



Luke 9:23

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF PENANCE OF ST. FRANCIS

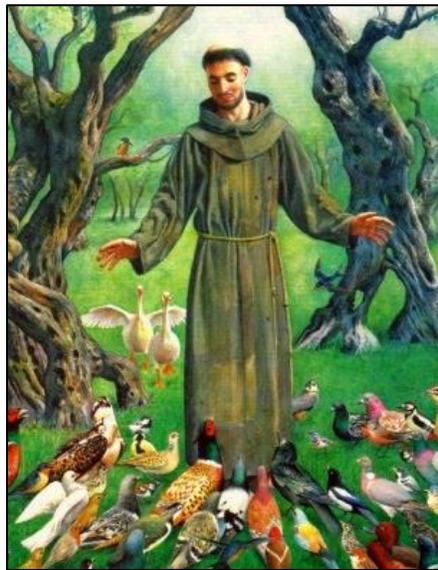
AUGUST 2016

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

## BONAVENTURE AND HIS LESSONS ON ST. FRANCIS:

### Chapter XII—The Efficacy of Francis’ Preaching—His Powers of Healing

4. Continuing his journey, Francis preached in the neighboring villages, and eventually he came to Alviano. Here he summoned the whole population and called for silence, but he could scarcely be heard above the cries of the swallows which were nesting there and making a lot of noise. He spoke to them, while the whole crowd listened, and said, “My sisters, it is my turn to speak now. You have said enough already. Listen to God’s word and be quiet until the sermon is over.” Immediately they all became silent, just as if they understood, and they never moved until the whole sermon was finished. The onlookers were amazed and gave glory to God. The story of this miracle was told far and wide, so that people had great reverence for the saint and were



moved to greater faith.

5. In Parma, for example, a dedicated student who was studying diligently with a number of others was annoyed by the screeching of a swallow and he remarked to his companions, “This must be one of the birds that disturbed St. Francis when he was preaching, until he told them to be quiet.” Then he turned to the swallow and commanded it confidently, “In the name of God’s servant Francis, I command you to come to me and keep quiet.” The moment it heard Francis’ name, the bird became quiet, as if it had learned its lesson from him, and gave itself into the student’s hands, as if they were a safe refuge. The student was dumbfounded and immediately let the bird go: he never heard it screeching again.

Bonaventure—Major Life of St. Francis (1263)



### VISITOR'S MESSAGE

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

Reading (Judges 6:11-24a) Gospel (St. Matthew 19:23-30)

Our Lord, in the Gospel reading today, tells us that many who are first will be last and those who are last will be first. It is exactly what we see in the first reading as God sends His angel to speak to Gideon. He tells Gideon that he is going to lead the Israelites in overcoming the Midianites, and Gideon replies, “How is this possible? My family is the lowest in the

tribe of Manasseh and I am the least among my family.” Once again, we see how God works. Very often He chooses those who are the lowest, the ones who would be the most unexpected. The reality is, if we look at our own selves, that we would have to say most of us are probably in that boat, that we are not chosen because of anything great we are or have done, but we are chosen because we cannot do it by ourselves. We should know that.



The other line that Our Lord uses in the Gospel when He is asked who will be saved is: For man it is impossible, but for God all things are possible. Now there are two things we have to understand in that. First of all, there is no one – including Our Lady – who can save himself, no one. Every last one of us needs a redeemer. It does not matter who a person is or what rank they are, we all need a redeemer. So for man it is truly impossible in an absolute sense. But the other part of this is coupling it with what we were looking at before. We have to just simply look at our own selves and most of us can look back in our lives at some point and ask, “How is it possible that I could be going to daily Mass? How is it possible that I can be trying to live the Faith? How is it possible that I can be trying to develop a prayer life?” On and on we could go. Once again, that is where we realize it is possible only by God’s grace because I know fully well that if it were up to me I would be on the fast track to hell. But by God’s grace, as Saint Paul said, I am what I am. That is the only thing we can look at. It is purely a gift. By ourselves it is not possible.

It is not possible even if we were going to choose to be Catholic, let alone live it out; that is purely God’s grace and that is the point we have to understand. Since God has chosen us, we have to respond. That is the only thing we can do and even for that we need God’s grace. So He gives us the grace to set us up,

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

then He gives us the grace to make the choice, and then He gives us the grace to be able to act upon the choice. But we still have free will to be able to do it, to reject it or to be able to accept it. And that we have to cooperate with. Since He will not force us, we have to choose it. The offer is there just like it was with Gideon. God has made the choice, and now we have to choose along with His grace to do His Will and to quit fighting against Him because that is what most of us, quite frankly, like to do. We fight against God. And we all know exactly where it gets us to fight against God.

If we would choose to do His Will then we would be able to recognize that we who should be last are going to be among the first. If we like to rank ourselves among the first, we are going to be in some serious trouble. But if we recognize that we are the smallest, the lowest, and the least, then we will understand why God picked us – not because of any greatness in ourselves – but in order to demonstrate to the whole world that this was God and not us, to be able to demonstrate to us personally, as well as to anybody who knows us, that for us what is impossible is completely possible for God. It is possible even for us to become saints, not on our own by any stretch of the imagination, but only for God. That is exactly what He wants to do with each and every one of us: make us saints. The grace is there. Now we have to choose it and cooperate.



## ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE...

### Martha and Mary

**Mary was sitting at the feet of Jesus and listened to His words. Martha, who was concerned with all the details of hospitality, came to Jesus and said 'Lord, are you not concerned that my sister has left me all alone to do the household tasks? Tell her to help me.' The Lord in reply said to her: "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and upset about many things; one thing only is required. Mary has chosen the better portion and she shall not be deprived of it." (Luke 10:38-42.)**

Now if you ponder this on the surface you immediately can relate to Martha. Aren't we all busy? We thrive on it and it is a part of being a human in the modern age. Probably in any age for that matter. We have a lot to do. Not just details of hospitality, though we have that from time to time too. But the details of our life. The work we have to do. Our projects and problems. Traveling here and there. Going on vacation. Remodeling. Painting. Cooking and cleaning for sure. Watching TV, reading books, fishing, and just having fun with friends. The list goes on and on for each of us if we think about our

life and the elements of our life that affect us in any day. We are all Martha most of the time. If we aren't careful, all of the time.

In fact, we get a lot more credit in the world for being Martha, than being Mary—for being the one that is advancing new ideas or getting things done—by those we work for or our own families. We pride ourselves on being busy and who was busy in the Scripture? Martha. She was the busy one. Hustling and bustling around taking care of guests and 'details of hospitality'. Important things to those



coming, and frankly to her and Mary too. Mary certainly wanted those things done for the guests too. But Mary did not do it. She probably did not even notice that Martha did it. She had another focus. She was lost in that focus. On the Lord. She was sitting at the feet of Jesus and listening to Him. We need to ponder that.

This Scripture, minute in detail, is vast in import. It spans the lives of us all and like all Scripture it is more than what is written. It was written for all of us for all time.

We are Martha most of the time. God help us if we are Martha all of the time although the world loves people like that. Many live that way and die that way. Woe to those who die that way. We need to gain the focus on Jesus. We need to be Mary. Aren't we all at His feet? He is Lord of lords, and King of kings. He is Master of the Universe as He created it and knows it all in detail. He is perfectly attuned to all six (plus) billion of us all the time. Nothing escapes His eyes. He is speaking to us all the time. He is infinite, all powerful, ever present, and omniscient, i.e. all knowing. He knows everything about everything. His ways are as high as the heavens above our ways, Scripture says, and so many of us do not even think of Him. He is in nature and in the Church, in the eyes of our children and neighbors and words of our Pope, in the sick and lame and hungry and in the rich and powerful. He is Lord of all.

We need to realize that we need to be Mary more often, at his feet in prayer, and silence and thinking about the details of having a true relationship with Him. We need to be listening to His words as Mary did, and know that He so often speaks in silence. We

need to ponder His Divinity and Power and forget ourselves. We need to trust Him as in the call for Divine Mercy: "My Jesus, I trust in thee."

To do this we need to make time for Him. How? For each of us it is different but maybe as Martha we should first analyze our lives a bit. Study how we are living and see how we can make more time for Jesus, how we can become more like Mary. As members of the Brothers and Sisters of Penance, with a Rule of life to live, we can look at how we can live its elements more simply and fully in our day. St. Francis gave us a life to live on any day. The Rule calls us to be Mary but living it we could be Martha if we are not careful. We need to ponder our life in silence and live the Rule with simplicity.

So, we all need to think about this. Are we Martha, or are we Mary. Are we more often Martha than Mary? Who do we want to be? We should want to be Mary as Mary 'chose the better portion, and it will not be taken from her." What is Martha in us will be taken from us. The things that keep us busy in our days on which we spend so much time so often, will be unimportant on our passing. When we stand before the Lord he will let us keep only that portion where we were Mary, where we were poised at His Feet, in prayer, good works, ministry, sacraments, and love. Love of Him and love of neighbor. These things we take with us. These things are the "better portion" and we only get to take a portion of this life with us when we leave it. That is the portion that is holy. Let's cling to that portion. Let's work a little harder at being Mary.

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**

**"The Kingdom of God is at hand. I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. Be wise as serpents, and innocent (simple) as doves." (Matthew 10:16)**

This is the third in a series of conferences by Fr. Valerius, from a BSP Retreat he gave in 2002. It is entitled "Simplicity

in the Rule," where he concentrates on the twin themes of simplicity and wisdom. He began with the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 6, vs. 25-34:

**"I tell you, do not worry about your life, and what you will eat, and about your body, what you will wear. Is life not more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store**

**away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?**

**"And why worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying,**

**'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His Kingdom and His Righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.'**

"Ask yourselves this question. Why did the Rule of 1221 begin with the issue of clothing, what the Brothers and Sisters were supposed to wear? It is entitled "Daily Life," concerned about the clothes they wear. Society was very different then from our own. It was a class society. In our so-called democratic way of life we are a class-less society, or would like to believe we are. Those who dressed in a certain way identified what class they were. I suppose we do the same thing. I wear this Franciscan habit, which is an outmoded garb in our society. There are very many people whose identity is declared by the clothes that they wear. So perhaps we are not so different. But for the most part, standards of dress do not seem to carry much weight anymore. So this preoccupation with what to wear is not so predominant in our society.

"But in the days of Francis, why are you putting on the dress of the higher class? Are you trying to give a message that you are dissatisfied, or are you trying to say you are just as good as anybody else? So the problem of clothes was a crucial thing at that time. The Brothers and Sisters of Penance were told to limit their dress in accord with the attitude of the Gospel: do not be concerned with what you wear, a reflection of what we mean by simplicity.

"The first application of this attitude in our society today concerns a sense of security. People are getting obsessed with protecting themselves. All kinds of extremes and expenses to protect themselves. This is certainly a manifestation that is contrary to simplicity. It says that my whole welfare depends on how well I can take care of myself, instead of finding room for God and His Providence. Our lives need to reflect our dependence upon God.

"There are positive benefits from living a life of simplicity. We seek a sense of openness, of hospitality, of openness with each other. It is not a concern with what we have, or what we do, but our relationships with other individuals. That teaches us to move away from ourselves, and towards other individuals. When you think of nothing but yourself, you separate yourself from other people. You set yourself apart. While clothes seem to be immaterial, they can become an obstacle in our personal relationships to one another. The intent is that we all become brothers and sisters in the Lord, built upon a human foundation of friendship. Friendship is so

very important, the friendship which ought to exist in families. The family is where we learn social skills, where we learn to care for one another, sharing our hearts, our ideas, our feelings, things we have in common. Without friendship it is very difficult to move into what we call faith-sharing. That is, taking the Gospel or any prescription of the Rule and say what it means to me, sharing these insights with one another. When less concerned with yourself, you become a more caring person.

"What follows from that is a sense of mutual assistance. We recognize other people are greatly in need. A simple way of life is a way of making yourself available to others. Consider the Spiritual Works of Mercy, not only the Corporal Works of Mercy. The Spiritual Works of Mercy can be done merely by your presence, by your attitude of accepting another individual, and not placing yourself apart from or above another, but continually to realize they have every right to belong as you do, and that you have so many things in common. Simplicity means don't let things get in between you and other people. The more things we have to take care of the less time we have for other people. We can become enslaved to things we have."

Father Val then launched into a cute little story on wisdom:

"Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I am Father Wisdom. I was born on the eighth day before Christmas, when through the 'O' Antiphons the Church celebrates the coming of Christ. The first antiphon is 'O Wisdom.' I had a dear Poor Clare nun who addressed me in that way every time she wrote to me: 'Dear Fr. Wisdom.' The good sister is still living and still praying for me, and I guess that's the important thing.

"Solomon asked only for wisdom, and the Lord was pleased with that request. I submit that you yourselves have been predestined by God to draw closer to Him, and aid in the salvation of others by your personal holiness. You do that by the witness of your life. Ask then for the gift of Wisdom, that you may not only deal with the private matters of your life, but also in your relations with other people. We deal with people whom God has placed in our lives. I have not chosen them. So I need to ask God to give me an understanding heart. Help me distinguish right from wrong. Use me as your instrument, as our holy father Francis prayed: 'Make me an instrument of Your Peace.' Make me an instrument in your hands. And we will only succeed in being an instrument when we are open, and when we have received this great gift of wisdom from God.

"See in the fact that you have embraced the Rule of the Brothers and Sisters of Penance, that you are

responding to God's call. You have found the Great Treasure, Jesus Christ, this pearl of great price (Mt. 13, 44) which you have to purchase. In purchasing it you have to sell all that you have. You are no longer to seek through material goods the glorification of yourself, but to seek God in all things. And in seeking God, you are using the gifts God has endowed you with to touch the lives of others. It is only in the practice of charity, of showing love as the ultimate motivation of anything you do. That is the

command Jesus Christ gave to us which He has exemplified in His own life. That is the precious treasure He has given you, the desire to love Him by selling everything you have to purchase that love that you may be able to distribute it to others. To this you are called, and you need the gift of wisdom to make those wise choices throughout your life. You will take one step after another in the way that will lead you closer to God, and to others who are with you on this journey."

Paul Beery BSP, Morning Star Chapter, Minnesota



## Crosses in the Year of Mercy by Janet Klasson, BSP



From the Gospel Reading for the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**...Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured**

**such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.**  
(Hebrews 12:1-4)

As each day passes I hear of more and more people of faith being asked to carry heavy crosses. I believe this cross-ifying will intensify as the Year of Mercy draws to a close. What is the connection?

I believe there is a far deeper significance to this jubilee year than we can even imagine. What an extraordinary grace this year has been for us and for those we are praying for. Jesus told St. Faustina:

*"Before the Day of Justice, I am sending the Day of Mercy."* (Diary 1588)

*"He who refuses to pass through the door of My mercy must pass through the door of My justice."*  
(Diary 1146).

Jesus speaks of the "door of mercy" and as providence would have it, we have been gifted with holy doors in this Year of Mercy. This is an unimaginable grace. But why are we surprised? Where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more. The level of sin has caused the God of all mercy to shower unimaginable graces upon us. All glory to God, through whom even sin brings about His victory!

There are scant few weeks left in the Year of Mercy, which concludes on November 20, Feast of Christ the King. If you have been asked to carry a heavy cross in the Year of Mercy, you, chosen soldier of Christ, have been given a field promotion, and have been equipped with a weapon that is tailor-made. For the

battle is upon us. Souls are at stake.

Of course, in the battle for souls, God's secret weapon is and always has been the cross. Archbishop Sheen described it in this way:

*"Never ask what did I do to deserve this? Because Jesus may say to you what did I do to deserve the Cross? If God the Father permitted His Divine Son to feel the agonies of Calvary, it must be that Crosses fit into the Divine Plan. If your cross is mental, change your behavior, confess your sins, and make peace with God. If your cross is physical, offer it up in union with Our Lord on the Cross for the conversion of souls. There is a price tag on every soul. Every soul costs something. Some souls are bought by prayers; others are bought through the kindness of alms; but most of them are bought the way Our Lord bought us, through pain and suffering."*

In this Jubilee of Mercy, God is calling all those who bear his name to take up the arms he himself took up, the precious wood with which he conquered sin and death. This is our hour of decision. Our victory is assured, but make no mistake, there can be no resurrection without a crucifixion.

Several times a day we make the sign of the cross, touching our heads to show our belief in the Cross, our breast to show our love of the Cross, and our shoulders to show our willingness to bear the Cross. So, when Christ asks us to carry a cross, let us

respond with complete abandonment and trust in the way of the cross which that holy sign signifies.

And let us not forget the Divine Mercy Chaplet in the Hour of Mercy, 3:00, am or pm. Jesus told St. Faustina, "Through the chaplet you will obtain everything, if what you ask for is compatible with My

will." (Diary 1731)

The Year of Mercy is the jubilee year of miracles and hope. Let's not waste another minute of it but as soldiers completely abandoned to our General, carry our crosses with Christ, for souls, in the glory of God! Jesus I trust in you! Save souls!

**Prayer:** 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.

From [www.pelianitoblog.wordpress.com](http://www.pelianitoblog.wordpress.com)

**Matthew 5:11-12** "**Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**"

*"My beloved, do not imagine that the journey of my faithful ones is so different from the journey of their Lord. On the contrary, I AM the way and all paths lead through the cross. Remember, my children, that each cross is tailored to the soul. Each is unique, as unique as the soul that bears it. The only similarity in all crosses is that I am with you all in your passion. You need only turn to me and all the strength I had in my passion will be made available to you. This is especially true when one is being persecuted for my sake. Would I abandon that poor soul? Would not the Father see me when he looks at him? When I say that your reward will be great in heaven, do not imagine that I am being trite. Those who suffer on my behalf will be eternally grateful for what that suffering has purchased for them. Indeed, it will seem a far greater reward than the soul feels he deserved for it. In comparison, the trial will seem a small thing—even a large trial. My children, you cannot possibly imagine with what magnanimity your infinitely generous God can act. Be therefore consoled. All that happens in this life is as a passing shadow, over in the blink of an eye. Endure all with faith, fortitude, and great trust. I am with you through it all. Shalom."*

O my Jesus, help me not to get caught up in my daily trials, big or small, but help me to link all trials to the cross so that I may in some way participate in your redemptive act. O Jesus, in your mercy, give me grace, faith, fortitude and ever-greater trust, that I might endure all trials with great love for your glory. I love you Jesus! 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/>.)

### The Prayer of St. Francis de Sales

Be at Peace  
Do not look forward in fear to the changes of life;  
rather look to them with full hope as they arise.  
God, whose very own you are,  
will deliver you from out of them.  
He has kept you hitherto,  
and He will lead you safely through all things;  
and when you cannot stand it,  
God will bury you in his arms.

Do not fear what may happen tomorrow;  
the same everlasting Father who cares for you  
today  
will take care of you then and everyday.  
He will either shield you from suffering,  
or will give you unfailing strength to bear it.

Be at peace,  
and put aside all anxious thoughts and imagination.



## FROM THE 'SPARROW' Priority Is to God

Peace my little sparrows! Today a book that has been a spiritual classic that I have owned and given away to those in need came back to me through the kindness of a unsuspecting person. No it is not my original book but rather a copy of it. You, being knowledgeable sparrows of spiritual masterpieces, my know of the book. It is "The Practice of the Presence of God"\* by Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection—a three hundred-year-old spiritual work that still has relevance in today's world.

Brother Lawrence developed a unique relationship with God wherein he sought the Lord in his everyday life in all the major and minor happenings of his day to day walk through life. His work is a unique treatise on a very simple (but hard to master) technique of knowing God in every moment of the day.

I first read it about thirty years ago while in Leavenworth Federal Prison and I attribute part of my full conversion to his words of wisdom. He gave God first priority and this changed his life forevermore. Perhaps Brother Lawrence was impacted by the words of Jesus which were, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness." -Matthew 6:33. I have re-read this book a number of times and each time have come away with a deeper revelation and understanding of God and myself in reference to creation and the economy of salvation. With some insights of this Brother's insights I was shaped into a Franciscan brother and that is truly a miracle and the working of grace!

### Once Upon a Time

Peace my little sparrows! A Eucharistic Minister stopped by to see me here at the Federal Medical Center and she brought a delightful little "sparrow type" story with her to share with me. Now, in my own sparrow-way, I shall share the story with you.

*Once upon a time (oh yeah) there was a rich king who had four wives. He loved the fourth wife the most and adorned her with rich robes and treated her to the finest of delicacies. He gave her nothing but the best.*

*He also loved the third wife very much and was always showing her off to neighboring kingdoms. However, he feared that one day she would leave him for another.*

God should have first place in our lives. Someone has said we should begin the day with God and end the day with God. This means that sometime in our twenty-four hours, we need to have some quiet time with God. Brother Lawrence took it one step further and filled in the morning prayer and the evening prayer with God's presence in all things. Time with God was of great importance to Jesus Christ. Mark 1:35 says, "In the morning, rising up a great while before day...(Jesus) departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." Time and again Jesus is portrayed in Scripture at prayer. If this prayer was good enough for the Son of God then Brother Lawrence reasoned that this was the way for him. He realized in his world that was full of endeavors of all types that he would become distracted if he were to stop and start his prayers many times each day. So he decided to talk with God (practicing the presence of God) all throughout his day. In so doing he advanced quite quickly towards spiritual perfection. Though a "lowly brother" and not a priest he was sought out by many people for the wisdom of God that came from with him,

The songwriter says, "Take time to be holy, Speak oft with thy Lord." This does not happen on its own accord; it takes discipline. To set your mind on God's presence is well worth your time and effort. May your time with God inspire you to a closer walk with our Lord."

(\*A free online copy of the book is available at <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/lawrence/practice>)

*He also loved his second wife. She was his confidant and was always kind, considerate, and patient with him. Whenever the king faced a problem, he could confide in her and she would help him get thru the difficult times.*

*The King's first wife was a very loyal partner and had made great contributions in maintaining his wealth and kingdom. However, he did not love the first wife. Although she loved him deeply, he hardly took notice of her.*

*One day the King fell ill and he knew his time was short. He thought of his luxurious life and wondered, "I now have four wives with me but when I die, I will be left alone."*

Thus he asked the fourth wife, "I have loved you the most, endowed you with finest clothing and showered great care over you. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?" "No way!" replied the fourth wife and she walked away without another word. Her answer cut like a sharp knife right into his heart.

The sad King then asked the third wife, "I have loved you all of my life. Now that I'm dying will you follow me and keep me company?"

"Life is too good! When you die, I'm going to remarry!" His heart sank and turned cold.

He then asked the second wife, "I have always turned to you for help and you've always been there for me. When I die, will you follow me and keep me company?"

"I'm sorry, I can't help you out this time!" replied the second wife. "At the very most, I can only walk with you to the grave." Her answer struck him like lightning, and the King was devastated.

Then a voice called out, "I'll go with you. I'll follow you no matter where you go." The King looked up and there was his first wife. She was very skinny as she suffered from malnutrition and neglect. Greatly grieved, the King said, "I should have taken much better care of you when I had the chance."

In truth, we all have the four wives in our lives. Our fourth wife is our body. No matter how much time and effort we lavish in making it look good,

it will leave us when we die. Our third wife is our possessions, status and wealth. When we die, it will go to others. Our second wife is our family and friends. No matter how much they have been there for us, the furthest they can stay by us is the grave.

And our first wife is our Soul. Often neglected in pursuit of wealth, power, and pleasures of the world, our Soul is the only thing that will follow us wherever we go. Cultivate, strengthen and cherish it now, for it is the only part of us that will follow us to the throne of God and continue with us throughout Eternity.

Little sparrows I am reminded of a written work of Fr. Ralph DiOrio (a Roman Catholic priest famed for a "healing ministry" and for several writings that had great depth in spiritual matters) wherein he spoke of a theme of being "jealous for your soul." Fr. Di Orio said that the only time one could be jealous was when one was jealous of their soul and its protection in front of God. You must, he said, guard your soul at all costs as it is the only one you have. His thoughts fit well with the above story. Guard your soul at all costs from the enemy and keep it only for the Lord.

"Jesus does not need books or learned men to instruct souls. He, the Doctor of doctors, teaches without noise of words. I have never heard Him speak, but I know that He is within me."

—St. Therese, the Little Flower

Pax et bonum

Bob Hall BSP, Little Flower Chapter, N. Carolina

## MORNING STAR: NEWS ON THE ASSOCIATION...

### BSP RETREAT NOW HAS A WAITING LIST!

As of this printing the BSP retreat is now at capacity and has a waiting list. To get added to the waiting list, please see registration information on page 9.

### 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)



# 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

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