



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

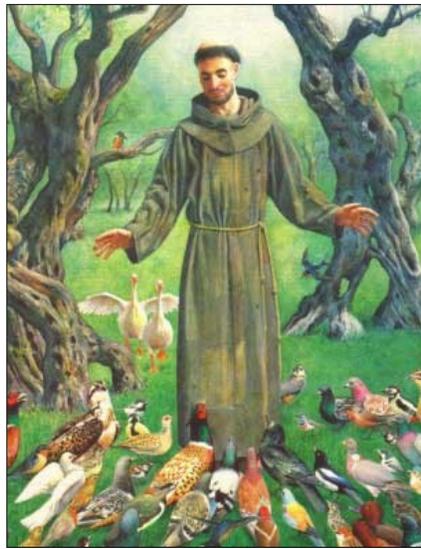
BONAVENTURE AND HIS LESSONS ON ST. FRANCIS:

Chapter VIII—Francis’ Loving Compassion and the Love Which Creatures Had for Him

10. When Francis was ill at Siena, a pheasant which had just been caught alive was sent to him by a nobleman. The moment it saw the saint and heard his voice, the bird stayed with him so affectionately that it refused to be separated from him. They took it outside the friary to the vineyard a number of times, to let it off, but it always ran back to the saint, as if it had lived with him all its life. Eventually they gave it to a man who often used to come to see the saint, but immediately the bird stopped eating food, as if it did not like to be out of Francis’ sight. When they brought it back, it began to eat as soon as it saw Francis and gave every sign of being delighted.

When Francis arrived at the hermitage on Mount La Verna to keep the fast in honor of St. Michael the Archangel, a flock of birds of all kinds wheeled about his cell, singing and showing their joy at his arrival. They seemed to be inviting their father to stay with them. When he saw them, Francis remarked to his

companion, “I see that it is God’s will we should stay here, our sisters the birds are so glad to see us.”



During his stay there, a falcon which was nesting at that spot became a great friend of his and woke him every night with its song just at the time he used to rise to say the office. The saint was delighted; by its anxious care for him the bird allowed him no time for laziness. But when he needed a longer rest than usual, the falcon had pity on him and did not wake him up so early; as if it had been instructed by God, it would then call him about dawn with its bell-like song.

The joy shown by the varied flock of birds and the falcon’s song certainly seem to have been a divine portent, indicating that Francis who was dedicated to the praise and worship of God was about to be praised aloft on the wings of contemplation and honored with the vision of the Seraph.

(Bonaventure—Major Life of St. Francis (1263)



VISITOR'S MESSAGE

Homily by Fr. Robert Altier... Repent and be faithful

Reading (Jonah 3:1-10) Gospel (St. Luke 11:29-32)

In the first reading today from the Book of the Prophet Jonah, we hear about something that was truly extraordinary. That

is, the prophet began going through the city of Nineveh – which was a pagan city (it would be in modern-day Iraq) and these were people who were not part of the people of God, living in a horribly



sinful way – and as the prophet began walking through the town announcing that forty days more and Nineveh would be destroyed, the people believed him. They called a fast, put on sackcloth, and they called out to God. Imagine if somebody started going through our city and announcing, “Forty days more and the Twin Cities are going to be destroyed!” People would probably kill that person, or at least they would put him into a locked ward someplace, because they would automatically assume, “This person is insane.” Secondly, if they decided that were not the case, they would at least say, “This person is going to make the rest of us insane; therefore, we need to get rid of him.” How many people in this city do you think would actually repent and get their life turned around if a prophet started going through the city telling us that it was going to be destroyed? We realize then what an extraordinary thing it was.

But the fact of the matter is that Our Lord tells us in the Gospel that the people of Nineveh repented at the preaching of Jonah, but we have something greater than Jonah. Jonah was the prophet of the Lord; we have the Lord Himself, and so each of us is called to repent. It is quite clear, at least as things are, that neither city nor state nor country have any intention of turning around. They have heard the Gospel; they have rejected it. But, on an individual level, we still have the opportunity to do so. And we are called to the same kind of repentance, to be able to turn from our evil ways and to live according to the way of Christ.

There are people in our society who would be just like the people in the time of Christ, and they are looking for signs. The signs are abundant and yet they are going to ignore them because it does not matter to this generation what God does because they have decided that God does not exist or that He is, at least, not an important part of our lives. Therefore, it does not matter what He does because we are going to ignore it. We will find some scientific reason to explain why this might be able to happen – even though it does not make sense – then we can all just simply shrug it off and say, “Good enough. The scientists can explain it; we don’t need to believe.” That is exactly what we do. We leave it alone and we walk away. And even when something does happen that is pretty evident that no one could say that this was not God, it lasts about a couple of

days, maybe a couple of weeks at the most, and then it is just back to life as usual because it is now ancient history in this computer age where everything is immediate. So we pay no attention. We want to live our secular lives paying little or no attention to God.

The Lord, in our day, I think, is giving us ample warning. We know not the time or the hour, but we can say that it is not too terribly far away. Each one of us is called to repentance. The difficulty is that if we just look back even ten years ago, first of all, how many people were trying at that time to be faithful to the Lord because they had thought the same thing: the time is short. So they turned their life around, thinking that they would save themselves. It was not because they wanted to serve the Lord; it was because they were afraid for their own self. And when things did not happen in the timeframe they expected, they fell away. If we look at our own selves, we might say, “Ten years ago, maybe I wasn’t on the right track, and God in His mercy has gotten me turned around.” But now we need simply to be faithful to God regardless of anything else. It does not matter what the timing is because God wants us to be faithful. Whether something were to happen this afternoon, or whether something were to happen twenty years from now, it does not matter. God wants each of us simply to be faithful, to turn around, to repent, and to stop living in an evil way. That is what He expects of each of us. And not just because we want to save our own hind, but because we recognize that He is God and the call that each one of us has is to know, to love, and to serve Him. That is the reason. It is about God; it is not just about us. But since we live in a self-centered society, all that we think about is the self. And if all we think about is the self, we are going to ignore God no matter how obvious He makes Himself. So that is the point we need to be careful of.

We have a greater than Jonah with us. We have a greater than Solomon with us. How much does it matter to us? That is the question we have to ask. And when we recognize Who He is, then we need to repent and we need to live according to His Will so that we will be able to be found worthy on the day of the Lord, that we will be found faithful – not for any selfish reason, but because He is God and because we love Him.

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





ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE...

A beautiful message to all

In these times of the State of the Union address by our country it seems it might be good to address the BSP. Today, January 17, 2015, some things were indicated

at morning prayer (contemplation) that move us to think it might be worth discussing the Association a bit with those in the Association.

We have five active Chapters in the BSP. We wish it was 5000 but it is what it is. Chapters take the initiative of those who are going to run them and always take two people not in one family to start them. Generally speaking we don't have two families anywhere where they are close enough to start chapters even though almost every State in the Union, and several foreign countries, has more than two members not in one family. California, Florida, Minnesota and New York, to mention four States in the U.S.A., have many BSP members. California and Minnesota both have Chapters, as does Canada, but in most States, and foreign countries, people either don't live close enough, or have not gotten organized enough, to start Chapters yet. So pray for this cause. It is in our mind that Chapters are important. Maybe not the Lord's though.

This morning at contemplative prayer we laid two questions on God. It seemed to us that maybe we should not expect to hear his still, small, voice unless we ask a question, so we did. In both cases, on both questions, we got an answer. The two questions were: "What is the status of the BSP?", and "Why haven't we captured the whole world with the BSP message yet?" Seemed like fair questions for God to answer since we really can't. The answer to each came immediately, were brief and to the point. The answer to the first one was: "The BSP is fine". The answer to the second one was: "How do you know you haven't captured the whole world yet?"

Now those are pretty definite and profound answers. "The BSP is fine". So, that is the state of the BSP. We need to go on as we are going on and doing what we have been doing. Just do it as well as we can. "How do you know you haven't captured the whole world yet?" That opens another whole series of doors and further questions. Obviously, if we have reached the

whole world we have done it in two ways. Through the Internet, or through our members, professed and otherwise, or both. These are the two obvious ways we reach out to the world.

So, as members, we need to realize that we are in a very holy albeit little Private Association in the Catholic Church. Just the fact we are a 'private' Association should tell us all that the Church is not going to be promoting the BSP for us. We have to do it. We do it by word and example. By sharing our life with others and inviting others to join us on this journey. Why should they join us? Because we are following the ancient but holy Rule of life that St. Francis of Assisi gave the Faithful in 1221. That Rule is not dated. It doesn't expire. It was given to St. Francis by the Lord, to whom he spoke man-to-man. So, we can be confident that if we tell others about it that by reason of the merits of St. Francis, and the goodness of God, it is a holy way of life that will lead all who follow it to God, to heaven, even in this modern age. So, that is our mission if we are in the Association and believe in it. It is a ministry given by reason of our own commitment and sometimes profession. Should we say now that to those to whom more is given more is expected? Smile...where have we heard that? Our mission, to promote this life actively, is really a mission of evangelization in a time of evangelization in the Church. So, that is holy and good and should be a joy to all of us. We could all start by telling our priests about the BSP.

The Internet is what the Internet is. Our Rule is posted worldwide. Anyone in the entire world that surfs the Internet can run into it and see what we are all about. We get membership requests from all around the world which testifies that people can and do find us. We now have had the entire Rule and Statutes translated into German and Spanish by members in those countries, and we are waiting for others to do the same. So, we are setting the stage for worldwide evangelization and maybe it is happening. One must believe that the Lord's response to our question this morning, in that still, small voice, "How do you know you haven't captured the whole world" implies things are happening that we are not aware of, or are going to happen. God knows, we don't.

So, let's be happy that the BSP is fine and let's each and all do our part to make it fine. Where we

have leaders let them look for replacements for themselves and others to form new Chapters. All professed members are or should be leaders here. Let's rejoice that we are out there ready to greet the world. When you consider this life and where it came from you have to hope that the entire world joins the BSP! That the entire world begins to do penance, and pray for souls. People cannot do that and at the same time think about killing or harming their brothers. There is so much of that going on in the world right now the BSP would be a powerful voice to stop it and change, for Christ.

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

When the Lord comes His coming will certainly be preceded, in God's great mercy, by a time of illumination. If that illumination comes the BSP will be right there ready to help people come and lead holy lives. We, as the Administrators, stand ready to assist everyone in fulfilling their mission and promoting the BSP. If you want help just ask.

Many thanks to all who have come to the BSP, and more even to those who have taken a leadership position in the BSP! May the Lord bless and lead us all!



NO GREATER LOVE by Paul Beery, BSP

"My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness."
(2 Corinthians 12:9)

We live in a time when darkness has covered the earth. Yet our fight is not against flesh and blood, but Principalities and Powers, a kind of spiritual warfare. What goes on here on earth is a continuation of the revolt against God by the angelic powers. That's not always easy to see. Following is a reflection on how men in particular have been misled concerning their proper role in taking on the forces of evil.

Fr. Mitch Pacwa gave a talk on some of the doctrines of Islam that make most Muslims impervious to conversion to Christianity. The one that struck me as most powerful was their attitude towards Jesus Christ. What kind of man was He? They go to great lengths to make Jesus into something He was not.

Mohammed was a military general who conquered by the sword, and fear of the sword. His followers have remained true to his example for nearly fourteen hundred years. Weakness is looked down upon and despised in Islam. It is a truly Imperialist religion, for Islam has always sought to rule the world as we see daily, Jihadists springing up everywhere. Victory through violence is their mode of operation.

Where does Jesus fit in with this worldview? From Jesus in the Qur'an: "There are many references to Jesus throughout the Qur'an. In it, he is portrayed as an illustrious prophet, but with

several different purposes. In his book *Jesus Beyond Christianity: The Classic Texts*, Gregory Barker explains the three different portrayals of Jesus in the Muslim world. The first is that Jesus is a human prophet chosen by God to pass judgment on humanity for worshiping idols and challenge the human race to turn to the one, true God. Another image of Jesus is that of an end-time figure. This portrayal of Jesus has him returning to earth at the end of times in order to fight the Antichrist. Muslims believe that this fight will then affirm Islam as the true religion and prove the prominence of Muhammad. The final image of Jesus in the Muslim world is that of an ascetic figure, a spiritual teacher who helps individuals internalize spiritual belief. Even with this high regard for Jesus, Muslims still believe him to be inferior to Muhammad. One reason is the fact that Jesus was not "victorious" in his efforts on earth and it was only because he was rescued by God that he is vindicated. Islamic perception is based strongly on being victorious and triumphing over your enemies. Muhammad accomplished this on the battlefield and in the political realm as well as in creating and spreading Islam."

Muslims therefore cannot abide the depiction of Jesus as a man who failed in His mission, and died in ignominy on the Cross. They have changed Sacred Scripture to reflect this belief. For example, they state that Jesus did not really die on the Cross, but was "rescued" by God, with



Judas taking His place. The Christian concept that "Power is made perfect in weakness" is the opposite of Islam's triumphalism, and rejection of any show of weakness. Their worldview would be Darwin's "Survival of the Fittest."

Original Sin and its effects on mankind—an inherited weakness and inability to take control—is a tough sell not only to Islam, but to all real men, who are called to protect and defend faith, family, and society. Men are leaving the Church in droves because they cannot find fulfillment as Catholic men. Many end up as fundamentalist Protestants because they give men a more prominent role as defined in Sacred Scripture, particularly by the Apostle Paul. Their masculinity is not emasculated as in the culture.

Feminists have attacked that role in the Plan of God, and the patriarchal nature of the Church hierarchy (though the same Feminists seem to have nothing to say about the inferior role of women in Islam), bringing great confusion to the lives of modern men. The Natural Law has taken a beating as well, as the rush to legalize same-sex marriage proves. Anyone grounded in the concept of the Natural Law, "male and female He made them," would ridicule to scorn the notion that two people of the same sex could get married. Yet it carries the day in institutions of alleged higher learning, taught by the effeminate.

The "Gay Rights" movement has also done incredible damage to men. The Church was told to be more "welcoming" to gay men. It was, opening the doors and windows of Seminaries to them, and look at the result: the clerical child sexual abuse scandal, with well over 80% of the abuse perpetrated by homosexual priests, twelve times more likely to be pedophiles than heterosexuals. Please close the door.

Look at the ads on television, especially beer commercials. Men act as buffoons. Compare that with the old Marlboro ads that featured masculine cowboys. Real men smoked Marlboros. Now they act as fools, total weaklings, laughed at and rescued by women, in ads produced by other "men." Sickening.

To re-discover their proper role as Catholic men, men's groups are springing up all over the place. In this diocese, for example, Bishop Piche was instrumental in the creation of Catholic Mannights, "Men meeting Jesus." (catholicmannight.com) His colleague, Bishop Cozzens, gave a talk during our

local parish's breakfast for men titled: "Mystery of our Faith: Meet Christ's love in our sinfulness."

Bishop Cozzens taught a Hard Saying on what it means to be a real man, as Jesus was. It appears that Jesus seems to get weaker as time goes on, a man like any other man. On the Cross He cannot even move His hands and feet. But God chooses seeming weakness to CONQUER, seeming failure to TRIUMPH! This is the prescription for mankind after the Fall. Like Jesus who fell under the weight of the Cross, we too are flattened on the ground, having not carried our cross well. That is a special moment, a great moment of grace, when Christian life begins! Weakness and failure is a guaranteed part of life. It's what we do after the fall that matters, for that's when Jesus is never closer to us.

In 2 Corinthians, Paul gives us his classic "thorn in the flesh" quote, as symptomatic of all mankind. It has been described as either physical pain, or other people in his life who were constantly opposing him. But many believe the "thorn in the flesh" was a moral weakness, some sin he could not overcome. I think it safe to say we all suffer from such an affliction, when we come to the end of our tether after fruitlessly trying to overcome whatever weakness it may be. Take it away! "No," The Lord says. **"My grace is sufficient for you."** That is a gift of God, forcing us to depend on His Grace!

I think this is a very clear key to sanctity, the ability to depend solely on God, not ourselves. "Without Me, you can do nothing!" That kind of tells the story. Bishop Cozzens said that when he was confessor for the Missionary of Charity novices, they would come to him and say that they had no vocation, that they were worse now than when they started. He told them, NO, "You were always this bad!" They just didn't know it. But as they drew nearer to God, He allowed them to see themselves more clearly. "Don't run away! Kneel and beg for mercy. God knows all, and loves us still, as we really are! Chastise yourself lightly. Get up and go on as though it didn't happen. Abandon self and trust in God."

The death of Jesus on the Cross was the greatest triumph in the history of the world. **"We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."** Romans 8, 28. He transforms the mystery of evil into grace. There are no self-sufficient saints. St. Peter

was a prime example. In spite of his denial, he was made the Head of the Church, the ultimate Authority on earth: "I will give you the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven..." Peter knew he had feet of clay. After the miracle of the fish, Peter made the memorable statement: "Lord, depart from me, for I am a sinful man." There was extraordinary humility, exhibited by a man's man.

Even in his fall, Peter was never abandoned by Jesus. He gave Peter three chances to proclaim his love to atone for his threefold denial. **"Simon,**

Simon, Satan has wished to sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail." Bishop Cozzens said to never be discouraged by the tragedy of sin, for Jesus is then closest to us. **"My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness."** And becoming totally dependent upon the grace God is the only way any of us grow in holiness. **"Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me."** 2 Cor. 12

Paul Beery BSP, Morning Star Chapter, Minnesota



Letter and spirit by Janet Klasson, BSP

From the Gospel Reading on Ash Wednesday

Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.
(Matthew 6:1)

For those who have completed their Novice 2 year, February 18 begins our Lenten fast of 40 days (excluding Sundays and Solemnities). The Rule states:

Article 9. a. Penitents are to observe...a pre-Easter fast from Ash Wednesday until Easter.

Article 8 b. specifies that our fasting guidelines shall follow current Church law, that is, one regular meal with two smaller meals that together do not equal one meal.

That is the letter of the Rule. But what about the spirit of the rule? Quite simply, the spirit of the rule is charity. Elsewhere we read that the rule is to be lived invisibly. Article 6 d. goes further and says that, except on fast days enjoined by the Church, the rule may be set aside for reasons of charity, or for special occasions or family gatherings.

Sometimes our course of action is clear; at other times, not so much. What if you have a friend, relative, or co-worker who delights in bringing you treats a few times a week all year? Out of charity you accept the treat, even though it may not adhere to the letter of the rule. You know how much it pleases this person to give you these gifts and so it continues. Fr. Altier has said that sometimes our fast IS to accept these gifts. In that way we are keeping to the spirit of the rule if

not exactly the letter.

Of course, it may be possible to "make up" for the gift at another time of the day, by giving up something else or making a different sacrifice. However, this is not necessary, and we should not feel guilty or obligated when these things happen. If we have shown someone dignity and respect by accepting their gift offered in love, we have done well and we should not belabor the point. We need to remember that God is allowing this to happen, perhaps not so much to test our adherence to the rule as to test our adherence to his will in each moment of our lives. It would be wrong for us to place the rule before his will at any given moment. We say, "Thank you Lord. I will accept these gifts with gratitude as long as you keep sending them. And if they stop, I will thank you then as well. Fiat!"

Jesus himself gave us plenty of examples of this principle at work. He scandalized the Pharisees on numerous occasions. He healed on the Sabbath, his disciples picked and ate corn on the Sabbath, he spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well, not just a Samaritan, but a woman to boot! Was he a law-biding Jew? None better! But he was a master at living the spirit of the law and not merely the letter. We need to do likewise. To paraphrase Jesus, the rule was made for penitents, not penitents for the rule!



All that being said, sometimes it is difficult to walk the knife-edge between letter and spirit. That is when a spiritual director can help with discernment, or one of the professed brothers or sisters in the BSP. Send an email, pick up the phone, or post your question to the forums. Whatever you are asking one of us has likely encountered that issue before. We are all weak, but in our weakness God is glorified.

So let us embrace the spirit of the rule, living it to the letter when it pleases God, and living the spirit of the law when it pleases God.

May God bless our Lenten fast. May the fruits of our fasting by the grace of God win souls for the kingdom. May our Lord be glorified in all things. Fiat!

From www.pelianito.stblogs.com

Sirach 11:14 Good and evil, life and death, poverty and riches, are from the LORD.

"My beloved little child, do you see how all that I allow comes from my benevolent heart? For even if evil befalls you, and your prayers seem to dissipate in the abyss, even then the Lord is near—so near—to one who places her trust in him. What the evil one means for your destruction, I use to bring about great works of goodness and growth in holiness. My child, whether you live in suffering or comfort, riches or poverty, give thanks to the Lord always, for his love for you will never fail."

My Jesus, I praise and thank you through the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Mother for all you have given me. My Lord and my God, grant me the grace through Mary to become the willing slave of Jesus in Mary for your glory, O heavenly Father. 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: <http://pelianito.stblogs.com/on-private-revelation/>.)



FROM THE 'SPARROW' The Gospel Jewel...

Peace to my little sparrow friends!
Today I want to share a Franciscan insight in the form of a story.

A Franciscan was walking down a long beach while he meditated on the Gospel of the Lord Jesus. As he went along he noticed something shining in the sun. Though it was half buried by sand there was still enough of it showing that caught the rays of the sun. The Franciscan reached down and pulled it free from the sand. It was a beautiful gem that was quite large and worth a small fortune. He held the gem up to the sunlight and watched as the sun's rays put on a light show from it.

There was a somewhat poor lady who was wandering the beach fairly close to the Franciscan. She had observed the Franciscan pick up the precious stone and hold it up to the sun light. She approached the Franciscan and hurriedly said,

"Give the stone to me!" In her want she was almost pleading for the jewel. The Franciscan looking at her, smiled, and handed her the jewel. He then turned and resumed his walk and never gave the matter another thought.

A couple hours later the lady came running up behind the Franciscan and she said, "Now give to me that which is in you that allowed you to give me the precious jewel without a word."

We little sparrows know that what was in the Franciscan was the Good News...the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The story above brings clearly into focus the well-known quote of St. Francis of Assisi:

"Preach the Gospel at all times, and when necessary use words." –St. Francis

The "High Horse" of Prayer...

Peace! In prayer I ride the "high horse." By the way that is where the phrase "get off your high horse" came from, but it has changed in meaning from the first use of it. In medieval times when an army was marching towards an enemy they would place thirty or forty sergeant-at-arms, who were usually knights, in the front van guard...they were usually the first to run into and strike the enemy. Because of their dangerous place before their army they rode the "high horse." Literally the high horse was loaded with every kind of weapon that could be carried so that if a weapon was lost or broken in combat the knight could then grasp another replacement from off the saddle and continue to fight. The knights carried maces, morning stars, short sword, broad sword, battle axes, lances and so on. The knight rode a warhorse that was large and could withstand the heavy knight and extra weapons. Needless to say these knights riding the high horse were very formidable.

When I read in Ephesians 6 concerning the armor of God it struck me that prayer was very much like spiritual warfare. Being armed with prayer was paramount in walking with the Lord. Ah, but what kind of prayer? A wise saying that applies here is:

"The best way to pray...is...the way you pray best."

Taking the idea of the high horse it was clear to see that a Christians should avail themselves of EVERY KIND OF PRAYER AVAILABLE TO THEM. Knowing about the types of prayer and how to use them each means the Christians can consider themselves to be "well-armed Christians." Finding the prayer style that you are comfortable with is literally "the way

Impossibilities...

Our Lord deals with impossibilities, plain and simple, only He can make what is impossible a reality to us. It is never too late for the Lord to interact in a situation for us. When we bring the impossible situation to Him, in faith, His actions in that situation bring Him glory...Him and only Him does the glory belong.

If in your life there have been rebellion, unbelief, sin, and disaster, it is never too late for God to triumph over these tragic facts if they are brought to Him in FULL SURRENDER and TRUST. It has

you pray best."

The Christian should find out what each form of prayer is and what it will do for their individual needs in meeting and knowing who God is in their lives. In being familiar with each kind of prayer does NOT mean they have to utilize it but rather can then base their decisions of their individual needs. (Variety is the spice of life!)

I have spent a number of years in reading about and trying different prayer techniques. For ME ONLY I have found I like something about all forms of prayer and I readily use them as interchangeable in my daily prayer life. I easily compare this type of praying as riding "the high horse of prayer." Each day I start off with the Divine Office (a permanent prayer). Then I go to the Sacred Heart devotion (permanent prayer) and with those said I move out into the day. I may pray a chaplet and then pray the Scriptures. Then there is the Jesus Prayer if called for. Then there is meditation. There is "contemplation" and a time to be quiet. The Way of the Cross is excellent also. Then there is just plain talking to God which I've to be very good. What I'm saying is that it does not matter in which way you pray but rather THAT YOU PRAY. God will meet you no matter which way you pray JUST THAT YOU PRAY. God has spoken to my heart when I've been praying the Rosary as well as when I was in contemplation or when in Scripture. You make it a point to spend time reaching for God and He will make it a Divine Point to reach out to you. And that my little sparrow friends does not get any better than that.

been said that Christianity is the only religion that can deal with man's past. God can "restore...the years that the locust has eaten" (Joel 2:25). He will do this when we put the whole situation and ourselves unreservedly and believing into His hands. NOT because of what we are but because of what He is. The Lord God forgives and heals and restores. He is "the God of all grace." Let us, then, praise and trust Him with all our little sparrow hearts knowing that He will send His grace of love to us.

Pax et bonum,
Little Brother Sparrow

Bob Hall BSP, Little Flower Chapter, NC

MORNING STAR: NEWS ON THE ASSOCIATION...

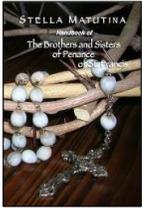


BSP MEMBER WEBSITES

[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

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. We have used a print-on-demand service at Lulu.com to print the book. This means we do not have to keep a stockpile of books, but customers order directly from Lulu, which prints them as they are ordered and ships them directly to the customer. This simplifies the ordering process for the administrators.

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.



**“The Gospel is the real antidote to spiritual destitution:
Wherever we go, we are called as Christians to
proclaim the liberating news that forgiveness for sins
committed is possible, that God is greater than our
sinfulness, that he freely loves us at all times, and that
we were made for communion and eternal life.
The Lord asks us to be joyous heralds of this message
of mercy and hope!”**

**Pope Francis
Message for Lent 2014**

**What did God give up for Lent?
Himself.**

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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