



...IN THE WORLD, BUT NOT OF IT, FOR CHRIST!

## BONAVENTURE AND HIS LESSONS ON ST. FRANCIS:

### Chapter V—The Austerity of Francis' Life and the comfort Which Creatures Gave Him

4. One night when he was praying in his cell at the hermitage of Sarteano, the Devil called him three times, "Francis, Francis, Francis." When Francis replied, asking him what he wanted, the Devil went on, "There is not a sinner in the whole world whom God will not forgive, if he repents. But if a man kills himself by doing too much penance, he will never find forgiveness." By God's inspiration the saint saw his treachery at once and realized that Satan was trying to reduce him to half-heartedness. This was proved by what followed, because he immediately felt a grave temptation of the flesh, provoked by him whose "very breath will set coals aflame" (Jb 41:12). The moment he felt it coming, Francis tore off his habit in his love for chastity and began to scourge himself with a cord. "There brother ass," he exclaimed, "that is your place, to be scourged like that. The habit is a sign of the religious state and an indication of a good life; a lustful person has no right to it. If you want to go another road, off with you!" He went out into the garden where he rolled naked in the deep snow. After that he gathered up some

of it with both hands and made seven heaps with it and stood before them, saying to his body, "Look, the big one here is your wife and those four are your children, two boys and two girls. The other two are the servants you need to look after them, a man and a woman. And now hurry up and find clothes for them—they are dying of cold. But if all the trouble it takes to look after them is too much for you, then keep your services for God alone." At that the tempter took his leave defeated, and the saint returned triumphantly to his cell. The cold had pierced him to the bone but the flame of passion within him had been utterly quenched, so that he never felt anything like it again. A friar who had been busy praying at the time saw what happened in the clear moonlight. When Francis discovered that he had been seen, he told him all about the temptation which he had felt and commanded him never to tell anyone what he had seen during his lifetime.

Bonaventure—Major Life of St. Francis (1263)



### VISITOR'S MESSAGE Homily by Fr. Robert Altier... Save us, Lord, for we are perishing!

Reading (1 Timothy 6:2c-12)  
Gospel (St. Luke 8:1-3)

In the readings today, one might consider that there is a contradiction. We have, in the first reading, Saint Paul telling Timothy not to try to make himself rich. We have the Psalmist telling us that when someone becomes rich he becomes conceited and thinks to himself, "Everyone's going to think I'm wonderful. I've done really well for myself," and, of course, that nothing is going to follow him down. Then we have some women who are part of the group that followed Our Lord, and they, out of their means, took care of the disciples. So we see that these

women obviously had some money to be able to meet the needs of Our Lord and His apostles. But Saint Paul makes very clear that it is not the money that is the problem but the *love* of money that is the problem.

Perhaps if we looked into our own hearts we are probably going to find (in most of ourselves, anyway) that there is a love of money. We get very concerned about it. We hoard it; we want it; we try to save it; we do all the things we can to get more of it. And for what? Where is it going to lead us? It leads us most of the time to get more material things, more stuff. And where is that going to lead? Right in the wrong direction. It leads us away from Jesus and

right into ourselves, and we play right into the devil's hand. That is where the problem comes with all the money. We either hoard the money or we use the money to buy more things for ourselves. It is all selfish, one way or the other.

Saint Paul, on the other hand, tells Timothy what he is supposed to do. He says, "Instead of this, pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. Compete well for the faith." That is what we ought to be doing and Saint Paul tells Timothy why, he says, "Lay hold of eternal life to which you were called when you made your noble profession in the presence of many witnesses." That noble profession is the profession of faith in Jesus Christ which each and every one of us has made. We were baptized into it. Therefore, what we told Christ on that day is that we were going to reject Satan with all of his works and all of his empty promises. And one of the devil's greatest promises is: "You can be rich. I'll give you lots of stuff. You can have money; you can have ease; you can have material things. You can have all the stuff you want – just do it my way."

Now the devil is not so stupid as to think that we are going to act in a devilish manner, that we are going to give up all the morality we know to be correct and so on. He is not that dumb that he thinks we are going to be able to do all that. He would like it if we did, but he knows better than

that. So he gets us on the other things. He gets us caught up in ourselves. That is my definition of hell: Looking at yourself for the rest of eternity. So are we starting now to prepare for Heaven by looking at God? Or are we starting now to prepare for eternity in hell by looking at ourselves? There are only those two options. The devil does not care how he gets us, as long as he gets us. And all he needs to do is make us focus on the self. That is why we need to look very seriously at the focus. If there is a love of money we are in trouble because the love of money takes the focus from God and puts it onto ourselves; or, perhaps even worse, makes money into an idol of some sort that we put too much emphasis on.

Obviously, we have to work and make money to pay bills and the like; that is not the problem. It is the love of money which Saint Paul talks about which is the problem. That is where the trouble comes. But for each one of us, if we will just trust God, Jesus said, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His way of righteousness and all this other will be given to you besides." And so again, for each of us who have made a profession of faith, we need to look at what Saint Paul admonishes each of us to do: to pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. That is what our lives are to be about. If we do those things we can trust that God will provide for everything else.

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



## **ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE...**

### **Escondido professions**

We were very blessed in that Bruce was able to attend the professions of five members of the Escondido Chapter of the BSP in California at St. Timothy's Catholic Church on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Rose Rypka, Martha Elmer, Matthew Heffernan, Michael Fontes, and

Chris O'Donnell, minister of the Chapter were all professed. They gave their professions to the Lord through Fr. Fernando, pastor of St. Timothy's and spiritual director to the Chapter. The brothers and sisters were professed in their habits, which they wear with the approval of the diocese strictly in their homes and to Chapter meetings and BSP events. Otherwise they do not wear habits. There is a total of 20 members in the Chapter.

Pictures of the professions are included in this newsletter. It is most significant that the pictures of the profession came back to us gilded in gold! Nothing in the background in St. Timothy's Church is gold but the pictures came back in gold. The Lord showed he was there. It was an awesome day for the BSP and the Escondido Chapter.

The Escondido Chapter got started in 2009 when Chris O'Donnell and Matthew Heffernan discovered the BSP on line after searching for information on the Secular

Franciscan Order. Several members of the BSP were in the SFO prior to starting the Escondido Chapter.

The BSP has primarily been promoted by word of mouth at Escondido. Individuals were invited to join the Chapter and members served as role models as to what it might mean. Chris, himself, is the Religious Education Director for the parish, and he has presented a series of classes on Franciscan Spirituality to all interested. Of course, the men in brown robes have drawn interest. Also, The BSP was asked, by the pastor of St. Timothy's, to provide Lenten reflections at parish soup suppers and that also gave the BSP much exposure.

The Chapter Minister, Chris O'Donnell was appointed by the Administrator's in 2009 as the Chapter was just forming. Chris gracefully accepted the responsibility and has done a great deal to help make the Chapter a reality since that time. In addition, there are two officers elected now by secret ballot, the Treasurer and Messenger. These officers currently are Rose Ann Rypka, who serves as Messenger/secretary, and Laura Roberts, who serves as Treasurer and is known locally, with a smile, as Aunt La La, which is her email address.

The regular meeting of the Chapter is on the 2nd Saturday of the month at the Church of St. Timothy. The meeting

begins with Mass and Morning Prayer, which is chanted, and followed by a Franciscan Reflection by their minister, Chris O'Donnell. After that they have a business meeting and sharing, and a Treasurers report. If there are people in formation they break out into formation meetings to

discuss and share their lessons.

On behalf of everyone in the BSP we congratulate the newly professed and the Escondido Chapter on this sterling event. Let us all keep them in prayer! May the Lord bless and lead us all!

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



## NO GREATER LOVE by Paul Beery BSP

**"He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed."**  
(Isaiah 53:3-5 The Suffering Servant)

The following is adapted from Fr. Randal Kasel's talks at this year's BSP retreat on Redemptive Suffering.

Suffering is universal, but for Christians we have great hope, for Christ has given life new meaning. There is no suffering Jesus has not endured, except personal sin. He has identified Himself as the Suffering Servant. The following passages from the Catholic Catechism give some background concerning this, the Paschal mystery:

*"The Paschal mystery of Christ's cross and Resurrection stands at the center of the Good News that the apostles, and the Church following them, are to proclaim to the world. God's saving plan was accomplished 'once for all' (Heb. 9, 26) by the redemptive death of His Son Jesus Christ."<sup>1</sup>*

*"The Scriptures had foretold this divine plan of salvation through the putting to death of 'the righteous one, my Servant' as a mystery of universal redemption, that is, as the ransom that would free men from the slavery of sin. Citing a confession of faith that he himself had 'received,' St. Paul professes that 'Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures.' In particular Jesus' redemptive death fulfills Isaiah's prophecy of the suffering Servant. Indeed Jesus Himself explained the meaning of His life and death in the light of God's suffering Servant. After His Resurrection He gave this interpretation of the Scriptures to the disciples at Emmaus, and then to the apostles."<sup>2</sup>*

It was difficult for the disciples of Jesus to understand His passion and death. Only after His Resurrection did they understand such paradoxical statements as: "Whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will save it." And the BSP favorite: "Whoever wishes to follow Me, let him take up his cross daily and follow Me." "Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone. But if it dies, it bears much

fruit." Then they realized, as Peter put it: "Christ suffered for us, leaving us an example so that we should follow in His steps." (I Peter 2:21)

The Paschal Mystery shows us the nature of Christ's love. He was crucified by sinners, and you and I have a share in that crucifixion. It was our sins that put him on the Cross. "It was necessary for the Christ to suffer," Jesus told his disciples on the road to Emmaus. Through the mystery of Christ's suffering and death on the cross he presents us the opportunity to join with Him, presenting our own sufferings with Him, uniting in a free-will decision to be **one with Him** in our own human experience of suffering. One way or the other all suffering can be traced back to sin, Original Sin, our own personal sin, or the sins of others. Consider the plight of Job in the Old Testament.

Another reason for accepting suffering is to "prove our love for Jesus." Why do we need to prove our love for Him? Because we can use our free will to reject that love. We have the ability to both do good and evil. Our goal in life is to **no longer have the ability to do evil, to join Christ in perfection**, that our will is no longer used in a way that offends God. Therefore we are made perfect by that very grace of God. And then we can say with Paul the Apostle: "Now I rejoice in my sufferings, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of His Body, the Church." (Col. 1:24)

Saint Gemma Galgani said: "If you want to learn to love Jesus, first learn to suffer, because suffering teaches us to love." Does Jesus really want us to suffer? The question goes to the very core of our being. Head and heart need to be united in the answer. Our will is fragile. It needs to be convinced that to Love Jesus we need to learn to suffer. **Bring suffering to love, and love to suffering.** That is the science of the Saints.

Francis had a profound love of suffering. It was manifested throughout his whole life, but to the greatest degree in his giving over control of the Order to another. Then he was the first Saint known to be given the stigmata. He suffered terribly the last two years of his life.

How are we able to embrace suffering? If we wish to fully

1 Catechism of the Catholic Church #571  
2 Ibid #601

unite ourselves to Jesus, we must be willing to see suffering the way the Saints did. Be willing to suffer in union with Jesus. Psychologically, it would be immensely depressing to see suffering as merely an end in itself. We suffer for the sake of Jesus. And we know all things are passing. Those who follow Jesus will be rewarded abundantly. We need to remember that. Otherwise suffering will seem depressing and overwhelmingly discouraging. Our natural inclination is in another direction. We want what Jesus has promised us, eternal peace. We know that is what we are made for. Jesus asks us to be people of faith, and sometimes we have to take it on faith that suffering will lead us to eternal peace. It helps us conquer sin, to take full advantage of the Gospel, to gain the hope that suffering will end someday. We want what Jesus wants.

St. Faustina writes about the fruits of suffering. If the angels envied us, it would be for two things. First would be Holy Communion, the unity of our soul with God. The second is the ability to suffer, which has greater merit than preaching, writing, even miracles. The final goal of our redemption by Jesus was for Him to suffer and die on the cross. He invites us from the cross—a personal invitation through a life of faith and the sacraments to the Paschal Mystery. He draws us to the moment of crucifixion, to the moment of offering his life to the father. He is the Firstborn of many brethren.

The lay priesthood offers us a tangible way to interact with Christ crucified, in a personal way through the sacraments and a life of prayer. We share in His sacrifice through Baptism. We unite our sufferings with the one infinite, eternal, complete and atoning sacrifice of Jesus crucified. Through our daily sacramental life, we unite with Jesus in His mission to bring light to the world. Our sacrifices take on new meaning in Christ. The meaning is changed. It is difficult for us to understand that the meaning of our personal sacrifices is changed to the meaning that Christ

has now assigned to them by His divine power and authority—by His saving grace.

How can a God of love take such value in our suffering? Suffering entered the world through the disobedience of a Fallen Race. It is the result of sin, our own fault. He would rather preserve us from suffering. "It is a labor for God to let us suffer." (Parents can see that in their children.) He wants to redeem us from suffering. But that time is not now, when we are still being tested. Look back over your life. Though there have been many trials, God has undoubtedly preserved us from worse calamities. Jesus cured countless people. He wants to deliver us from our suffering, which is merely a consequence of sin. Suffering is the remedy. Jesus bridges the chasm between sinful man and sinless God. Sin is depriving God our Creator of our love! He has a right to it!

The Little flower said: "I understood that to become a saint one has to suffer much. Choose much or choose little to follow Jesus. **'My God, I choose all!'**" Give our will entirely to God. The evil one instills fear and anxiety in our following of that will. We see Jesus during His agony in the garden. "Father not my will, but thine be done." In imitation of Jesus, we must follow the will of God. Mary is our special intercessor to increase the love of God in our hearts, and to show that love in action. She told the children at Fatima that "many souls go to hell because there is no one to sacrifice themselves and pray for them." She invited them to become little co-redeemers!

Mary of Agreda, a Franciscan nun in Spain, said that if the Saints in heaven had a regret, it would be in not making better use of their time on earth, especially in using all those opportunities to suffer for love of Jesus. For such a small price, He descends into our souls to make of us an instrument of his grace. Such power he wills to give to those who choose to unite themselves with Jesus crucified, the Suffering Servant. **"Eternity will not be long enough to thank Him for this gift."** (Teresa of Avila)

Paul Beery BSP - Morning Star Chapter - Minnesota



## Called to hope... A MEDITATION by Janet Klasson BSP

From the Gospel, Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**"Where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy."** (James 3:16-17)

Have you noticed the confusion that permeates our culture these days? It's pretty hard to miss. The evil one has sown the seeds of confusion in abundance. For those whose faith is weak, it is increasingly hard to distinguish the wheat from the weeds. In fact there are many who are plucking out the wheat and leaving the weeds. It's all upside-down! And it's hard to feel hopeful.

But hope is what we are called to as Christians, and certainly as penitents in a fallen world. Those holy souls whose merits have gained them eternity in heaven no longer have any need for hope; every longing and desire is fulfilled in ways we cannot imagine. They exist in perfect communion with a perfect community of perfect love. There is nothing left to hope for. For those of us left on earth it is a different story. We are deeply in need of

hope, a commodity that seems to be in shorter and shorter supply these days, and "these days" are far from over. Terrorism, wars, global warming, natural disasters, instability in the world economy, all these things are causing a crisis of hope in the world. The world is in need of prophets of hope. It is time for the baptized to embrace their baptismal call to be "ambassadors for Christ" as the above Scripture passage says.

Our beloved Pope John Paul II was himself a "witness to hope". And his worthy successor has also embraced this message in his encyclical: *Spe Salvi*—Saved by Hope. I have chosen just a few excerpts from this document to explore what means to be prophets of hope as penitents in the world.

*"Paul reminds the Ephesians that before their encounter with Christ they were 'without hope and without God in the world'.<sup>3</sup> Of course he knew they had had gods, he knew they had had a religion, but their gods had proved questionable, and no hope emerged from their contradictory myths. Notwithstanding their gods, they were 'without God' and consequently found themselves in a dark world, facing a dark future."<sup>4</sup>*

Even though 2000 years have past since St. Paul wrote to the Ephesians, his words are as relevant to our day as they were to his—perhaps even more so. In this paragraph, Pope Benedict XVI has hinted at an eerie parallel to "a dark world facing a dark future". But, as a prophet of hope himself, he does not leave us in the dark.

*"Here too we see as a distinguishing mark of Christians the fact that they have a future: it is not that they know the details of what awaits them, but they know in general terms that their life will not end in emptiness. Only when the future is certain as a positive reality does it become possible to live the present as well."<sup>5</sup>*

Ah, here is a hint of what it means to be prophets of hope. It is echoed in 1 Peter 3:15 *Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.* We know that what we experience here on earth is only temporary, that we are made for eternity. It is this faith that allows us to live hope-filled lives on earth, in any circumstance. Our faith in Jesus Christ gives meaning to every moment of our lives, joy or sorrow,

3 Ephesians 2:12

4 Spei Salvi

5 Ibid

celebration or suffering. That is a message worth passing on!

*"To come to know God—the true God—means to receive hope. We who have always lived with the Christian concept of God, and have grown accustomed to it, have almost ceased to notice that we possess the hope that ensues from a real encounter with this God."<sup>6</sup>*

We have tasted the goodness of the Lord! How often have we taken this for granted! We should pray for the opportunity to speak about our personal knowledge of God with those God sends us. I think it is important to be patient in this and rely on God's timing. As a priest once told me: "Let it happen, don't make it happen." If you are willing, God will send you souls. When it happens, you will know. Then let the hope you have in Christ Jesus be a beautiful gift you pass on at the appointed time.

It is important to keep in mind that a darkened world will probably not welcome prophets of hope. Our Lord himself prophesied about this in Matthew 5:11-12 *"Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you."* We must be ready for whatever comes, good or bad, praise or persecution. It is this life of prayer and penance that strengthens us for our mission. It allows us to discard what is unnecessary and focus on what is important—the will of God alone. Whether praise comes or persecution, it should be all the same to us as long as God's will is served. As we read in 1 Peter 2:9 *"You are 'a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises' of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."* At all times, in all circumstances, we announce His praises.

Here is one last quote from *Spe Salvi* that I want to leave with you, a beautiful image given to us by the Holy Father, an image well worth pondering as we consider our call to be prophets of hope.

*"When you (Mary) hastened with holy joy across the mountains of Judea to see your cousin Elizabeth, you became the image of the Church to come, which carries the hope of the world in her womb across the mountains of history."<sup>7</sup>*

This is one more way we can take Mary as our model as we strive to live our call to be prophets of hope.

6 Ibid

7 Ibid

**Zephaniah 2:3 Seek the LORD, all you humble of the earth, who have observed his law; seek justice, seek humility; perhaps you may be sheltered on the day of the LORD'S anger.**

*"Beloved child, become littler and humbler. Do not take offense, but contemplate my own humility in submitting to the blows of angry men. It is the lowly who find shelter in my heart; the proud will not bend to enter it. But it is only in the shelter of my heart that you will find peace as the days continue to descend into chaos. Think of a baby in its mother's womb. The child is at peace no matter what is going on outside. He does not know what it means to feel anxious or afraid. Weak and dependent though he is, he gives no thought to it, but places all his trust in the one who gently carries him. This is how it must be with you. Let the tempest rage, but you must contemplate your Beloved and place all your trust in him. One day you will be born into the kingdom of everlasting peace and your joy will never end."*

Jesus, beloved, I enter into your peaceful heart. Help me to not let the cares of this life disturb the peace I have in knowing that all is in your sacred, loving hands—including me. Jesus I trust in you. Amen.

Janet Klasson BSP, Divine Mercy Chapter



## FROM THE 'SPARROW' Consider carefully your road in life...

The peace of Jesus to each of you. It is rare these days to be able to relate to you a story like the one that follows. However, I do feel it will refresh you and perhaps even encourage you to some degree...it did this little

sparrow.

A 47-year old Austrian man gave away his entire \$4.7 million fortune after concluding that his wealth and lavish spending were keeping him from real life and happiness. Karl Rabeder told the DAILY TELEGRAPH (London), "I had the feeling I was working as a slave for things I did not wish for or need. It was the biggest shock of my life when I realized how HORRIBLE, SOULLESS, and without feeling the 'five-star' lifestyle is." His money now funds charities he set up to help people in Latin America.

## What kind of friend?

Of all the Saints within our Church the one who represents being a close friend of the Lord was our beloved St. Francis of Assisi. Yet, by contrast, and in his own words of recrimination describing himself, we see that he did not see himself as anything more than the worst of sinners. Friendship can often be something difficult to define and apply to relationships.

In the Old Testament we find David and Jonathan were best friends, but it wasn't easy. Their friendship required effort and risk. Jonathan's father, King Saul, wanted to kill David. Jonathan knew that God had anointed David to be the next king of Israel, which meant that he himself

Proverbs 4 urges us to consider carefully our own road in life. The passage contrasts the free, unhindered path of the just with the dark, confused way of the wicked (v.19). "Let your heart retain my words; keep my commands, and live" (v.4). "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life" (v.23). "Ponder the path of your feet, and keep, and let all your ways be established" (v.26). Each verse encourages us, as Christians and Franciscans, to evaluate where we are in life.

No one, not a sparrow I know, wants to go through life on a selfish, heartless road. But it can happen unless we consider where we are going in life and ask the Lord for His direction. May He give us grace today to embrace His Word and follow Him, the Good Shepherd, with all our little sparrow hearts.

May the Lord Most High bless and keep you all!

would not rule. Yet the two men shared a bond of brotherly love.

Would you choose to be a friend to one who is selfish and vain, who betrays your confidence, who deserts you when you need him most? JESUS DID. He chose people like YOU AND ME to be His friends at all costs, even the cost of sacrificing His life for us on the cross. While we were His enemies, He made us friends and connected Himself to us forever. Now he calls us, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to befriend others as He has befriended us.

To give instead of get, to share instead of keep, to love instead of bicker--to be willing to give our lives for others--that would be a friendship made in heaven! (...all

sparrows know this to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life...) May you be that kind of a friend.

Lord, make us instruments of Your peace!

Bob Hall BSP, Little Flower Chapter

## MORNING STAR: NEWS ON THE ASSOCIATION...

### ESCONDIDIO PROFESSIONS...GOD BE PRAISED!



The "Golden" Profession

Left to right:

- Chris O'Donnell
- Martha Elmer
- Matthew Heffernan
- Michael Fontes
- Rose Ann Rypka



Bruce and Laura Roberts (Aunt La La)

Bruce and Sheila Meziere





The Professed

Left to right:

Martha Elmer  
Rose Rypka Michael  
Fontes Chris  
O'Donnell Matthew  
Heffernan



Left to right: Martha Elmer, Michael Fontes, Jo Ann Mitchell, Holly Christie, Jose Moreno, Matthew Heffernan, Charlotte Wirths, Chris O'Donnell, Mary Esposito, Rose Ann Rypka, Bruce Fahey, Tami Cunningham, Laura Roberts, Kathy McCormack, Sheila Meziere





## Our Dear Friend Anna...



Dear Friends,

We received word from Mauro, Anna Feroni's oldest son in Italy, that Anna died June 11th. This is the first we have heard of her death despite making repeated inquiries.

Anna came to the BSP in 2002. She never did enter formation but immediately set herself to creating our web page, as that was her regular job in the real world. Thanks to her the web page was finished and operational within a year of her coming and she set in place all of the other internal electronic systems we are still using to manage the BSP. We owe her so much. On top of that she was a very close friend to us and even came to live with us for several months some years ago when she decided to have cancer surgery in America. The return of that cancer is what ultimately killed her.

The Statutes state, in Article 23: "Within eight days of the demise, each member shall say for the soul of the deceased: a Mass, if a priest, otherwise fifty Psalms. If a member cannot read the Psalter, he or she may say fifty Our Father's with the words "May the souls of the faithful departed through the Mercy of God rest in peace" following each Our Father."

Please keep Anna and her family in your prayers. Thank you, and God bless you always,

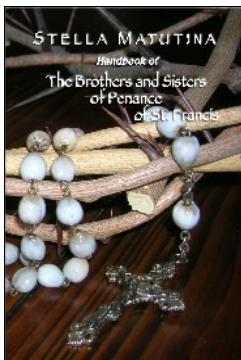
Bruce and Shelley Fahey BSP



**"The heavenly kingdom is the goal of the earthly society and the earthly kingdom is a means and condition for attaining the heavenly."**

—Gaudium et spes 41 (Vatican II documents)

## HANDBOOK OF THE ASSOCIATION...



The BSP Handbook, titled ***Stella Matutina: Handbook of The Brothers and Sisters of Penance of St. Francis*** is now available for order. We have used a print-on-demand service at Lulu.com to print the book. This means we do not have to keep a stockpile of books, but customers order directly from Lulu, which prints them as they are ordered and ships them directly to the customer. This simplifies the ordering process for the administrators.

There is a link to the ordering page on our BSP Homepage. You will need a credit card or a Paypal account to order. Cost is \$10.00 plus shipping.

**Bruce and Paul also have copies available.**

May the Rule of 1221 lead many souls on the path to holiness.

Bruce and Shelley Fahey, Administrators

# 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!*

**[Website: www.bspenance.org](http://www.bspenance.org)**



**he BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF  
PENANCE**



**of St. Francis**

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