

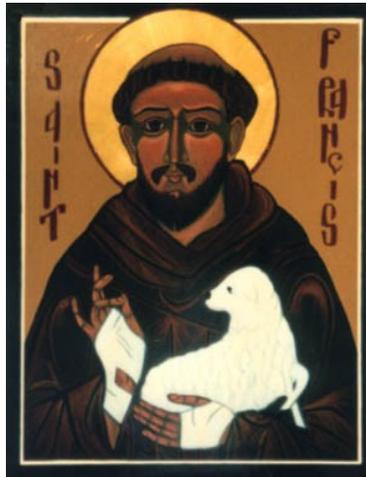


...IN THE WORLD, BUT NOT OF IT, FOR CHRIST!

BONAVENTURE AND HIS LESSONS ON ST. FRANCIS:

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

6. The realization that everything comes from the same source filled Francis with greater affection than ever and he called even the most insignificant creatures his brothers and sisters, because he knew they had the same origin as himself. However, he reserved his most tender compassion for those creatures which are a natural reflection of Christ’s gentleness and are used in Sacred Scripture as figures of him. He often rescued lambs, which were being led off to be slaughtered, in memory of the Lamb of God who willed to be put to death to save sinners.



While he was staying at the monastery of San Verecundo in the diocese of Gubbio one time, a lamb was born there during the night. It was attacked immediately by a vicious sow which had no mercy on the innocent creature and killed it with one hungry bite. When he heard about it, the saint was deeply moved as he

remembered the immaculate Lamb of God and he mourned for the death of the lamb before them all saying, “Brother lamb, innocent creature, you represented Christ in the eyes of men. A curse on the wicked beast which killed you. May no human being or any animal ever eat of it.” There and then, the vicious sow fell sick and after suffering for three days it eventually expiated its crime by death. The carcass was thrown into the monastery moat where it lay for a long time and became hard as a board so that even the hungriest animal refused to eat it.

If cruelty in an animal led to such a terrible end, what will be the lot of evil men when the time of punishment comes eventually. In this incident the faithful, too, can see the power of Francis’ tender love and how abundantly it filled him, so that it was acclaimed in their own way even by the animals.

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



VISITOR'S MESSAGE

Homily by Fr. Robert Altier... Love One Another

Reading (2 John 4-9) Gospel (Luke 17:26-37)

In the first reading today, Saint John tells us that we are to follow the commandment we have had from the beginning.

The commandment, he tells us, is that we are to love one another; and this, above all things, is how

people are going to ultimately know that we are truly Christian people, by our love for one another, by the way we treat other people, by the charity that we have in our hearts as we deal with other people.

This has become a real problem for people in America. We have all our little pet things that we like



to jump up and down about, and then we treat other people like trash. We need to really think very seriously about this because if we look at the lives of the saints what we see is the charity flowing from their love for God, the charity they have toward other people and the way they treat them. They will not say that something wrong is right – they will call a spade a spade—but, at the same time, they are going to correct in charity.

We also live in a society where people have decided that they can sort of make up their own things and do what they want to do. Saint John says that if anyone becomes so progressive so as not to remain firmly rooted in the teaching of Christ, that person has neither the Father nor the Son, which again is something we need to be very, very careful of. If we are going to have true charity toward our neighbor, that charity has to be rooted in the truth. The reason why we would have this charity or this love for our neighbor is precisely because of our love for God. So it is not merely a matter of just being nice to people; that is not what we are being told to do. What we are being told to do as a commandment—again, this is not just a suggestion; this is a commandment—is to have true charity toward other people. That means we first have to be rooted in the truth. Secondly, it means we have to have true love for Jesus Christ. And, thirdly, flowing from Christ, we have to love other people the way that He loves them, and that is the only way we can do this.

There are lots of people who are very kind to others. Oftentimes, it is because they themselves want to be liked or thought well of. But in their kindness toward others, sometimes what they wind up doing is just sort of throwing out everything objective. It does not seem to matter whether they accept the truth or not, and so all they are interested in is being nice—but they are not really interested in being charitable.

That is what we have to be very cautious of. It is the balance, as always, that we have to be striving for. Charity seeks always the good of the other person, so if we are not seeking their true good then we have some ulterior motive for what it is that we are doing.

When Saint John tells us that the commandment we have from the beginning is to love one another, he is telling us exactly the way that we are to live our lives. So as we strive to grow in holiness, as we strive to grow in virtue, what we really need to look at then is not just the externals of what we do but the internals of how and why we do what we do. If it is not out of love for God then our purpose is somehow skewed. That is, maybe we just want on the natural level to be doing better than what we have. That is not going to get us to heaven. It may be that we want to be liked by other people, so we will be kind to them. That is not going to get us to heaven either. We are called to true charity, and that is in our hearts, it is in our words, and it is in our actions. So that is something we can look at within ourselves, and we need to make sure it is all matched up. Sometimes we can act in the right manner while interiorly having all kinds of negative thoughts, grumbling and complaining and calling the person names and doing all kinds of other things, but then we can smile at them and be real nice—and we are phony.

We need to make sure that what we are striving for is true charity, seeking truly the good of the other and sacrificing ourselves, as Our Lord made clear in the Gospel that we have to do: to lose our lives in order to save them, to sacrifice ourselves for the good of others. That is what true charity and love of neighbor is about. It is not easy. It is not merely about being nice. It is about uniting ourselves with Jesus Christ, and in the fullness of the truth, in the fullness of love, we are to give for the sake of others.

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



ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE... Stay focused!



Have you ever read the Story of a Soul, an autobiography written by St. Therese of Lisieux at the request of her prioress in the Carmelite monastery in Lisieux, which she joined at the tender age of 15. It is quite amazing. Strikingly simple, but very deep when you ponder it. An easy read, but not if you consider what

is being said. Then it grows deep, into who we are and want to be, for the Lord.

Therese, after she entered Carmel, the Carmelite monastery in Lisieux, near her home, was profoundly troubled by what she was to be in the Church. She prayed about it, studied it, read about it and ultimately came to understand that her mission in the Church was to be love. Just that, love.

And she set out trying to figure out how to do that best and came more and more to understand that she needed to remain little, a little child, in her relationship to God, and to others, in order to become love. That led to her being the greatest supporter of living in a little way, with little sacrifices, and tender childlike love, in the Church. She died at the age of 24. Today, she is a Saint and a Doctor of the Church because she is the model of love the Church chooses to promote to all of us. That in itself is enough to ponder. One of the most significant points of her life is that she said several times she would be a Saint! Then did it. Even St. Francis did not do that!

The significant thing about St. Therese, and all of the other Saints for that matter, is that they stayed focused on Christ after their conversion. Most did not before their conversions. So, we are generally like that in our lives too. Unless we convert and make Christ the center of our life it doesn't happen. So, for most of the world around us it doesn't happen. That alone makes it more important that we do it!

Consider the life of St. Paul. Before his conversion, which was pretty dramatic of course, he was persecuting the Catholic faith. After it? Christ became his life, and he never stopped saying it. He is the most written and read author of the New Testament!

And then there is St. Francis. Before his conversion he was the life of the party. He had money, and he was fun. Not much is written on what that meant in his day, or what he exactly did, but we can imagine. He was a wild card! After his conversion, which was the fruit of a series of events given him by the Lord, he changed his focus to Jesus and very notably the Gospel. He took the leads on His life from the Gospel, and became a fool for Jesus in His day. Multitudes followed him, and he worked many miracles and if he said something was going to happen it did. Then he gave us our Rule and many others their Rules of

life. He passed his focus on Christ to others.

The Story of a Soul, and the lives of all Saints lay out a theme to all of us. Get and stay focused on the things of God. Most of us in this modern world, go running around chasing rainbows. We go to school, get jobs, and in our off-time try to have some fun, and lead happy young lives as we saw young lives led around us and we strive to make our own way. This is not bad. It is reality, but if we want to be Saints it is probably not enough. We need to stay focused in Christ like the Saints did, but what exactly does that look like today?

Our religious accomplishments, Confession, Communion, and Confirmation, are center focused in our search for God. We need to celebrate them in ourselves and others. We need to celebrate our lives in the Church, and be present and active in our parish communities. We need to take our cues from the Saints. Whoever they are, whenever they lived, if they are important to us we can study their lives and in that perhaps find a better, deeper, way to live our lives for Christ. It is not enough that we celebrate and promote their accomplishments. We need to find our own way and become holy in how we live our own lives.

Thank God that for us, in the BSP, we have the Rule to guide us, and that can make the focus of our lives much easier as it is a holy way of life, given to us by a Saint. Thank God we have been told and shown how to deny ourselves, take up our crosses, that is our lives, and follow Jesus. How to live the Gospel more literally. This is wonderful, and it is what happened in the lives of St. Theresa, St. Paul, St. Francis, and any of the other Saints you might care to consider. It is the way the Lord calls us, and it is the way He is calling us in the BSP. It is our way to follow Him. This is our happy challenge, our focus, and we should find joy in it.

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

"Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in My Name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but do not be alarmed. Such things must happen. But the end is still to come." (Matthew 24:4-6)

Jesus was talking about the end times. We live in a world at war, and it's hard to know the beginning from the end. After world-wide wars with fascism, Nazism and

Communism the past hundred years, the perpetual war with Islam is back on center stage, one that has been going on with varying intensity for 1400 years. When Mohammed placed himself above Jesus Christ,

the Divine Son of God, there could be no other outcome but fierce conflict with faithful Christians.

Donna and I had an opportunity to learn first-hand from several learned historians about one aspect of that war while on vacation. We decided to meet our friends from Chicago in Hanceville, Alabama. There we would spend a few days visiting Mother Angelica's Shrine to the Blessed Sacrament, and the Eternal Word Television Network studios in Irondale, a suburb of Birmingham, about an hour away.

We called EWTN to see if we could attend Fr. Mitch Pacwa's "EWTN LIVE" at 7:00 PM Wednesday, October 8. The lady who answered said there were no tickets needed. She just wanted to know how many would be coming, and to arrive about forty minutes before the program began. Fortunately we arrived even earlier, a good thing because there were a large number of people there on pilgrimage from Texas. It's not often there is a capacity crowd. We were told what would happen, and if anyone had any questions for the Q&A session. Of course I was the first one with my hand up! It turns out the program was on the Crusades, one of my favorite subjects, partly because our holy father St. Francis was intimately involved in one of them, and partly because history is being re-written to fit today's secularist, anti-Catholic agenda—which needs to be countered. At least faithful Catholics need to know the truth about this heroic endeavor, even if the results were not all that was hoped for, to say the least.

Fr. Pacwa was interviewing two historians, Stephano Mazzeo and Stephen Madden, who had produced a mini-series on the Crusades because they were alarmed by a distorted BBC presentation of the Crusades—what a shock! The secular media is somehow allied with Islam against the Catholic Church. The world is governed by the aggressive use of force, and in the Catholic/Muslim wars, the aggressor is almost always Islam. The Catholic response has been mostly defensive. A thousand years ago, Islam was top dog, poised to even conquer Europe, one of the fondest wishes of a truly Imperialist Religion founded by a military General.

We learned from the interview that two-thirds of the ancient Christian world was wiped out by the sword of Islam in the greatest military expansion in history following the death of Mohammed in 632 A.D. —from the Holy Land of the Middle East to the Far East, Northern Africa, even into Europe as far as France. Places like Antioch, where the followers of Jesus were first called "Christians," fell to the sword. The Christian community had one of three choices: convert to Islam, die for their faith, or become a

"Dhimmi," which is the Arabic term for non-Muslims living in ignominious dishonor in Islamic conquered lands. The Dhimmi is merely a second class citizen, subjected to deprivation of any legal and human rights, except the right to pay taxes to support the Muslim state of which he/she is a non-Muslim permanent resident.

Muslims have controlled the Holy Land where Jesus walked and taught for 1300 years, a fact that can only be comprehended if in fact the Catholic Church controlled Mecca in Saudi Arabia, and taxed or killed Muslim pilgrims on their Hajj. Most of the time Muslim rulers allowed Christian Pilgrims access to the Holy Land, but when the fearsome Seljuk Turks took over and began killing pilgrims, that was too much to bear. A series of Crusades followed for nearly two hundred years. Sadly, only the First Crusade, called by Pope Urban II in 1095, was moderately successful. All the others failed in securing the Holy Land as a peaceful, safe haven for Christian Pilgrims, a situation which continues to this day.

In view of the fact that Catholics have historically been little more than sacrificial lambs, I asked: "How many Christians have been killed by Muslims since the time of Mohammed?" The three historians on stage had no answer. I found that hard to believe, that no one has researched what should be an obvious question. Critics of the Crusades always mention the siege of Jerusalem in 1099, followed by a "massacre" of the Muslim and Jewish inhabitants where "the streets ran red with blood," and the horsemen had "blood up to their bridles." These were gross exaggerations, frequently done by monks back home who were not eye-witnesses, avidly describing the cleansing of Jerusalem using Old Testament imagery, or that of the Book of Revelation. There were many survivors of that "massacre." The Crusaders had a mere twelve thousand troops. Wars are about killing people and breaking things; they're a bloody mess.

Credible numbers are hard to come by in ancient warfare. In many cases, especially in the early takeover of the Christian world by Islam, there was no one to transmit the message of the survivors, or even no one left to tell the story. I heard an answer to my question on the radio a few days later from a Muslim convert to Christianity. He said 250 million. Considering how many Christians have been killed by Muslims the past twenty years, especially in Africa, one can see many millions of martyrs spread out over 1400 years. I tried to do some research on that number, and came upon another, 270 million killed, Christian and non-Christian alike.

The good news is that many “moderate” Muslims are repelled by such violence as ISIS now exhibits in the name of Islam, and are converting to Christianity. According to Al Jazeera, six million Muslims in Africa convert to Christianity every year. If that is true, Praise God! There is hope for the world! Even though the news comes from Al Jazeera, whose credibility is at stake, it appears to be basically true. Our Lady of Fatima is working behind enemy lines!

Professor Mazzeo mentioned St. Francis during the program (accessed on YouTube: “EWTN LIVE, THE CRUSADES”). Francis was involved with the Fifth Crusade, 1213-1221, and the fighting took place mainly in Egypt. He had the best idea: convert the Sultan! Of course, Francis was hoping for martyrdom

along the way, but God had other plans. Mazzeo said that Francis was not opposed to the Crusades as some modern critics have charged, but only to the behavior of certain Crusaders, and how faithfully they carried out their mission.

As in any human endeavor, human weakness plays a big part. The Crusades had a great goal, of freeing the Holy Land for Christian Pilgrims. Most of the Crusaders were well intentioned, seeking to do a good and holy work to glorify God, but others had more worldly plans. All were aware, however, that their mission was honorable, for they knew that a false prophet had arisen: “For many will come in My Name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.”

Paul Beery BSP, Morning Star Chapter, Minnesota



The Barque of Peter by Janet Klasson, BSP

From the First Reading Solemnity of Christ the King

As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down,

says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. (Ez 34:12, 15-16)

The Barque of Peter has hit a bit of turbulent water lately. The secular media jumped all over comments released early at the synod that probably should never have been made public in the first place. Discussion is good. Honest opinions delivered with charity are good. But somehow it feels as if our dirty laundry has been aired in public. Many Catholics, liberal or conservative, are unsure what to think, but that doesn't stop most people from voicing an opinion. I think the best thing to do at times like this is to stop, take a breath, and ponder. What is God asking of us in these turbulent times? The same thing he always asks of us—to trust in him, believe in his mercy, act with humility, and live in unity and charity.

Trust

Sometimes we forget that the Church does not belong to right or to the left, but to God. Jesus built the Church on a Rock—Peter. He promised that the gates of hell would not prevail against her. He did not promise that the Church would always be

perfect, in fact it has never been perfect and has always faced struggles—from within and without. Nothing new here. What we need to remember is that Jesus has promised protection to the Church under the guidance of the successor of Peter, the Holy Father.

Each pope has gifts, but no pope has every gift. Perhaps we don't understand this new pope whose style is so different from his last two predecessors. But his gifts were given to the Church in our day by the Holy Spirit. God will use Pope Francis as he has used all the other popes in history, not in spite of their humanity and limitations, but by using even those limitations for the ultimate good of the Church. (cf Rom 8:28).

We do not have to understand everything that is happening. Our job is to trust in the words of Jesus that the gates of hell will not prevail against the Church. If we cling to the Rock we will be kept from serious error. If we cling to the sacraments and to Our Lady, we will have all we need to weather the



storm that is upon us. The Pope is our Captain. If we mutiny, we may be lost, but the Barque of Peter will weather the storm—with or without us.

Jesus gave St. Faustina the prayer, “Jesus I trust in you.” This prayer must never be far from our minds. Whatever comes, our response must be, “Jesus I trust in you.” Think of Mary, John, and Mary Magdalene at the foot of the cross. Did they have perfect understanding about what was happening? Not likely. But they trusted. They stayed at the foot of the cross, trusting that whatever came, even their own death, it was God’s holy will. They manned their post in fidelity and trust. We need to do the same.

Mercy

Those of us who do our best to observe the laws of the Church cannot help but feel a wee twinge when it looks like someone is going to get a “freebie”. “Can those in second marriages REALLY receive communion? I had to wait five years for an annulment!” However, who of us has not begged for mercy from God at one time or another. St. Catharine of Genoa in her “Treatise on Purgatory” says: “For if his goodness did not temper justice with mercy (satisfying it with the precious blood of Jesus Christ), one sin alone would deserve a thousand hells.” **Justice must serve mercy** and not the reverse, or we are all lost. God can manage perfection in both, but here in this world it is a great trick to balance the two. And that is what much of the discussion around the Synod has been about. That is why they are taking another year to come up with a solution. The Holy Father said in his closing remarks:

“So, the Church is Christ’s—she is His bride—and all the bishops, in communion with the Successor of Peter, have the task and the duty of guarding her and serving her, not as masters but as servants. The Pope, in this context, is not the supreme lord but rather the supreme servant—the ‘servant of the servants of God’; the guarantor of the obedience and the conformity of the Church to the will of God, to the Gospel of Christ, and to the Tradition of the Church, putting aside every personal whim, despite being—by the will of Christ Himself—the ‘supreme Pastor and Teacher of all the faithful’ (Can. 749) and despite enjoying ‘supreme, full, immediate, and universal ordinary power in the Church’ (cf. Cann. 331-334).”

Humility

Many opinions were volleyed about during and after the Synod, in the media, on blogs, in parishes. Our society has idolized the “comments button”. But, just because we can speak, does that mean we

should? The saints have always taught that prudence in speech is a virtue and a discipline that must be cultivated. Before we speak we need to ask ourselves if we have all the facts. Are we qualified to speak? Is God calling us to speak or is it a temptation to pride? Is what we want to say charitable? Does it build up or tear down? Does it give life or bring death? Are we idolizing our own opinion? Scripture tells us there is a time to speak and a time to remain silent. Too often we speak when we should remain silent. St. Paul tells us to hold every thought captive to Christ (cf 2 Cor 10:5). We need to ponder and pray more, to be poor in spirit. God can often do more with our silence than with our speech anyway.

Unity

I felt the Lord tell me once that sins against unity are sins against the Trinity. This is very grave. The nature of God is unity. Jesus prayed to the Father, “That they may be one as you are in me and I am I you.” (Jn 17:21) This is no trivial matter! It was the dear wish of our Lord’s Sacred Heart, given to the apostles at the Last Supper. We may not understand all that is going on in the Church, but Jesus gave a structure to his Church to which we are called to give the greatest respect. We know that all the clergy have human failings as we all do, but let us remember the story of St. Francis where he was brought to confront a priest who was living in a scandalous relationship with a woman. St. Francis *“fell to his knees, took the priest’s hands into his own stigmatized hands, kissed them and said, ‘All I know and all I want to know is that these hands give me Jesus.’”* It is said the priest converted after that. Our job is not to judge the clergy, and especially not the Holy Father, but to respect their office, pray unceasingly for them, and support them in any way we can. St. Francis told his brothers: *“If you will be sons of peace, you will win the clergy and the people for the Lord, and the Lord judges this more acceptable than to win the people but scandalize the clergy. Hide their lapses, supply for their many defects; and when you have done this, be even more humble.”* (Celano, Second Life #146)

Archbishop Charles Chaput said during the Synod: *“We also need to thank God for the gift of this present, difficult moment. Because conflict always does two things: It purifies the church, and it clarifies the character of the enemies who hate her.”*

The Barque of Peter is undoubtedly headed for even more turbulent water in the days ahead. But we can be confident that if we stay on the barque we will arrive at our destination safely and with great joy.

"And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'" (Rev 21:5) Jesus we trust in you!

(If you have not read the words of the Holy Father at the end of the Synod, I would urge you to do so. They are golden: <http://tinyurl.com/mog32my>)

From www.pelianito.stblogs.com

Jude 1:10 "But these people slander whatever they do not understand, and they are destroyed by those things that, like irrational animals, they know by instinct."

"My children, beg me to set a guard over your mouth. Implore me not to let you slander with the written word. This is a grave sin of this generation. Never before have people had such ready access to the world stage. This is a great pitfall. Many are falling headlong into sin. Those who bear my name have the greater responsibility. You, my children, must be governed by the virtues of temperance and prudence. Every word you speak or write reverberates in eternity. Be wise. Be humble. Be reserved, especially when it comes to judging others on hearsay. Test everything; retain what is good. Let the words you speak or write give life not death. Build up and do not tear down. Does this mean that you should not correct the errors of others? Of course not. But with true charity and humility, without slander or scandal, if the Lord desires it, then speak or write what God has given you. And let peace be your measuring stick. God's will brings peace. Children, enlist the help of your holy guardian angels. Give them permission to stop your words if necessary. Spend more time in silent contemplation and it will bear fruit in your communications. Children, peace to you. Shalom."

Heavenly Father, grant us grace upon grace. Set a guard over our mouths and do not let us cause scandal or slander through our words—written or spoken. Holy guardian angels help us and stop our words when necessary. Help us to be humble and docile to the will of God, to use our communications for the glory of God and the edification of our brothers and sisters. Here I am Lord, I come to live in your holy and adorable will. Amen.

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/>.)



FROM THE 'SPARROW' Look Around!

Peace! Many people say that God does not exist. They claim they won't believe unless they have proof. They want a sign!

The apostle Paul said in Romans 1:20 that God's **"eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world in the things that have been made."** The moon, the stars, the animal kingdom, people—all show the handiwork of a loving God in their design. But people still refuse to see it.

Jesus faced a similar problem with His critics. They wanted Him to show them a sign, something that proved He was the Son of God. In spite of all He had

already done—the miracles, the teaching, the fulfillment of prophecy—they still refused to see the truth about Him.

God shows Himself every day in the created world around us. St. Francis of Assisi literally opened his eyes and looked at all these things around him and saw God in all of it. He believed in God in the special revelation of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, as little sparrows, we can see His hand at work in our own lives as He makes us new creations in Jesus. The handiwork of God in creation becomes a rich blessing for us as we live our lives as new creations redeemed by Christ the Lord.

Bob Hall BSP, Little Flower Chapter, NC



MORNING STAR: NEWS ON THE ASSOCIATION...

JOY OF PENANCE

Janet KLasson is now posting past articles she has written for the BSP newsletter on a new blog called, "The Joy of Penance," found at www.joyofpenance.wordpress.com. From the About section of the blog:

"Blessings! I am a wife, mother, grandmother, and author of the Pelianito Journal Blog (www.pelianito.stblogs.com). I am also a professed member of the Brothers and Sisters of Penance of St. Francis (BSP). I made my profession to live the rule of life of the BSP in 2007 after completing four years of formation. This has been one of the greatest blessings in my life.*

"In our time, the word 'penance' holds a negative connotation. But nothing could be further from the truth. The call to penance is a call to holy joy, to deeper love, to join Christ on the cross, to offer the gift of self for the good of others and the ultimate good of all.

"I believe our Lord is reviving the call to penance in our day. Never has the need been greater for souls willing to offer reparation to the much-wounded heart of our Lord and His Mother, and for the salvation of those God has given us to pray for. I believe God is calling many to give more and to do more, to live a life of deeper love and joy through generous acts of joyful penance. It is my hope that I may encourage them on that path.

"I have been writing for the BSP monthly newsletter for several years, and recently felt called to post these articles online for the edification and encouragement of those who may also be feeling the call to increased penance, but have no one to help them. I will include in my territory of souls all those who read these articles and especially those who feel called to increased penance. May God guide us all into his holy joy now and in eternity."

FAST OF ST. MARTIN

From the BSP Rule and Statutes:

RULE: ARTICLE 9

They are to fast daily, except on account of infirmity or any other need, throughout the fast of St. Martin from after said day until Christmas, and throughout the greater fast from Carnival Sunday until Easter.

STATUTES: ARTICLE 9

a. Penitents are to observe a pre-Christmas fast from November 12, the day after the Feast of St. Martin, until Christmas and a pre-Easter fast from Ash Wednesday until Easter.

May God grant all penitents, professed and un-professed, who are observing the fast in any form a fruitful, holy season of penance for the good of their own souls and all those they are praying for.

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.

November the Month of Remembrance

Prayers for the Holy Souls in Purgatory



PRAYER OF ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT

A prayer to release many souls from Purgatory each time it is said and which was extended to include living sinners as well.

Eternal Father, I offer You the most precious blood of thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, for those in my own home and in my family. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY

O gentle Heart of Jesus, ever present in the Blessed Sacrament, ever consumed with burning love for the poor captive souls in Purgatory, have mercy on them. Be not severe in Your judgments, but let some drops of Your Precious Blood fall upon the devouring flames. And, Merciful Savior, send Your angels to conduct them to a place of refreshment, light and peace. Amen.

DEVOTION OF ST. BERNARD TO THE SHOULDER WOUND OF JESUS

Releases many souls from purgatory each time it is prayed.

O Loving Jesus, meek Lamb of God, I a miserable sinner, salute and worship the most Sacred Wound of Your Shoulder on which You bore Your heavy Cross, which so tore Your Flesh and laid bare Your Bones as to inflict on You an anguish greater than any other Wound of Your Most Blessed Body. I adore You, O Jesus most sorrowful; I praise and glorify You and give You thanks for this most sacred and painful Wound, beseeching You by the crushing burden of Your heavy Cross to be merciful to the souls in purgatory and to me, a sinner, to forgive me all my mortal and venial sins, and to lead me on towards Heaven along the Way of Your Cross. Amen.

The BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF PENANCE OF ST. FRANCIS

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

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

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

Bruce and Shelley Fahey BSP, Editors



Welcome to the Brothers and Sisters of Penance!

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

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



The BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF
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65774 County Road 31
Northome MN 56661