



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

BONAVENTURE AND HIS LESSONS ON ST. FRANCIS:

Chapter VIII—Francis’ Loving Compassion and the Love Which Creatures Had for Him

1. Compassion, as St. Paul tells us, is all-availing and it filled the heart of Francis and penetrated its depths to such an extent that his whole life seemed to be governed by it. It was loving compassion which united him to God in prayer and caused his transformation into Christ by sharing his sufferings. It was this which led him to devote himself humbly to his neighbor and enabled him to return to the state of primeval innocence by restoring man’s harmony with the whole of creation.

Loving compassion made him regard everything with affection but especially the souls which Jesus Christ redeemed with his precious blood. If he saw one of them being stained with sin, he grieved with such heartfelt pity that he seemed to be in travail over them continually, like a mother in Christ. This was the principal reason why he had such respect for those who preach God’s word—by their labor and zeal for the conversion of sinners and their pastoral anxiety they beget children in the name of Christ, our dear Brother who was crucified for sinners. He was convinced that such a work of mercy was more acceptable to the merciful Father than any sacrifice, particularly if it was done in a spirit of perfect

charity, more by example than by preaching, more by fervent prayer than by long-winded sermons.

2. St. Francis used to say that we should feel sorry for a preacher who sought his own glory in his work and not the good of his listeners, or who destroyed by the example of his bad life what he had accomplished by his teaching. Such a man was devoid of any true religious spirit. He maintained that an ordinary friar with no claim to eloquence was in a better position because he encouraged others to do good by his good example. He explained the phrase, “The barren woman bears many” (1 Kings 2:5) in this way, “The barren woman is my poor friar who is not appointed to bring forth children in the Church. But at the last judgment he will bring forth many, because then the Judge will set down to his glory all those whom he is now converting to Christ by his secret prayers. ‘The fruitful mother is left to languish’ (*ibid.*) means that the vain and loquacious preacher who now prides himself on those whom he imagines he has begotten by his own powers will see then that he had nothing to do with their salvation.”

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



VISITOR'S MESSAGE

Homily by Fr. Robert Altier... Are We a Rebellious House?

Reading (Ezekiel 12:1-12) Gospel (St. Matthew 18:21-19:1)

In the first reading today, the prophet Ezekiel is told by God that he is to be a sign to the people, that as he is doing, they are going to have to do. That is part of what a prophet

is to be. The prophet’s task is to tell the people what God’s Will is for them. It is not so much about trying to predict the future – that is one small, little aspect of the gift of prophecy – but the task of the prophet is to tell the people



what it is that God wants, to call them to repentance, to be able to get them on the right track, to be able to be a sign for the people so that they will be able to know what it is that God desires.

Our Lord also is a Priest, a Prophet, and a King, so part of His prophetic office is to be that sign for us. He told us very clearly that was the case. This evil generation seeks a sign, He said, but no sign shall be given it except the sign of Jonah, and then told us that as Jonah was as sign to the Ninevites so He Himself would be a sign to that generation. But He is still that sign to us. At the same time, He brings many others before to us to be a sign, and the signs that He wants us to be able to understand have not changed one bit. He could say to the house of Israel, This is a rebellious house. They have eyes but they do not see, they have ears but they do not hear. Our Lord said the exact same thing in His day, and I think that the same thing could certainly be said (in fact, even more strongly) today.

At the same time, we can look at what Our Lord is telling us in the Gospel reading about forgiveness. We can look at what He did as far as suffering goes; we can look at many, many aspects of His life and we see that He is a sign to us, that as He has done, we also must do. He had to go to the Cross, so must we if we are going to be real Christians; but, from the Cross, He forgave the people who sinned against Him and so must we if we are going to be true Christians. That is part of what we have to be, and, in that, because we are members of Christ, we too are priests, prophets, and kings; and we are called to be a sign to this generation, to this rebellious house.

But before we can be a sign to the rebellious house, we have to stop rebelling. Ezekiel had to be obedient to what God told him to do, even though it seemed a little bit strange. Jesus, being God, was going to be obedient to Himself, but He had to come into this world and be "obedient even to death on the Cross," Saint Paul says. Our Lady was perfectly obedient. We have to learn to stop rebelling. We have to be able to look at Our Lord and realize that He is a sign for us. What He has done for us, He has called us to continue to do. As He continues to give Himself to us in the Blessed Sacrament, so He asks that we would be the same way, that we would be willing to give, to sacrifice ourselves. He tells us, As you have been forgiven, so you have to forgive. How many of us continue to hold grudges, anger, hatred, whatever it might be, in our hearts? Unforgiveness for something that may have happened years and years and years ago, and we still stubbornly hang onto it. Whatever it is that whoever did

to you, look at the Cross and ask yourself, "Did they put me to death?" The answer, I guess, is pretty self-evident isn't it? Jesus, in the midst of being put to death, forgave the people who had done this to Him. He is a sign. None of us has had something that severe done to us, and if He is a sign to us then we have to do as we have seen.

More than that, we have to do what has been done to us; not by the people who did the evil to us, but as Our Lord has forgiven us so we have to forgive. We have experienced His mercy and we have to put it into practice, otherwise we are the rebellious house. We are the ones giving lip service to God, but we are not practicing what it is that we preach. If that is the case, then, like the people of Jerusalem in Ezekiel's time, we are going to realize that we are the ones in exile. Maybe we are not being led off captive to a foreign land, but it is far worse: We are in exile from God because we are separating ourselves from Him, because we are not doing His Will, because the sign has been given to us but we have eyes and do not see and ears but do not hear because it requires something of us. It requires that we would be willing to open our hearts, that we would change our lives, that we would do as we have seen and as we have heard. That is exactly what Our Lord is asking of us.

These are not easy things, but He never told us that to follow Him would be easy. So we need to look at that and we need to apply these things to ourselves. Our Lord's sign remains in our midst, and He has given us many, many, many others. How many people in our own lives have we seen come back to the Church – after living horrendous lives – and be forgiven? We need to see that is a sign of God's mercy in our midst, and we have to practice the same kind of mercy. How many things have we seen God do in our lives and in the lives of those around us? We have to learn from those things, otherwise we are going to stand before the Lord one day and He is going to look at us and say, You are a rebellious house. You had eyes but you didn't see, and you had ears but you didn't hear because you were a rebellious house. You didn't want to do My Will; you wanted to do your own. You didn't learn from My example because you wanted to follow somebody else. Remember, there are ultimately only two; if we are not following Jesus, we are following the devil. So that is the choice we have. And we know there are only two choices of where we are going to go for eternity. If we are not on the path following Christ, then we are on the opposite path. The choice is ours. We need to stop being a rebellious house, we need to see what Our Lord has done, we need to see the sign, and we need to do as He has done.

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



A Tweet from the Pope: *"With God, nothing is lost; but without him, everything is lost."*
(@Pontifex)



ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE... On the Right of Profession...

Profession to live the Rule of the BSP is a rite. It is a ritual in which we confirm to God that we are going to live the Rule of life that St. Francis gave the laity, the Rule of 1221, *Memoriale Propositi*, in our daily life. It also entails other

rights, which are the rights of profession, to each of us who have professed. Some of these overflow from formation, others come with our Faith, and still others with just being Franciscan in spirit and following St. Francis in some of the ways that he lived his life, in which he perfectly followed Christ.

One of the rights we all have when we profess is to live the Rule of 1221 in its fullness in our daily lives. I say it is a right because we are not obligated to live it under pain of sin. Ours is a Rule that does not bind under pain of sin. It binds under our promise, and like with any promise, circumstances can affect us that affect our promise. Since this is the case that is why we do not vow to live the Rule. Vows bind under pain of sin. No matter what comes up you are obligated to fulfill a vow. We might have things that come up that make it difficult, or prevent us, from fulfilling the promise of our profession. Maybe we need to eat meat with our family for instance at a family event on a day of abstinence. Remember, family always comes first! However, by the will of St. Francis, we do not vow to live the Rule, so these exceptions we make to living the Rule, no matter what they are, do not result in our sinning.

Another right we all have after profession is the right to promote the Rule of 1221 in some real way in our lives. That could be one of several. For instance, we might try to start a Chapter of the BSP where we are. That opens doors to us. Doors to promote the Rule and thereby the life of penance and the Catholic Faith, among our neighbors. The activities of Chapters are a ministry within the BSP. It is worthwhile to consider them.

A Chapter of the BSP is a group in which there are at least two members not of the same family. Any members, anywhere, can form a Chapter even if not professed but it is of much greater value to those professed. In Chapters we pray together. That in itself is wonderful, and useful, and should be common to all of us Christians. We can pray for each other, National and International issues and problems or people, or we can pray for the Church. Our prayers together can and will strengthen us as BSP members, and unite the Chapter within our own communities in special ways. In Chapters we also do formation together, and we can also discuss how we promote the Catholic Faith and the life of St. Francis that we are living. Chapters are wonderful! St. Francis put Chapters in the First Rule in Article 19:

RULE: ARTICLE 19

"All the brothers and sisters of every city and place are to foregather every month at the time the ministers see fit, in a church which the ministers will

make known, and there assist at Divine Services."

It is useful that all professed members remember that every professed member is a formation advocate when it comes to the Rule. Every professed member can assist other members in completing the lessons of the BSP if they are in formation. Within Chapters this is one of the primary activities—helping others in formation with their lessons.

We do this formation work in several ways. If you are in a Chapter and another member is in formation you can have them bring their lesson to the meeting. Their contribution to the meeting is to go through that lesson and present their answers to the questions and content of the lesson. Then, the entire group can participate in discussing the questions of the lesson. They can give their input and support to the person in formation realizing that for most lessons, so long as the answer to the lesson does not violate the faith in any way, there is no wrong answer. There are many different answers, each perfectly acceptable, to the same question. This then becomes a faith sharing among the members in a meeting, and that is always good.

A professed member can also be a formation advocate to another member by email or phone conversation. In all of this we do well to remember that the vision of the BSP is that we are to promote the Rule of 1221. We certainly do that in helping other members with their formation. The Vision of the BSP is that we are a family of lay people living according to the Rule that St. Francis gave us, and that we certainly are in helping others in formation.

So, being a formation advocate is a wonderful ministry within the BSP if it is open to you. If you would like some help becoming a formation advocate, or would like to assist the Administrators in their work in formation, please feel free to contact us and we can help you. You could even take some new members under wing!

If you don't want to do formation work, as a professed member there are many other ways to contribute to the growth and health of the Church. Prayer, and sacrifice, for the mission of the Church is a wonderful way to contribute to the growth and health of the Church. So also is getting involved in your parish in some positive way. To do that is always a sacrifice, and sacrifice is what we are about as professed members. Basically, when we professed, we committed ourselves to a life of sacrifice living the Rule, which calls us to live our faith to the full and therefore adding the sacrifice of work in the church, or ministry in our parishes, or dedicated commitment to living our faith in our families, is a brave and holy way to live our Rule more fully.

So, in each and every way, as professed members, we need to be looking for ways to serve God better on a day to day basis within our Rule.

May all of us who have professed really give some consideration, on a day to day basis, on how we are living our professions. To do that is part of our profession for

when we professed we committed to live our life to the full for Christ, for all of our life. For that reason it is good for a professed member to read the Rule and Statutes

periodically, so as to know them and what they professed to.

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

"For, as close as the loincloth clings to a man's loins, so had I made the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah cling to Me, says the Lord; to be My people, My renown, My praise, My beauty. But they did not listen." (Jer. 13:11)

There are a few passages in Sacred Scripture where God so clearly reveals His love for mankind, that all doubt is removed. This is one of them. Actually all of Scripture is God's love letter to mankind, but some passages are just overwhelming in their clarity, like Jesus wishing to gather His disciples around Him as a mother hen gathers her chicks.

Donna and I heard the reading from Jeremiah on Monday, the beginning of the Seventeenth Week of Ordinary Time. As we discussed it afterwards she said, "I don't remember ever hearing this reading before." I had to agree. The pastor had pointed out the loincloth bit, which attracted a lot of attention, but then I said, "Do you remember the ending?" It had jumped out at me, the immense love of God for His people, "But they did not listen." Can you imagine what's in store for those who **do** listen? Who listen **and respond** to God's love?

If we do something well, even make a good meal for others to enjoy, don't we take pride in it? What would life be like if we didn't enjoy the simple pleasures of doing something beautiful for others, and especially for God? So too, our Maker is telling us clearly that **He takes pleasure in us!** When we respond to Him in love, He calls us **"My People, My Renown, My Praise, My Beauty!"** Wow! That's just awesome! In spite of all our foibles and failures that keep our eyes from being permanently fixed on Divine Beauty Itself, we are still loved beyond any measure of our seeming worth, or worthlessness. Here is a clarion call to rise above our weaknesses and make them our strengths. Like a baby that can attract a kiss with a smile. What is more weak or dependent than a baby? Yet that baby is precious in the sight of God.

There is one of us who **is** perfect beauty and renown in the sight of God, our Blessed Mother. The BSP Retreat, beginning on the Feast of the Assumption, is centered on "Mary, Queen and Intercessor." The Office of Readings on the morning of the Assumption features sections from the Apostolic Constitution "Munificentissimus Deus" of Pope Pius XII, which defined the dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He begins with Mary's **"perfect harmony."**

"Actually God, who from all eternity regards Mary with a most favorable and unique affection, has 'when the fullness of time came' put the plan of his providence

into effect in such a way that all the privileges and prerogatives he had granted to her in his sovereign generosity were to shine forth in her in a kind of perfect harmony. And, although the Church has always recognized this supreme generosity and the perfect harmony of graces and has daily studied them more and more throughout the course of the centuries, still it is in our own age that the privilege of the bodily Assumption into heaven of Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, has certainly shone forth more clearly. That privilege has shone forth in new radiance since our predecessor of immortal memory, Pius IX, solemnly proclaimed the dogma of the loving Mother of God's Immaculate Conception. These two privileges are most closely bound to one another."

Pius XII then gives the testimony of many Saints:

"St. John Damascene spoke out with powerful eloquence when he compared the bodily Assumption of the loving Mother of God with her other prerogatives and privileges. 'It was fitting that she, who had kept her virginity intact in childbirth, should keep her own body free from all corruption even after death. It was fitting that she, who had carried the Creator as a child at her breast, should dwell in the divine tabernacles. It was fitting that the spouse, whom the Father had taken to himself, should live in the divine mansions. It was fitting that she, who had seen her Son upon the cross and who had thereby received into her heart the sword of sorrow which she had escaped in the act of giving birth to him, should look upon him as he sits with the Father. It was fitting that God's Mother should possess what belongs to her Son, and that she should be honored by every creature as the Mother and as the handmaid of God.'

"St. Germanus of Constantinople considered the fact that the body of Mary, the virgin Mother of God, was incorrupt and had been taken up into heaven to be in keeping, not only with her divine motherhood, but also with the special holiness of her virginal body. 'You are she who, as it is written, appears in beauty, and your virginal body is all holy, all chaste, entirely the dwelling place of God, so that it is henceforth completely exempt from dissolution into dust. Though still human, it is changed into the heavenly life of incorruptibility, truly living and glorious, undamaged and sharing in perfect life.' And another very ancient writer asserts: 'As the most glorious Mother of Christ, our Savior and God and

the giver of life and immortality, has been endowed with life by him, she has received an eternal incorruptibility of the body together with him who has raised her up from the tomb and has taken her up to himself in a way known only to him."

A Franciscan Saint is also called upon, St. Anthony of Padua:

"Among the holy writers who at that time employed statements and various images and analogies of Sacred Scripture to illustrate and to confirm the doctrine of the Assumption, which was piously believed, the Evangelical Doctor, St. Anthony of Padua, holds a special place. On the feast day of the Assumption, while explaining the prophet's words: 'I will glorify the place of my feet,' he stated it as certain that the divine Redeemer had bedecked with supreme glory his most beloved Mother from whom he had received human flesh. He asserts that 'you have here a clear statement that the Blessed Virgin has been assumed in her body, where was the place of the Lord's feet. Hence it is that the holy Psalmist writes: 'Arise, O Lord, into your resting place: you and the ark which you have sanctified.'" And he asserts that, just as Jesus Christ has risen from the death over which he triumphed and has ascended to the right hand of the Father, so

likewise the ark of his sanctification 'has risen up, since on this day the Virgin Mother has been taken up to her heavenly dwelling."

The "**Ark of His sanctification.**" In a clear reference to the Ark of the Covenant, St. Anthony calls Mary the Ark of the sanctification of Jesus. As members of the Mystical Body of Jesus, is not Mary also the Ark of our sanctification? The Mother of Jesus is our Mother, our Queen and Intercessor. We are blessed to live in the Marian age, a time when Mary has been so active in her very public interventions, a time when the Mother of God and all God's children has been given the task of calling us back to her Son Jesus, reminding us that we are **His People, His renown, His praise, and His beauty!** Let's act like it! **Christian, recognize your dignity!**

"Praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has bestowed on us in Christ every spiritual blessing in the heavens.

"God chose us in Him before the world began, to be holy and blameless in His sight.

"He predestined us to be His adopted sons through Jesus Christ, such was His will and PLEASURE, that all might praise the glorious favor He has bestowed on us in His Beloved." (Eph. 1:3-6)

Paul Beery BSP, Morning Star Chapter, Minnesota



The Way of the Cross for Greater Trust by Janet Klasson, BSP

Dear brothers and sisters, the theme of trust in God has been central in my spiritual walk. Over the years, the Lord has taught me the importance of our absolute trust in Him. The signature at the bottom of the Divine Mercy image is no mere sentiment. It is a prayer given to us that was born of the longing in our Savior's heart: **Jesus I trust in you!** Recently I felt called to write a Way of the Cross for Greater Trust, which includes excerpts from my prayer journal. May you be blessed as you journey with Our Lady on the *Via Dolorosa* the way of trust. (A printable version is

available here: <http://tinyurl.com/mlnoml5>)

First Station: Jesus is condemned to death (We adore...)

Jesus, even though you were God, you submitted to the authority of mere creatures. Even though you were innocent, you did not complain or come to your own defence. Knowing that your purpose for coming to earth was about to be gloriously fulfilled, you surrendered each agonizing moment to the Father.

Jesus, in our time of trial, help us to remember that God's ways are not our ways, and to trust always in God's goodness and mercy. Help us to be docile to the Divine Will in all things and to trust, always trust. Jesus we trust in you.

Pelianito Journal: *"Do not be afraid. My love is a love that conquers. My wounds bring healing. My death brings life. Ask for my strength, my gifts and graces. You will need them. Ask especially when you receive me in the Eucharist. I am giving them out more generously than ever*

and that is because you will need them. So ask! I am with you. We conquer together. Unite yourselves to me. Children I am near!"

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be

Second Station: Jesus carries his cross (We adore...)

Jesus, you did not merely accept your cross, you did not merely endure your cross, you embraced your cross! You saw it as the instrument that would bring salvation to all those the Father had given you. Each agonizing step to Calvary was a prayer and a kiss.

Jesus, sometimes we are asked to carry a cross. Help us not to merely accept or endure our cross, but to embrace it as you did. Kiss it for us when we are unable to kiss it ourselves. Help us to pray with you as we walk up the hill to Calvary one step at a time. Jesus we trust in you.

Pelianito Journal: *"It is in the crucible of trial that trust is purified. Trust in me. If you do not trust me in small trials,*

how will your faith survive bigger ones? I am near to you and I love you. Let your trust in me precede you into heaven. It will pave the road for you and make your path to eternity straight."

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be

Third Station: Jesus falls the first time (We adore...)

Jesus, weakened in the humanity you embraced for our sake, you fell under the weight of the cross. Yet you did not give up your mission, but trusting in God, you pulled yourself up and continued on the way.

Jesus, we are so much weaker than you are. We fall constantly. In your mercy, do not let us give in to despair, but keep our mission before us so that we too can persevere to the glory of your name. Jesus we trust in you.

Pelianito Journal: *"Beloved, what is there to fear? I hold you in the palm of my hand. Do you not believe that I am near? It is when you feel my presence the least that I am most near. Believe this! Have confidence! Do not let what is earthly distract you from believing in my nearness. Practice this today so that when you are really tested, your trust in me will not waver. Remain firm and steadfast. The day of glory is coming. Trust in me."*

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be

Fourth Station: Jesus meets His Mother (We adore...)

O my Jesus, the unimaginable sorrow of meeting your Mother on the way! What pain you saw in her eyes, yet what love and tenderness. What fidelity and total surrender to the will of God. Her "Fiat!" that conceived you in her holy womb echoed even here. How it must have given you strength to continue!

Jesus, help us to also echo the "Fiat!" of our Mother as we carry our cross. So often we want to beg that this cross be taken from us, but let us always pray with our Mother, "Let it be done to me according to your word." Jesus we trust in you.

Pelianito Journal: *"Make your fiat one with mine and our Mother's. Children, beloved ones, I am depending on you. You have no idea what your fiat can purchase. Trust in me, my children. The world is in need of your fiat!"*

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be

Fifth Station: Simon of Cyrene is made to help carry the cross (We adore...)

Jesus, Simon of Cyrene was reluctantly pressed into service to help you carry your cross. What a contrast to your embrace of it. If only Simon had known what he was carrying, he would have been blinded by tears of gratitude!

Sweet Jesus, forgive us for the times we complain about our cross. Give us courage and strength to see the good we can accomplish by yoking ourselves to you. Let that realization give us joy and hope. Jesus we trust in you.

Pelianito Journal: *"You are Simon of Cyrene and I am asking you to carry my cross. Do not take it up reluctantly,*

but with great joy give thanks to God for the great honor he bestows on you and the great trust he places in you in allowing you to carry so precious a treasure as the cross of Christ. Simon could not have known, but you know. Therefore, when I ask you to carry a burden, embrace it with holy joy. Offer it to the Father in the Divine Will in the name of everyone to make up for what is lacking in those who refuse their mission."

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be

Sixth Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus (We adore...)

Jesus, the love and compassion of Veronica gave her the courage to approach you on the way and offer comfort by wiping your face with her veil. You rewarded her love and courage by leaving an image of your holy face on her veil.

O my Jesus, so often in our fear of what others will say we are paralyzed, and we do not act when we should. Veronica trusted in you. She did not let fear paralyze her. May her prayers on our behalf give us courage to act when we can, to offer compassion to others. Jesus we trust in you.

Pelianito Journal: *"Fear neither the coming persecution, nor the coming hardship, but placing your trust in the Spirit of the living God, pray with great confidence. Fear has no place in a heart filled with the Holy Spirit. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit, but rest always in the Breath of Love that flows between the Father and the Son. What can happen to you there? Rest in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit."*

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be

Seventh Station: Jesus falls the second time (We adore...)

Jesus, further weakened in your flesh you fell a second time. Still you willed only that the Father's will would be accomplished and so you persevered.

Beloved Jesus, we give up so easily. We fall and we fail so often that we are tempted to give up, and to despair of ever attaining holiness. Help us not to focus on ourselves when we fall, but to trust in your loving mercy, which is infinite. Jesus we trust in you.

Pelianito Journal: *"Oh yes, I know your weakness, but for those who even desire to be faithful, my love fills in the gap. Indeed my love floods in and the weak little heart that longs to be faithful in spite of itself is lifted higher than it could ever have climbed on its own power. Do you see how merciful is your Lord? Do you see how the humble soul has nothing to fear, not even its own weakness? What does it cost me to be so generous? I tell you, not only am I undiminished by these acts of infinite mercy, but on the contrary, I am magnified in them and they add to my glory."*

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be

Eighth Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem (We adore...)

Jesus you told the women who wept for you to weep instead for themselves and for their children. You foresaw all those who would continually reject you through the ages. It was for them that you asked the women to weep.

O my Jesus, our faith is fickle and frail. Lord we believe, help our unbelief! We offer all our sufferings, in the Divine Will, linked to the cross, for all those whose faith is even more frail, or for those who have lost their faith altogether. Jesus we trust in you.

Pelianito Journal: *"Little children, draw near! Draw deeply from the well of my strength. You do not have to carry these burdens on your own power. Yoke yourselves to me, for my yoke is easy and my burden light. Remain firmly rooted in your faith. Do not be discouraged, but be always joyful, knowing that the promise of the Father is certain for those who trust in him."*

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be

Ninth Station: Jesus falls the third time (We adore...)

What anguish to see you fall a third time! Yet your holy desire to live the Father's will gave you strength to get up one more time. As you neared the crest of Calvary, the weaker your body became, the more your spirit soared. The crowning of your earthly mission was near.

Jesus, do not let us get bogged down by our sins and failings, but let us always keep our eyes firmly fixed on the most holy will of God. Do not let us be distracted by what is earthly or by our own weakness, but let us focus on following your footsteps all the way to Calvary. Jesus we trust in you.

Pelianito Journal: *"You are weary. Do not dwell on your weariness for that will lead to discouragement. Instead meditate on all that your Lord has done for you. If you do this, you will soon be filled with joy. Just a little while longer my children. You cannot imagine the joy that is to come! Be faithful. Trust in me. I am with you and I love you."*

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be

Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped (We adore...)

Loving Jesus, you renounced everything for our sake, even to the last shred of your dignity. Yet in renouncing all, you were claiming all for your own, for your Heavenly Father saw what was taken away from you and in return he gave you all that your soul thirsted for, namely souls.

Jesus, cut us loose from all that tethers us to the earth. Take away all that we cling to and give it back to us in right relationship, so that we will no longer have idols in our lives. Give us the desire to put you first in all things. In our poverty we do not even have that. Jesus we trust in you.

Pelianito Journal: *"Awake! Awake, my children! What you cling to is worthless! Now you will see how lacking substance are the idols you worship. They will become like the fog, burned off in the glory of the Son. You will see that what you imagined upheld you, the very thing you leaned on, is as solid as the air. You will fall and fall hard."*

But, my children, like the good Father who helps his little one to stand after each tumble, I will be there to give you more than you had before—infinity more. Be not afraid, but place all your hope and trust in me—now, today, forever. Turn to me, my little ones."

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be

Eleventh Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross (We adore...)

O Jesus, with what love you surrendered to the hammer and nails that pinned you to the throne of salvation! All this your Mother witnessed. What anguish for you both, your martyrdom of blood and her martyrdom of spirit. What unimaginable grace it took for her not to beg you to come down. Her "Fiat!" echoed even here and was a great consolation to you.

Jesus when our own pains become unbearable help us to remember the love and grace present in you and your Mother at the crucifixion. Help us to always look to you for strength, and to our Mother for consolation. Jesus we trust in you.

Pelianito Journal: *"Trust in me. Accept all that happens as from my sacred hand. Let your peace be a sign to others. Do not fret or worry. Trust, pray, be at peace. Can I say it too many times? Have you heard it yet? Surrender joyfully to my holy will. I have come so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. Children! Trust in me!"*

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be

Twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the cross (We adore...)

O my Jesus, by your death you purchased life for those who would accept the gracious gift of salvation. How can we begin to fathom the magnitude of such a gift! What glorious lessons you taught us from the altar of sacrifice in your "seven last words".

Jesus, forgive us for not pondering often enough the lessons you taught in life and in death. Help us imitate our Mother and ponder them in our hearts continually. Open our hearts to learn your lessons, and may our Mother explain to us in simple terms the things we must learn. Jesus we trust in you.

Pelianito Journal: *"My child, pray! For a silence and a sadness is coming to my people. My children have turned against me. I am betrayed once again into the hands of the enemy. Who will stay with me at the foot of the cross? Who will run and scatter? Little child, pray for grace, the grace to stay at the foot of the cross with our Mother. A day will come when all that is familiar will be changed or gone. I say this not to cause you anxiety, but to prepare your heart for the coming trial. Remember always that I am with you. Remember the prayer, and pray it often. Pray it with my Mother at the foot of the cross. Through her tears and anguish she never lost faith—'Jesus I trust in you.'"*

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be

Thirteenth Station: Jesus is taken down from the cross (We adore...)

With what sorrow and tenderness your most holy Mother held your tortured, lifeless body in her arms! She who nursed and caressed you in your infancy now endured the piercing of her heart. Yet despite what in her agony she had witnessed, she trusted in the victorious triumph of her beloved Son, God Incarnate.

O my Jesus, when all seems lost, let us always remember the sorrow of our Mother as she held your lifeless body. Grant us the trust that she possessed and make that trust our own possession through her prayers on our behalf. Jesus we trust in you.

Pelianito Journal: "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."

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be

Fourteenth Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb (We adore...)

O my Jesus, what a silence and a sadness descended on your disciples when you were laid in the tomb! Even though you had foretold that these things must happen, your disciples descended into confusion and fear. They forgot what you had told them, that on the third day you would rise again.

Jesus, you do not do anything without making it first known to your servants the prophets. You have taken great care to prepare us for the silence and the sadness that is coming to the world. Help us to believe in the promise of the resurrection, that the time of trial is merely

the prelude to a time of great glory. Jesus we trust in you.

Pelianito Journal: "My beloved, I mean to rebuild my Church, and what joy and celebration there will be on that glorious day! But before that day, a storm of destruction, for what must be rebuilt must first be razed. Do not tremble in fear at these words, for they are words of hope. I am coming to restore my Bride to a glory never before seen, a glory I have desired from the beginning. I will tear down what is rotted and replace it with pure gold that will not tarnish or decay. Be at peace, my children, whatever comes. I am near—as near to you as your own breath."

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be

Fifteenth Station: Jesus rises from the dead (We adore...)

O glorious day! When all seemed hopeless, you manifested your glorious presence to Mary Magdalene and then your disciples. You made your presence known in a special way in the Breaking of the Bread. Even after having been told by you in advance about these things, your disciples could not have imagined how glorious that day would be!

Jesus, we too have been prepared for a day of glory that will rise from the ashes. Your mercy will not permit sin to reign on the earth forever. You will come to purify your Bride and to give your faithful remnant their Sabbath rest. Help us to keep this always in mind when the days darken. Jesus we trust in you.

Pelianito Journal: "Wait for God—he will come to you, and he will come to the world in glory and majesty. Keep this thought before you as a light shining in the darkness. Your Lord comes! He comes to rule the world with justice and the peoples with fairness."

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be

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...



BSP ON FACEBOOK

[Brothers and Sisters of Penance of St. Francis](#) facebook page by Lisa Drago, BSP

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.

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)



The BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF
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