



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

BONAVENTURE AND HIS LESSONS ON ST. FRANCIS:

Chapter XI—Francis’ Grasp of Sacred Scripture and His Spirit of Prophecy

6. A noble lady who was a very religious person, once came to St. Francis to tell him her troubles and ask for help. She had a husband who behaved cruelly towards her and tried to prevent her from serving Christ, and she begged the saint to pray for him that God in his goodness might touch his heart. When Francis heard her story, he told her, “Go in peace and you can be sure your husband will be a comfort to you in the near future.” And he added, “Tell him from God and from me that this is the time of mercy but that the day of retribution must follow.” He gave her his blessing and the woman went off and gave her husband the message. There and then the Holy Spirit came upon him and he became a new man, so that he answered gently, “Let us serve God together and save our souls.” At his wife’s suggestion they lived a life of continence for years and they both died the same day.

St. Francis’ supernatural gifts were certainly extraordinary; they enabled him to give back life to

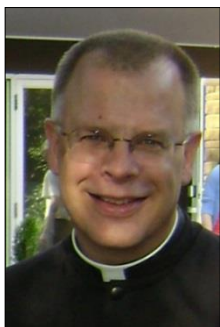
aging limbs and move stubborn hearts to repentance, while the amazing clarity of his spirit allowed him to see into the future and read the secrets of consciences. Like a second Eliseus, he had received a double share of the spirit of the prophet Elias.



7. St. Francis once told a friend of his in Siena what would become of him eventually and the theologian who had asked him to explain the Scriptures for him heard about it. He went to the saint and asked if he had really said what this man claimed. Francis not only admitted that he had said it but, as the theologian

was so anxious to know what was to happen to someone else, he foretold what would become of him in the end. And, to convince him all the more, he mentioned a scruple which he had on his conscience and which he had never revealed to anyone and cured him of it with sound advice. To prove the truth of Francis’ prophecy, the religious in question eventually died the way he had foretold.

Bonaventure—Major Life of St. Francis (1263)



VISITOR'S MESSAGE

Homily by Fr. Robert Altier... We need to persevere

Reading (Hebrews 12:1-4) Gospel (St. Mark 5:21-43)

In the first reading today, we hear the beginning of the twelfth chapter of Saint Paul’s Letter to the Hebrews. It is a reading that maybe we should cut out and hang on our refrigerators and keep with us as a constant reminder to us of the situation as it is. We are

reminded, first of all, that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, all the saints, all the martyrs, all of those who have lived their faith and have not backed off when it came to giving witness to the Lord. Therefore Saint Paul says, Let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race. This is precisely



what our call is, to get rid of sin in our lives, to be holy, to overcome everything that is going to lead us away from Christ.

And then he tells us we must keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, Who is the leader and the perfecter of our faith. We have to make sure we are keeping our focus on the goal of where we are going; otherwise, in the hustle and bustle of everything that goes on, we will be getting knocked around and turned and twisted and we are going to lose the direction that we are heading. But if we keep our eyes fixed on the Lord, it does not matter how many times we get knocked around, we are still going to have our eyes fixed in the right direction and we are still going to keep moving forward.

Then he tells us what is the most important for us because he knew, of course, from his own life how much he had suffered for the Lord, and he knew how much the people who were going to follow Christ were going to suffer for the Lord. So he tells us about Our Lord's attitude: For the sake of the joy that lay before Him, Jesus accepted the Cross, heedless of its shame. It did not matter to the Lord what He had to endure because the joy that He was looking forward to was that all of us would be united with Him in heaven. That is what He wanted. It was not a matter that He could go to heaven, because He is God and even in His humanity He was in the Beatific Vision already. And so it is not a question that there was something He was going to gain, but the joy that was before Him was the joy that comes when you love. He loved us so much that He was willing to endure the Cross for us so that our sins could be forgiven, so that we would be able to go to heaven, so that we could have eternal life.

Then Saint Paul goes on to remind us of the opposition that Our Lord faced, and therefore tells us that He did this in order that we might not grow weary and lose heart. Again, looking at the Cross gives us the courage to persevere in the race, to continue to struggle forward. In case we get despondent and think, "I've had enough!" – Saint Paul kind of anticipates it – he said, In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood. So when have you had enough? When you are put to death for your faith. Then you do not have to worry about struggling in the race any longer; and until they put you to death, you have to keep going and there is no pulling back.

Sometimes we try to be like the woman in the Gospel reading today that sneaks up behind Jesus and we want to be a follower of Jesus in secret. He did not allow it. In front of the entire crowd of people, the woman had to confess the situation; and in front of the whole world, we have to confess our faith. If we are going to be true Catholics, it is not something that can be hidden under a bushel basket or under a bed. There is no hiding the reality of who we are. If we are members of Jesus Christ, we have to live the life of Christ, and that is not something that we can hide away. It is something that must be lived in our day-to-day lives, and it is to struggle against sin, against anything that leads us away from Christ, so that we continue to move towards Him, so that we seek union with Him. That is what we have to be about. We have to be so convinced of this faith and we have to be so in love with Him, that we, like Him, will be willing to do whatever it requires for the sake of the joy that lay before us, that is, for the sake of union with Christ, for heaven itself.

What are we willing to endure? When we look at it that way, all of us objectively would say, "I'll do whatever it takes," but we all know that in our day-to-day life, the smallest little pebble, the little prick on our finger, and, oh, we start to whine and complain and back away and think, "I've had enough. I don't want to do this anymore." No, we need to persevere. We need to keep going forward regardless of what obstacles are put in the way. And we need to realize that it is precisely those obstacles that strengthen our faith, that are going to help us to grow, that prove our love and are going to make us saints. When we have to deal with these problems and the difficulties and the ridicule and all the things, then we just need to keep on reminding ourselves, For the sake of the joy that lay before Him He endured the Cross, heedless of its shame. What are we willing to endure for Jesus? What shame are we willing to endure? What kind of ridicule would we be willing to endure for Him? That is really what it comes down to.

It is not about us; it is about our love for Him. For the sake of the joy of union with Jesus Christ forever in heaven, we need to embrace whatever comes our way, whatever sufferings, whatever rejection, whatever difficulty, heedless of its shame, for the sake of the joy that will be ours forever.

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





ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE...

Love

February is a month in which the world calls us to focus on love. Valentine's day is the big day of celebration this month and we are called, repeatedly, to do something for our Valentine, that person whom

we love. So, we see commercials calling us to buy hearts of chocolates; these and many other salient and cute little gifts are put before our eyes whenever we wander into a store. Almost any store. So, love is in season and we are called to do special things for our Valentine. To make our love known and appreciate their love. Once again, this love calls us to step outside ourselves and put others first, even if just for that day, February 14th. It isn't a bad thing, but it is very much the world in motion again around us, beckoning us. Doesn't it always? ☺

The Church draws us to love through a parallel each year, but in February this year. A much more important consideration of love. The love of our Savior, who is King of Love, and brings us to ponder how He transposed His Love and His call for us to love, on this world and all of us in it. That happens in the holy and wonderful season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10th, this year, and ends in the brightest solemnity in the Church and our lives, Easter. This beautiful day doesn't dawn, though, until after we have had a full consideration of the Love of God for us which culminates in the self-sacrifice of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, the Lord, in His crucifixion and death on Calvary.

What is this love we consider? A lesson? An event? An offering? The answer is 'yes' to all three. We, for our part, do well to ponder it in these things too.

Love as shown by Christ is a lesson. We are being taught to love with our whole being, our whole heart, mind, and soul, and even our bodies. The Lord showed us this love with his whole being. His whole beautiful heart that brought Him to offer Himself for us to save us from sin and death; His whole mind with which He framed and organized and actuated the circumstances with His own people that would lead to this death; and His whole Godhead with which he foresaw it, embraced it, and made it happen so that the offering of Himself could be made to His Father, to amend for all of the sins of all of humanity for all of time, which only God could do! And hence that event, His death on Calvary, sealed that love forever in the history of man and God, for

all eternity. So that event, His crucifixion, was an offering, and a lesson in love, to all of us.

Within Himself God did what only God could do and He made this humble sacrifice of Himself to Himself to amend for what only He could amend for, the sins of humanity, and give man what He only could give man, the forgiveness of sin, and His gift of love to us, eternal life. Such was His Will and such was His love that it humbles magnificently in any effort that man might make to show his love but it enshrines it as well, so that man can define what is love in life. All love must parallel the sacrifice of Christ for it to be love at all. Love always means giving up something for someone to give that person something greater, and that greater thing, is quite often nothing more than our love. We too must give up our selfishness to love others as Christ did.

The Lord's Love calls to us so much in the Gospel, and the Lord uses things we know to tell us what our love should be to others. We are to be salt and light to the world and we are to love one another as we love ourselves. That was how Christ died. He loved us as much as He loved Himself and He put us first in the sacrifice of His life for us on Calvary.

We celebrate this love for all of Lent. So, we offer God our sacrifices in union with His sacrifice on the cross by living our Rule in its fullness for it is never fuller or richer than during Lent. This celebration we show in how we fast, and pray, and amend our lives, and do things for others in the season of life and light that is represented by the holy season of Lent. We unite ourselves to our Savior and His Sacrifice and in this humble way we show our love for Him, and for others, for our sacrifices are further united to His in having their effect on the conversion of sinners, the salvation of souls and the return to the Faith of those who have fallen away.

In this season of light we might do well to reflect on the gospel messages on light: "No one who lights a lamp conceals it with a vessel or sets it under a bed; rather, he places it on a lamp stand so that those who enter may see the light." (Luke 8:16) A psalm prayer for Ordinary Time in the Liturgy of Hours says: "Your light is true light, Lord, and your truth shines like the day." So, our love must shine like this same light and draw others to the day of the Lord.

So, February is a great month for us. A most special month, and we need to show our love in this month to our Savior. We show our love in living our Rule well for the love of God. Our Rule fits perfectly within

the context of Lent and in a sense it makes the season of Lent perpetual in our lives. So, we become penitential people, masters at uniting ourselves to Christ and his suffering throughout the year, in the way He gave St. Francis for us, and in this way we

make His Love our way of life, become a blessing in the Church, and help those around us.

May the Lord bless and lead us all! Have a holy and happy Lent!

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

Footnote:

And in this season we come to President's day in America and we do well to offer our prayers for the election of a good and holy president to lead America back to its core values and back to being "One nation, under God..." So, keep this cause in your prayers for us and if you are not in America and get this newsletter pray for those of us who are in America. This is a very important year for those of us here, so please pray for us.



NO GREATER LOVE by Paul Beery, BSP

"Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?' 'Yes, Lord,' he said, 'you know that I love you.' At which Jesus said, 'Feed my lambs.'" (John 21:15)

What if Jesus asked us that question: "Do you love me more than these?" What would be our answer? I think that's why many of us are members of the Brothers and Sisters of Penance of St. Francis, to imitate the incomparable love our holy father had for Jesus. And with Lent coming up, Francis has much to say in the Rule about how we show our love for Jesus in return for His suffering and death of the Cross for our salvation. All center around a simple phrase: we show our love for God as expressed in prayer and penance.

For our edification God gave us a modern day example of a person who showed the world convincingly how to be a Saint: Mother Teresa. For a disciple of Jesus, the goal of life is to glorify God through the process of gaining our salvation. Mother Teresa did it through gaining the salvation of the poorest and most wretched people on the streets of Calcutta, and eventually all around the world. Donna and I have the privilege of working closely with the local Missionaries of Charity here in Minneapolis, where we meet the most devout souls dedicated to the works of mercy. Like sharing life with fellow BSP members, we hope some of that goodness and love from the "MC's" and their associates rubs off on us!

Bishop Barron in a short article called "Mother Teresa of Calcutta: saint of light, saint of darkness," points out these same three aspects of holiness from the Rule of St. Francis that we can imitate: love, prayer and penance. The first is "something remarkable about love, which is not a sentiment, but rather willing the good of the other." Love is an act of the

will. Bishop Barron goes on to explain this principle.

"I think Mother Teresa went to extremes in demonstrating love in the proper sense. She renounced practically everything in order to be of service to those in need, the most vulnerable in one of the worst slums in the world. Most of us manage to love to a degree, but few ever express this theological virtue more radically than she. This is not simply admirable, it **constitutes a crucial witness to the nature of love. Love has no limit. There can never be too much love; there is never a time when love is inappropriate, for love is what God IS, and love constitutes the very life of heaven. Mother Teresa's way of life is an icon of the love that will obtain in heaven, when we are utterly drawn into the very life of God.**"

The second feature of her holiness is her dedication to prayer. Bishop Barron was impressed by a statue of Mother Teresa in her traditional attitude of prayer, legs folded under her, palms facing upward, head bowed. "Mother insisted that her sisters should engage in substantial amounts of prayer every day. She understood something essential to the Christian's spiritual life - **the love she and her sisters endeavored to practice could only come through the grace of God, only as a sheer gift. To get that gift, it was necessary to ask, to ask again, to beg one's whole life long. Saints, those who embody the love that God is, are necessarily beggars.**"

We see this aspect of holiness perfectly expressed in the life of our holy father Francis, who knew a thing

or two about begging! There is so much of St. Francis in her life that one feels she must be a Franciscan at heart.

The final aspect of holiness that Bishop Barron notes about Mother Teresa is that she was a "saint of darkness." This is where penance comes in. "To be a saint is to allow Christ to live His life in you. St. Paul said, 'It is no longer I that live, but Christ lives in me.' Jesus was a person of service to the poor and needy, as was Mother. Jesus prayed intently for long periods, as did Mother. But Jesus was also the crucified Lord. At the limit of His suffering He said, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken Me?' **To allow Christ to live His life in you is necessarily to experience, to one degree or another, the absence of God, to undergo the agony of the crucifixion in all of its dimensions. St. John of the Cross, the greatest mystical theologian of all time, said quite simply that there is no path to holiness that does not lead through the cross.**

"Mother Teresa was a saint of light. She struck me as a 'light in the shadows.' But she herself once said, 'If I ever become a saint, I will surely be a saint of darkness.' For upwards of fifty years Mother Teresa experienced the pain of the absence of God. The living saint often felt abandoned by God, and lived through this crucible for decades, even as people routinely saw her as a paragon of holiness. All the years of darkness she endured is therefore one of the surest indicators of her saintliness."

Bishop Barron concludes with a comment on her coming canonization, "Saints exist for the Church, for in them we see the very *reason for being* of the Church. That is why canonizations are always joyful affairs. So let us rejoice in this new saint whose love, prayer, and very darkness are light for us."

Jesus asks us: "Do you love Me more than these?" My friends, we have our work cut out for us, and Lent is a perfect time to show our love for Him through prayer and penance so that Christ may live His life in us!

Paul Beery BSP, Morning Star Chapter, Minnesota



God's harmonies... by Janet Klasson, BSP

From the First Reading on the First Sunday of Lent

"And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!'" (Isaiah 6:5)

By the grace of God, I am involved in music ministry in our parish. I have no voice training, so I am always amazed at people who can harmonize, seemingly without effort. It occurred to me recently that these people, by singing "wrong" are vastly enhancing the beauty of the piece. There is a lesson here for all of us, who even on our best days, have only weakness to offer God.

Scripture may be said to be, from beginning to end, a volume of examples of God writing straight with crooked lines, taking what we do "wrong" and making something beautiful out of it. At the Easter Vigil we sing of the "happy fault" the "necessary sin of Adam that won for us so great a Redeemer". Moses tried to talk God out of using him for mission because he felt inadequate for the task. Isaiah, in the verse above, bemoans his weakness, his unworthiness to serve God. St. Peter asked Jesus to "Go away from me, for I am a sinful man!"

All of these chosen souls eventually let go of their

own self-assessment and abandoned themselves to the plan of God. Was that the end of their weakness? One only has to look at the Gospel accounts of St. Peter before Pentecost to see that weakness was never more than one misstep away. I think that is what makes him so appealing to the rest of us. He feels like a true brother to us in the big, messy family of God. In the end, God worked miracles of glory in spite of the weaknesses of these faithful, humble, trusting souls.

Throughout Scripture, God works wonders despite our faults and failings, and brings his holy people to places unimagined. This is something we would do well to keep in mind during these days of trial by fire. God has only ever used imperfect souls to accomplish his will. Indeed, since the Assumption of Our Lady, imperfect souls are all he has had to work with! But this must not lead us to despair, even when everything appears to be careening out of control at breakneck speed down a winding mountain path.



Like spectators at an epic movie—where we already know the glorious ending—we can only anticipate with wonder the ways our Hero will use to get us out of one desperate scrape after another.

For our part, we must remain humble enough to say yes when our Hero asks us to perform some task that we know very well we are not capable of, and to trust Him when we see him using other imperfect souls to accomplish his will.

We are not called to tell God how to do his job, nor

who He should use to accomplish His will. We are not called to criticize those He is using. We are called to make our own *fiat* in faith, hope, and trust in the glorious plan of God, to acknowledge God, take the next right step, and try always to be a sign of hope for others, so that the glorious harmonies of God can be heard and enjoyed by all.

May our Lenten observance of fasting and abstinence serve to make us ever humbler and more faithful, that we may grow in trust in the glorious plan of God.

From www.pelianitoblog.wordpress.com

Psalm 94:14 For the Lord will not forsake his people; he will not abandon his heritage.

"My children, my faithful, my delight, how your faithfulness fills me with joy! 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. The Blessed Virgin understood this perfectly and seized every opportunity to become littler and humbler. Therefore, her soul 'magnified the Lord'. This is a mystery, yet it is possible for all my little ones to attain it to some degree. Be little, my children. Be humble. Throw yourself into the infinite fount of my mercy. Your weakness will be instantly dissolved and I will raise you higher than you have ever dreamed. Children when will you trust in me?"

O merciful Father, loving and good, how unimaginable is your love for your weak little ones. Lord, we place all our trust in your goodness and mercy, and give you our desire to be faithful, wrapped in every humble act of the Blessed Virgin, our Mother. Merciful Jesus, we trust in you! Amen.

Isaiah 37:30-32 And this shall be the sign for you: This year eat what grows of itself, and in the second year what springs from that; then in the third year sow, reap, plant vine-yards, and eat their fruit. The surviving remnant of the house of Judah shall again take root downwards, and bear fruit upwards; for from Jerusalem a remnant shall go out, and from Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

"Children, again and again I have told you, do not be afraid! Surrender to me. Live in my will. Be docile, humble, little. Filter your thoughts through the sieve of humility. Use the finest sieve to filter out the least impurity of pride. Pride is what you must fear. Let humility be your safety. Ask our Mother to teach you the ways of humility. No creature was ever more perfectly humble, perfectly human than she was. Even now she keeps nothing for herself, but everything that comes to her passes out again. The prayers of the faithful she adorns with her merits and presents to her Son. The graces showered on her by the Holy Trinity she in turn showers on all who receive them with a sincere heart. Take heed my children—humility is the antidote to the world's ills. Ponder this, my children. It has never been more urgently needed."

Heavenly Father, humility is a difficult discipline and we buck against it. Therefore, through the limitless graces that flow from our Mother, grant us every grace we need to grow in humility. Mother Mary, teach us! Queen of Humility, lead us! Amen.

Nahum 1:3 The Lord is slow to anger but great in power, and the Lord will by no means clear the guilty.

"Little ones, be littler still. Show me your abject poverty, your complete lack of merit, your utter dependence on grace. Your humility alone can spare you from what your Lord has planned. Yes the guilty will face justice, but are not all men guilty? Does not every heart carry the tendency to sin? That is why I exhort you to be humble. Lower yourself. When I see a soul humbling himself I see my own Son in him. I see him clothed

with the merits of my Mother, she who was the perfect embodiment of humility. Take every opportunity to grow in humility. Embrace each opportunity as Christ embraced the cross. Children, if you knew the true value of humility, you would sell all you have to obtain it."

Heavenly Father, help me to embrace humility without counting the cost. Grant me every grace I need to "sell" all my prized possessions, namely those things I cling to that keep me from attaining this virtue in greater measure. Without grace I cannot do this, Lord. I am poor in virtue, completely without merit outside of grace. Mother, show me how to walk path of humility with greater fidelity. Jesus help me! 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: <https://pelianitoblog.wordpress.com/about-2/on-private-revelation/>.)



FROM THE 'SPARROW' Beads and bars...

Peace my dear little sparrow friends! I have a wonderful tale to tell you today but you will have to use your imagination to visualize

my story.

Recently the Holy Spirit fell on the Catholic prisoners here at the Federal Medical Center in a most delightful way. As I've shared with you in the past this is a federal prison for prisoners in need of medical attention. Factually a lot of the men who come here are without hope of life to last. In some ways it is a dark somber atmosphere for most prisoners to live through for most men die alone and with no-one to care for them.

I find myself trying to keep the "light of Christ" burning in my life but honestly it gets to be a bit of a trial for me and others as we try to cope. However, a little time ago another prisoner came to my hospital room and asked me an unusual request. The man knew I was a Franciscan and that, among other things, I have a deep love and devotion to Our Lady. (My room is adorned with a very large picture of Our Lady of the Rosary.) So he asked me would I lead a Rosary group of sick Catholic prisoners in the recitation of a daily Rosary.

Now before one thinks elated thoughts you have to remember that praying the Rosary in a group outside the Chapel is frowned upon and usually stopped by the authorities. I went to a Protestant Chaplain and told him of my problem. The Chaplain told me to go ahead and if caught "just

ask for forgiveness."

So I figured one or two men would show up. You can imagine my surprise when six (6) men showed up! I want you to use your imagination—try to visualize these six men. All of them are hardened criminals and they are the most motley looking bunch of desperados imaginable. All of the men are well over 200 pounds and two of them are over 300 pounds and with their array of tattoos and body scars present a look reminiscent of "Butch Cassidy and the Wild Bunch." I mean the average citizen would cross the street if one of these men came walking their way! But, oh yes, but, if you heard them reciting the Rosary with vigor and concentration and closed your eyes you would assume you were hearing friars or monks praying.

I know that these men cause the Father and Holy Spirit to shine in God's glory and the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary have joy and heart felt love for these men. Not only that but you should see the looks of consternation and confusion on the other non-participating prisoners faces!

The Rosary refers to a "rose garden" and the many Aves are symbolic of roses being offered to Our Lady in the form of a "crown" or "chaplet" that is placed spiritually on Our Lady's head with the completion of each Rosary. So my dear little sparrows she receives six crowns a day from her prisoner sons and that is most beautiful gift from their hearts.

Baptism...

Peace to all my little sparrow friends. I have been asked what my thoughts and reflections are on the

transforming grace of Baptism. To entertain some of my thoughts leading up to my own Sacramental



Baptism I had to return in time to the place where I was Baptized. That becomes an unusual story all on its own and I share it with you only because of the requested inquiry of the nice and sincere Franciscan friend.

I was Baptized on Saipan, Mariana Islands a few months after WWII ended. The Baptism took place on a former Japanese held battlefield on which over 30,000 Japanese and 7,000 Americans died and about 14,000 Japanese civilians committed suicide when the American troops landed on the island. It was one of the bloodiest fights in the island campaign to that date.

Shortly after securing Saipan the "Manhattan Project," (the builders of the first atomic bombs) became interested in Saipan and the sister island Tinian as the unloading, loading, and delivery of the two bombs "Little Boy" and "Fat Man" (code names) that would usher us, as a society, into the atomic and nuclear age of destruction.

Literally from the little island of my Baptism, the collective number of deaths attributable in the months leading up to my Sacramental admission into the Body of Christ by the armed services of my country were several hundred thousand of Japanese and other combatants. The legacy of death hung over the island like a storm cloud that refused to move.

The U.S. Navy built a base right in the middle of the battlefield and built a Chapel there for the Catholics and named it Our Lady of Victory. It was named so for the victory of killing 44,000 Japanese and the couple hundred thousand in Japan from the two atomic bombs dropped there. In my heart of hearts I do not believe Our Lady felt the joy of all these deaths like the many Americans did. Of the many

titles Our Lady had it would have been more appropriate to have named the Chapel Our Lady of Sorrows for I feel there was great sadness and sorrow at such a loss of life. I cannot equate to God the Father, Our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit as the collective Holy Trinity—the God of love, that He would be pleased by such loss of life.

When I think of my Baptism and the Chapel of Our Lady of Victory and the subsequent loss of life it causes me deep introspection into the hearts and minds, the soul if you will, of man and history of war and killing. I often arrive at the Jewish "midrash" story of "Moses and the Crying Angel."

The midrash story has Moses standing on the shore of the Red Sea AFTER he had brought his arms down and the sea had closed in and drowned the Egyptians. While all the people of Israel were shouting and celebrating their deliverance Moses saw in a vision a crying Angel. He understood that it represented God was sad. Moses asked God, "Why are you sad, God, for you defeated and killed the enemy whose bodies even now are washing up dead on the shore." God answered Moses and said, "The Egyptians, they were my children too."

In the same way the Japanese were His children too. I'm left with that as a truth in no uncertain terms.

As a closing thought, to bring our Catholic faith into sharper focus with the above I turn to St. Pope John XXIII who said, "*You cannot love your brothers (enemies included) with weapons in your hands. You must let the weapons fall from your hands to the ground, then you will be able to embrace your brother.*"

Pax et bonum

Bob Hall BSP, Little Flower Chapter, N. Carolina

MORNING STAR: NEWS ON THE ASSOCIATION...



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.

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 MEMBER WEBSITES

- † [Brothers and Sisters of Penance of St. Francis](#) facebook page by Lisa Drago, BSP
- † **The Joy of Penance** by Janet Klasson www.joyofpenance.wordpress.com

PROFESSIONS IN THE ST. ANTHONY CHAPTER, ESCONDIDO CA

On Saturday, January 16th, the Saint Anthony Chapter of the Brothers and Sisters of Penance received three sisters who made a profession to living the Rule for a year. Kathleen A. McCormick, Tamara Cunningham and Jo Ann Mitchell. After completing four years of formation, these sisters pledged to live the Rule of the Brothers and Sisters of Penance for one year in fulfillment of the Gospel and for the love of God.

The weekend began on Friday the 15th with an evening retreat and quiet contemplation reflecting on different sections of the Rule of 1221 and how this has enhanced their relationship with God. The three-hour retreat took place in the Church of St. Timothy's where the sisters had time to reflect in the true presence of Our Lord.

On Saturday Morning, immediately after Mass at Immaculate Conception Church in Old Town San Diego, the profession ceremony was made by the sisters Kathleen, Tami and Jo Ann in the presence and witness of the



Reverend Richard Perozich, Spiritual Assistant of the St. Anthony Chapter of the BSP. Each of the ladies were touched as they were presented with a Crown of Thorns hand made by Bruce Fahey, Administrator of the BSP.

After the Professions the whole chapter, including family members came together for Brunch at the Old Town Mexican Café. The staff at the restaurant even showed their support for our three new professed by complimenting their breakfast on the house!

Kathy shared her appreciation for all and the depth of her profession by sharing the following:

"I was blown away by all the BSP members who came to our profession. I believe it was a 100% turnout (not that anyone is counting), but it totally blew me away. I did not feel worthy of all the kind attention and prayers I received from you all as I made this very important profession. In my HEART I have made the profession to Jesus, Holy Spirit, Mary, Father God and Fr. Francis, FOR LIFE, BUT, my flesh/body has done it for one year."

We are blessed to have these newly-professed additions to our family!

Matt Heffernan, St. Anthony Chapter, Escondido CA

WARM WISHES AND BLESSINGS TO THE NEWLY-PROFESSED!

We would like to extend the congratulations of everyone in the BSP to Kathleen McCormick, Tamara Cunningham and Jo Ann Mitchell, members of St. Anthony Chapter in Escondido, California, who professed to live the Rule of the BSP for one year on January 16th at Immaculate Conception Parish in Olde Town, San Diego. Congratulations to you and many thanks to all who helped you with formation. God bless you, and thank you!

Bruce and Shelley Fahey for the BSP

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
PENANCE



of St. Francis

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