



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

BONAVENTURE AND HIS LESSONS ON ST. FRANCIS:

Some of the miracles which took place after St. Francis' death

Chapter X. Various Other Miracles

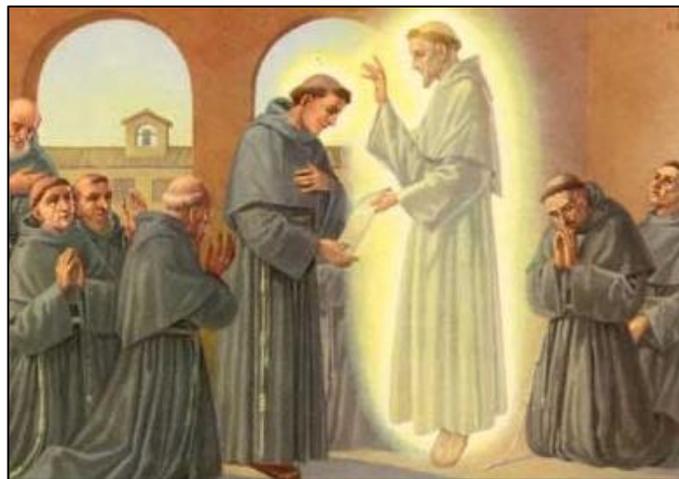
2. A cherry-tree belonging to a man at Sahagun in Spain miraculously revived and produced leaves, flowers, and fruit, contrary to all expectations. The inhabitants of the countryside around Villa Silos were delivered from a plague of insects which attacked the vines, by the miraculous intercession of St. Francis. A priest from Palencia put a barn belonging to him under the protection of St. Francis and the saint freed it from wheat-worms which used to invade it every year. A local landowner from Petramala in Apulia entrusted his land to the care of St. Francis and the saint kept it free of locusts, although everything in the neighborhood was destroyed by them.

3. A man whose name was Martin drove his cows a long way out of the village to pasture, when one of them broke its leg so badly that there was nothing he could do for it. The only thing left was to save the hide, and as he had nothing with which to remove it he went home, leaving St. Francis to look after the cow. He entrusted the animal to his protection, to save it from the wolves until he returned. Early next morning he came back to the cow he had left in the woods; he found it grazing and restored to perfect health, so that he could not tell the leg which had been broken from the others. He gave thanks to the good shepherd who had taken such good care of his cow and healed it.

In his humility St. Francis knew how to come to the aid of all who called upon him and he did not make

light even of the lowliest human needs.

He restored a mule to a man from Amiterno from whom it had been stolen, and he repaired a bowl which had been shattered for a woman from Antrodoco. He restored a plowshare which had been broken into smithereens for a man at Monte dell-Olmo.



4. In the diocese of Sabina there was an eighty-year-old woman whose daughter died and left an infant who had not yet been weaned. The poor old woman was destitute and she had no milk and there was no one else to give the baby even a drop, so that she did not know where to turn. The baby grew weaker and then one night the old woman turned to St.

Francis and implored his help, destitute as she was of all human aid. As she prayed in tears, St. Francis came to her, in his love of innocent children, and told her, "I am Francis whom you have invoked so tearfully. Give the baby your breast and God will give you plenty of milk." She did as he told her and immediately her breasts gave plenty of milk. The miraculous gift Francis had given her became known to everybody and a crowd of men and women flocked to see it. They could not deny the evidence of their own eyes, and so they were all moved to praise God in the miraculous powers and the loving kindness of his saint.

Bonaventure—Major Life of St. Francis (1263)





VISITOR'S MESSAGE

Homily by Fr. Robert Altier Solemnity of All Saints, November 1, 2020

Readings: Rev 7:2-4; 9-14; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12



As we celebrate this glorious solemnity in honor of all the Saints in Heaven, we must remind ourselves that this celebration is more for our benefit than for theirs. The Saints are already in Heaven; they already participate in the eternal glory of God. They are already filled to the fullness of their being with grace and charity; they are already loving and being loved to the fullness of their capacity. Therefore, the honor we give to them does not increase their glory nor does it make them any happier than they already are. So, why are we celebrating this feast and why is this feast so important that it has precedent over Sunday?

As mentioned in the first sentence, the celebration of this feast is more for us than for the Saints. It is wonderful that we give them their due honor, but it also reminds us that each one of us is called to be a Saint and that our lives on earth are a preparation for eternal life. More than 10,000 Saints are venerated by the Church. In the first reading St. John tells us about a great multitude which no one could count. These people came from every corner of the world and were all standing before the throne of God and of the Lamb. In other words, these people were all in Heaven.

It is important to notice the way St. John describes his vision: people from "every race, nation, people, and tongue." No one is excluded. No one has a monopoly on salvation or sanctity. The Gospel reading helps us to understand that there is not one way of holiness that makes one a Saint. All the Saints practiced heroic virtue, and some exercised these virtues in a similar manner. But the Saints show us there are many different paths through life that lead us to Heaven.

Some were married, some were Religious, some were evangelists or missionaries, some were contemplatives. The Gospel today shows us that some mourned the situation in the world, others demonstrated meekness; some sought righteousness, and others focused on showing mercy. Some sought purity of heart while others strove to be peacemakers. I think we can assume that all of them, without exception, suffered

persecution for doing what was right.

While there are many paths through life that lead to holiness, the elder who spoke to St. John informs the Saint of the one thing each of these people possessed in common: they have "survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb." Since there is no salvation in any other Name than that of Jesus, each of these people had to be made clean in the Blood of the Lamb, even if they did not know Him during their time on earth.

Clearly, this description of "the time of great distress" is not about a singular event all these people survived. Rather, it seems to point to the fact that our life on earth is a time of distress. While there will be people in Heaven we may not expect to see because they did not know Jesus or worship Him during their lifetime, nonetheless, for those who do know Him, there is clearly a great advantage.

That said, we also must recall our Lord's admonition that to those who are entrusted with more, more will be demanded. In the second reading, St. John tells us we are children of God. The world, he says, does not know us as God's children because the world did not know Jesus. Do we know ourselves as children of God? Perhaps we know in our heads that we are children of God, but do we know ourselves, in the depths of our being, to be children of God? We will only know ourselves and the immense dignity which is ours if we know Jesus and what it means to be baptized into Him, to share His life, and to participate in His divine nature. If we have put our focus more on the world, we may not know Him and, consequently, we may not know our true identity and surpassing dignity as children of God.

To survive the time of great distress and make our robes white in the Blood of the Lamb means remaining faithful to the end. However, as we see in the readings, it is not merely remaining faithful to our belief in the truths of our holy faith, it is remaining faithful to God in the way we live according to these truths. When we celebrate the Saints, especially the "ordinary" ones whose names we do not know, it gives us great hope that we too can be counted among the Saints in Heaven.

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ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE... A Plan



Our bishop, Paul Sirba, died a year ago. Our diocese is still looking for a new bishop. Please keep this cause in your prayer.

Some years ago, his brother, Joseph, who is a priest, gave a homily in which he spoke of the decline of the body and the rise of the soul, and having a plan. It was a great homily and worth pondering.

His point in his homily is that there are parallels between the growth of the body and growth of the spirit. Physical life parallels spiritual life in that there is change over time. But these changes are different for the body and the soul. The body declines as the time passes and grows older and weaker. The soul on the other hand increases as time goes on and grows stronger. So, at death, the body is at its lowest ebb and the soul is at its greatest. Whatever we are to become before we die, we are when we die. The main thing he said was to have a plan on growing the soul stronger in the things of God before we die. He went into a plan that encompassed living our faith to the full, and spoke of prayer, and generosity, charity, and living our Faith, but then he pointed out that this plan was why Saints wrote Rules of life for their followers.

So, in its simplest fashion his homily was a call to us to live our Rule to the full to prepare for our deaths. Our Rule of life is the plan that God has provided us, and praise God we have chosen to become strong in the things of God and move into eternity in peace and ready for the gift of life the Lord is going to bestow on us there. Our Rule carries the promise of salvation for those who live it seriously.

Also, this month has several other dates we should be aware of:

* All Saints day, November 1, is a key date, and

November 2, is All Souls day. These two dates encompass the entire Church, and all of heaven and earth. and on these days, we should pray for everyone, especially those who have abandoned the Faith, and these days they are many.

Also, on November 11 we celebrate the feast of St. Martin of Tours. He was born of pagan parents in 316 at Pannonia. He became the bishop of Tours, provided the example of the ideal pastor. He died in 397.

We fast for 40 days until Christmas from the day after his feast day, November 12, until Christmas. This is the second season of major fasting for us, the first being during Lent. The Rule says:

- **RULE: ARTICLE 9**

9. They are to fast daily, except on account of infirmity or any other need, throughout the fast of St. Martin from after said day until Christmas...

From All Saints Day until Easter, marks the 'winter fasting season'. During this time, those of us that are through Novice 2 or Professed, should fast on both Wednesdays and Fridays. If we are age 60 or older, we can follow the Church's guidelines as regards fasting and abstinence of course, if we so choose. Our Rule covers this where it says:

- **RULE: ARTICLE 8**

8. ...From the feast of All Saints until Easter they are to fast on Wednesdays and Fridays, but still observing the other fasts enjoined in general by the Church.

So, let us keep these dates in mind as we strive evermore to live our Rule more perfectly and with great commitment and joy. Work on your plan, and prepare for your life with God.

In Christ's love,

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

"Come on! Let's all go to heaven! Ask our brothers for their courage, we have their weapons. We are a battalion, not a procession."

—Saint Peter Julian Eymard, the Apostle of the Eucharist





WAR AND PEACE...

by Janet Klasson, BSP



Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able

to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Ephesians 6:10-17)

Friends, there is no doubt we are at war. The Christian, as a sign of contradiction, is always at war with the world. But this time it seems the stakes are much higher. Doubtless we are on the verge of an epochal change. The army of Christ goes forward to fight, not human enemies, but principalities and powers. We go forth not to destroy souls but to help save them, not to kill but to die with Christ on the Cross. For our true enemy is best defeated when souls are converted.

Let us fight for the Truth, yes, but also for those we consider earthly enemies, offering prayers and sacrifices for their conversion. Our earthly enemies, too, are beloved children of God. He wants them in heaven with us! He wants them released from their chains and pulled from the muck into which they have fallen. This is the battle that is dearest to God's heart. Our prayers and sacrifices, especially if done "in the Divine Will in the name of all" are pulling souls into heaven. Let us not lose our focus. The stakes are too high.

I highly recommend [Marino Restrepo's](#) video [Satan's Games Today](#). It is a video recorded this past July where he addresses a group in the UK about Spiritual Warfare. Towards the middle of the talk, he mentions the conspiracies that so many of us are talking about, the "one world" groups, etc. He acknowledges that *"all of (the conspiracies), for sure, are true...I'm sure the devil is trying to put that together, but the thing is—who cares? We are not of this world...This is not where we live, we are just in transit, so who cares about what the devil is trying to do with this? This is not our home...We are pilgrims. We need souls! When you see Jesus dying on the cross, one of the words he exclaims is, 'I thirst!' But it wasn't about water, it was about souls."*

Marino also says, *"Satan trembles when he sees a faithful Catholic...We are armed and dangerous!"* We

are sons and daughters of the King of the Universe! We have nothing to fear.

In a few short weeks we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. This is an excerpt from the First Reading:

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness... I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. (Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-16)

The agents of our true enemies, that is, the powers and principalities, are promoting a "great reset". They fancy themselves the saviors of the world bringing about a new world order. Little do they know...There will be a great reset alright, but it won't look the way they think it will. **"In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph."** Now that will be a reset! No matter what else happens—and it will get much worse before it gets better—let us remember Our Lady's promise.

Jesus (said to Pilate), 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' (John 18:36)

Let's keep this in mind. Yes we must come to the defense of the unborn, etc., but our overarching focus must be souls. God's business is souls, and it must be ours too.

Friends we were made for these times. I have been listening to a series of talks by Fr. B. Thomas Celso BDV (Benedictines of the Divine Will) on the website queenofthedivinewill.org. Fr. Celso speaks on the Divine Will writings of Luisa Piccarreta. In the [talks dated February 22, 2020 on Illumination in the Divine Will](#), Fr. Celso repeatedly says, "Just watch what the Lord is going to do! It is a glorious time to be alive!" Well, by all outward appearances it looks anything but glorious and Fr. Celso says as much. But we have Our Lady's promise which is echoed in the Divine Will teachings: the promised Era of Peace will be more glorious than we can imagine. God. Will. Do. This. So, whatever happens, let us take the long view. What is to be re-built must first be razed to the ground, but what is coming is beyond our imagining.

Jesus said this to Luisa: **"Therefore, many grave things will happen, and in seeing this, if I look**

at the chaos, I feel afflicted; but if I look beyond, in seeing the order and My new Kingdom rebuilt, I go from a deep sadness to a joy so great that you cannot comprehend... My daughter, let us look beyond, that we may be cheered. I want to make things return as in the beginning of Creation..." (Luisa Piccarreta, *Book of Heaven*, April 24th, 1927)

So let us discern well what the Divine Will is for us and let us man our post faithfully to the end, whatever that may be. We will not be credited for anything we do outside of God's Will, no matter how noble. He is the General, we are the foot soldiers. Let the word, "Fiat!" be always on our lips and in our hearts.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)

Heavenly Peace

God be praised, His little brides, The Poor Clares of Arundel, have released their first album of chant, a veritable vibrato of peace, entitled, ["Light of the World"](#). (A brief introduction may be found [here](#).)

Listening to it, I feel inspired to sit in a beautiful place all fused into Jesus, with this heavenly chant like liquid gold in my ears, returning love and thanks to God for whatever comes to mind. Or just listening and breathing in the Divine Will, adoring Him, saving the world in Him one breath, one heartbeat, one note at a time. May it infuse us with peace. Fiat.

Little Chaplet of the Holy Face (Reparation)

(Note from Janet: I have included this as it is a powerful prayer of spiritual warfare. See <http://www.holyfacedevotion.com> to order a chaplet.)

Chaplet of Reparation Prayers

On the Crucifix say: Eternal Father I offer You the cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ and all the other instruments of His Holy Passion, that You may put division in the camp of Your enemies; for as Your Beloved Son has said, "A kingdom divided against itself shall fall."

On the next five beads say:

- 1) May God arise and let His enemies be scattered and let those who hate Him flee before His Face!
- 2) May the thrice Holy Name of God overthrow all their plans!
- 3) May the Holy Name of the Living God split them up by disagreements!
- 4) May the terrible Name of the God of Eternity stamp out all their godlessness!
- 5) Lord, I do not desire the death of the sinner, but that he be converted and live. "Father, forgive them or they know not what they do."

On the medal say: The "Golden Arrow" prayer (below).

On the thirty-three white beads say: Arise, O Lord, and let Your enemies be scattered, and let those that hate You flee before Your Face.

On each of the six large beads say: My Jesus, mercy" and one "Glory Be.."

On the medal at the end say: The ejaculation: ETERNAL FATHER, I offer You the Holy Face of Jesus, covered with blood, sweat, dust and spittle, in reparation for the crimes of communists, blasphemers, and

for the profaners of the Holy Name and of the Holy Day of Sunday. (This ejaculation is also recommended to be recited frequently throughout the day).

THE "GOLDEN ARROW" PRAYER

dictated by Our Lord to Sister Mary of St. Peter

May the most holy, most sacred, most adorable, most incomprehensible and unutterable Name of God be always praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified, in Heaven, on earth, and under the earth, by all the creatures of God, and by the Sacred Heart of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. Amen.

Janet Klasson BSP, Divine Mercy Chapter, Canada



A REFLECTION ON THE ETERNAL PRESENT

By Michael Gustek

Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity once wrote, "My Master asks me to live in an eternal present, with no past, no future, but wholly in the unity of my being in an eternal present." When we pray, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven," is this not what we are praying for - to live in the eternal present? For to God, there is no past. There is no future. There is only the eternal now, the eternal present. So if in heaven, God dwells in the eternal present, should we not seek that eternal

present now? We pray for Thy will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. Here on earth we spend too much time remembering the past and planning for the future. When we do this, we are seeking not God, but ourselves. "We must be dead" to ourselves so we can be filled with the eternal. God lives in the eternal present. We should seek to be perfected and should seek the eternal present here on earth so we may live in the eternal present with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost for all eternity.

MORNING STAR: NEWS ON THE ASSOCIATION...

NOVEMBER INDULGENCES FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED HAVE BEEN RELAXED

[Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary on Plenary Indulgences for the deceased faithful in the current pandemic, 23.10.2020](#)

DECREE

This year, in the current circumstances due to the "Covid-19" pandemic, the Plenary Indulgences for the deceased faithful will be extended throughout the entire month of November, with adaptation of works and conditions to guarantee the safety of the faithful.

This Apostolic Penitentiary has received many petitions from holy Pastors who have asked that this year, due to the "Covid-19" epidemic, pious works be commuted in order to obtain the Plenary Indulgences applicable to souls in Purgatory, in accordance with the Manual of Indulgences (conc. 29, § 1). For this reason, the Apostolic Penitentiary, on the special mandate of His Holiness Pope Francis, willingly establishes and decides that this year, in order to avoid gatherings where they are forbidden:

a.- the Plenary Indulgence for those who visit a cemetery and pray for the deceased, even if only mentally, normally established only on the individual days from 1 to 8 November, may be transferred to other days of the same month, until its end. These days, freely chosen by the individual believers, may also be separate from each other;

b- the Plenary Indulgence of 2 November, established on the occasion of the Commemoration of all the deceased faithful for those who piously visit a church or oratory and recite the "Our Father" and the "Creed" there, may be transferred not only to the Sunday before or after or on the day of the Solemnity of All Saints, but also to another day of the month of November, freely chosen by the individual faithful.

The elderly, the sick and all those who for serious reasons cannot leave their homes, for example because of restrictions imposed by the competent authority in this time of the pandemic, in order to prevent

numerous faithful from crowding into the holy places, will be able to obtain the Plenary Indulgence as long as they join spiritually with all the other faithful, completely detached from sin and with the intention of complying as soon as possible with the three usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the Holy Father's intentions), before an image of Jesus or the Blessed Virgin Mary, recite pious prayers for the deceased, for example, Lauds and Vespers of the Office of the Dead, the Marian Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, other prayers for the deceased dearest to the faithful, or occupy themselves in considered reading of one of the Gospel passages proposed by the liturgy of the deceased, or perform a work of mercy by offering to God the sorrows and hardships of their own lives.

For an easier attainment of divine grace through pastoral charity, this Penitentiary earnestly prays that all priests with the appropriate faculties offer themselves with particular generosity to the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and administer Holy Communion to the sick.

However, as far as the spiritual conditions for fully achieving the Indulgence are concerned, it is worth recalling the indications already issued in the "Note on the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the current pandemic" issued by the Apostolic Penitentiary on 19 March 2020.

Finally, since the souls in Purgatory are assisted by the prayers of the faithful and especially by the sacrifice of the Altar to God (cf. Conc. Tr. Sess. XXV, decr. De Purgatorio), all priests are strongly invited to celebrate Holy Mass three times on the day of the Commemoration of all the deceased faithful, in accordance with the Apostolic Constitution "Incrumentum Altaris", issued by Pope Benedict XV, of venerable memory, on 10 August 1915.

This Decree is valid throughout the entire month of November, notwithstanding any provision to the contrary. Given in Rome, from the seat of the Apostolic Penitentiary, on 22 October 2020, memorial of Saint John Paul II.

Maurus Card. Piacenza

Paenitentiarius Maior

STAY CONNECTED...PLEASE!

If you wish to connect with your Brothers and Sisters in the BSP, please remember that the **BSP Forums** at <http://bspenance.org/forum/>. Hope to see you there!

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.



Painting of various saints by Fra Angelico

The BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF PENANCE OF ST. FRANCIS

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

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

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

Bruce and Shelley Fahey BSP, Editors



Welcome to the Brothers and Sisters of Penance!

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

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



The BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF
PENANCE



of St. Francis

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