greatest **sins in the Church**. If you can't trust an "alter Christus," another Christ, who on earth can you trust?

Those who have promoted this deviant sexual perversion defend it everywhere, even from the altar, corrupting the faithful. Homosexuality is as intrinsically evil today as it was in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah. In society it was considered a mental disorder for six thousand years until the 1970's, when it suddenly became ordered, with "affirmative action" to protect it. I don't know about mental, but homosexuality is a profound moral disorder grossly contrary to the Natural Law

imprinted on the heart of mankind by the Creator Himself. And guess what? Those who defend and justify this sin within the Church are actively attacking and persecuting their own Pro-Life Christian brethren, not to mention making a mockery of the Word of God! The gay agenda now seeks to destroy the sacredness of the Sacrament of Matrimony through the promotion of same-sex "marriage." Is there no end to this evil?

The Church's credibility needs to be restored, including the bond of trust between the priest and his people, so the priest can once again witness to the purity of heart and mind and body required of all who seek to follow Jesus. An outstanding example of such a priest in our diocese is Fr. Michael Keating. He gave a talk recently on "Chastity: Attaining Noble Masculinity." He said **nothing good** has come from the Sexual Revolution. Slavery to sexual sin, stoked by pornography, has taken people's minds off of God and placed it on their own pleasure. He said unchastity is like an illicit drug. Sexual addiction belongs to a pagan culture, a culture in which God is totally ignored—a sick society. That sexual sickness cannot be allowed to persist in one seeking God; it must be defeated at all costs.

A life of holiness consists in being open to God, and allowing Him to purify us. Fr. Keating said even though we live in a pagan culture, we need to live in Another World by weaning ourselves away from the pursuit of pleasure and hedonism. We have a greater Goal! The virtue of temperance will harden us against the need for pleasure—austerity leading to bodies hard and minds firm. We need to seek beauty, truth and goodness to such a degree that we make our name **"feared in hell and praised in heaven!" Then we will truly live for God, live in Him, and He in us!**

Paul Beery BSP - Morning Star Chapter - Minnesota



A MEDITATION by Janet Klasson BSP

From the Gospel Reading of the First Sunday of Lent:
"Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4)

Temptation is everywhere, now more than ever it seems. All the more reason this Lent to ponder the Scripture passage that relates to the temptation of Christ in the wilderness.

World structures—both physical and societal—are falling apart. The shifting sand that was the foundation of so many earthly structures is now proving how unstable it really was. Up to now, we

in the West have enjoyed a religious liberty that has allowed us to practice our faith freely. For the most part our resolve to remain faithful has not been tested. I believe that is about to change.

Our Lord has sent many messengers in this age, most notably his own Holy Mother. We are being prepared for our own temptation in the wilderness, a time when perhaps, like Shahbaz Bhatti, a Pakistani Catholic recently martyred for the Faith by Jihadists, we will be asked to take a stand, no matter the consequences. Mr. Bhatti was the only Christian member of the Parliament of Pakistan, a man who incurred the wrath of extremists by condemning Pakistan's blasphemy law and defending Asia Bibi. She is in prison, condemned to death for being a Christian.

What speaks very loudly is the appalling lack of protest against the persecution of Christians in society today. We hear far more about the incoherent ramblings of drug-addicted TV stars than about the real dangers faced by Christians in many places in the world.

In Egypt the army itself has attacked Coptic Christian monasteries, in one instance they used tanks! Against this use of force, what was the monks' response? They staged a sit-in. The Coptic Christians in Cairo have organized peaceful protests in support of them. Their peaceful actions speak far louder than the guns that are being used against them.

And in case we think this is a "middle-eastern" problem, we now hear about a Christian couple in England, Eunice and Owen Johns, foster parents of 15 children over the years, who have been denied

permission to foster more children specifically because of their Christian beliefs. This is a result of the 'Equality Act Sexual Orientation Regulations' that were passed in 2007. Coming soon to a country near you!

All to say that there can be no doubt our faith will be put to the test sooner rather than later. We may not be tortured or killed, but persecution can take many forms, many of which are subtle or seductive. Perhaps we will not be able to borrow money, open a bank account, purchase goods, or hold a job unless we agree to what the new world order has proclaimed to be "true". The temptations will be great indeed!

What did Jesus do in his time of temptation? He turned to the Word. Now is the time to fortify ourselves in the Word—in Scripture, in the person of Jesus through prayer and the Eucharist—and with fasting. Fasting strengthens the soul. As we enter into our own 40 days, let us pray for strength for ourselves and all those being persecuted for their faith. Let us also immerse ourselves in the Word, for *man does not live by bread alone*. And let us remember that should the dark day come when the Word itself is forbidden, we still have the rosary, which is the Word written on our hearts. That is why the enemy fears it so much.

I want to close with the beautiful words of one of the latest Christian martyrs Shahbaz Bhatti, "As a Christian, I believe Jesus is my strength. He has given me a power and wisdom and motivation to serve suffering humanity. I follow the principles of my conscience, and I am ready to die and sacrifice my life for the principles I believe." Shahbaz Bhatti, and all Christian martyrs, pray for us.

Janet Klasson BSP - Divine Mercy Chapter - Canada

From www.pelianito.stblogs.com February 20, 2011

**"At all times let your garments be white, and spare not the perfume for your head."
(Ecclesiastes 9:8))**

"Children, now is the time to remain in a state of grace and to wear the perfume of constant prayer. One who is in a state of grace and who desires to remain so gives off the perfume of prayer in all he does. His actions are sanctified by the state of his soul. Never before has this been more important, my children. Lions prowl everywhere, waiting for the least opportunity to attack. By remaining in a state of grace you become invisible to the prowling lions. The stench of sin is what gives you away. Have I given you the sacrament to humiliate you, or to save you? Let humility lead to salvation. Let grace be your shield against the enemy. I have not left you unprotected, my children. Repent and confess. Your eternity depends on it and the urgency of the times demands it. Delay at your peril."

Jesus, help us to be humble so that we will not be caught in sin and be an open target for the enemy. Help us to remain in a state of grace. Keep our garments white and the perfume of our prayers sweet. Jesus we depend on you for all this. Jesus we trust in you. Amen.

Author: Janet Klasson





FROM THE 'SPARROW'

The peace of Jesus be yours!

"When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers...what are mere mortals...that you watch over them with such

care?" (Psalm 8:3[4]-4[5])

When God created "lights in the dome of the sky to divide the day from night," he said, "Let them be for signs, seasons, days and years" (Gen. 1:14). Later, these seasons became known in Hebrew as "mo'adey Adonai" (the appointed times of the Lord)—the yearly cycle of festivals ordained for Israel (Lev. 23:1-2, 44). Before Israel or even mankind had been created, God anticipated Israel's life of worship and made detailed provision for it. As Christians we inherit similar seasonal provisions from the Lord and it is easy to look at our liturgical calendar and recognize these structured seasons of worship that occur all during the Church year. One of them is Lent. Another Easter.

Science may describe the "heavenly lights" as

distant planets, stars, and galaxies hurling through empty space. Humankind, in this view, often seems dwarfed and insignificant against the vastness of the cosmos. To the eye faith, however, these same planets and stars are reminders of a loving Creator. He is not a nameless force, but a Father who made plans for His children from the very beginning. Here is an aspect of love that we do not always speak of, but that parents understand instinctively. Love anticipates the needs of the beloved and seeks to meet them before they arrive. The Lord who created the boundless expanse of space "is mindful of us." Such is the Father's love!

"God cannot endure that un-festive, mirthless attitude of ours in which we eat our bread in sorrow, with pretentious, busy haste, or even in shame. Through our daily meals He is calling us to rejoice, to keep holiday in the midst of our working day."

(-Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

Rejoice in the Father's great love for you and for yours...again I say rejoice!

Bob Hall BSP - Morning Star Chapter - North Carolina



"He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry."
(Matthew 4:2)

Radiating Christ

by Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman

Dear Jesus, help me to spread Your fragrance wherever I go. Flood my soul with Your spirit and life. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly, that my life may only be a radiance of Yours. Shine through me, and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Your presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me, but only Jesus! Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as You shine, so to shine as to be a light to others. The light, O Jesus, will be all from You; none of it will be mine. It will be you, shining on others through me. Let me thus praise You the way You love best, by shining on those around me. Let me preach You without preaching, not by words but by my example, by the catching force of the sympathetic influence of what I do, the evident fullness of the love my heart bears to You. Amen.

The **BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF PENANCE OF ST. FRANCIS**

A.k.a. BSP, is a non-profit Private Association of the Faithful, which is dedicated to renewing the ancient way of penance as contained in the First Rule of the Third Order of St. Francis of 1221 for lay people in our modern world. We have the blessing of the Catholic Church to do this through several of its Archbishops, Bishops, and priests. If you are bound by another Rule of life in another profession of the way of St. Francis that does not permit you to enter other religious families you are nonetheless invited to add the elements of this beautiful way of life that Saint Francis of Assisi gave us to the lifestyle of your profession.

All members, and Franciscans, are welcome to submit articles for consideration for inclusion in this newsletter if they are directed towards the spiritual formation of members or are the outgrowth of the lifestyle of the Association. Just send them to the BSP at minncc@aol.com. Feel free to share this newsletter with your friends or neighbors. It is intended to be the primary monthly communication of the Association, and ongoing formation for all members and friends. And if you can find it in your heart and in your budget remember that donations to the BSP are used strictly to promote the lifestyle and are tax deductible.

We remain, always, sincerely yours in the love of Jesus Christ!

*Bruce and Shelley Fahey BSP
Editors*

Welcome to the Brothers and Sisters of Penance!

In the world, but not of it, for Christ!



Communication Center & Headquarters:
65774 County Road 31, Northome, Minnesota 56661
Phone: 218-897-5974
Website: www.bspenance.org
[Email: minncc@aol.com](mailto:minncc@aol.com)

