



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

BONAVENTURE AND HIS LESSONS ON ST. FRANCIS:

Chapter XIII—The Stigmata of St. Francis

9. O valiant knight of Christ! You are armed with the weapons of your invulnerable Leader. They will mark you out and enable you to overcome all your enemies. It is for you to bear aloft the standard of the High King, at the sight of which the rank and file of God's army take heart. And you bear, nonetheless, the seal of the supreme High Priest Christ, so that your words and example must be regarded by everyone as genuine and sound beyond all cavil. You bear the scars of the Lord Jesus in your body, so that no one should dare oppose you. On the contrary, all Christ's disciples are bound to hold you in devout affection. God's witness in your favor is beyond all doubt; the sacred stigmata were witnessed not just by two or three, which would have been enough, but by a whole multitude, which is more than enough, and they leave those who are unbelievers without excuse. The faithful, on the other hand, are confirmed in their faith and raised up by confident hope and inflamed with the fire of divine love.

10. The very first vision you saw has now been fulfilled; it was revealed to you then that you were to be a captain in Christ's army and that you should bear arms which were emblazoned with the sign of the cross. At the beginning of your religious life the sight of the Crucified pierced your soul with a sword of compassionate sorrow. There can be no doubt that you heard Christ's voice from the cross, which seemed to come from his throne in his sanctuary on high, because we have your own word for it. Later on, Brother Silvester saw two swords piercing you in

the form of a cross. When St. Anthony was preaching on the proclamation fixed to the Cross, Monaldus saw you raised up in the air with your arms outstretched in the form of a cross, and we know now beyond all shadow of doubt that these were not imaginary visions, but revelations from heaven.



Finally, towards the end of your life, you had a sublime vision of a Seraph, in which you saw the lowly form of the Crucified. This inflamed your heart and marked your body, so that you bear the seal of the living God, like the "second angel coming up from the east" mentioned by St. John in the Apocalypse (Rev. 7:2). This confirms our belief in the visions just mentioned, for which we have reliable testimonies.

Seven visions of Christ's Cross were miraculously seen in you or concerning you, and these appeared like so many portents at different stages in your life. The first six led like so many steps to the seventh which you have now attained and in which all is finally consummated. At the outset of your religious life Christ's Cross was put before you and you took it up and carried it always by living blamelessly, giving others an example to follow. The Cross proves so clearly that you attained the height of Gospel perfection that no sincere person would spurn the example of Christian holiness which you gave in your poor person. No true Christian could oppose it, and no one with any humility could make little of it, because it comes from God and deserves to be welcomed.

Bonaventure—Major Life of St. Francis (1263)





VISITOR'S MESSAGE

Homily by Fr. Robert Altier...



Reading (2 Corinthians 11:18, 21-30) Gospel (Matthew 6:19-23)

Our Lord tells us in the Gospel reading that we are to store up for ourselves treasure in heaven, and Saint Paul lays out for us what some of these treasures are, the things that he would boast of as being the greatest things he has. He was whipped; he was beaten; he was stoned; he was shipwrecked. All the different things that had happened to him in his service of the Lord, these were the things he was boasting of. And he made very clear at the end of the reading today that if he is going to boast, it is going to be the things that demonstrate his weakness. The reason why he would boast of the things that demonstrate his weakness is because that is what demonstrates the strength of God, that the Lord is going to deliver us from all of the difficulties and the problems and all the sufferings of this life.

He did not anywhere even hint at the fact that if we were going to be his followers we would not have to suffer – just the opposite – and he made it absolutely clear. How anyone who calls himself a Christian can read the Scriptures and say, “Jesus wants me to have no suffering in my life, and He wants me to have things easy,” is entirely beyond me. How can they come to that conclusion? They obviously have not read the same Gospel as we have read.

Regardless, when the Lord tells us then that where our heart is there also will our treasure be, and vice versa, we really need to look at that. Saint Paul is boasting of his weakness. What do we do? Saint Paul boasts of the things that demonstrated that people did not like him because of his faith. How about us? We tend to boast of our accomplishments. We tend to boast of our money or our materialism or our positions or whatever it might be. These are the things, if anything, that demonstrate some sense of worldly power. Saint Paul is boasting of his weakness because God told him it is in weakness that power reaches its perfection.

So if we like to be focused on our strength, we have got it in the wrong place because then we are boasting about our own selves. If that is the case, then we are boasting about something that is going to pass away. Whether it is the moth eating it, rust destroying it, a thief stealing it, or whether it is just that as we get older and we decline we are not going to have the ability to do certain things anymore, whatever it might be, if we are boasting about something that is material or something that we ourselves are about, it is either

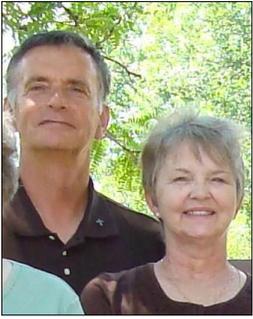
going to decline or completely vanish.

If, on the other hand, our only boast is God, then it is going to remain forever because God is not going to weaken and He is not going to change and there will be no decay. God is perfect; He is all-powerful. That is the point Saint Paul is making. He said, If I’m going to boast, it’s going to be in the things that demonstrate my own weakness because there is nothing in me that I have to boast about, absolutely nothing. As Saint Paul would later say, Show me anything that you have that you did not receive; and if you have received it, why do you boast of it as if it is your own? If God has given you a gift, then why boast like it is something you have accomplished? It is all God, and that is where our boast needs to be if we are going to boast at all, which is foolishness as Saint Paul makes very clear in the reading today. What good does it do? We need to be humble, not arrogant. We need to be weak in our own estimation of ourselves and strong in our estimation of God.

These are not the things that come naturally to our fallen nature. We like to puff ourselves up and try to make sure that everyone knows we are something. Well, remember what Saint Paul said: God chose the ones who were nothing to put those who thought that they were something to shame. He did not pick you because you were the best, the strongest, the most impressive, or anything else. He picked you because you were just the opposite. So why do we boast as though somehow we are the former, when in fact we have to acknowledge the reality that we are weak, we are small, and there is nothing within ourselves that deserves boasting or credit.

It is God alone who deserves all of these things. When we acknowledge our own weakness, then we have to glory in His strength. And that is precisely what He is looking for because that can never go away. That is a treasure that is already in heaven, and that is what will be stored up for us: the glory of God. If we are willing to focus on that in this life, then that will be our focus for eternity. If we want to focus on ourselves in this life, then that will be our focus for eternity. The tragedy, of course, is that the latter will be in an entirely different place than the former. If we want to focus on ourselves, we spend eternity with Satan. If we want to focus on God, then where our heart is there is where our treasure is, and vice versa. The treasure is the glory of God, and that is where we need to set our hearts now so that they will be set there forever.

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



ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE...

From the Office of Readings

This message is from the office of readings for Wednesday, the Fifth week of Easter. It is from a 'letter to Diognetus', but it is so unique, and uplifting, that we thought we would break

form and just put this letter in for our message.

The subject line is, "The Christian in the world", which we all are.

"Christians are indistinguishable from other men either by nationality, language or customs...And yet there is something extraordinary about their lives. They play their full role as citizens, but labor under all the disabilities of aliens. Any country can be their homeland, but for them their homeland, wherever it may be, is a foreign country. Like others, they marry and have children, but they do not expose them. They share their meals, but not their wives. They live in the flesh, but they are not governed by the desires of the flesh. They pass their days upon earth, but they are citizens of heaven. Obedient to the laws, they yet live on a level that transcends the law.

"Christians love all men, but all men persecute them. Condemned because they are not understood, they are put to death, but raised to life again. They live in poverty, but enrich many; they are totally destitute, but possess an abundance of everything. They suffer dishonor, but that is their glory. They are defamed, but vindicated. A blessing is their answer to abuse, deference their response to insult. For the good they do they receive the punishment of malefactors, but even then they rejoice, as though receiving the gift of life.

"To speak in general terms, we may say that the Christian is to the world what the soul is to the body. As the soul is present in every part of the body, while remaining distinct from it, so Christians are found in all the cities of the world

but cannot be identified with the world. As the visible body contains the invisible soul, so Christians are seen living in the world, but their religious life remains unseen. The body hates the soul and wars against it, not because of any injury the soul has done it, but because of the restriction the soul places on its pleasures. Similarly, the world hates the Christians, not because they have done it any wrong, but because they are opposed to its enjoyments.

"Christians love those who hate them just as the soul loves the body and all its members despite the body's hatred. It is by the soul, enclosed within the body, that the body is held together, and similarly, it is by the Christians, detained in the world as in a prison, that the world is held together. The soul, though immortal, has a mortal dwelling place; and Christians also live for time amidst perishable things, while awaiting the freedom from change and decay that will be theirs in heaven. As the soul benefits under deprivation of food and drink, so Christians flourish under persecution. Such is the Christians lofty and divinely appointed function, from which he is not permitted to excuse himself."

So, let us rejoice in our calling to be Christians for and with the grace of Almighty God and our good Lord. Our Rule draws us perfectly right into this letter, and is the way we fulfill many of our obligations of being Christians in this modern age. On the last Sunday in Ordinary time we celebrate Christ as our King, but we can see in Him and His life in the world the fullness of this life we are called to live. It is His life that we emulate and follow to the best of our abilities. He was condemned even by many of his friends and benefactors and put to death by the leaders of His faith. Yet, it is in His death that we find life, and in His Resurrection that we hold the hope of our own. In Him we will live forever.

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

“And I consecrate myself for them so that they may also be consecrated in truth. I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one as you Father are in me, and I am in you. That they also may be one in us.” (John 17:19-21)

In pursuit of union with God, the goal of our lives. That’s why we joined the Brothers and Sisters of Penance. This is normally the time of year we would be advertising the BSP Retreat here in Minneapolis, Minnesota. For a variety of reasons, our local chapter will no longer host a retreat, but the tradition will be carried on by a local Divine Will group.

Last year we hosted a Divine Will Retreat with Fr. Robert Young in August at Prior Lake Franciscan Retreat Center. There was a full house, as approximately 55 people attended. At the end of the Retreat, we had a meeting of BSP members along with many Divine Will members to plan for the future. We talked about the availability of the retreat center for another retreat this year. But Fr. Young wanted a venue where more people could attend. That made a lot of sense, since there are about a dozen local Divine Will groups in the area. There was as much interest in this retreat as when Fr. Thomas Dubay was our Retreat Master.

The result is a compromise between a retreat and a series of conferences. One of the priests who attended last year’s retreat, Fr. Jim Perkl, is pastor of Mary, Mother of the Church, in Burnsville, MN, between Prior Lake and Minneapolis. Fr. Perkl, in consultation with Fr. Young, decided to host a series of conferences the weekend of October 20-22, 2017, at his church, with room for approximately five hundred people. A local Divine Will group will sponsor the event. There will be a flyer available soon with the details.

As it stands at present, there will be a series of conferences during the day in church from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon (Sunday afternoon session from 1:00 to 3:00 pm) for anyone who wishes to attend, but with no overnight accommodations available. There will also be a special conference on the following Tuesday, October 24, just for priests. As I get more information, I will pass it along.

The exciting thing is Fr. Young’s outreach to local priests. We have a dynamic group of Catholics in the Twin Cities, and just witnessed the ordination of 10 priests for the Minneapolis/St. Paul Archdiocese. Fr. Michael Becker, Rector of the Minor Seminary, attended last year’s BSP Retreat, and has already

spoken with Fr. Perkl about the conferences in October. He said, “They should be a blessing for all.” And he ended his note to me with advice we can all use: “Now just need to get my will in sync with God’s.” And a smiley face...

This past month of May also witnessed the tenth anniversary of Fr. Val’s death. He was very instrumental in the birth of the BSP. He was also the most Franciscan Franciscan I ever knew! It’s nice to go through life meeting many other pilgrims on the journey back to the Father with us. I like to think of the holiest among them, who I can pattern my life after. Fr. Val is certainly among the top five. He was very much “In sync with God’s Will.”

Fr. Iannuzzi said there is a new hierarchy of saints in the Church in the twentieth century following the teachings of Jesus through Luisa Piccarreta, and interestingly, St. Faustina as well. Our Blessed Mother leads the way, and all others living in the Divine Will following her. He listed fifteen new Saints already. No one has taken up the cause of Fr. Val, but that’s the case with most humble saints in the world. I don’t recall him mentioning living in the Divine Will as such, but that’s how he lived—in reality. We will only know these saints in heaven. That will be one of the joys of heaven, when we will see all people, and all things as they really are, not through the fog of life here on earth. Following are notes I made from one of Fr. Iannuzzi’s talks during our local BSP Chapter meeting.

Father made the point that “Living in the Divine Will is a perpetuation of the Real Presence of Jesus in Holy Communion.” He “descends into the heart” of those who receive Him, becoming the “Living Host.” That brings about the “Real Life” of those who live in the Divine Will as they experience real joy. Wow! What a spectacular teaching!

We embrace the good acts of all mankind, multiplied as in the Host. “My love has complete outpouring, (in which I can) multiply My Life in Holy Communion, multiply it in every living act of souls living in My Divine Will.”

St. Teresa of Avila talked about “Fusing ourselves into the Divine Will,” which requires a large dose of submissiveness on our part. Our salvation does not depend on our own achievements, but WHAT

MATTERS TO GOD! To do this, we need to remove the obstacles to the divine entry into our souls. Mary disposes us, if we abandon ourselves into her hands. God prays in us: allow that. Be not a doer, but allow ourselves to be used by God through this "Act of Fusion."

That's how the world is re-ordered after the fall of Adam and Eve, when all became disordered. I enjoyed hearing Fr. Iannuzzi describe Creation as six "epochs" instead of "days," because "God is in no hurry!" His creation of the world was NOTHING compared to the creation of man, when "God fell in love with mankind." How else to explain the coming of Jesus? Truly, there is no greater love! "I have created everything for you." And how much of that do we return, with gratitude! If man knew how beautiful the soul is, a Cosmos within us, we could expand to embrace all of Creation, as our holy father Francis did so well, as in for example, the Canticle of

the Sun.

"Heaven and earth will pass away," but remain within us somehow, as we assimilate all of creation for the Glory of God. We fuse with God in all creation in a personal attempt to re-order creation to its original state. All of heaven goes out to meet these souls, and angels carry their actions back to God. Especially when these souls living in the Divine Will multiply the acts and blessings of all mankind.

The beauty of these humble souls is the feeling of being glorified in their lowliness, as a kind of divine martyrdom in imitation of their Savior Jesus Christ, a martyrdom of their own wills. That is apparently the most difficult penance in the spiritual life, the renunciation of our own wills. But when it is accomplished, a certain difficult passage becomes understandable: "If you ask the Father anything in My Name, He will give it to you."

Paul Beery BSP, Morning Star Chapter, Minnesota



Sincerity... by Janet Klasson, BSP

From the First Reading on the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:10-11)

The word "sincerity" has been coming to mind lately. During the month of May, I did some extra pondering on the Blessed Mother, assisted greatly by the writings of Luisa Piccarreta, specifically the document entitled, "The Virgin Mary in the Kingdom of the Divine Will" (printable version here: <http://tinyurl.com/y92o6tm3>).

The above Scripture passage describes the sincerity of all God's words and actions. In meditating on Mary, I felt a new awareness that everything Mary said or did, says or does, is done with perfect sincerity of purpose, always perfectly true, always perfectly in tune with the Divine Will.

Since contemplating the sincerity of Mary, I have been endeavoring to be more deliberate in the practice myself. I noticed immediately the difference it made in my prayers, in my attentiveness at Mass,

even in my daily life. Granted, I am a beginner, and have a long way to go in my ability to sustain the practice for long. But the rewards when I do cause me to crave more of it.

In sincerity, there is no room for half-hearted efforts, distractions, or for anything that is not true. I find that the more I remain in the moment, focused on the prayer or task at hand, the more peaceful I feel, and the more I feel our Blessed Mother lovingly assisting me. I really feel it is important to her that souls keep trying to advance in this attribute of hers. With her help, we will make amazing progress!

Blessed Mother, be our guide and teacher in the practice of sincerity, that the Divine Will may reign in our hearts and in the whole world, that God's kingdom may come and come quickly.



3 John 1:4 Nothing gives me greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

"My beloved, there is much to distract you and much to deceive you. What joy you give me when you seek the truth and cling tenaciously to it, even though everyone around you is calling you away from it! My beloved, live in me and the truth will live in you. Enter into my heart through the sacraments, through prayer, through the living Word. Give us both the joy of letting me purify and refine you. Do you not see that for those I love, for those who surrender joyfully to my will, nothing that befalls them is an accident? If you have surrendered to me, then you must accept with joy everything I send you, no matter how painful. Even what the enemy intends for destruction, I use to accomplish great good in a soul abandoned to me. Fear nothing except sin. Abandon yourself to my will and my truth will set you free."

Jesus, Beloved, give us strength and courage. Send forth your Spirit to give us hope and to make our joyful surrender to you complete. In this way alone will we be prepared for what is to come. Jesus I love you, I trust you. I surrender myself joyfully to your loving, perfect will for me and mine. Amen. Fiat!

Ephesians 4: 15 Rather, living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ.

Father, how can I better live the truth in love?

"Beloved child it is the Spirit who has led you to this passage. My beloved, in truth there is no falsehood, only sincerity, integrity and wholeness, leading to peace. Know Jesus and you know truth. Enter into the life of Jesus and you begin to live the truth. Love will follow as naturally as breathing, for one cannot enter into the life of Jesus without living in truth and love. Know Jesus, child. Know him with your heart and your head, with every singing molecule and atom of your being. This is truth."

Jesus I long to know you in every way possible. Reveal yourself to me in every moment of my life, that I might begin to live in truth and love to the glory of your name. Amen.

(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' Holiness and Mother Teresa

Peace little sparrows! Yes, I know Mother Teresa is now Saint Teresa but I, like many other people, still think of her as "the little sparrow" Mother Teresa. (The fact being that she, if I know her, would sell that title of "Saint" for money for the poor, unloved, and unwanted!) Her thoughts on the state of holiness are some of the purest insights ever expressed and I endeavor to bring these words of her to you little sparrows.

Mother often expressed candid insights into spiritual matters with such a clean economy of few words. Scripture was of course the springboard from where these insights had their inception. On the subject of holiness, Mother Teresa stated, "Ask and it will be given you; seek, and you will find." (Luke 11:9) Surprisingly, her insight was that a big part of holiness consists in receiving—"receiving God from God"—since God is holiness itself.

Without receiving God's love and graces, His own Holy Spirit, we cannot be holy—no matter how much

we do or give. So, as Mother encourages us little sparrows, let us come to Him often—and let Him fill us with His own Spirit. "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:13). Mother used to say: "God is so delicately kind." And He is dying (!) to make us holy.

Our Lord Jesus and the saints encourage us to look at nature (very Franciscan!). Flowers do very little (ask St. Therese the Little Flower)—yet they fulfill His will and God gives them everything. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi: "A rose does not preach. It simply spreads its fragrance. The fragrance is its sermon." Little birds do very little (ask any sparrow)—yet God gives them everything. And children tend to have more purity, love, and holiness than even the most remarkable and talented achievers in the world.

Children, with all their innocence, humility, love, and trust "preach without preaching—not by words but

by their example." In the words of Our Savior Himself: "To such belongs the kingdom of God." (Luke 18:16) This is not to say that we should sit around doing little. It is simply to say that we should learn to trust God wholeheartedly and open ourselves to everything He wishes to pour out upon us.

Mother said, "If only we let Him do it, ... He does it in a beautiful way." Let us follow Jesus to make us holy. Let us contemplate our Divine Master as He went about doing acts of mercy and spreading the Good News—and in silent adoration, let us learn His own lessons of love and secrets of sanctity.

Now, little sparrows, let us turn to the words of Mother (Saint) Teresa on holiness:

"Holiness is not the luxury of the few--it is a simple duty for you and me. We have been created for that. So let us be holy as Our Father is heaven is holy."

"Thoughtfulness is the beginning of great holiness. If you learn the art of being thoughtful, you will become more and more like Christ. His

heart was kind and gentle, and He always thought of the needs of others. Jesus did good wherever He went."

"Our progress in holiness depends on God and ourselves—on God's grace and on our will to be holy. We must have a real living determination to reach holiness. Let us ask Our Lady to help us keep our hearts pure so that we can love Christ, her Son, with tenderness and love."

Mother had many more sayings on pursuing and obtaining holiness. We, as little sparrows, only have to look at the fruits her life bore, to realize that her way of pursuit in finding and possessing holiness was a true course for us also to follow. May the Lord bless us with the same grace that gives us the same tenacity in finding the holiness that the Lord God wishes and wills for us to have.

"Sanctity is a disposition of the heart which makes us humble and little in the arms of God—aware of our weakness and confident even unto audacity in the goodness of our heavenly Father."

(St. Therese of Lisieux—The Little Flower)

The Cost of Our Redemption

Peace, dear little sparrows! Have you recently, as penitents, as we are all supposed to be, considered afresh the cost of our redemption? When John the Baptist (penance personified) saw Jesus, he made a profound statement, "Behold the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:19). Jesus, the Son of God, perfect in every way, voluntarily gave His life as the "final sacrifice" for sin.

St. Andrew remarked, "We have found the Messiah" (John 1:41). He must have been excited about Jesus (a sparrows' dream come true indeed). Does our life, like St. Andrew's, radiate fervor for our Lord and Savior's provisions of redemption? As Moses lifted up the serpent so must we penitents lift up Christ for ourselves and those who are bitten by sin (John 3:14). No doubt when those who were bitten looked up at the serpent, they felt a surge of renewed life and hope. The fact of our own redemption should also give us the graceful vigor needed as servants of our Lord.

Jesus came not only that we might "have life," but that we might "have it more abundantly." (John 10:10) Having redeemed us from sin and having provided all we need for victorious living, how must Jesus feel when we fail Him or deny Him? Christ can "save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him." (Hebrews 7:25) The full ransom price for us

all has been paid by Him at the Cross with His precious blood.

Christ was "a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief." (Isaiah 53:3) He was rejected by His personal acquaintances. Forsaken by His friends. Condemned without a fair trial. Clothed in mockery with a purple robe of royalty. Counted worse than a robber and murderer. But in the end, Christ will be acclaimed "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" before all the world (Revelation 19:16). But little sparrows, we do not wait till then for we declare now, that He is the I AM, He is the Lord and the King of us and all the universe, both now and for all time, this is our consecration as penitents, as followers of St. Francis. There is nothing left to say for He is everything that needs to be said!

"To keep the word of Jesus is the one condition of our happiness, the proof of our love for Him. And this Word is Himself since He is called the Logos or Uncreated Word of the Father." (cf. John 1:1)

(St. Therese of Lisieux—The Little Flower)

pax et bonum
Bro. sparrow

Bob Hall BSP, Little Flower Chapter, N. Carolina

PENITENT OF PEACE



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Taking a companion with him, Francis was not afraid to present himself to the sight of the Sultan of the Saracens. Who is equal to the task of telling this story? What great firmness Francis showed standing in from of Him! With great strength of soul, Francis spoke to the Sultan; with eloquence and confidence he answered those who insulted Christian Law.

Before Francis reached the Sultan, he was captured

by the soldiers, insulted and beaten, but was not afraid. He did not flinch at the threats of torture nor was he shaken by the death threats. Although he was ill-treated by many with a hostile spirit and a harsh attitude, Francis was received very graciously by the Sultan. The Sultan honored Francis as much as he could, offering him many gifts, trying to turn his mind to worldly riches, but when the Sultan saw that Francis resolutely scorned at these things like dung, the Sultan was overflowing with admiration and recognized Francis as a man unlike any other. The Sultan was moved by Francis' words and listened to him very willingly.

(*Francis of Assisi The Saint Vol 1)

Submitted by "Penitent"

MORNING STAR: NEWS ON THE ASSOCIATION...



SUMMER NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE...

The next BSP newsletter will be the September issue. However, if there is any news to share on the Divine Will conference that Paul mentioned, we may send that information out on its own.

May God bless you and yours throughout the summer months.

STAY CONNECTED...PLEASE!

If you wish to connect with your Brothers and Sisters in the BSP, please remember that the BSP Forums on our website are set up specifically for that purpose. It is a wonderful place for those who have lived the Rule for some time to give encouragement to those just starting out. You don't have to post long messages, but post and respond as the Spirit leads you. If you have something edifying to share, especially on living the life of penance, you will find a very appreciative audience.

Remember too that there is also a prayer forum. Don't underestimate the prayers of a few poor penitents under the patronage of Father Francis and St. Clare!

Hope to see you on the Forums! <http://bspenance.org/forum/>

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.

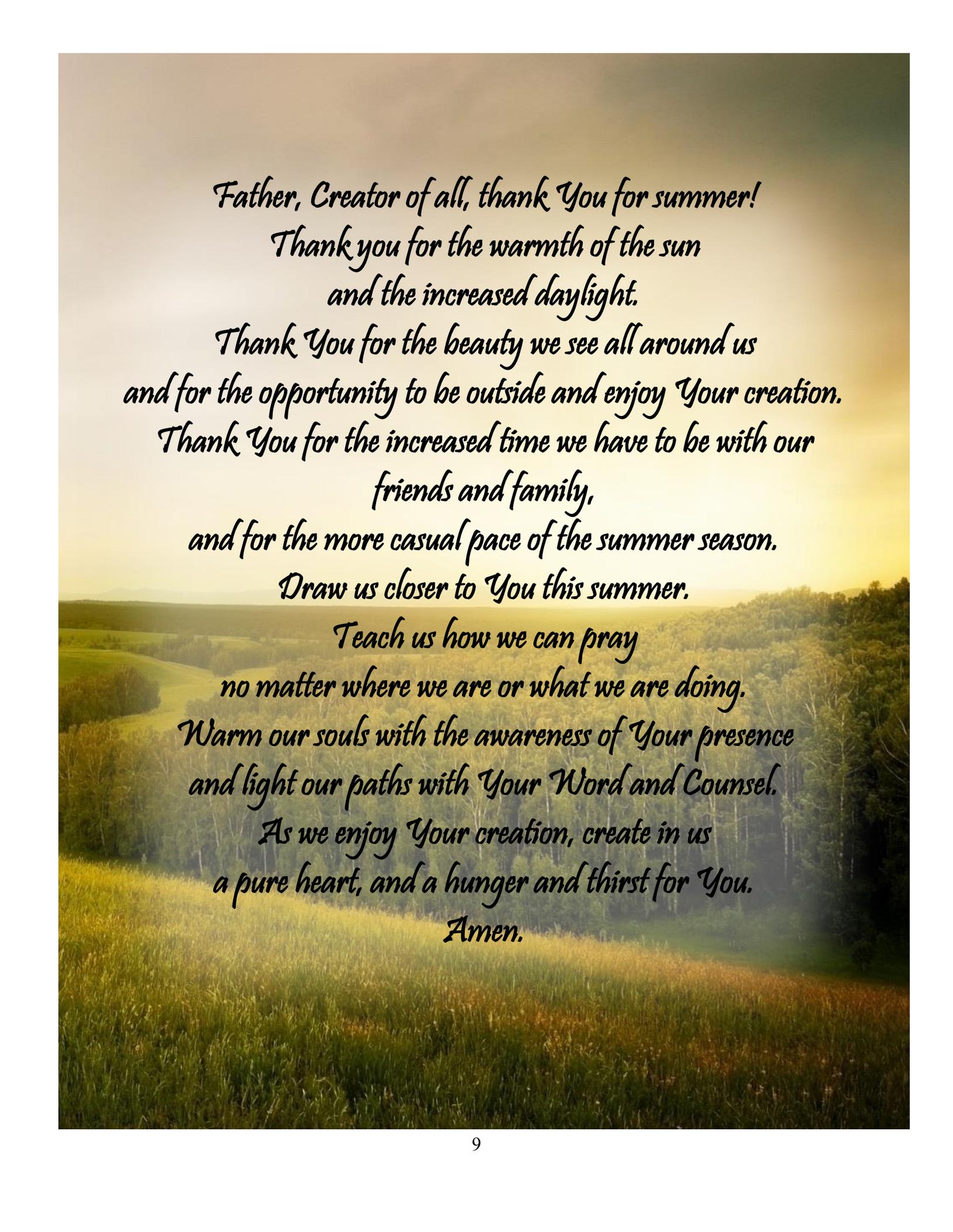
There is a link to the ordering page on our BSP homepage. You will need a credit card or a Paypal account to order. Cost is \$10.00 plus shipping.

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

"Rest time is not waste time. It is economy to gather fresh strength... It is wisdom to take occasional furlough. In the long run, we shall do more by sometimes doing less."

--Charles Spurgeon



*Father, Creator of all, thank You for summer!
Thank you for the warmth of the sun
and the increased daylight.
Thank You for the beauty we see all around us
and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation.
Thank You for the increased time we have to be with our
friends and family,
and for the more casual pace of the summer season.
Draw us closer to You this summer.
Teach us how we can pray
no matter where we are or what we are doing.
Warm our souls with the awareness of Your presence
and light our paths with Your Word and Counsel.
As we enjoy Your creation, create in us
a pure heart, and a hunger and thirst for You.
Amen.*

The BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF PENANCE OF ST. FRANCIS

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

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

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

Bruce and Shelley Fahey BSP, Administrators



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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of St. Francis

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