



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

BONAVENTURE AND HIS LESSONS ON ST. FRANCIS:

Chapter VII—Francis’ Love for Poverty—His Needs Are Supplied Miraculously



12. Another time, while travelling to a hermitage where he planned to devote himself to prayer, St. Francis rode an ass belonging to a poor laborer because he was weak. It was summertime and, as the owner of the animal followed the saint into the mountains, he was exhausted by the long and gruelling journey. Fainting with thirst, he suddenly cried out after the saint, "I'll die of thirst, if I don't get a drink immediately.

quenching his thirst from solid stone, by the power of one man's prayer. Water had never been found at that spot before and none could ever be found there afterwards, although a careful search was made.

13. In a later chapter we shall describe how Christ multiplied the food on board ship at the intercession of his servant Francis. Here it is sufficient to say that for a number of days the saint saved the whole crew from the danger of starvation with the small quantity of food he had received as alms. Just as he drew water from a rock in imitation of Moses, on this occasion he imitated Eliseus by multiplying their provisions.

Christ's poor, therefore have nothing to fear. Francis' poverty was so well supplied that it provided miraculously for the needs of those who came to his aid, procuring food and drink and a house, when money or any other means could not be found. Poverty such as that will certainly never be left short of the necessities which God gives to everybody in the ordinary course of divine providence. If a solid rock gave drink in plenty to a poor man who was thirsty at the request of a beggar, nothing in the whole world will refuse its service to those who have left all for the Creator of all.

Francis dismounted there and then and knelt on the ground with his hands stretched out to heaven, and there he prayed until he knew that he had been heard. When he had finished, he told his benefactor, "Go to that rock and you will find running water. Christ in his mercy has made it flow there for you just now. By God's wonderful condescension which bows so easily to this servant's a thirsty human being was able to drink from a rock,

(Bonaventure—Major Life of St. Francis (1263))



VISITOR'S MESSAGE

Homily by Fr. Robert Altier... "My yoke is easy and my burden is light"

Reading (Isaiah 26:7-9, 12, 16-19) Gospel (St. Matthew 11:28-30)



In the Gospel reading today, Our Lord invites us to come to Himself because His yoke is easy and His burden is light. Yet when we compare that to what we hear in the first reading – *O Lord, oppressed by Your punishment, we cried*

out in anguish under Your chastising – it does not sound like it is too terribly light or easy, but the reality of what Our Lord is telling us is that if we come to Him He will give us His strength. That does not mean we are not going to feel exhausted, it does not mean we are just going to ride

a wave and nothing is going to touch us, but rather what it means is that the strength of God is going to be given to us, that in the midst of all the struggles and difficulties we are going to have to face He is the one who is going to give us His grace and His strength to be able to do the work.

This is, again, exactly what we hear in the prophet Isaiah. He says straight out that all the things they have done the Lord has accomplished, and that is the same thing we really have to be able to say. Most of us like to think it is our own doing and we like to take all the credit for it, but it is the Lord Who has done it. Now the question we have to look at for ourselves is to ask exactly the question about what is there in the prophet Isaiah. Can we say this of ourselves: *Your name and Your title are the desire of our souls. My soul yearns for You in the night; my spirit within me keeps vigil for You?* Is that the way we are? Is God really the first in our lives? Do we want to be with Him? Do we seek Him? Is He the desire of our souls? That is really what we have to be about because it is only when He is that desire of our souls, only when He is truly the top priority in our lives, that we are even going to think to turn to Him and ask Him for the help we need. It is only then that in the midst of all our struggles and our exhaustion that we are actually going to allow ourselves to let Him be our strength because most of us just keep trying to do it by ourselves.

One has to wonder just how thick our skulls are that it has taken this long to figure out that we cannot do it by ourselves. But what is worse is that with the thickness of skull comes a smallness of brain, obviously, and we still have not figured it out. We admit that we cannot do it by ourselves – and then we keep trying! What is it going to take? How much exhaustion do we need before we finally say, “Lord, You know what? You have to do this! I can’t!” And it is not only in the midst of exhaustion, but it is only when we learn the lesson that even when we are feeling great that we are still going to give it all to Him because we know we cannot do it. On very, very rare occasions when we know we cannot do it, we might actually tell the Lord, “You have to do this because I know I can’t.” But that is about the only time most of us will actually give it over to Him.

So we need, through prayer, to get to that point of being

able to say, “Your name and your title are the desire of my soul; that is what I desire more than anything else.” It is then that we are going to keep vigil in our hearts for Him, that we are going to seek Him, that we are going to desire Him. That is when we are going to find that He will in fact take up our burden for us, that He will give us the strength we need. The difficulty in all of this for us is, again, it is a control issue, and none of us likes to give up control. We like to be in control, what a joke! What have we controlled so far, and what has happened when we have tried to be in control? Once again, one would think we would have learned by now. If we would just give up the control and give it over to God... Now that sounds like a nice idea, but it does not come easily. Try as we may, control is something that literally needs to be ripped out of our hands and we have to be crushed before we are willing to do it. That is why all the struggles and difficulties occur. That is what the prophet is talking about. They were oppressed by His punishment and cried out in anguish under His chastising, but it was through that that they were willing to let go and give everything over to God, to realize there was nothing they could do on their own.

It is the same with us. If we are going to take up the Lord’s yoke – which is His Cross – and carry His burden – which is ourselves – then we have to seek Him and we have to realize that we are going to fall under the Cross. We are going to be crushed by our own foolishness, but then, with God’s strength, we will be able to get up and we will be able to do the work that He is asking us to do without any problem. Our human weakness will still be there, but the divine strength is going to take over. But that means we have to get out of the way and let Him do it. The only way we are ever willing to get out of the way is when we get crushed. So that is the price. And that is the question we really have to ask: Am I willing to do it? Do I really want it? We like the idea of having God be the strength, we like the idea of doing God’s Will, but we do not like the idea of what it requires. We cannot have it both ways; if we are going to be able to do the one, we have to be able to accept what it requires to get there. We need to pray and we need to ask Him to do it, to do whatever He has to do to crush us down, to tear the control out of our fingers, so that we will be able to do His Will, to take up His yoke, His burden, and find rest for our souls.

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



ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE...

Love...

On the night of the feast of the Ascension I, Bruce, had a dream. In the dream I was with a 3M management team (I am retired 3M Human Resources manager). Our boss, for the management team in my dream, was my old

3M boss, Tim Hoffmann, who was a great guy. He was asking us managers if anyone had done lesson 3 for the training program we were in. I responded I had a written response to lesson 3 and he asked me to report. I went through my lesson book to recover my response to lesson 3, which I was sure was written, and all I encountered in my entire lesson book were pages filled with comments on

love. Clean white pages and brown aged pages as if from an ancient manuscript. It didn't matter where I looked, everything was promoting love. So, Tim asked me again if I was going to report and I said, yes, about love, which actually was a key theme of my management style when I was working.

I proceeded to walk around the conference room and talk to the management team about love. The more I talked the more they scattered until I was walking around an almost empty conference room and still preaching about the need to love as the key ingredient to good management. Finally, it was just me, and Shelley, and Tim left and I went over to them to put my notes away and Tim looked at me, with a smile, as I said, "I am done." Tim replied to me "Did you get anything out of it?" I recall being slightly offended at Tim's remark and started out to reply, "Kiss my..." and Shelley interrupted and said, "Of course he did..." I took her cue and say, yes, I did, and put my notes away in my briefcase. All ended well on that note. And so ended my morning dream.

Unlike most dreams I remember all the details of this one. The details are worth pondering and really carry a message for all of us in the Association. Maybe that is why the Lord granted I remember this dream. This Association, and our lives in Christ, are all about love.

We love each other. We are bound in a lifestyle that unites us as it historically united all those in it in the times of St. Francis. Nothing is different except the times, and the means we are using to reach each other. Most of us are not close to each other. We are all over the United States, and the world. But, we are united just as surely as those first Franciscan Tertiaries were, in living this Rule, and hopefully in our love for each other. Hopefully in time each of us will find others around us that will join us in living the Rule, and when we do that we can form even more Chapters of the Association. Nothing is happening fast though, for reasons known only to the Lord.

The Rule is itself holy. It is one of the 'narrow' gates leading to eternal life that Our Lord referred to, and few there are who follow it. We are blessed to follow it. We are blessed to do that in love. Loving each other and those around us. And, however gently and gracefully we can do it, we should call everyone to love, themselves, and others, for the love of God and good of their own souls.

As in my dream, we need to keep in mind that the world will scatter in the face of love. It always has. So, we need to expect that despite our best efforts people will not want to hear us. Our love needs to be transparent, and visible in all things. Our Lord said: **"You are the light of the world – like a city on a hilltop that cannot be**

hidden." (Mt. 5:14) That light is our love. First and foremost it needs to shine in our families, in the unselfish way we give of ourselves to others.

Selfishness in any form is still selfishness. We cannot say it only comes in one form to one person. It comes to us and from us if we show it in any way. Even in the little things. The fact is that we are all a little selfish. We need to manage it. Others, especially in our families, need to come first. Always first, not sometimes first. After we care for those around us, and that even means in simple, spiritual things. Then we can take care of ourselves. We need to destroy selfishness in ourselves, for the love of God.

Love is never selfish. Love always looks out for others. So, as we live the Rule we do so in love. We live the Rule for others. It overflows into our lives. It calls us to love more deeply. To sacrifice more deeply, for others, and in that it fulfills what our Lady calls us to at Fatima. If we do penance for the salvation of souls ours is a Rule that will save souls. Ours, and others, and to help another person save their soul is an ultimate act of love. An act of love like our Lord Himself bestowed the world with when he laid down his life for us.

So, love demands much of us. The Lord said, **"Love your neighbor as yourself."** (Mt. 22:39), as the Second Greatest Commandment. The first, of course, is to love God perfectly. So, we must love one another, and take that beyond the Rule into our lives. The Rule fuels that love. But we use that love to reach out to our world, wherever we are.

This could be the last message that all of us in the Association need to hear. Perhaps the most important one. It certainly will be the message that we, the Administrators, send when we retire from leadership in the Association, which is still a few years away at least, and it could be the message that any of us send to any others in the Association at any time. Especially when we create a Chapter of the BSP, or when we talk to our bishops, or others, about living this Rule. We need to be all about love, in thought, word, and deed.

So, wherever we are in the world let us carry this torch of love for Jesus Christ, and let the Rule be the standard we wave as we run this marathon of penance down through the modern ages. We are a small group, but we are running quickly along, and we can sweep others along with us, for ours is, also, a marathon of love.

May Jesus, the Prince of Peace and King of Kings, and Love of all, be with us all.

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





NO GREATER LOVE by Paul Beery, BSP

“Adam and Eve heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, ‘Where are you?’” (Gn. 3:9)

“Where are you?” What a haunting phrase! How many times have we heard that call from the Lord God after we, like Adam and Eve, have sinned? We too want to go and hide from His presence. But there is no place to hide.

“I fled Him, down the nights and down the days; / I fled Him, down the arches of the years; / I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways / Of my own mind; and in the mist of tears / I hid from Him... / From those strong Feet that followed, followed after... / They beat – and a Voice beat / More instant than the feet – / ‘All things betray thee, who betrayest Me.’” (The Hound of Heaven, Francis Thompson)

“Where are you?” Each of us has had to deal with our own personal betrayal of the Lord God. Reparation needs to be made, both for our sins and those of the whole world. We won’t get any encouragement from the increasingly pagan culture around us. It seems most of Western Christian Civilization is betraying the Lord God, “hiding from the Presence of the Lord God among the trees in the garden...” and worshipping the creature—Mother Nature—instead of the Creator. So many are going the way of all flesh (gullibly following “Radical Environmentalists, Criminal Pseudo-Scientists, and the Fatal Cult of Anti-humanism,” the subtitle of an excellent book by Robert Zubrin: “The Merchants of Despair.” The Global Warming hoax is merely the latest **population control scheme**. What is more demonic: to get mankind made in the Image of God to betray their Maker, or not allow them to even be born?). There is a better Way. St. Francis brings into focus the perfect harmony which should exist between the Lord God and His creation.

“The Canticle of the Sun” (also known as “The Canticle of the Creatures”) is magnificent! In virtually every phrase Francis gives glory to God for the work of His Hands! This is especially striking when compared with today’s Earth Worshippers, when even Gaia has a fever...

The Canticle of the Sun

Most high, all powerful, all good Lord! All praise is yours, all glory, all honor, and all blessing. To you, alone, Most High, do they belong. No mortal lips are worthy to pronounce your name.

Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures, especially through my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day; and you give light through him. And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendor! Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars; in the heavens you have made them, precious and beautiful.

Be praised, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air, and clouds and storms, and all the weather, through

which you give your creatures sustenance.

Be praised, my Lord, through Sister Water; she is very useful, and humble, and precious, and pure.

Be praised, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom you brighten the night. He is beautiful and cheerful, and powerful and strong.

Be praised, my Lord, through our sister Mother Earth, who feeds us and rules us, and produces various fruits with colored flowers and herbs.

Be praised, my Lord, through those who forgive for love of you; through those who endure sickness and trial. Happy those who endure in peace, for by you, Most High, they will be crowned.

Be praised, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death, from whose embrace no living person can escape. Woe to those who die in mortal sin! Happy those she finds doing your most holy will. The second death can do no harm to them.

Praise and bless my Lord, and give thanks, and serve him with great humility.

“It is in love alone that the worship of God is complete and perfect, and the whole meaning of the human nature of Christ Jesus was a perfect worshipping of God. He was worshipping, thanking, praising in the fullest possible sense, for Himself and for the sake of all creation; acknowledging the Source of all good and, through and in this worship, supplying for the deficiencies of all creation. In this perfect worshipping of God, Francis strove to imitate Jesus, being the zealous follower of His perfection.” (From “Francis of Assisi—The Prophet,” The Tree of the Crucified Life of Jesus, Book 5, by Ubertino Da Casale)

And how great a task is that? From the same book, The Deeds of Blessed Francis and His Companions, by Ugolino Boniscambi, comes a delightful story of Brother Leo overhearing a conversation between Francis and the Lord God.

“By the light of the moon, he saw the face of the saint kneeling with his face raised towards heaven and his arms extended towards God and saying these words: ‘Who are you, my most dear God, and who am I, a worm and your little servant?’ He kept repeating this and said nothing else. Brother Leo then saw one most beautiful flame of fire descending from the height of the heavens to the top of the head of St. Francis. A voice came from this flame and spoke with St. Francis, and he replied to the one speaking.”

Brother Leo tried to hide, but Francis found him and said,

"Brother Little Lamb, why have you come to this place?" Embarrassed, Brother Leo knelt down and asked Francis to explain the words he had heard and not heard of that heavenly conversation. Francis replied:

"O Brother Little Lamb of Jesus Christ, two lights were opened for me: one a knowledge of the Creator, and the other a knowledge of myself. 'Who are you, Lord my God, and who am I' (came from) the light of contemplation in which I saw the abyss of infinite divine Goodness and the tearful depths of my own vileness. 'Who are you, O Lord, supremely Wise and supremely Good and supremely Merciful, that you visit me who am

utterly vile, an abominable and despised little worm?"

"Everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, and he who humbles himself shall be exalted." (Luke 18:14) Francis shows us how we who continually betray the Lord, make reparation by praising the infinite divine Goodness in spite of our own wretchedness.

"Where are you?" When the Lord God asks us that question again, we can answer, **"Here I am, Lord,** Divine Love, of which there is No Greater Love, continually attempting to love and praise and serve you with great humility in imitation of our holy father Francis."

Paul Beery BSP, Morning Star Chapter, Minnesota



The Flame of Love...Why? by Janet Klasson, BSP



After my last article on the [Flame of Love](#) devotion, and after posting it to my blog, a few good people emailed me some very valid questions. I put together this response as an explanation of why I have embraced the devotion and why I am promoting it—perhaps above other

solid devotions that have come to my attention. I have edited the response for length; the complete response may be found on my blog <http://pelianito.stblogs.com/flame-of-love/>. I also want to say that this is not an official BSP devotion, but something I personally feel called to promote.

Why are you promoting the Flame of Love devotion as given to Elizabeth Kindelmann?

I explained in last month's newsletter how I came to feel called to spread this devotion. Bear with me if I repeat some of the key excerpts of Elizabeth's Spiritual Diary here.

*"My daughter, I am providing you with so powerful a grace: the burning Flame of Love from My Heart, that has never before been offered as it is now. Ever since the Word became Flesh, I have not undertaken a greater movement than the Flame of Love from My Heart who rushes to you. **Till now, nothing could blind Satan as much. And it is up to you not to reject it, for this rejection would simply spell disaster.**"*

The method for blinding Satan is quite simple. Any time we pray the Rosary, we are to add a special supplication to each Hail Mary as follows:

*"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee, blessed are Thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, **spread the effect of grace of Thy Flame of Love over all of humanity, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.**"*
"With this prayer, you will blind Satan."

The Diary also tells of the importance of the Mass, of fasting, and of offering our daily works in this mission of the Flame of Love.

The more I read the Diary, the more the Flame grew in my heart, and the more it confirmed for me a great many of the messages I had been given through my own prayer journal.

I feel that one of the points in Elizabeth Kindelmann's favour is all that she suffered for the sake of the Flame of Love. Her life before receiving the locutions was unbelievably hard, and then at a time in her life when she could have been taking some ease, the Lord and His Mother began to speak to her the Flame of Love and asked her to suffer and sacrifice for it. She accepted and to her death lived a life of patient penance and suffering. Her martyrdom was invisible but very real.

Isn't this a private revelation? Why should I follow it above other private revelations?

This devotion is based on private revelation and to be sure the Church does not oblige us to believe in even approved private revelation, such as those at Lourdes or Fatima. Regarding private revelation, the Catechism states (my emphasis in bold):

66 *The Christian economy, therefore, since it is the new and definitive Covenant, will never pass away; and no new public revelation is to be expected before the glorious manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ.*²⁸ **Yet even if Revelation is already complete, it has not been made completely explicit; it remains for Christian faith gradually to grasp its full significance over the course of the centuries.**

67 *Throughout the ages, there have been so-called "private" revelations, some of which have been recognized by the authority of the Church. They do not belong, however, to the deposit of faith. It is not their role to improve or complete Christ's definitive Revelation, but to help live more fully by it in a certain period of history. Guided by the Magisterium of the Church, the sensus fidelium knows how to discern and welcome in these revelations whatever constitutes an authentic call of Christ or his saints to the Church.*

In all ages it is important to read the signs of the times, to watch and pray. So even though the Church does not oblige us to believe in private revelations, there are times when it seems absolutely prudent. Anyone who does follow the Church-approved apparitions of Our Lady beginning with those to Catherine Labouré in 1830 through to the present day, may see Our Lady as the new John the Baptist calling the world to repentance, warning us of the consequences of our sins and exhorting us to do penance for the salvation of souls.

Father Gabriel Róna, S.J. (International Spiritual Advisor of The Flame of Love Movement from August 2008 to August 2012) explains the progression[4]: "For the revelations of the Marian era started in Paris in 1830 with the apparition of the Virgin Mary to Saint Catherine Labouré and continued with La Salette, Lourdes, Fatima, and we believe humbly that by the Flame of Love, they constitute a progressive revelation and **each time deeper of the mission of the Mother of God and of the mystery of her Immaculate Heart.**"

Jesus told St. Faustina that we are living in the days of mercy that precede the Day of Judgment. Something is definitely afoot in the spiritual realm in our day. Heaven is visiting earth in unprecedented ways. That Our Lady is soiling her pure feet to visit the earth once again is a very great sacrifice of love on her part, and a very great mercy for us. She continues to offer us ways to mitigate the dire consequences that sin has purchased for the world, ways which greatly have to do with atonement to the much-wounded Heart of Jesus. In the words of Our Lady of Lourdes, reiterated by the angel at Fatima: "Penance! Penance! Penance!"

Adding words to the Rosary is a BIG DEAL. So, is this the end of the rosary? The Hail Mary as we all learned it?

Elizabeth Kindelmann's own Bishop asked the question: Why? Here is an excerpt from www.theflameoflove.org:

The bishop asked Elizabeth: "Why should we recite the very old Ave Maria differently?" On February 2, 1982, the Lord answered: "It is exclusively thanks to the effective petitions of the Blessed Virgin that the Most Holy Trinity granted the overflowing of the Flame of Love. By it, ask in the prayer with which you greet My Most Holy Mother: **"spread the effect of grace of Thy Flame of Love over all of humanity, now and at the hour of our death. Amen."** So that, by its action, humanity is converted."

The Most Blessed Virgin added: "I do not want to change the prayer by which you honour me; by this petition, I want rather to shake humanity. This is not a new prayer formula; it must be a constant petition." (Spiritual Diary, October 1962)

The Rosary itself falls under the category of private revelation since it was given by Our Lady to St. Dominic. **Can Mary not now, with the extraordinary rise of evil in our day, give us a new and more powerful way to defeat it—a way to BLIND Satan?** For St. Paul tells us, "Where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more." (Rom 5:20) The Rosary was given to St. Dominic in a time when Satan was restrained. Now the restrainer has been lifted, but we are not left orphaned. We are given a new, more powerful spiritual weapon with which to defeat him.

What exactly is the Flame of Love?

Elizabeth once asked Jesus and Mary what exactly is the "Flame of Love". Jesus responded: "My Mother's Flame of Love is for you what the Noah's Ark was for Noah." And the Blessed Virgin Mary added: "The Flame of Love of My Immaculate Heart is Jesus Christ Himself!"

I believe the importance of this devotion in our day cannot be overstated. Our Lady spoke of a coming tribulation (which undoubtedly has already begun) and an illumination:

The Virgin Mary: "This Flame of Graces coming from My Immaculate Heart must go from heart to heart. It will be the Great Miracle whose Light will blind Satan. It is the Fire of Love and of the Union. We shall fight fire with fire: the fire of

hate with the Fire of Love! I obtained this Grace from the Eternal Father on your behalf by virtue of the Five Blessed Wounds of My Divine Son."

"In the tribulation that is about to begin, I will remain with you. I am your Mother. I can and will help you. Soon, you will see My Flame of Love gushing forth everywhere, illuminating the heavens, the earth, and even darkened and slumbering souls. But what sorrow it is for Me to have to watch so many of My children throw themselves into Hell!"

"He spoke to me at length about the time of grace and the Spirit of Love quite comparable to the first Pentecost, flooding the earth with its power. That will be the great miracle drawing the attention of all humanity. All that is the effusion of the effect of grace of the Blessed Virgin's Flame of Love.

"The earth has been covered in darkness because of the lack of faith in the soul of humanity and therefore will experience a great jolt. Following that, people will believe. This jolt, by the power of faith, will create a new world. Through the Flame of Love of the Blessed Virgin, faith will take root in souls, and the face of the earth will be renewed, because 'nothing like it has happened ever since the Word became Flesh.' The Renewal of the earth, although flooded with sufferings, will come about by the power of intercession of the Blessed Virgin."

What does it mean that Satan is "blinded"?

In this excerpt, Our Lady allowed Elizabeth to see what were the effects of her prayers and sacrifices in the spiritual realm.

"(Mary) permitted me to feel in a wonderful way the effects of grace of her Flame of Love which, at that moment, were felt not just by me, but by all the souls in the country. Then she began to speak.

"Mary: 'Now, Satan has been blinded for some hours and has ceased dominating souls. Lust is the sin making so many victims. **Because Satan is now powerless and blind, the evil spirits are set and inert, as if they have fallen into lethargy. They do not understand what is happening. Satan has stopped giving them orders. Consequently, souls are freed from the domination of the Evil One and are making sound resolutions. Once those millions of souls emerge from this event, they will be much stronger in their resolve to stay firm.**'"

Why are Jesus and Mary asking this of us?

The Lord is honouring us by allowing us to participate in His work of redemption. Our Beloved Mother does not want to lose children to eternal suffering. She is asking for help in the time of mercy that precedes the time of judgment. She is giving us an unprecedented weapon in the battle for souls. By uniting our will to the Divine Will through the Flame of Love, we are able to help Jesus and Mary keep souls from falling into hell.

Several years back I read something from St. Bernard of Clairvaux that has stayed with me:

"(The saints and angels) each have their special care for you: the saints because they will not themselves be made perfect without you; **the angels because without you their full number cannot be restored, for, as you all know, when Satan and his myrmidons fell from**

heaven, the number of the heavenly host was greatly diminished. Thus all things await their consummation from you, some the completion of their numbers, others the fulfillment of their desires." (Sermon 77, #4)

So, there is a matter of filling in the spaces made empty in heaven when the angels fell. Is it any wonder the evil one has promoted contraception and abortion? Is it any wonder he hates us so much? Once the ranks have been filled, the end will come for him and his minions. As I said, this concept of "filling in the ranks" has stayed with me for many years. I was surprised to find it echoed in Elizabeth's Diary in this beautiful message to mothers:

Jesus: "What I am saying now is for you and all mothers who work according to My Heart. Your work is not of less value than that of persons raised to the highest priestly dignity. Mothers of families, you must understand your sublime vocation to populate My Kingdom and **to fill the places left vacant by the fallen angels.** Each step of My Holy Mother the Church starts from your heart and your lap. My Kingdom grows inasmuch as you, mothers, nurture the created souls. You have the greatest work requiring a heightened sense of responsibility. Be fully aware that I have placed in your hands the task of leading a multitude of souls to eternal salvation."

Through her Flame of Love, Our Lady wants also to protect families and heal those that are scattered: **"With my Flame of Love, I want to make the home come alive again with love. I want to unite families that are scattered."** As a powerful means to blind the evil one, there is also the prayer taught by the Lord to Elizabeth http://www.theflameoflove.org/jesus_prayer.html.

This seems to be yet another new devotion surfacing. Isn't the Rosary sufficient? The Divine Mercy Chaplet? The "Divine Will" of Luisa Piccarreta? "Mary, Undoer of Knots"? The "Marian Movement of Priests"? The way suggested by Our Lady of Medjugorje? Old-fashioned devotion to the Sacred Heart and the promises attached to the First Fridays and First Saturdays?

This is not a new devotion. The Flame of Love was first ignited in 1962 in Hungary. It has spread to Europe, South America, Mexico, and has relatively recently been ignited in North America. In 1973, Pope Paul VI personally approved the Prayer for the propagation of the Flame of Love. It has taken some 30 years for the Flame to ignite in North America.

As I read the Spiritual Diary, I see the Flame of Love devotion connecting a lot of dots. Its golden thread loops around and between other Marian devotions, the Divine Mercy, Luisa Piccarreta and the Divine Will, the Era of Peace, the Illumination, the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart. They are all parts of the same holy tapestry. As with so many things Catholic, it's not one or the other, it is the Holy Spirit uniting all. Not competition, but complementarity.

I believe the Flame of Love is a critical message unique and specific to our times. I further believe it is the vehicle whereby the promise of Our Lady of Fatima will be fulfilled: **"In the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph!"** In the Diary there is the promise of a worldwide conversion leading to an Era of Peace.

"The Lord Jesus: 'I could compare this torrential flood to the first Pentecost. It will submerge the earth by the power of the Holy Spirit. All mankind will take heed at the time of

this great miracle. Here comes the torrential flow of the Flame of Love of My Most Holy Mother. The world, darkened already by the lack of faith, will undergo formidable tremors and then people will believe!

'These jolts will give rise to a new world by the power of faith. Trust, confirmed by faith, will take root in souls and the face of the earth will thus be renewed. For never has such a flow of grace ever been given since the Word became Flesh.'

This devotion has ecclesial approval, and there is nothing I have read that has sounded alarms for me. To be honest, my initial reluctance—the reason it took me four years for me to embrace the devotion—had to do with adding an extra few minutes to the recitation of the rosary. How easy it is for the evil one to discourage us—he knows our weaknesses so well. What are a few minutes of my time when the promises are so unimaginably beautiful and powerful?

What about the Pelianito messages? How do they fit in?

I find many of the themes in the Diary echoed in the pages of my prayer journal, themes such as the importance of unity, the critical importance of prayer and sacrifice for souls, devotion to the Immaculate Heart. In a very startling similarity, when I first started hearing the Lord speaking to my heart, I felt him tell me in reference to his Precious Blood, "I am the Universal Donor." I was quite shocked to read in the spiritual diary (January 16, 1964) this entry: "During Holy Mass and after Holy Communion, the Lord Jesus spoke of the power of His Precious Blood. Jesus: 'I am the great Donor of blood...'"

The Lord is using any and all means possible to try to reach as many souls as he can, so that the work of salvation may be accomplished in us and through us. I see now that the messages in my journal prepared my heart to receive the Flame of Love, and it is my fervent prayer that it has also done so for others who have read them.

Judges 6:11 – 7:25 The Battle of Gideon

As I pondered the words of Elizabeth's Diary, the story of Gideon kept coming to mind. I encourage you to read the whole amazing story (referenced above). In short, the enemy of God's people, the Midianites, Amalekites, and Kedemites, had amassed in the valley. They were "as numerous as locusts". Meanwhile, God had chosen an unlikely general—Gideon, whose "army" he proceeded to whittle down from 10,000 to a mere 300 men. The enemy had swords and spears. God armed Gideon's little band with horns, jars and torches! God's strategy was for the 300 men in Gideon's army to encircle the camp, break their jars and blow their horns shouting, "For the Lord and for Gideon!" Imagine the courage and faith it took for those 300 men to fall in with such an outlandish plan! God rewarded their faith with an unimaginable victory. The enemy soldiers were thrown into confusion; they turned their swords on one another and fled. There was no doubt who had won the battle. It was God's victory.

I see the same process at work in the Flame of Love. It is another of the Lord's outlandish plans. The humble Mother of God, the "Woman," chooses the humblest of women on earth to lead the charge. A rag-tag band of souls who accept the mission are given a secret weapon, a torch, the Flame of Love with which to throw the enemy camp into confusion. Against all odds, a few pitiful soldiers put to flight an army as numerous as locusts. "For the Lord and for Mary!" It is a

crushing humiliation for the enemy whose pride has been his undoing since the beginning.

This is how I see the Flame of Love acting in us and through us. This is why I am promoting it. God be praised!

At Holy Thursday Adoration I received the following message:

Leviticus 26:8 Five of you shall give chase to a hundred, and a hundred of you shall give chase to ten thousand; your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.

"Beloved little one I hold you in the palm of my hand. Let me use you in new ways. Let my power, the power of my love, course through your veins. Let it fill you with joy, strength, and purpose. I mean to use you, my little one, in new ways. You will be amazed. Do not limit me by your doubt, but let my Holy Spirit fill you with confidence. Remember that I am faithful. Do not dwell on your own weakness but live in my strength. I have great need of souls who will surrender their lives to me. Are you such a one?"

Jesus, remove from me anything that does not belong completely to you. Blessed Mother I take your "fiat" to be my

own. Jesus I long to live in your strength. Give me the power of your love. Jesus I trust in you. Amen. Thank you Jesus.

The Flame of Love spreads from heart to heart. That is how Jesus and His Mother want it to spread. It is quite clear in the Diary. Having said that, I read somewhere on the Flame of Love website that the prayer should not be prayed publicly without the permission of the pastor of that parish. The Lord will show us those with whom he wishes us to share the Flame. It spreads from heart to heart but hearts must be receptive.

From my heart to yours, may Our Mother's Flame of Love ignite in you and spread to all those God has placed in your path. Jesus we trust in you. Save souls!

[1]<http://www.theflameoflove.org/imprimatur.html>

[2]All bold text is my emphasis.

[3]Excerpts are from Elizabeth Kindelmann's Spiritual Diary, some of which may be found on www.theflameoflove.org.

[4]Complete article [here](#).

Janet Klasson BSP, Divine Mercy Chapter, Canada

(The messages on the Pelianito Journal blog are the fruit of Janet's *lectio divina*. She submits all messages to her spiritual director, a Catholic priest. You may read his remarks here: <http://pelianito.stblogs.com/on-private-revelation/>.)



MORNING STAR: NEWS ON THE ASSOCIATION...



News from St. Anthony Chapter, Escondido CA

On Saturday, June 14th, the St. Anthony Chapter of Escondido California admitted its newest (and youngest) member **Justin Panlasigui** as a Novitiate. Justin is a Theology student at John Paul the Great Catholic University in San Diego who continues to inspire the rest of the Chapter. Besides his knowledge he brings with him a joy that inspires us to carry out the New Evangelization. He is a fitting addition to a Chapter whose namesake was taken from one of the most learned and joyful Franciscans of all time.



From *The Little Flowers of St. Francis of Assisi*:

"And St. Francis said: 'My dear son, be patient, because the weaknesses of the body are given to us in this world by God for the salvation of the soul. So they are of great merit when they are borne patiently.'"

BSP Retreat: August 15-17, 2014

Friday 4:00 pm to Sunday 2:00 pm
at the Franciscan Retreat Center
Prior Lake MN

“Mary, Queen and Intercessor”



WITH RETREAT MASTER

Fr. Robert Altier

VISITOR OF THE ASSOCIATION

Fr. Robert Altier, Visitor of the BSP, was ordained in 1989. He is a Roman Catholic Priest serving in the archdiocese of Saint Paul-Minneapolis MN. He has a great devotion to the Holy Eucharist and Our Blessed Mother.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Cost: \$160.00
(includes accommodation & meals)



To reserve a place send \$25 to:

BSP Retreat
c/o Paul Beery BSP
2108 Pleasant Ave, #114
Minneapolis, MN 55404

For more details on the retreat see the July BSP newsletter or call
Paul Beery: 612-871-2852 (Home); 612-730-4500 (Cell)

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)



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