



...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

12. Another time two friars made a long journey to Greccio to see the saint and get his blessing, which they had wanted for years. When they arrived, he could not be found; he had already left the friary and gone off to his private cell. They were very disappointed as they took their leave; but then as they went down the path, the saint came out of his cell unexpectedly and called after them. He could not possibly have heard of their arrival or departure by any human means, but he blessed them in Christ's name with the sign of the cross, just as they desired.

13. Two friars from the Terra di Lavoro once came to see St. Francis. The elder of the two had given his companion a bad example; and when they met the saint, he asked the younger friar how his companion had behaved on the way. The friar replied saying that he had behaved, "well enough," but Francis told him, "Be careful, brother, not to tell lies under the pretext of obedience. I know well enough how he behaved, but just wait and see." The friar was amazed that he should know in spirit what went on at such a distance. A few days later the friar who had misbehaved abandoned the Order and left; he neglected to ask the saint's forgiveness and refused to submit to correction. This single incident demonstrated two things clearly: the justice of God's judgments, and the penetrating power of the spirit of prophecy.

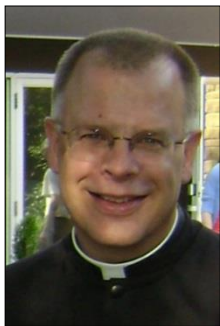
14. That Francis appeared in person, by God's power

to those who were absent, is proved beyond all doubt from what we have written in an earlier chapter; it is sufficient to recall how he appeared to the friars in a chariot of fire, and to the Chapter of

Arles in the form of a cross. There can be no doubt that this was due to a special disposition of Divine Providence; his miraculous appearance in person was intended to show how close and responsive his spirit was to the light of eternal wisdom. As we read in the Book of Wisdom, "There is nothing so agile that it can match wisdom for agility; age after age, she finds her way into holy men's hearts, turning them into friends and spokesmen of God"

(Wis. 7:24, 27). God, the supreme Teacher, usually reveals his mysteries to the simple, to those who are poor and despised. We can see this first of all in the case of David, the greatest of the prophets, and then in St. Peter, the Prince of the Apostles, and now we see it once more in the case of Francis, Christ's poor beggar. They were simple men with no claim to learning, but they won renown under the guidance of the Holy Spirit; David was a shepherd and he was chosen to become a leader of the Synagogue, to lead the flock God saved from Egypt; Peter was a fisherman and he was chosen to fill a net, which is the Church, with a multitude of faithful. Francis, however, was a trader and he was appointed to buy the pearl which is the Gospel life, selling everything he had for Christ's sake.

Bonaventure—Major Life of St. Francis (1263)



## VISITOR'S MESSAGE

### Homily by Fr. Robert Altier...



Reading I (Acts 22:30; 23:6-11) Gospel (St. John 17:20-26)

In the Gospel reading today, Our Lord prays that we would be one, that we would be one in Him; and, as such, that He would live in us and His heavenly Father would be living in Him. If His heavenly Father is in Him and He is in us, then obviously the heavenly Father is in us as well. So the gift that Our Lord is giving to us is His very self. But since He is the truth, if there is union, that unity is going to be in the truth because the unity is going to be in Christ. He prays that we would be one as He is one with the Father. There is no division between Jesus and the Father; the two are one, as, of course, they are one also with the Holy Spirit. There is but one God although there are three Persons, so He prays for that kind of unity among us. The difficulty, of course, is that we are sinners, and we unfortunately fight that unity because of our pride. And the devil gets right in there and he stirs up things so that he causes division.

Now there are going to be different ways of being able to approach things, and the Church allows a wide spectrum of differences with regard to spirituality, for instance. But when it comes to dogma, there is no spectrum of what we can believe. The truth is very clear. It is objective. It is the same for every single person throughout the world. It does not matter which culture we are from; it does not matter what time we live in; the truth remains the same. The same truth that was two thousand years ago still is today. It has not changed at all because it cannot.

So if we look into our hearts and we say to ourselves, "I don't agree with what the Church teaches; I don't believe what the Church teaches," then we need to look at the fact that what we are doing is actually using our own free will to reject the explicit prayer of Jesus Christ. Jesus prayed that we would be one, and that unity, once again, can only be in Him. If we are not united in Christ, we are not united. We could both agree to do something that is entirely sinful,

but obviously we do not have true union – we have two selfish people who are agreeing on something that is going to benefit each selfishly. If we are in agreement about the truth then we have two people who are striving to be selfless, we have two people who are seeking union, not in something which is wrong, but only in that which is right. And He prays that we would be brought to perfection in this union. The only way we are going to be perfect is in Him, once again.

Now He even goes one step further and makes a truly astounding statement. He says, Father, they are Your gift to Me. That is one you can ponder for the rest of your life. You are the gift of the heavenly Father to Jesus Christ. You and me. I was talking with somebody yesterday and said, "Thank goodness God has bad taste because look at who He picked." Why would He choose us? Because we are the least, because we are the worst, because we are the weakest, because we are the most helpless, on and on the list could go. When we see it from that perspective, for us to choose to go against the truth, for us to choose to reject the teaching of the Church, for us to choose to reject Jesus Christ is utter foolishness and pure arrogance, because when we realize how small and weak we are, why would we stand up and rebel against God and say that we know better? "I'm stronger, I'm smarter," whatever, absolute insanity is all that is. We are a gift from God the Father to His Son. If that is the case, we need to be humble and we need to be grateful. We need to strive to be able to accept and embrace and live the fullness of the truth because that fullness of the truth is Jesus Christ, to Whom we have been given. And that is where we will find the fulfillment of His prayer: when we use our free will to be able to recognize the truth about Him and the truth about ourselves, and we use that free will to embrace that truth and to conform ourselves to that truth so that in the truth we will be one.

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





## ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE...

### Trials!

How often we hear that we will face trials in this life and have to cope with them on our way to heaven. How true it is that we all do. Often it comes up in our discussions with members, and the trials they face. We all face trials, all the time, and they come at us from many different directions and quite often from our own family. It is worth taking some time to consider this call of having to cope with trials, as they all come to us from our Lord, Jesus Christ.

In the book of Revelation, which we have been enjoying reading again during this Eastertide, St. John sees four angels standing at the four corners of the earth. A little later in this reading he says: "After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'" (Revelation 7:9,10)

"Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb...They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.' (Revelation 7:13-14, 16-17)

The simple fact is that we are the people being talked about in this Scripture. We are those who are going to survive the great period of trial. Therefore, we are the people that have these trials.

It is probably realistic to say we don't need to know we are under great trial even if we are. No follower of Jesus Christ will not be tried. We will all have our trials, a.k.a. crosses, as he said to all of us, "Whoever wishes to be my follower must deny his very self, take up his cross each day, and follow in my steps." (Lk 9:13) And, notice one thing in this Scripture, Jesus says we will have those crosses each day. Each day. Isn't that so true? If you look at a day in your life, any day in your life, there are

crosses. Situations or decisions, perhaps some very simple, that call for you to respond to them using your faith and commitment as a Christian as a guide. Might be as simple as talking to one of your children and not losing your temper, or guiding them in a simple matter at school that they need to respond to correctly where the correctness comes from their faith, or the way they hold to their faith but you are their guide. You are the one with the trial. They are just checking with you and in that way you are tested. Time and time again you get tested like this in your life in so many simple ways and these are the trials we all face every day.

The world is shining out there with more trials for us. The false gods of this age, this very pagan age, are all over. They might not be idols in the sense that the Israelites saw them, or totem poles. But they are made of the things of the earth and they are gods worshipped by the masses today. Just watch TV! TV displays the new cars like they are gods just to mention one that drives us nuts! You gotta have one of these the ads say! And so it all goes on with so many things out there. There are so many false gods we face each day. The trap has been set, and we know by whom.

So, when the Lord says to follow in His footsteps, and he means that quite literally, he is telling us in no uncertain way that we need to live his gospel, which he taught us, and for us that means we need to live our Rule. Remember, that was what the people in the time of St. Francis came to him to ask for. They asked him how they should live, because they could see that St. Francis was holy, and he did holy things, and he lived like they were not living and could not live as lay people. So, they asked him how they should live, to save their souls, and that is how the Rule of 1221 came into being. St. Francis did not turn his back on the people. He didn't just say go do your best. He gave to them a Rule of life that we know was given by the Lord that was to be their, and now our, gate to heaven.

So, we face the trials of our days with our Rule in our pocket and our lives focused on living for Christ. It is not possible to profess to live the life we live without keeping our eyes on Christ. The tenets of the Rule bring our minds to that all the time. Why do we deny ourselves so often, and even for that matter, daily? We fast daily in our own time to pray as we pray. We fast daily from our lives dressing like we dress. We fast daily from everything around us living the Rule, and certainly pondering our Rule. These

are the fasts of the Rule. They are endless, and they are daily. Sometimes they even involve food. So we do in fact carry our cross daily as we try to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ.

We need to rejoice in the battle we face. Everyone who serves the Lord is asked to face this battle. He promised us happiness and persecution in the gospel, and it is so true. We are all persecuted, daily, in the trials and crosses we face! Yet, we know that one day we will stand before the Lamb and we will know that we have survived the time of great trial

and washed our garments, our souls, in the blood of the Lamb. We will rejoice in that and live forever in the love of God. We will be those in the book of Revelation standing before the Lamb. We will cry out, "Salvation is from our God..." (Rev. 7:10)! Blessed are we!

Happy Mothers' Day to all you mothers out there, and to our Lady, our Mother, in heaven. As mothers you have many special trials!

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**

**"I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercy of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your true and spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind. Then you will know what is God's will, what is good, pleasing and perfect."** (Romans 12, 1-2)

Western Christianity finds itself in a mortal moral situation today. I'd like to paraphrase two articles. The first by David Carlin in *The Catholic Thing*: "Our (Sexual) Carthage Must Be Destroyed." The reference to Carthage being its utter destruction by Rome in the 3rd Punic War after the forces of Carthage had inflicted much harm on the Roman Empire in the first two.

Carlin says we are at that point where secular sexual revolutionaries are about to destroy the very idea of Christian sexual ethics. They have won a convincing victory over the past 50 years, but that's not enough. The Christian idea of sex needs to be completely pulverized and atomized.

*We say, "OK, you win, we give up. Can't you be merciful and leave us a few crumbs? Can't you tolerate us as a harmless minority?" The answer is a resounding "NO! You and your sex ethic have troubled the world for too many centuries. Your crimes are innumerable and unforgiveable. We have to make sure your Christian sexual ethic never comes back to spoil once again the pleasures of the world!"*

*The pulverization has begun with same-sex "marriage." Not only is homosexuality morally permissible, it is as fine and noble, if not more-so, than Christian marital sexual union. Transgenderism is a rejection of the biblical notion that "God made them male and female." Polygamy, polyandry, open marriage (consensual adultery) are not yet widely accepted, but they will be, for they follow logically*

*from the fundamental principle of the sexual revolution, the rejection of the Christian idea of sex.*

What is shocking is how many Christians have jumped onto the Secular Sexual Bandwagon! *Worse, their faithful brethren are coming under an increasingly effective social **ban** for even daring to express Christian sexual opinions, a **ban** so thorough it is becoming legal, overriding even the very notion of "free speech."* One is not allowed to say that fornication is sinful, abortion is homicide, homosexuality is unnatural, transgenderism is lunacy: you are denounced as a bigot or hater or misogynist or homophobe or transphobe or just plain nitwit. Your negative judgments are "hate speech." And these denunciations of your "thought crimes" grow louder and more frequent every day. The goal is to make the Christian sexual ethic, like Carthage, nothing more than a memory. And that includes the Christian meaning of the word love (by which all manner of perversion is justified today), God's Love: "Love one another as I have loved you."

This assault on Christian moral standards, which obviously turns the notion of good and evil on its head, leads to the next question: who are "good people," and especially, and are there any "bad people" in the world? The following illuminating principle is from a local parish priest.

*"What is a bad person? They no longer exist. Today it is said that "he's a good person, but his behavior is inappropriate." How nice. Lie, steal and cheat; gross sexual immorality, criminal activity, these are all "inappropriate behaviors."*

We might even say "wrong," so long as we separate that notion from the person, who, of course, is not responsible for his/her actions. No, we wouldn't want to say anyone is "bad" much less "evil."

"Does that standard apply to Hitler? Well no, he was a monster. How did that happen? It must have been nature or nurture, heredity or environment, for it couldn't have been his own fault. God forbid to suggest his freely willed decisions played any role in his own corruption.

"Yet as Christians we believe we are all made in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, we have the ability to think and choose, and by our choices we actualize ourselves, shape ourselves into virtuous or vicious people. We become good or bad people by our choices and our deeds. To say that no one is bad, but merely made bad choices, **also means that no one is really good!** To say that a coward is not reprehensible is also to say **that a hero is not praiseworthy!** To say that adultery is not wrong is also to say **that fidelity is not honorable!**

"By separating behavior from the makeup of a person we **take away all moral responsibility** and thus all **true freedom to become good**, and to accomplish the good. Talk about slavery!

"Where is the good within each person? It is in their nature. Human nature remains good, even

in a profoundly wicked person. That's how Christ was able to love us while we were yet sinners. In a similar way, the angelic nature of the fallen angels remains good even though their will is corrupted. Their hatred for God, and for mankind made in the image of God, is accompanied by self-hatred. They know that their nature is fundamentally good, but **they have corrupted themselves. And they were never repentant.**"

I find two great lessons here. One is how far off the beam the ways of the world are today, as they become more and more extreme and removed from the Christian norm.

The other is the cure. "And they were never repentant." The fallen angels were not given a second chance. We are, and it's through seeking repentance, which seems to be almost a constant work in progress.

"We become good or bad people by our choices and our deeds." That's the beauty of the Rule of St. Francis. It's very prescriptive. How many times a day do we choose to freely follow those prescriptions, allowing us to constantly walk in the footsteps of Jesus? Constantly seek repentance? Constantly remain humble and pliable in the hands of our Blessed Mother, knowing that "God will repay each one according to his deeds." (Romans 2:6)

Paul Beery BSP, Morning Star Chapter, Minnesota



## **We are miserable beggars, Alleluia! by Janet Klasson, BSP**

From the Second Reading for the feast of Ascension

**I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the**

**saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. (Ephesians 1:17-19)**

Dear friends, usually I end my article with an excerpt from my prayer journal, but this time I wish to begin with one:

**"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."** (Matthew 5:3)

*"Beloved child, be always littler. Recognize your abject lack, your total need. Not only are your pockets empty but you come into the world without*

*pockets and you leave the same way. All is gift. All. You have no virtue, nothing to sustain you in any way outside of grace. Recognize your utter dependence on Providence. But go beyond this recognition and celebrate that you are a miserable beggar before your gracious Lord. My child, the beggars are the ones who receive the most because of their utter reliance on their beloved Lord. They never stop looking at him with a gaze of love and*



*gratitude, for they cannot believe their good fortune in serving such a generous, kind Lord. Children, my heart cannot resist a beggar with love and gratitude in their eyes. The heavenly treasure is theirs!"*

Well do we know that we are miserable beggars before the Lord, and if we do not know it, we need to internalize this as soon as possible. For it is in this poverty, this nothingness, that we gain **"what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power."** Jesus himself, as well as countless saints, notably our beloved founder, Father Francis, St. Clare, and St. Therèse of Lisieux stressed the importance of littleness. In our time, it is taking on new meaning in the teachings of Luisa Piccarreta on the Divine Will.

As I pondered this prayer journal message and listened to some of Fr. Robert Young's talks on Radio Maria, it occurred to me that the heavenly treasure referred to in this message is available to the lowly in a unique way through the gift of the Divine Will.

We have the special privilege at this year's BSP Retreat to have Fr. Robert Young as retreat master. Fr. Robert will share with us the Gift of the Divine Will, as it was made known to a humble, Italian lay woman named Luisa Piccarreta. This "spirituality" is now becoming known throughout the world as the "easiest shortcut to holiness and happiness" the world has ever known and given to us in this Era of Mercy. Fr. Robert will explore how the Will of God is essentially tied to the Mercy of God and in a particular way through the devotion to Divine Mercy made known through St. Faustina Kowalska, a contemporary of Luisa. In this age of so much bad news, we will hear the Good News of the coming Reign of God's Will within each of us and within the world. Fr. Robert promises: "Your life will never be the same, once you discover what it means to live IN the Will of God and to let it reign IN you." (For a bio on Fr. Robert, please see the retreat poster elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Fr. Robert has been broadcasting a one-hour program on the Divine Will teachings of Luisa every Saturday morning on Radio Maria for several years, and I referenced the site last July. The podcasts are available in the radio archives here: <http://www.divinewilltallahassee.com/radio-archives>. I invite everyone who has not already done so to first of all listen to the Introduction to the Divine Will broadcast (<http://www.divinewilltallahassee.com/introduction-to-the-divine-will>), which, in addition to offering

information on the devotion and its beginnings, also has a fascinating testimony of how Fr. Robert came to understand the teachings and his call to spread them.

The more I learn about this call to "live" in the Divine Will, the more I understand how wonderful it is that we are miserable beggars before the Lord.

Today I listened (again) to episode #137 which is based on Volume 12 of Luisa's writings, specifically those of March 23 and April 2, 1921. Jesus speaks to Luisa about the utter importance of her littleness, and how when he was choosing a soul who would be the messenger of the Divine Will on earth, he searched the whole earth and she was the littlest. If you listen to Episode #137, you will begin to understand the critical importance of this call and how living in the Divine Will (substantially different from "doing" the Divine Will) can transform, not just our lives, but the whole of humanity.

*"My daughter, he who prays in My Will, loves, makes reparations, kisses Me, adores Me. I experience in it as if everyone would pray to Me, love Me, etc. because...involving everything and everyone in My Will, the soul gives Me the kiss, the love, adoration of everyone. And I, looking at everyone in It (the Divine Will acting in this person), give it so many kisses, as much love as I should give everyone....In My Will things cannot be done halfway but complete. And I cannot give little, but immense things to the soul..." (Volume 12, April 2, 1921)*

So we can see how much there is to celebrate in our state of being miserable beggars. For the more completely we "die to self", as we are encouraged to do in our rule, the more fit we will be to live in the Divine Will. Of course we know there is a cost to dying to self—with dying there is always loss. However, we learn through Luisa that the greater the cost, the more will be the perfection of the acquisition of the Divine Will. Therefore, we must not be afraid of disappointment or frustration, pain or sorrow, for all is designed by God to keep us little and dependent on Him. And as we give to God, in the Divine Will, our sufferings, our littleness, He returns to us so much more, for the effect of what we offer him in the Divine Will is not just for us. There is a universal effect for everyone, past, present, and future. Our acts in the Divine Will cover souls as with a blanket, and compel the Lord to act on those souls as if they, themselves, had done their acts in the Divine Will. It is an astounding grace. Do we have the audacity to accept it? He is begging us to!

The teachings of the Volumes can seem too deep and

mysterious; sometimes they seem simple, other times unattainable. But God would not offer this grace if it was unattainable, and indeed the littler we are, the more he will do all the work for us!

I cannot do justice to this immense 36-volume

teaching in a brief article. I can only encourage you to listen to Father Robert on Radio Maria and to come to the retreat and hear him in person. Our world is greatly in need of this grace. Let us be the empty vessels that respond to God's call to live only and always in his holy and adorable will.

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/>.)

## INVOCATION TO THE DIVINE WILL IN ALL OUR ACTIONS

I am nothing, God is All, Father I love you.

Come Divine Will,

- To think in my mind.
- To circulate in my blood.
- To look with my eyes.
- To listen in my ears.
- To speak in my voice.
- To breathe in my breathing.
- To beat in my heart.
- To move in my motion.
- To suffer in my suffering; and may my soul, consumed and fused with your will,

be the living crucifix immolated for the Glory of the Father.

- To pray in me, and then offer this prayer to yourself as mine to satisfy for the prayers of all and to give to the Father the Glory that all creatures should give Him
- To infuse in me the Faith of Mary most Holy in order to possess You as she possessed You
- To infuse in me the Hope of Mary most Holy in order to desire You as she desired You.
- To infuse in me the Charity of Mary

most Holy in order to love You as she loved You.

- To adore in me.

And since Your Will multiplies acts to the infinite, thus I intend to give You the satisfaction as if all had assisted at Holy Mass, and give to all the fruit of the sacrifice and impetrate salvation for all. O Supreme Will, come to reign upon the earth. Invest all generations. Win and conquer all! And do not delay any longer. Amen.



## FROM THE 'SPARROW' Staying Close

Peace to the little sparrows! Visiting back in the past with some memories of my family's two large dogs. Their behavior made me smile back then and bring a chuckle

to me these many years later as I thought of how different the dogs were even though they came from the same bloodline.

Our male dog was named Champ and he was about as wild of an animal you could ever hope for. He was into everything and his energy was limitless. The female, named Kate, was different for she was very gentle and a pleasure to be around. She was into paying more attention to the family members and stayed very alert.

One of the family came home with a box of leftover meats. Champ as usual was not paying attention and just went bouncing around everywhere. Kate, on the other hand, smelled to meat leftovers in the box, she wanted them, and that's all there was to it. Nothing was going to take her away from that box. Kate stayed with the box! She was rewarded!

How is it with us today in our walk with our Lord? Is



the Scripture precious to the point that we desire nothing else but to read it and obey it? Do we cleave to it, adore it, and live it? Or do we go our way, dancing about and giving no thought to God's Word? Do we rush ahead in decisions without spending time with God?

As look back over my life, it's plain to see the times when I took my own way and it ended in disaster. But when I prayerfully sought God's will, a blessing always followed. If we do not stay close to God's Word and keep up our prayer life, human reasoning will take over and we will move away from where we need to be.

As with Kate, if we are spiritually hungry, we too will stay close to our source of nourishment, and like the dog who stayed with the box and was rewarded, we too will be rewarded with ever close communion with our Lord Jesus.

*"Instead of becoming discouraged, I say to myself, 'The good God does not inspire us with desires that could not be realized. Therefore, in spite of my lowliness, I can aspire to sanctity.'" — St. Therese, the Little Flower*

## The Foolishness of God's Kingdom...

Peace my sparrow friends! Using some of Daniel Horan's words and ideas I have some interesting ideas on following and going to the Kingdom of God in "foolishness." (Daniel Horan OFM, Holy Name Province...so he's qualified as a Franciscan to speak on St. Francis and his foolishness!) The rest of you sparrows who are too serious for such insights please overlook this serious dispatch on not being serious by the world's standards!

REFLECTION BY DANIEL HORAN OFM: *"One thing is certainly true about St. Francis: he was a big time fool! After he began living his life following in the "footprints of Christ," as he put it, Francis was not interested in living up to the expectations and standards of his culture and society. This made him come across as foolish, stupid, and unrealistic. He sought to conform more and more to the model of the Gospel, the way of living Jesus describes in the Gospel. (Meaning, when one goes forth to spread the Gospel he was to take...) No money? No bag? No shoes?"*

*"To live this way is to trust entirely in God's providence, to hope only in the goodness of others. To live this way is to be sent like lambs among wolves. To live this way is, honestly, very foolish.*

*"Even in the middle ages this was a foolhardy way to live. Yet, in many ways, it captures the poverty and trust in God lived by the Church's most famous saint. While we are unlikely to live so radically in our own day, this Gospel passage and*

*Francis's example provide us with a goal and model. The goal is to trust in God with all our hearts and live out the Kingdom of justice and peace Jesus proclaimed. The model is the way to get there, following, like Francis, in the footprints of Christ.*

*"Francis is sometimes called an "alter Christus" (another Christ) because he lived the Gospel so fully and foolishly. At the end of his life he is remembered as having told his brothers, "The Lord has shown me what was mine to do; may He show you what is yours."*

Indeed, may the Lord show us how to live the foolishness of God!

As a sparrow (albeit a wounded one) I too in a handicapped and disabled fashion, must follow in fashion in the footsteps of St. Francis who in turn is following in the footsteps of Christ. This is the only course for a sparrow to follow who wishes to be like the Master...the other coursed of the "world way" are not meant for us little sparrows and it would be more than foolish to pursue them. So the "sparrow way" is to follow the Gospel. Yes, it seems foolish to many BUT it is the foolishness of God that leads the little ones into His Kingdom.

*"The lift that shall raise me to heaven is Your arms, O Jesus. That this may be so, I do not need to become greater. I must remain little and become even more lowly." —St. Therese, the Little Flower*

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](http://www.joyofpenance.wordpress.com)

Bruce and Shelley Fahey for the BSP



# Brothers & Sisters of Penance of St. Francis

## ANNUAL RETREAT

# Divine Will and Divine Mercy

## The Great Signs of Our Times

The spirituality of Luisa Piccarreta, with an emphasis on the Franciscan understanding of the "Communion of Will."

WITH RETREAT MASTER

Fr. Robert Young, ofm

AND A TALK ON

SATURDAY BY

Bishop Cozzens



Fr. Robert Young is a Franciscan Priest (OFM) who has been studying and sharing the **Gift of the Divine Will** for almost 20 years. He is the host of a radio program on the international Catholic network of **Radio Maria** called, "**The Will of God in the Life and Writings of Luisa Piccarreta.**" Fr. Robert has also been commissioned by Pope Francis as a "**Missionary of Mercy**" for the Jubilee of Mercy this year. His "heart's desire" is to live this way of life more faithfully every day and to help others to come to **know, love, and possess the Kingdom of the Divine Will** in their lives. It is, he believes, "the fulfillment of all the hopes and desires of the human mind and soul." Come and see...

## WHEN

**August 19-21, 2016**

**Friday 4:00 pm to**

**Sunday 2:00 pm**

## WHERE

**Franciscan**

**Retreat Center**

**Prior Lake MN**

## COST

**\$160.00 (includes accommodation & meals)**

**To reserve a place send**

**\$25.00 to:**

**BSP Retreat**

**c/o Paul Beery BSP,**

**2108 Pleasant Ave, #114**

**Minneapolis, MN 55404**

**612-871-2852 (Home)**

**612-730-4500 (Cell)**

## FOR MORE DETAILS

**see the BSP website:**

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

ALL ARE WELCOME!

## The BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF PENANCE OF ST. FRANCIS

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

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

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

*Bruce and Shelley Fahey BSP, Editors*



**Welcome to the Brothers and Sisters of Penance!**

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

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



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PENANCE



of St. Francis

65774 County Road 31  
Northome MN 56661