



...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

10. There was another friar who was a very holy man to all appearances and lived an exemplary life, though he was a law unto himself in many ways. He spent all his time praying and he observed silence so carefully that he always made his confession by signs, not by words. St. Francis happened to come to the friary one time and he saw this friar and spoke to the others about him. They had nothing but praise for him, but the saint told them, “My dear brothers, please do not praise him like that. It is a trick of the Devil. You will soon see for sure that it is a temptation of Satan, a devilish trick.” The friars did not take his words seriously; they were convinced that so many clear indications of holiness could never mask a treacherous fraud. A few days later, however, the friar abandoned the Order and the penetrating insight which the saint had into the secrets of his heart became clear.

In the same way Francis often foretold accurately the fall of those who seemed to stand firm, and the

conversion of others who seemed confirmed in evil. He seemed to have had access to the source of eternal light, in the miraculous splendor of which he saw what went on at a distance, as if it were before his eyes.



11. St. Francis was praying in his cell and interceding before God for the friars one day, when his vicar was presiding at Chapter. There one of the friars, under some pretext or other, refused to submit to obedience and Francis became aware of it in spirit. He called a member of the community and told him, “Brother, I saw the Devil on that friar’s back, holding him tightly by the neck. With a wicked spirit like that in control, it is no wonder that he refused to be guided by obedience and gave reign to his own inclination. But the moment I

prayed to God for him, the Devil went off in confusion. Now go and tell that friar to submit to obedience immediately.” When the friar heard the message, he repented immediately and humbly cast himself at the vicar’s feet.

Bonaventure—Major Life of St. Francis (1263)



VISITOR'S MESSAGE

April 3, 2005* Homily by Fr. Robert Altier... Divine Mercy Sunday and a Memorial to St. John Paul II

Reading I (Acts 2:42-47) Reading II (1 Peter 1:3-9) Gospel (John 20:19-31)

Today, which is the octave day of Easter, the Church celebrates Divine Mercy Sunday. When we think about an octave, it is

reminiscent of creation. It is the eighth day; that is what the word octave means: “eight.” And so the eighth day was for the Jewish people the greatest day of the feast. Recall that last Sunday we



celebrated Easter, and an octave means that for eight days we celebrate the feast, so we have not only a celebration of Easter on Easter Sunday, but the Church celebrates Easter for eight days, this being the greatest as it is the octave day, the first day of the new creation, the day of the Resurrection. It is the day on which the love of God is poured into our hearts in a profound way.

It is in the midst of the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead that we turn once again to beg for mercy. Mercy is obtained for us through the Passion of Christ. It is a fact that God will extend His mercy to anyone who asks, and yet at the same time we have to recognize the cost. Mercy does not come without a cost – and the cost of mercy is the Cross. So as we look at the Resurrection, one might wonder why in the midst of the celebration of the Resurrection we suddenly seem to go back to where we were in Lent, asking for mercy. But there is no contradiction because you cannot celebrate the Resurrection without the Passion. The Resurrection has no meaning without the Crucifixion, and so there is nothing that is inherently contradictory about these two elements that the Church celebrates on the same day. In fact, it is the Resurrection that grants to us the hope that if the mercy of God is extended to each one of us that we too will be able to share in the glory of His Resurrection.

The celebration of this feast day is really dependent on one person, and that is Pope John Paul II. The revelations of Our Lord, of course, were given to Saint Faustina, but initially back in Poland the local bishop had squelched the Divine Mercy devotion as he was investigating the whole apparition, trying to determine the situation and what would be best. So, for the time, he had stopped any spread of that devotion. Then there was a new cardinal who was appointed in Krakow, a man by the name of Karol Wojtyla. Cardinal Wojtyla, recognizing the importance of this particular devotion to Divine Mercy, allowed it to once again be publicly spread. He, of course, was then made the Pope. And very early on in his pontificate, he spread the devotion of Divine Mercy beyond the confines of his diocese in Poland to the whole world.

The Holy Father, in his latest book, which has not yet been translated into English, explains why he did this. Some of his detractors have given him lots of grief, saying that all he has done is to take these Polish devotions and force them on the whole world. He explains that the very reason why he brought these devotions to the whole Church was because in the face of all the horrors of World War II, and in the face of all the sinfulness in this society in which we

live, that there has never been a time when mercy was more necessary. There has never been a time when people had more of a purpose and a need to call out to God for mercy. And I can tell you from personal experience that there are many, many people who have come back to the Church because of a devotion to Divine Mercy. The number of people who have come to Confession, who have converted, who have told me that the very reason why they came back to the Church was through the praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet is great. It is a very powerful thing.

This mercy is what Pope John Paul was all about. We need to recognize the mercy of God that has been extended to us and to the whole world in the person of Pope John Paul II. For over 26 years, this astounding man shepherded the Church. For many of us, we hardly even remember any other pope. For the young people, they have never known another pope. This man is the third longest-reigning pope in history, and he is without doubt one of the most extraordinary human beings ever to have walked the face of the earth. The newscasts are telling us that he is certainly one of the most influential people of the 20th century. But if they cannot see beyond the 20th century, they have a problem.

The man was absolutely brilliant. When he was elected to the papacy, he spoke 26 languages and dialects. English was considered his eighth-best language, and he spoke it quite fluently. When he became Pope, he learned many other languages so that he could preach to people in their own language. This man was so prolific in his writing that the theologians are telling us it will take more than a century just to be able to work through all the things John Paul II has written. The tragedy for many of us is that so many have never read much of anything that he has written. But this man was so prolific in his work that it could only be the work of the Holy Spirit. With the schedule that he kept, how he was able to continue to write thousands upon thousands of pages is not explainable in human terms. How a man who was not well health-wise could continue to maintain the kind of schedule that he did is not explainable in human terms.

We have to understand that we have been in the presence of a saint. I truly believe that it is not going to be long before this man will be canonized. I also firmly believe that history is going to know him as John Paul the Great. There are only two popes in history who have the title "The Great," and I think that we have had the privilege of living in the presence of the third. He truly is one of the most extraordinary human beings in history, and he has defined history in our day in such a profound way.

Certainly, he had his detractors. It is interesting when you listen to what it is they did not like, it was the simple truth. It was not John Paul so much whom they hated, it was the One for Whom he was the Vicar. It was Jesus Christ and His Church that they were opposed to. And no matter how much the people clamored, our Holy Father would not waffle when it came to the truth. This man, in over 26 years, went on over 100 apostolic "pilgrimages," shall we call them. He brought Jesus Christ to the world. If you listen to his detractors, you would think that this is some old man who is completely out of touch, who does not get it - "He cannot relate to average people." Yet, this is a man who, when he came to America, over 500,000 young people came to see; many, many times more than the hippies at Woodstock that we always hear about. The young people began a chant: "John Paul II, we love you!" Over and over and over they would sing it. If you watch the videotape of that, our Holy Father, when they finally ended, lifted his head with a huge smile and he chanted back: "John Paul II, he loves you!" The young people erupted in applause. When he went to the Philippines, 7 million people came to see him. That is more than any human being in human history in one place. Millions and millions of young people through the World Youth Days have been touched by this man, whom his detractors tell us is out of touch.

In the Gospel reading today, Our Lord told His apostles that as He had been sent so now He was sending them. Pope John Paul II understood what it meant to be an apostle. The word apostle means "to be sent" or "one who is sent." He went out and he preached Jesus Christ. We have been so blessed by God to have lived in the presence of a saint, and we need to understand the mercy that God has extended to us in this way. He was truly a man for our time. When we look at what he has accomplished, God always raises saints to be able to defend the areas that Satan is attacking. As I have told you many, many times, the area of attack today is on marriage and the family. In the official teaching of the Church, there are approximately 6,000 pages written about marriage in over 2,000 years. Three thousand of those pages were written by Pope John Paul II, the saint that God raised up to be able to defend the area Satan was attacking. His teachings on marriage are only beginning now to be understood and to be promulgated. They are among the most beautiful things that I have ever in my life read, extraordinary teachings.

When we think about our Holy Father and the effect that he has had, I think we can truly say that perhaps the only person that has had more effect than him is Our Lord Himself. Living in a world that

is more populated than ever before, he has been able to touch the hearts of the people, with a charismatic personality that when one was in his presence they could not help but to be changed. When people look back over his pontificate over history, one of the things they will undoubtedly say about him negatively is that he should have been more strong as far as discipline goes. But we have to remember that this was a man who was raised up under Communism, and he learned that the way he had to work was to try to keep the flock together. What he tried desperately to do was to make sure he did not ostracize anyone for fear that they would take others away with them. He tried to keep everyone together, and, through love, to bring them to the truth. Love is truly what this man was about. That is what the young people saw.

What we have seen over these last few years of his pontificate is the example of what it is to carry the cross, to follow Jesus to Calvary. We have seen that the man who brought mercy to the world through this devotion to Divine Mercy has also shown us how to live it. As I mentioned earlier, mercy does not come without a cost. It is freely given to anyone who asks, yet for those who are going to pray for mercy for others, they need to share in the work that brought mercy to the world. For those who have prayed the Novena of Divine Mercy over the last nine days, you know the people for whom you were praying, not only the lukewarm or those who do not know the Lord, but even for those who are part of the Mystical Body already. We pray for mercy for each of them. If we are going to pray that people will come to Christ, if we are going to pray that people will be converted and that their lives will be touched, then we have to share in the work of mercy, and mercy was obtained for us on the Cross. Recall the words of our Holy Father back several years ago when some of his detractors were trying to tell us that he was too sick to carry on, that his health was so bad that he needed to resign, he said simply, "Jesus Christ did not come down from His Cross, and I will not come down from mine." Right to the very last minute, he refused to come down from his cross and he refused to stop working. In the last day of his life, he appointed new cardinals and new bishops throughout the world, 29 new cardinals who will be part of the new election of the next pope.

At the very end, with thousands of pilgrims gathered outside his window, he was able to say to them, "I have gone out to you; now you have come to me. And I thank you." Truly the heart of a shepherd. He has gone out to his sheep and he has called them, and they came to him. As soon as the word went out in Rome that he was dying, the people took to the streets, hundreds of thousands of people, so much

that they had to block the streets and start turning people away because they could not handle the crowds who came to a man who was supposedly out of touch, to an old man from Poland who did not understand what life was really all about. I tell you, this man understood far better than any of us – and all of us combined – what it was all about. Our Holy Father was completely devoted to Our Lord, to His Mother, and to the people entrusted to his care.

We have had the privilege to live in the presence of a saint, and we have to thank God for that. He has gone forth now to his reward, a well-deserved reward, I might say. He has broken through the veil of death. Refusing to get off the cross, he has now entered into death with Christ. And he has now gone forth to see the two people whom he loved more than anyone, and that is Our Lord and His Blessed Mother. We must pray for him, but we can be guaranteed that as the good shepherd of his flock he

continues to pray for us. So we pray that the Church will very soon recognize the sanctity of this man and elevate him to be a saint. In the meantime, as we pray for him and remember the chant of the young people to this incredible man, to one of the most extraordinary human beings to ever walk the face of the earth, our love pours out for him, and yet at the same time our heart calls out to our shepherd: "Holy Father, pray for us to God."

Original Editor's note: Our Holy Father's death at 9:37 p.m. (Roman time) on Saturday, April 2, occurred on two important liturgical occasions: First Saturday, in fulfillment of his extraordinary devotion to Our Lady; and the Feast of Divine Mercy, in fulfillment of his role in promulgating the devotion to Our Lord's Divine Mercy. Just before his death, the Vigil Mass of Divine Mercy was celebrated in his room. Let us thank God for His wonderful Providence in providing such a fitting end to a most beautiful and holy life.

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

(*Interesting to note that Divine Mercy Sunday is on the same date this year as the year St. JP II died.)



ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE...

Patience!

All hopes come alive in the reality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. All patience is set aside. The time has arrived and we rejoice in the gift of the Lord to all of us. We will

become incorrupt, first in spirit, and then in the flesh, and never die again. What a promise is ours. What joy it brings even though the veil of death hangs over us while we yet live our lives in this world. That veil will be torn, and cast aside forever, when the time comes, according to the Will of the Father. Praised be Jesus forever. A happy Easter to all!

Having set patience aside for the resurrection of Christ we need to take it up again to live our lives in the Church and the world. Until we die and pass into the eternal kingdom of the Lord we need patience, and we need it in many ways. Scripture says it is a "Fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God," (Hebrews 10:31) even as it calls us to be patient. St. Paul says: "You must have patience to do God's Will and receive what He has promised." (Hebrews 10:36) This basically calls us all to work hard at living our faith and filling our lives with good works and prayers and drawing closer to the way of life that

Jesus said we should all have, but patiently. It is not that we will ever arrive. As Jesus said: "When you have done all you have been commanded, say, "We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do." (Luke 17:10) So, even at the end of our life we will still have things that we have not accomplished. Let us do our best though, patiently. That is all the Lord asks of us.

The Lord was patient himself in all of His life among us. Consider that He knew everyone and everything that everyone was going to do and when they were going to do it and why they were going to do it. In this he knew beforehand every sin that every person that will ever exist is going to commit and all of this was forever before His eyes when He looked at it. That is incomprehensible to us, but to Him it was His nature as God. Just in viewing all this and knowing every sin of every person around him, including His apostles whom he personally selected, He had to be patient just to put up with us! The passion of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, is a lesson in patience, St. Augustine said.

So, we are called to do the same. We don't have the mind and heart of God but we are made in His image and likeness. We do have a will that is our own, we are intelligent creatures, and we do have memory of things. In these things rests our souls as these are



the elements of the human soul: memory, intellect, and will. In each of these areas patience is of great value.

We need to be patient first and foremost with ourselves. If we do not have patience in our own regards we cannot possibly have it in regards to others. We need to be patient with our weaknesses and patient with our strengths. If we are struggling in some area we need to be patient and assess how to make progress realizing it is a process and processes take time by their very nature. The sacrament of Reconciliation is one key to a peaceful life. If we have strengths we need to assess how to use them especially as they relate to our own growth and harmony with our lives and environment. We cannot just lord it over others not so strong as us. Once we have made progress in this area and only if we have we can be patient with others. All we need to do is realize that others are like ourselves. We are all human and we all take time to become what we are and solve the problems in our lives.

We need patience to progress in the virtues too. To be more loving, kind, understanding, compassionate; hard working and dedicated, not to mention holy. Wow. If you think about this list you will see all the ways you need patience to accomplish these things.

And patience has its rewards. By being patient we become the people of God. As we learn patience we also come to know the will of God in our lives. God is patient with us, and a happy life does not come easy for us. It takes work and dedication and patience to attain virtue and standing before God and man, and to reach our objectives, be they holy or otherwise.

So, let's be patient, and let's try to be patient in all things, for the secret of holiness rests in this patience, and persistence. Let us live our Rule in patience for it takes real patience to learn to live it well!

Have a holy and happy Easter and rest of the year!

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



NO GREATER LOVE by Paul Beery, BSP

Lord, teach us to pray. "Pray then in this way. 'Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy Name. Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'" (Matthew 6:10)

Jesus teaches us about how His Will is done on earth by the

happy, and We might be amused with his happiness."

Gift of Living in the Divine Will:

"Ah! You do not know what it means to live in my Will. It means to make the pure joys of the purpose of Creation my innocent amusements, of the reason why I created man, return to Me. It means to remove from Me all the bitterness that the perfidious human will gave Me, almost at the dawn of Creation. It means a continuous exchange between human will and Divine Will, as the soul, fearing her own, lives of Mine, while Mine keeps filling the soul with joys, love and infinite goods. Oh! How happy I feel in being able to give whatever I want to this soul, because my Will contains such capacity as to be able to receive everything. So, there are no longer divisions between Me and her, but stable union in operating, in thinking, in loving, because my Will makes up for everything, so we remain in perfect accord and in communion of goods. This had been the purpose of the creation of man: to have him live as Our own child and to place all Our goods in common with him, so that he might be fully

That fabulous paragraph was my introduction to Luisa Piccarreta and her "Book of Heaven." It is "a call to the creature to return to the Order, to the Place, and to the Purpose for which it was created by God, as Jesus teaches us about the Gift of Living in the Divine Will."

The first question in the Baltimore Catechism is: "Why did God make you?" "God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him in the next."

God walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Paradise, and there was great familiarity between them before it was lost in the Great Fall. We are told that in the process of Redemption we can regain some of that familiarity with our Creator, in which we take delight in the Lord, and He *takes delight in us. That last sentence, that the soul "might be fully happy, and We might be amused with his happiness,"* just blows me away!

I think that is the beauty of learning how to Live in the Divine Will. It is an attainable goal for everyone

who truly seeks God, who obviously wants us to attain the goal of Union with Him beginning in this world.

Janet wrote about Luisa Piccarreta in an earlier article, but the effect didn't sink in until I communicated with this year's BSP Retreat Master, Fr. Robert Young, a Franciscan priest allied with the Divine Will Ministries. God willing, he is scheduled to give our BSP Retreat this August 19-21, and also August 18-20, 2017. Bishop Cozzens, unable to do the entire retreat as originally hoped, said he will be with us on Saturday, August 20, to give us a talk. As an aside, I'm sure Bishop Cozzens is relieved to have Archbishop Hebda named as Archbishop-Designate of the Minneapolis/St. Paul Archdiocese! His Installation Mass will be May 13, Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, at the Cathedral of St. Paul, Praise God!

Fr. Young said he will give a weekend of introductory talks on the Divine Will this year, and expand on that introduction next year. They will feature the spirituality of Luisa, with "an emphasis on the Franciscan understanding of the 'Communion of Will.'" The theme of the retreat will be "The Divine Will and Divine Mercy: The Great Signs of Our Times" Fr. Young was commissioned by Pope Francis on Ash Wednesday to be a "Missionary of Mercy," to "make God's Mercy more available to His People."

The mission of Divine Will Ministries "is to spread this message by helping others to know, love, and possess the Kingdom of God's Will. Our mission is to fulfill the desire of Jesus when He prayed in the Our Father: 'Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven.'"

Through the diary of the Servant of God, Luisa Piccarreta, Book of Heaven, is "the call to the creature to return to the Order, to the Place, and to the Purpose for which it was created by God, Jesus teaches us about the Gift of Living in the Divine Will."

There are Franciscan connections with Luisa. Not only is Fr. Young a Franciscan, but he said that "Two Vatican-appointed experts, one in mystical theology

and the other a medical doctor who evaluated Luisa extensively during her lifetime were members of the Order of Friars Minor. Both gave glowing accounts of her very clear and sound mind as well as her sanctity."

Luisa was born in Corato, Bari, Italy in 1865. She died at the age of 82 in 1947 after being bedridden most of her life. The Archbishop of Trani opened her Cause for Beatification in 1994. By the end of 2005, the process of inquiry and documentation within the Diocese of Trani was complete. Her cause was then passed on to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints of the Vatican, which opened its examination March 7, 2006. Piccarreta was thereby enrolled as a "Servant of God." Unfortunately, there is some controversy over the "correct" translation of "The Book of Heaven," but not of its contents or the sanctity of its author. Following is a small excerpt from 1900:

"Purity of deed is so great that he who acts for the sole reason of pleasing Me does nothing else but send forth light in all his works. The soul which is truly mine must not live only for God but in God. You must try to live in Me, for in Me you will find the vessel of all virtues, and by walking in their midst, you will be nourished with their perfume... Then you, yourself, will do nothing else but send light and Heavenly perfume. Because to live in Me is the true virtue; it has the power to give to the soul the same form of the Divine Person in Whom she makes her residence, and to transform her into the very divine virtues in which she is nourished."

It becomes clear that to do continuous acts in the Divine Will you must be constantly attentive to maintaining the divine attitude of doing everything for the love of Jesus, and in Jesus. One important sign of this divine attitude is the peace you will experience when you are abandoned (accepting all that happens within or without as God's Will), and self-forgetful (concerned not with your own interests, but only those of Jesus)."

Paul Beery BSP, Morning Star Chapter, Minnesota



Audacity and Other Graces... by Janet Klasson, BSP



From the Gospel Reading for the Third Sunday of Easter

[Jesus] said to [Peter] the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.'" (John 21:17)

What a Lent! What an Easter! We mourn with the world the death of Mother Angelica, and at the same

time we rejoice in the glorious sign of her passing on the Day of Resurrection. All glory and praise to our risen Lord!

I felt this Lent and Easter were significant in ways we cannot understand. I was given some little hints to that effect, which I would like to share here.

First of all, Lent was a time of severe trial for so many—in the world, in the Church, and likely in each of our circles of acquaintance, including mine. One of my sisters has a saying when one of us has a trial during Lent, as often happens: "Aahh...Lent!" Faithful Christians in general, and penitents in particular, must not shy away from the cross during Lent. Our time on the cross with Christ is a treasure whose value we will only appreciate in the next life. When you hang with Jesus, you hang on the cross. Just ask Mother Angelica.

Next came the Triduum. As parish secretary and, besides the priest, the sole employee in our small parish office, and as one also involved in music ministry, I often have plenty of reasons to be distracted during the Triduum. Yet, this year I felt called to enter the Triduum with sharpened focus. To really pay attention. In fact, as I rested Saturday afternoon so as to be more alert for the Vigil, I had a brief dream in which I was so distracted at Mass that I was spilling the Precious Blood all over the place! It was very a very upsetting dream, but certainly the point was made!

On Holy Thursday, at the time of consecration during the Mass of the Lord's Supper, I was given an insight into the absolute tenderness with which Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist. What a night it was for him! It is impossible to know the true significance of everything he did that night. We know that institution of the Holy Eucharist was his parting gift to his Apostles and to all believers to the end of time. The Apostles could not possibly have known the implications of this incredible gift. Jesus knows, and he also knows how few of us will really appreciate what the Eucharist means. He gives himself to us anyway—so tenderly.

For me this year, the tenderness I felt at the words of consecration at the Lord's Supper moved me in a new way. Jesus had laboured and prayed, and came up with this way to ensure that he would be with us all in a material way to the end of time. He was

thinking of not just his Apostles that night, but of all of us, down through the ages, loving each one of us as if we were the only one to ever receive him into our hearts. What tenderness! What a gift! Thank you Jesus! The next time you are at Mass, imagine the words of consecration spoken with that kind tenderness directed at you. I guarantee, you will be moved.

Then on Good Friday I was praying for a soul and asking that they not die in their sin. I had an exchange with our Lord that I will attempt here to put into words. Me: "Lord, please do not let them die in their sin." He: "Should they not die as they have lived?" I was taken aback by this seemingly harsh reply, but then I remembered the Year of Mercy, and it made me bold, audacious even. Me: "Lord, that would satisfy your justice, but as this is the Year of Mercy, I make an appeal to your Mercy and ask that this person not die in their sins." I felt at that point I had passed a test and that my prayer would be granted. I felt that my audacity had pleased him, that he would reward my audacious trust in His never-failing mercy. Sweet Lord, what a grace that was!

Earlier in the month I had been given an image of weak souls as a baby birds that have no power of their own but can only survive by being fed by others. I felt that those of us who have faith, imperfect as it is, are like the mother and father birds that fly back and forth from the nest bringing filthy worms for the weak infants. Our efforts amount to no more than filthy worms, even on a good day, but by the grace of God, our meager efforts help strengthen those weak, homely, hatchlings and turn them into fledglings. If we keep up our efforts, one day they are strong enough to fly off on their own. It was a powerful image that was clarified for me through Good Friday's lesson in audacity.

Powerful graces are available to us in ever-new ways dear friends! Have confidence! Be audacious! Do not give up, but keep digging in the dirt for those worms, and no matter how pitiful your offering may seem to you, do not discount it, for all is grace. All.

No one was more audacious than Mother Angelica. She once said, "Boldness should be the eleventh commandment." At another time she said, "Guts is the eighth gift of the Holy Spirit." Amen, Mother Angelica. Pray for us!

From www.pelianitoblog.wordpress.com

Baruch 5:5-6 Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look towards the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

"My children, do not be afraid! Do not despair! Do you see that for those who trust in me, only glory awaits? Do you believe this? You, my children, were made for glory! Then do not let the evil one rob you of your joy. When you contemplate the pain, sorrow, and disappointment of this life, you are brought very low. Then raise your thoughts to the higher things. What you see here, all your sorrow and pain, will disappear in an instant when your glory in Christ is brought to fulfillment. Every tear will be wiped away. Remain faithful. Keep to the prayers. All those you place in our Mother's Flame of Love will be given her special protection. Do not dwell on the darkness your loved ones are mired in, but contemplate the glory which will be theirs through your complete trust in Me and My Mother. Read this Scripture passage and claim it for your loved ones. I tell you, this Year of Mercy will win souls as never before. Pray, trust, and hope in the glorious promises of Christ."

O my Jesus! What hope! What joy! I claim this Scripture passage over all those you have given me to pray for. Though they may be led away by their enemies, you, O merciful Jesus, will bring them back carried in glory as on a royal throne. I place each one in the Flame of Love. Jesus and Mary I trust in you. Thank you! Praise to you, King of eternal glory! Save souls O Merciful One! Save souls! Amen.

Prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy

O my Jesus, in the Divine Will I offer you all the unused shards of suffering, including my own, all those treasures discarded from the time of the fall of Adam and Eve to the last man. I offer them as a spiritual bouquet through the Flame of Love of our Immaculate Mother in reparation to the Holy Trinity for all sins ever committed, for the conversion of all those whose hearts are far from you, for the fire of pure love to be ignited in the lukewarm, and for all the intentions of those here and in my spiritual territory. Jesus and Mary I trust in you. Take care of everything, and everyone. May this Jubilee Year of Mercy bear abundant fruit for the Kingdom. May your Kingdom come and come quickly! Amen.

(I composed this prayer in December last year and as I watched Mother Angelica tributes all week, I was pleasantly surprised to have her confirm that we can offer God the unused sufferings of others. What mercy!)

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' Easter Thoughts...

Peace my little sparrows on this Easter Sunday morning! Over the past few days of the Triduum I had thoughts of some of the people that followed "The Way" as the

Christian walk was once called.

One was yesterday's Saint of 1235 who was known as Saint Rose of Viterbo. As far as I can discern, with the limited resources I have, Saint Rose was one of the most outstanding Third Order Franciscans that ever graced society with her humble presence. St. Rose only lived for 17 years and died in 1252. Yet she was a shooting star within our Church. The first words she spoke as a child was Jesus and Mary and she was credited for praying for a dead Aunt who raised from the dead and she was only three years old at the time! Over the remaining 15 years of her life she spoke determinably about the Gospel of Our Lord and which converted many people back to a renewed

faith.

This is one type of Saint that miracles and spiritual works were obvious for all to see. In contrast the Saints of today were known for their corporal works of mercy.

Here I turn to a story of one of Mother Teresa's friends who spent some time with the Missionaries of Charity. Her name was Susan Conroy and she had volunteered to help with the dying in Calcutta. Her story related the following;

"I will always remember a gentle, handsome, bearded young man in the Home for the Dying in Calcutta. He was one of the patients brought in from the streets. He would sit on his bed with his knees close to his chest and he would quietly watch as I served the other dying men. He seemed very shy. From time to time, I would look over at him, while I was feeding another patient. The minute he saw me glance over, his eyes would



turn downward towards his bed. Since he could sit actually sit up in his bed, I thought he was all right compared to the other patients who had no strength left at all. Because of his appearance, I didn't realize how serious his condition was. I used to concentrate on the ones I thought were more critical and more near death.

"One afternoon, I noticed that this young man was on the floor and apparently in great pain. I stayed with him that entire afternoon, getting him cool water, rubbing his back and just being with him in his agony. He died that very night. I didn't know he was so mortally ill. He had been so patient and gentle while he waited. He never called out for any attention or care. He just waited patiently until his suffering brought him to the floor at the very end.

"I still remember his handsome face, and

especially his quiet nature. 'The poor are great people,' Mother Teresa used to say, 'They can teach us many beautiful things.' I would pray with all my heart to become more like these dying men who were poor in spirit because they were so holy and humble, like the saints." —Susan Conroy

These are two different stories. Yet they say the same thing to us at Easter. One represents the spiritual works of mercy and the other the corporal works of mercy. But both stem from the love that each has for the Lord as each of these little sparrows served Him in the capacity He had willed for each of them. It speaks eloquently of this love that came down through the centuries. That is really a tremendous insight to realize that the Lord's love for His sheep is alive and ever on the move as He reaches out to all people through those who follow Him!

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

Bruce and Shelley Fahey for the BSP



On the death of an inimitable Franciscan, Mother Mary Angelica

During this week of tributes to Mother Angelica on EWTN, Raymond Arroyo was describing how she lived a life of complete trust, and that God only ever showed her "the next step", never the full plan. She said to him once, "Franciscan providence is scary—if *you* don't move, *He* won't move!" She often said she lived her life with one foot on the ground, one in the air and a sick feeling in the pit of her stomach! Mother Angelica, you will be greatly missed here on earth. Pray for us!

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

"God wants you to be in the world, but so different from the world that you will change it. Get cracking." —Mother Angelica

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!

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