



Luke 9:23

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF PENANCE OF ST. FRANCIS

OCTOBER 2012



...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

5. Besides teaching the friars to mortify the passions of the flesh with its impulses, Francis insisted that they should watch over their exterior senses by which death enters the soul with the greatest vigilance. He warned them to beware of the sight of women and avoid close friendships or conversations with them which can often lead to a fall. Indiscretion in this matter, he affirmed, could crush the weak and weaken the strong, adding that it was as hard for anyone who had much to do with them to avoid being ensnared as it was to "walk on hot coals without burning one's feet" (cf. Prv 6, 27). He avoided the sight of women so carefully himself that he scarcely knew any woman by sight, as he once confessed to his companion. He was convinced that it was dangerous to allow any



man's head, he will lose no time in making a rope of it."

representation of them to enter one's mind because the flames of passion could easily be rekindled or the purity of a clean heart be stained. He often remarked that any conversation with women was pointless except on the occasion of confession or a brief instruction. Such contact could be of benefit to their spiritual progress and did not exceed the limits of religious behavior. "What," he asked, "has a religious got to do with women anyway, unless they are looking for confession or ask for spiritual direction? When a man is too sure of himself, he becomes less wary of the enemy, and if the Devil can call his own even one hair of a

Bonaventure—Major Life of St. Francis (1263)



VISITOR'S MESSAGE Homily by Fr. Robert Altier... Woe to the disobedient!

Reading (Baruch 1:15-22)
Gospel (St. Luke 10:13-16)

In the first reading today from the Book of the Prophet Baruch, we hear in the prayer of the exiles, as they are in Babylonia, and as they prayed to the Lord they said that from the time their ancestors "came forth from the land of Egypt until the present day, we have been only too disobedient to our God and only too ready to disregard His voice." The Lord had made very clear in the Old Testament that there were certain things that the people absolutely must do and certain things that they absolutely must not do, and there were blessings and curses that God put upon the people. "If you do these things, you will be blessed. If, on the other hand, you do these things, you will be cursed." To be cursed by God is not a particularly happy

thought, and yet it is exactly what the people recognized. As they continued to pray, they recognized that the curses God had sworn would happen if they disobeyed His voice were happening to them. Remember, the prophet Jeremiah tells the people that the reason why they went into the Babylonian Exile is because they killed their babies. They offered their babies in sacrifice to demons. But there were lots of other things the people did, totally disregarding the voice of the Lord.

Well, now in the Gospel reading, the Lord says, "Whoever listens to you" –that is, the Church – "listens to Me. Whoever rejects you rejects Me. And whoever rejects Me rejects the One Who sent Me." Well, all we need to do is look at what is going on in our society and we would have to say, "We only have been all too willing to reject the

voice of God. We only have been all too willing to be disobedient to what God has told us to do." So the Lord, in telling us these things, places it in a context; it is within the context of the cities where He did His work, where the majority of His miracles took place, and therefore He tells them that they are going to be condemned.

Now it was the people of Israel who saw the mighty works of God, the signs and wonders that He performed in the land of Egypt out in the desert. It was to them and to their children – who had the Sacred Scriptures, who lived in a society which passed down the stories that had occurred years before – so they knew; they were without excuse. This was not some pagan group someplace that had never heard of the Lord, even though natural law is written in their hearts and on their minds and they know the difference between right and wrong. These were people who knew the Lord. They knew what He had done, and they knew what they were supposed to do and what they were not supposed to do. It is precisely for that reason that the curse fell upon them.

We are no different. We are the people of God. We are the New Israel. We now have seen the signs and wonders of the Lord. We know what He has done in our lives, we know what He has done in the Church, we know what He has done in the world, and we have decided to disregard the voice of God and be disobedient and to do whatever we want to do instead of doing what God has asked of us. There are blessings and there are curses because the Word of God does not change. If we do not heed the voice of the Lord, our God, the curses that He has promised are going to fall upon us, and we have only been too quick to disregard the voice of the Lord. Therefore, the things that are happening in the world are precisely because humanity has chosen to disregard God's voice, and the curses that He swore are falling upon the world.

The worst thing, remember, that anybody can endure is for God simply to let them go their own way. Well, it is not just in the life of an individual that God is allowing that now; it is in the lives of countries and in the lives of the whole world – He is just simply letting them go. Rather

than calling them back, rather than punishing them, rather than chastising them for what they are doing and bringing them back to reason – because He has done it over and over again and we have still disregarded it – now He has just simply allowed it to go. And He is going to allow it to implode upon itself because that is exactly what will happen if we keep going on the path we are going. He will intervene, but He is not going to intervene until the fruit of what we have planted comes to fruition. So we need to pray, and we need to pray hard that God will intervene soon because this cannot continue for very long. We need to be obedient, we need to hear the voice of the Lord, and we need to act upon what God has asked of us.

We are a strange group of people. Well, I guess we are not; we are just like all the rest. We want to do whatever we want to do and we want God's blessings on top of it. We want to be completely disobedient, we want to make the rules, we want to "play god" and we want to tell Him that He is supposed to shower us with graces and blessings and do all the other things we want Him to do. It does not work that way. We need to remember Who is God and who is not. And we need to stop allowing Satan to be in control. We need to listen to the voice of God, because if we do not listen to the Church we are not listening to Christ. And if we are not listening to Christ we have rejected God the Father Who sent Him. Then all the signs and wonders that He has worked in our lives, in the Church, and in the world will be a witness against us. He will look at us and say, "Woe to you! If this had happened in the worst places in the world, in Tyre, in Sidon, if this had happened in Sodom and Gomorrah, they would have repented in sackcloth and ashes." But we have not, as a nation, as a people, as a world. Will we be exalted to the heavens? We will be condemned to hell if we continue on the path that we are going. It is just that simple. Individuals within certainly will not be. But we have chosen the wrong path as a nation and as a world. So as individuals we need to stand against it, and it is quite a tide, quite a current that is pushing against us. And so the only way is to pray, to listen to the voice of God, and to be obedient.

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



ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE...

Gifts

There is now an annual Fahey family reunion every summer. Six brothers and sisters, all adults with families, get together at one of the homes of the family members. This year we gathered at my sister Pat's home on Greer lake near Emily, Minnesota. It was

a great event and for us adult Fahey's, and spouses, no children, it is a nice way for us all to see each other more than once a year at Christmas.

We always have some interesting conversations at our reunion. All of the family, Bruce's extended family, and our children and grand children, have remained in and faithful to the Church. So discussions about God and the Church are easy and common among us. As it turns out only Bruce is living a rule of life as a consecrated layman in the BSP now, but that is never discussed at the reunion. Years ago we shared the Rule with them briefly, and invited them to join the BSP, but they all declined. So, they know only that we started the BSP and are living some kind of rule of life. No details, which is fine.

Bruce was sharing at dinner one night that God has blessed us, Shelley and I and our family, with numerous miracles so to reveal himself to us and confirm and ease our journey. No details on miracles were shared, we were just making conversation. At that Bruce's little sister Rosie said very simply, 'we are all surrounded by miracles. We breath oxygen, the sun shines every day, the grass grows, and we have enough food. God is with us all.' She was so right. The fact is that life is a miracle when you think about it. And when you consider that there was a time when nothing existed. There was once just a 'void' that God filled with the universe and then all the rest of creation. Life is really a miracle. A miracle of God's love. A gift now to all of us human beings. And he continues to shower us with gifts. With food, shelter, clothing, wonderful friends and family, and all we need for our lives. Without a thought he does that, and often without so much as a prayer as so many people don't, or won't, pray. His Providence flows from his natural goodness, for God is love, and love in His case is most definitely a verb. It is for Him a call to action, to be present to us and care for us, and for us it is pure gift.

So, what do we do in response to such a gift? There is only one thing that is adequate. It is to offer him back the gift of our love. A gift for His gifts. That is all he wants of us and we can do that in many ways. The main way of course is to live the two great commandments. To love Him with our whole mind, heart, and soul, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. This is the gift He wants from us and guess what? If we live that way His gifts will continue and deepen, moving from this life to the life to come. He will give us the greatest gift of all. Eternal life in heaven; the happiest place we will ever know, and it will never end. His Providence there will be complete, total, and forever. He will provide for us forever. It will be eternal rest, our seventh day, like He rested on His seventh day. Isn't it wonderful!

So, dear friends, let us return our gift of love to God. Living our Rule of life seals our gift with actions. Adds a ribbon to our gift. Blessed be the Lord, and blessed are all who live this Rule for the love of God and good of their souls.

Peace be with us all.

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



NO GREATER LOVE by Paul Beery BSP

"Is this the way you repay the Lord, O stupid and foolish people? Is He not your Father, your Creator, who made you and formed you?" (Deuteronomy 32:1-18)

"Truth is the new hate speech." So said a pundit wise to the ways of the world. I lie awake at night, thinking how I can more effectively communicate the Truth, knowing it will be considered hateful in many circles, even within the Church. At times I get up, as at present, and try to formulate words that will pierce the confusion and obfuscation surrounding mankind's search for Truth, for God. Clarity is needed today more than ever, especially moral clarity.

Perhaps BSP members won't need such clarity as much as others, but I can guarantee we all need help in figuring out where others are coming from, and how they are being led astray. Somehow a rather bizarre book has fallen into my hands making that possible. It is called "The Little Blue Book," The Essential Guide to Thinking and Talking Democratic, by George Lakoff, the principal author, and Elisabeth Wehling. It is my pleasure to present the principle reason for the polarization of this country, at once simple yet profound, for it explains everything.

Lakoff begins by attempting to explain what "Extreme Conservatism" is. Take note, all fellow religious "extremists" out there. You are about to learn what has taken you so far out of the "Mainstream." An "Extreme Conservative" is one who believes in the "Strict Father

Model!" I kid you not! That is the one and only reason Lakoff gives for labeling all faithful conservative/orthodox Christians as "extremists." In the eyes of the worldly, he is right! For where does the "Strict Father Model" come from? Directly from Sacred Scripture! For the Ways of God are directly contrary to the ways of the world. Learn then, how to be an even better "extremist!"

The wonderful quote above comes from the Old Testament, which is filled with the picture of God as a strict Father, for He has to deal with a Fallen Race which will never return to Him without the discipline to heal and restore our fractured human nature. Jesus reveals the other side of His and our Father as a loving Father, who shows the depths of His Love for us by sending His Son Jesus to die for our redemption. Any father, any parent, can appreciate the sacrificial love needed for such an unbelievable action on behalf of another.

The lessons to be learned from those three words: Strict Father Model, are legion. The liberal mantra: "Question Authority" now makes sense. I have long thought of liberalism in general as a childish, life-long rebellion against authority, ultimately against God's authority over His children. Liberalism has spawned at least three pernicious offspring:

1. The Environmental Movement. The genius of Baby

Boom Virtue shifted the spotlight from God to man by making sin an offense not against God, but against the planet earth. Personal sin against God is of no consequence, but "social" sins are mortal. Social Darwinism allowed for creation without a Creator, so "Mother Earth" can now be worshiped. Mankind, made in the Image and Likeness of the Creator, is not a part of "Nature," but its enemy, and therefore must be eliminated. Hence the Culture of Death to troublesome parts of mankind as determined by the Secular Socialist State, but life to all "wild" and "natural" things through "Animal Rights."

2. The Feminist Movement. Who of us older folks can forget the rants and ravings of the early Feminists against "Male Chauvinist Pigs?" They attacked the very notion and validity of fatherhood, especially the Fatherhood of God, and railed against the unjust "patriarchal system" within the Church. One can have sympathy for those who have been abused by fathers/husbands or other males, who have formed a hatred for all men. What is their picture of God as a loving Father when the men in their lives have been jerks? But the grace of God is more powerful than such negative earthly stereotypes. Otherwise He would not be just and merciful.

3. The Gay Rights Movement. Homosexuals further subvert the notion of fatherhood into sexual perversion. Ninety percent of the priests involved in the clerical child sexual abuse scandal were gay. Homosexuals are twelve times more likely to be pedophiles than heterosexuals. The notion of a priest, an "alter Christus," bringing not the love of Jesus but sexual abuse to children/boys is an abomination. Yet this "alternative lifestyle" is a gem in the crown of liberalism, still defended by many in the Church even as it seeks to despoil the sacredness of the Marriage Covenant.

The notion of "Father" has been so undermined that liberal priests and nuns will not even use it in the liturgy. "God our Creator" is used instead. Imagine. We who are loved by our Father in heaven, a Father (who) Knows Best, cannot even be acknowledged by His own

"stupid and foolish people," all because of an ideological, deadly virus known as liberalism.

Analyze the "Our Father" prayer as a Strict Father Document. "Our Father who art in heaven... Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Be obedient to our Father in heaven? Not if you want to do your own thing. Yet that is the secret to sanctity for any Christian, complete submission to the will and love of God our Father. There could not be two more contradictory notions: obedience to God our Father in child-like simplicity, or its opposite: arrogant disobedience to the Father's will as proclaimed to this generation by the liberal extremists.

For example consider an impossibility: a liberal theologian attempting to accurately interpret Sacred Scripture. Just force the Word of God into the framework of a worldly ideology, knowing that ideology trumps everything, even the faith. It happens all the time in politics, loyalty to a political ideology even when it attacks one's faith. The faithful stand as witnesses against this treachery. That's one reason faithful Christian conservative "extremists" are so hated, those who faithfully follow and proclaim the Truth, the new hate speech, while the unfaithful are lauded and honored by the worldly. That's why the Secular world allies itself with a truly extreme and violent man-made religion—Islam—against Christianity, all because of the "Strict Father Model." It makes no sense. But then evil makes no sense. It can only be fought against - and defeated by the grace of God. And we play a key role in God's army through Redemptive Suffering.

Pope Leo XIII saw a vision of the devil laying waste to the modern world. More and more of the faithful are going back to his prayer: *"St. Michael the Archangel defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do thou O Prince of the heavenly host—by the power of God—cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen."*

Paul Beery BSP, Morning Star Chapter, Minnesota



Penitents in the world—a sign of hope... A MEDITATION by Janet Klasson BSP

From the Second Reading, Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)

As you may know, I am a Canadian. You may have heard through pro-life news of the great disappointment pro-life Canadians were met with on September 26. Since the 1980s, the Canadian Criminal Code, Section 223 has stated that "a child becomes a human being within the

meaning of this Act when it has completely proceeded, in a living state, from the body of its mother." On September 26, Motion 312 was tabled for a vote. The motion read:

"That a special committee of the House be

appointed and directed to review the declaration in Subsection 223(1) of the Criminal Code which states that a child becomes a human being only at the moment of complete birth.” Specifically, the committee would study four questions:

- 1. What medical evidence exists to demonstrate that a child is or is not a human being before the moment of complete birth?*
- 2. Is the preponderance of medical evidence consistent with the declaration in Subsection 223(1) that a child is only a human being at the moment of complete birth?*
- 3. What are the legal impact and consequences of Subsection 223(1) on the fundamental human rights of a child before the moment of complete birth?*
- 4. What are the options available to Parliament in the exercise of its legislative authority in accordance with the Constitution and decisions of the Supreme Court to affirm, amend, or replace Subsection 223(1)?*

The motion simply sought to open the discussion, to let science and reason have their say. Members of Parliament were allowed a free vote, meaning they did not have to vote along party lines. Sadly the anti-life votes out-numbered the pro-life votes and the motion was defeated 203 to 91. Doubly disappointing is that some pro-life MPs voted against their conscience in the matter, as they were unwilling for political reasons to re-open the debate.

Beyond the sick feeling one gets when one reads or listens to the secular coverage of this event, I also have a feeling that spiritually my country has failed a test that was sent by God. When the government of a country lacks the will and the courage to protect its most vulnerable, it turns its back on the providential protection God desires to give to all world leaders on behalf of their countries. I have a sinking feeling that the freedom and security we have enjoyed for 145 years is about to be shattered.

However, there is great reason to hope. Throughout history, whenever sin has abounded, grace has also abounded. Throughout world history, God has intervened for the cause of truth and justice and right. After the deluge comes a rainbow. After the desert comes the promised land. After the cross comes the resurrection. Jesus we trust in you!

At the heart of the problem is the fact that the Church is languishing in our day. It is suffering from the plague of sin and the pestilence of apathy. Is it any wonder that the anti-life forces appear to be winning? St. Paul tells us that *“in Christ all things hold together.”*¹ The more the

world rejects him, the more it falls apart.

So many of us ask, why does God wait? Why does he not put an end to this madness today? I believe it is because We have not prayed and fasted enough for souls. What is God's measuring stick? It is not suffering, or death, or even sin—it is souls! “I thirst!” he cried from the cross. In Ezekiel 33:11, God says: *“As I live, says the Lord GOD, I swear I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked man, but rather in the wicked man's conversion, that he may live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! Why should you die, O house of Israel?”*

The situation is dire in the Church and in the world. But St. Francis was called at a dire time in Church history, as was St. Catherine of Siena. If you are not familiar with her story, I invite you to read it at <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/03447a.htm>. St. Catherine of Siena, like St. Francis, was a saint with an amazing commission—renewal of the Church! This simple, humble Dominican contemplative came to be a consultant to popes and princes. Jesus told her:

“Not by the sword or by war or by violence will she regain her beauty, but through peace and through the constant and humble prayers and sweat and tears poured out by my servants with eager desire.”

And that is the call of the penitent—to renew the Church through humble prayers and sweat and tears. We penitents have a critical role to play in the serious drama unfolding in our day. Never underestimate what a little rag-tag band of penitents can accomplish. It delights God to make use of our weakness to serve his glory.

We may be losing the political battle. So be it. God's kingdom is not of this world. The war will not end until hearts are changed. What we really want is the conversion of sinners, of abortionists, of those who believe that unborn children are expendable, of those that commit despicable crimes and sins. They are legion! But our pitiful prayers and sacrifices linked to the cross can save the souls of a great many sinners through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Let us redouble our efforts to pray and fast more perfectly. Nothing is too insignificant to be offered. Give it all to Mary and she will build a beautiful crown for us with a jewel for every soul saved. Even little jewels are beautiful in their own right. Maybe there is a soul who only needs a small sacrifice to keep them on the right path. Others need bigger ones to be sure, but many are those who are one prayer away from sin. Let us hold nothing back but give all for the glory of God!

“Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Heb 4:16) Amen!
Jesus we trust in you!

1 Col. 1:17



Judith 4:13 The Lord heard their cry and had regard for their distress. For the people observed a fast of many days' duration throughout Judea, and before the sanctuary of the Lord Almighty in Jerusalem.

"My children am I deaf to your cry? I tell you I am not! Pour out your hearts to me with contrite spirit and with fasting. I tell you this kind of faith and trust in me can move mountains. But discern in the Spirit what you pray for. Many prayers reach me that do not please me. I hunger and thirst for souls—make this your most fervent plea. If you did this you would find that grace upon grace would be heaped upon you. So many souls are in grave danger. What will happen to those who die suddenly, if you do not pray for them? On the day of judgment you will know the full impact of your prayers and you will see the souls that might have been saved if you had prayed for them. Children, do not allow that this should happen! Apply yourselves to pray and offer sacrifice for souls. The repercussions will be felt both in time and in eternity."

O my Jesus, forgive me for the ways that I am lacking in this regard! In the Divine Will, make up for my weakness. Fix my mistakes in such a way as to surpass the fruits of my having done it well in the first place. O Lord, you know my weakness. Without your grace we are all lost. Then in your infinite mercy make up for what is lacking in my lifelong prayer. Jesus I trust in you to save all those souls I should have prayed for but didn't. YOU Jesus—I trust in YOU. Amen.

Janet Klasson BSP, Divine Mercy Chapter, Canada



FROM THE 'SPARROW' Prodigals...

From Chapter 26 of the "Little Flowers of St. Francis" we read how St. Francis gave us an example of how to empathize even with members of a local robber gang that was terrorizing his twelfth century neighborhood.

In the story we find that not only did he extend forgiveness and mercy to the robbers but that they actually became Franciscans when they joined his Order and that they "remained faithful to him (St. Francis) in mind and deed." And they produced wonderful fruits of penance.

A Christian writer of today put into words some thoughts that St. Francis would have totally approved of in light of the Gospel intentions of our Lord's words. He wrote:

"The first duty of authority is to try to understand the force of the temptations which drove the sinner to sin and the seductiveness of the circumstances in which sin became so attractive. No man can pass judgment on another unless he at least tries to understand what the other has come through. The second duty of authority is to seek to reclaim the wrongdoer. Any authority which is solely concerned with punishment is

wrong; any authority, which, in its exercise, drives a wrongdoer either to despair or to resentment, is a failure. The function of authority is not to banish the sinner from all decent society, still less to wipe him out; it is to make him into a good man. The man set in authority must be like a wise physician; his one desire must be to heal."²

When you link our Lord's Gospel to the words and actions of St. Francis and then to the surmise of Barclay the conclusion is that repentance and conversion and healing is brought about, to even the worst of us, through the Gospel directive of pardon, mercy, and forgiveness of a loving God that is to be found in the lives of those who live His Gospel. It is certainly clear that when Jesus speaks about the Prodigal Son in Luke 15 that the Father is more than willing and deeply desiring of the restoration of his fallen away son. So much so that He throws a celebration upon getting him back. Can you, my dear little friends do anything less? For Jesus stated:

"I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Blessings in our Lord Jesus Christ.

² "Gospel of John" (Volume 2), William Barclay, p. 5

Bob Hall BSP, Little Flower Chapter, N. Carolina





MEDITATION ON THE PASSION by Dawn Usak, BSP Twelfth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

**We adore you O Christ and we praise you.
Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.**

My Dear Lord, you have given up your soul to your heavenly Father, and with it the payment for my sins. But at such cost dear Jesus. May my selfish ways die with you on the Cross so that I too will be offered up to the Father as a pure sacrifice.

Our Father... Hail Mary...Glory Be...Amen.

(Stations of the Cross. Painted by Sister Mary Leo Hargarten, SSND (1900-1959). Born in Milwaukee, Sr. Mary Leo studied art in Munich, Germany (1930-1934) and later headed the art department at Mount Mary College in Wisconsin. Suffering poor health, witnessing her mother's chronic illness and saddened

by the premature deaths of siblings, Sister found her comfort in the Passion of Jesus. This set of Stations, painted in 1953, was first erected in the old St. Francis Hospital in Shakopee, Minn. When the Sisters of St. Francis made major modifications to the Chapel they gave the set to Fr. Robert Bayer, who mounted them at the Franciscan Retreat Centre, Prior Lake MN.)



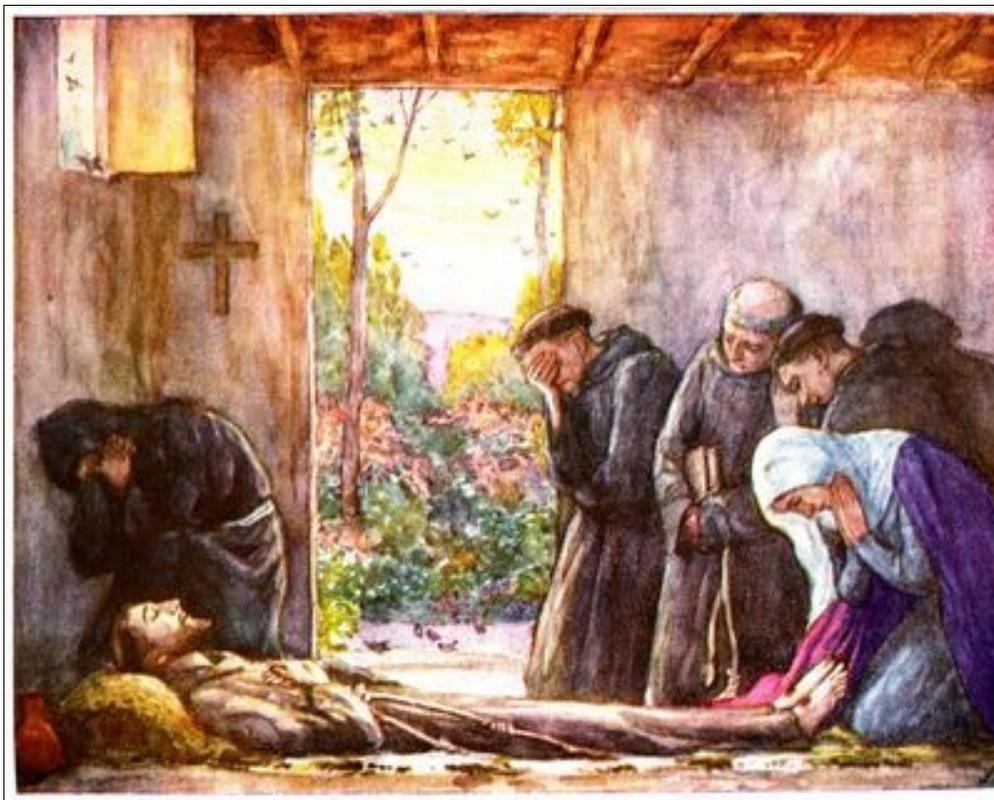
MORNING STAR: NEWS ON THE ASSOCIATION...

FEAST DAY OF ST. FRANCIS OCTOBER 4

As we approach the Feast of the Transitus of St. Francis on October 4, it is wonderful to consider this beautiful promise of Jesus to St. Francis, found in the "Little Flowers of St. Francis"³.

"I grant to you that every year on the day of your death you may go to Purgatory and by virtue of your Stigmata you may take from there and lead to Paradise all the souls of your Three Orders, that is, who have been very devoted to you, whom you may find there, so that you may be conformed to Me in death as you are in life."

If we are not yet convinced of our call to the Franciscan orders, perhaps this will assist with discernment! We add a prayer here that by God's mercy and through the intercession of St. Francis, all BSP members will die shortly *before* the feast of St. Francis and not shortly *after*, so that their time in Purgatory will be lessened through the mercy of God and the intercession of Father Francis. Amen!



³ "Omnibus of St. Francis", Volume II, p. 1450

NEWS FROM ESCONDIDO by Matthew Heffernan

The BSP Chapter at Escondido will be joining other Franciscans, including OFM, Poor Clares, SFO and other Franciscan groups at the Transitus of our Holy Father Francis at Mission San Luis Rey (Patron of the Third Order) on the evening of October 3rd. As a united Franciscan family, we pray together, sing together and listen to stories of our Seraphic Father's final days from Thomas of Celano and Bonaventure. It is truly a moving evening and made more special by celebrating in a Historic Franciscan Mission built in 1798. One of the perks of living in California is that our missions and cities, having been established by Blessed Junipero Serra, are named after Franciscan Saints! We meet in San Diego (St. Didacus of Alcalá) and include members from the Diocese of San Bernadino (St. Bernadine). It is also a great challenge for us as California's increasing secularism is our call to be even greater witnesses. Once again, Franciscans are called to be witnesses in California. For those who aren't as familiar with the Transitus, I have included some information:



Each year on the third evening in October, Franciscans gather together in order to remember the passing of our father-in-faith Saint Francis of Assisi from this life into heavenly glory. The remembering our founder's passing is absolutely vital because it communicates to us the living memory of Francis who leads us still and it intensifies our commitment to follow Christ in the way of the little poor man from Assisi. Thus this celebration is not only a memorial of the past but it is also an experience of the spirit of Francis alive in our midst today inspiring us to also become light for the world.

FROM THE BSP TO EREMETICAL LIFE

Dear Friends,

Bernie Meno recently became the first and only hermit of Hawaii (her email follows). She gave her consecration to the Bishop there and lives at home. It is the culmination of her total focus on God and what God wants of her which began years earlier when she helped us form the BSP. Although she officially dropped out of the BSP, after profession, some years ago to pursue her own spiritual journey, she remained always a friend and in contact with us. The happy event of her consecration as a hermit in Hawaii was a pleasant surprise.

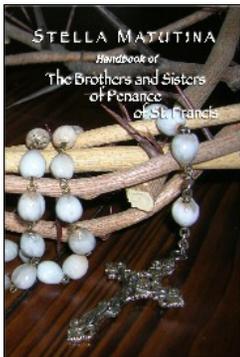
As a hermit she cannot belong to a separate Order, or Association, so she cannot renew her membership in the BSP. She did take time to tell us she had become a hermit though, and thanked us for the BSP as it helped her make this decision. Factually the Rule of 1221 is the Rule she will live as a hermit, only not in the BSP. She is a hermit to pray for the causes, needs, and people of her family, diocese, and the Church and she said she would pray for us. Let us keep Bernie in our prayers even as she keeps us in hers.



May the Lord bless
and lead us all.
Bruce and Shelley



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



*“It is a matter of real sorrow when God has given those strength to break stronger fetters,
those of vanity and sin, that they neglect their own progress
and the attainment of such great blessings
because they will not detach themselves from trifles.*

Not only do they not advance, they fall back.

*For it is well known that on the spiritual road not to go on overcoming self is to go backwards,
and not to increase our gain is to lose.*

*As wood can never be transformed into fire if one necessary degree of heat is missing,
so the soul that has even one imperfection
can never be perfectly transformed in God.”*

—St. John of the Cross

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
65774 County Road 31,
Northome, Minnesota 56661**