



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

*Blessed Transitus to all! May Father Francis be our guide and protector in the life to which we are called.*

## BONAVENTURE AND HIS LESSONS ON ST. FRANCIS:

### Chapter XVI—Francis’ Patient Endurance and His Death

3. For two years after he had received the stigmata—that is twenty years after the beginning of his religious life—Francis endured the purifying blows of various illnesses which formed him like a stone ready to be fitted into the heavenly Jerusalem and raised him to the height of perfection, like ductile metal under the blows of a hammer. Then he asked to be brought to St. Mary of the Portiuncula, so that he might yield up his spirit where he had first received the spirit of grace. When he arrived there, he was anxious to show that he had no longer anything in common with the world, after the example of Eternal Truth. In his last serious illness, which was destined

to put an end to all his suffering, he had himself laid naked on the bare earth, so that with all the fervor of his spirit he might struggle naked with his naked enemy in that last hour which is given him to vent his wrath.

As he lay there on the ground, stripped of his poor habit, he raised his eyes to heaven, as his custom was, and was lost in the contemplation of its glory. He covered the wound in his right side with his left hand, to prevent it being seen, and he said to the friars, “I have done what was mine to do. May Christ teach you what is yours.”

Bonaventure—Major Life of St. Francis (1263)

### VISITOR'S MESSAGE

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

Reading (Acts 1:12-14) Gospel (St. Luke 1:26-38)

As we celebrate today the **Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary**, we are called immediately by the Church to this point in the first reading, that after the

Resurrection of Our Lord the apostles gathered in prayer together with some women and our Blessed Lady. They understood instinctively that they needed to be where Our Lady was. They gathered around her and she taught them to pray. She formed them so that they would be able to do what they were called to do. They had spent three years with our Blessed Lord and they did not understand; they did not get it. But through the work of our Blessed Lady—and especially, of course, through the Holy Spirit, Who was given to them—suddenly they became aware of what it was they were supposed to do. They understood what it meant to be conformed to Jesus

Christ, and that was the way they lived their lives from that point forward, everyday becoming more and more conformed into the very likeness of our Blessed Lord.

Well, the same is true for each one of us. If we are going to be conformed to Christ, it is in a particular way to be able to place before ourselves the very mysteries of His life, of His death, and of His glorification. That is exactly what we have in the Rosary. We meditate upon the mysteries of Our Lord’s life; we place them before us every single day; and in so doing, slowly, little by little, we become conformed to the mysteries upon which we meditate. Our Lady is at the very center of all of that, and it makes perfect sense. God chose her, as we heard in the Gospel reading, to be the mother of His Son. Our Lady, being a mother, has formed then but one child, and she formed Him perfectly. She was



perfectly conformed to Him so that He could become perfectly conformed to her. This is a mystery we will ponder for the rest of eternity, but the reality is that Our Lady knows then, as Saint Louis de Montfort would say, how to form only one child. If that is the case, then if we place ourselves in her hands, she will conform us to the image of that one child that she knows how to form—and that is Jesus.

The Rosary is an exceedingly powerful weapon, a spiritual weapon against the enemy of our souls. It is the chain, I believe, spoken of in the Book of Revelation which is going to bind Satan. It is with that chain bound around him that he will be cast into the fiery pit for all eternity. Sister Lucia, the visionary of Fatima, made very clear the power of the Rosary as she understood from what Our Lady had shown her. She said simply, "Through the Rosary anything can be obtained. Anything." That is the power of the Rosary. Once again, it moves us right into the central

mysteries of the life and passion of Our Lord and into the mystery of Our Lady's relationship with Christ. We learn from her how to live the Christian life and through her we become perfectly conformed to Christ. That is the power of the Rosary. The Rosary is able to take a situation which seems impossible and help us to see God's Will, to turn it into something which is not only completely possible, but something which is going to give the greatest glory to God. That is what we have to be about.

Through this very humble means, we see that we have the most powerful of all weapons. It is a weapon to be wielded on the spiritual realm, a weapon that is used against Satan. Through the Rosary, all things are possible for those who really pray it, for those who trust in the power of God. Through Our Lady's intercession, everything can be obtained through the prayerful recitation of the Most Holy Rosary..

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



## **ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE... All Hallowed Eve**

All Hallowed Eve is now called Halloween. At one point it was celebrated as the vigil of All Saints day. Then somewhere in time the world took it up and made it a spook festival, and it

continues most notably as that even to this day. It has great significance to us penitents however. It is a time when we can examine our life and check our focus.

We can examine our life and see if we are concerned about souls. The salvation of souls is our business. Our souls, of course, which are our immediate and primary concern, but also, by reason of living the Rule, the souls of others and good of the world around us. We have a big mission. We have made it so by reason of deciding to do penance for ourselves and others, to save our souls and the souls of others.

Somewhere it is written that as we advance in our growth in holiness we become more Christ-like, and Christ was first and foremost concerned about the salvation of souls. It was the focus of his entire life and mission, and it was to this end that he directed His apostles to go out and search for others, to become 'fishers of men'. He did not tell them to go out fishing for themselves. Nowhere did he say they had to try to do things to save their own souls. It was most apparent, from the direction he gave them, that their salvation was secured so long as



they did as He instructed. His focus for them, once they were with Him in His work, was to teach them to reach out to others. In searching for others, and trying to help others to save their souls they would save their own souls. In that is a great message for us.

We need to be concerned for others. Like the apostles we are 'fishers of men' also. Not specifically as clergy, or even religious, but as the holy people of God, people concerned for their brothers and sisters. We need to direct our prayers, works, and sufferings towards saving souls, as Jesus did.

When we first were going to form the BSP we were directed by leaders in the Secular Franciscan Order to bring the question of living the First Rule to the Church. They felt it was not a matter for the SFO to address at all, but because of the very powerful, mystical, way that the Lord had called us to form the BSP they did not think we should ignore the call. So, in order to bring the BSP before the Church we decided to call upon Bishop Roger Schwietz, then bishop of Duluth. We chose him because he was Bruce's confirmation sponsor, and a friend of the Fahey family. He happily set up a meeting for us on Halloween of that year at his office in Duluth.

In that meeting we discussed the possibility of trick-or-treaters showing up and questioned if it was the best night for our work. The bishop made it clear that "All Hallowed Eve" was the perfect night for the

meeting when the subject was a Rule of Life that was given to all of humanity by a Saint to save their souls. He was right, of course, and we had a great meeting and the BSP was set on the path that it remains on to this day by that good bishop, now Archbishop of Anchorage, Alaska.

So, if this is our life, what should our focus be? Our focus should be on living this holy life for the good of our souls and the souls of others. As we approach Halloween, All-Hallowed-Eve, this year, let us examine our lives, take a moment to consider how we are living the Rule for the love of God, the good of our souls, and, most importantly, the souls of

others. Are we living a holy life? If not, shouldn't we be?

In every regard we are witnesses to Jesus Christ through our lives in this world. We go out, like the further 72, and go into every place that Jesus can be and needs to be taught or received, and we do that in every corner of the world, where we live. We are his witness, and as we walk gently along, breathing prayer, sacrifice and the love of God to all we meet, we invite by example and if need be, our words, everyone to come to the Lord: "Come, be holy; come, seek the life that never ends; come, be my friend."

Bruce and Shelley Fahey BSP, Administrators, Morning Star Chapter, Minnesota  
(Reprinted from an earlier newsletter.)



## **NO GREATER LOVE by Paul Beery, BSP**

**"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."** (1 Corinthians 13:7)

October 13 marks the hundredth anniversary of the appearance of Our Lady at Fatima. I would like to give a few childhood

memories, followed by a homily from Pope Benedict XVI.

I was introduced to Our Lady of Fatima by my mother. In our rural parish west of the Twin Cities she made sure her children observed the Five First Saturdays devotions in the 1950's. Sister Lucia said this was the most neglected of the requests of Our Lady at Fatima, in her call for conversion through prayer and penance of the faithful. The people at the time of Jesus kept asking for a "sign" from Him. I thought in my childhood simplicity, here is a real modern day "sign" from heaven, a promise of salvation by being faithful to a few simple things our Blessed Mother asked of us. How hard is it to observe Five First Saturdays?

I was blessed to be raised in the best decade of the twentieth century, the 1950's, for many of us the Marian Decade. On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII proclaimed that Our Lady was Assumed into heaven, body and soul, following her son Jesus. This was a doctrine well received, and gave the Catholic Church a certain air of infallibility, engendering trust and confidence by Catholics everywhere.

The pope also declared 1954 to be the first Marian Holy Year. Fr. Patrick Peyton was leading Family Rosary Crusades all over the world at the time. I remember the thrill of being part of a crowd that

numbered 250,000 gathered together in St. Paul for one of his crusades as part of that Marian year. Such experiences have life-long effects. These were heady times for faithful Catholics, and the message of Fatima, the words of our heavenly Mother, were loudly proclaimed. In response, many faithfully embarked upon a life of prayer and penance.

Forward to May 13, 2010, Pope Benedict XVI celebrating Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima before half a million pilgrims on the tenth anniversary of the beatification of Jacinta and Francisco. This was his famous "I too have come as a pilgrim" homily, as follows, in part:

*"Dear Pilgrims, 'Their descendants shall be renowned among the nations. They are a people the Lord has blessed.' (Is. 61:9) The words of the first reading of this Eucharist are wonderfully fulfilled in this assembly devoutly gathered at the feet of Our Lady of Fatima. Dearly beloved brothers and sisters, I too have come as a pilgrim to Fatima, to this 'home' from which Mary chose to speak to us in modern times. I have come here to rejoice in Mary's presence and maternal protection. I have come to Fatima because today the pilgrim Church, willed by her Son as the instrument of evangelization and the sacrament of salvation, converges upon this place. I have come to Fatima to pray, in union with Mary and so many pilgrims, for our human family, afflicted as it is by various ills and sufferings. Finally I have come to Fatima with the same sentiments as those of Blessed Francisco and Jacinta, and the*

*Servant of God Lucia, in order to entrust to Our Lady the intimate confession that 'I LOVE' Jesus, that the Church and priests 'LOVE' Him and desire to keep their gaze fixed upon Him as this Year for Priests comes to its end, and in order to entrust to Mary's maternal protection priests, consecrated men and women, missionaries and all those who by their good works make the House of God a place of welcome and charitable outreach."*

I'm sure we in the BSP find ourselves numbered among those Pope Benedict entrusted to Mary's maternal protection! He continues:

*"I entrust to Heaven all the nations and peoples of the earth. In God I embrace all their sons and daughters, particularly the afflicted or outcast, with the desire of bringing them that great hope which burns in my own heart, and which here in Fatima, can be palpably felt. May our great hope sink roots in the lives of each of you, dear pilgrims, and all those who join us (throughout the world). Yes! The Lord, our great hope, is with us. In His merciful love, He offers a future to His people; a future of communion with Himself. After experiencing the mercy and consolation of God who did not forsake them along their wearisome return from the Babylonian Exile, the people of God cried out: 'I greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being exults in my God.' (Is. 61, 10)*

*"The resplendent daughter of this people is the Virgin Mary of Nazareth who, clothed with grace and sweetly marveling at God's presence in her womb, made this joy and hope her own in the Magnificat: 'My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.' She prophesied for the barren the sweet joys of a wondrous maternity of God. She is a teacher who introduces the little seers to a deep knowledge of the Love of the Blessed Trinity, and led them to savor God Himself as the most beautiful reality of human existence.*

*"This experience of grace made them fall in love with God in Jesus, so much so that Jacinta could cry out: 'How much I delight in telling Jesus that I love Him! When I tell Him this often, I feel as if I have a fire in my breast, yet it does not burn me.' And Francisco could say: 'What I liked most of all was seeing Our Lord in that light which Our Mother put into our hearts. I love God so much!' Jesus said, 'Blessed are those who have not seen, yet believe.' God, more deeply present to me than I am to myself, has the power to come to us through our inner senses if we cultivate an interior watchfulness of the heart. Yes, God can come to us and show Himself to the eyes of the heart.*

*"Henceforth our hope has a real foundation, Jesus of Nazareth. The enthusiasm roused by His wisdom and His saving power among the people of that time was such that a woman in the crowd cried out: 'Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that nursed you!' And Jesus said: 'Blessed rather those who hear the Word of God and obey it!' Who finds time to hear God's Word, and let themselves be attracted by His love? Who keeps watch, with a heart vigilant in prayer, fanning the flame of faith? Faith in God opens before us the horizons of a sure hope, an unshakeable hope which bears fruit in a love which sacrifices for others, yet does not sacrifice them. This hope is a solid foundation on which to base one's life without fear, but which demands a faith-filled surrender into the hands of the Love which sustains the world."*

At Mass this morning the priest told a story of our holy father St. Francis. Early on with his first disciples he was asked what he was about. He replied, "We are penitents." We too are faith-filled penitents happy to "surrender into the hands of the Love which sustains the world!"

Paul Beery BSP, Morning Star Chapter, Minnesota



## **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Fatima... by Janet Klasson, BSP**

**"A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars."** (Revelation 12:1)

Blessings dear friends. On September 4, I posted this message to my blog (<https://pelianitoblog.wordpress.com>):

**Neh. 8:14 And they found it written in the law, which the Lord had commanded by Moses, that the people of Israel should live in booths (tabernacles) during the festival of the seventh month.**



*"Beloved, the Festival of Booths begins this year on October 4. In preparation for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my Mother's appearance at Fatima, would you observe a time of reflection in the nine days preceding it, beginning on the first day of the Festival? Let each one decide how they will observe the novena—by fasting, prayer, or by retreating from the world. In some way, let my children retreat to the tabernacle of their hearts and pray for the coming of the kingdom, for the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart, for the conversion of sinners, and for reparation to be made to my much-wounded heart. Oh my children, do me this honor! I greatly desire it and the world greatly needs it. I will bless even the smallest effort. Do all in the Divine Will, through the Flame of Love, on behalf of everyone and you will accomplish far more than you can imagine. You do not know how much I long to reign in men's hearts. What joy when I do! Help me!"*

Note: The beginning of the Festival of Booths, October 4, also corresponds with the feast of the Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi. May he assist us as we contemplate what form our nine days of preparation will take. One suggestion is that we spend some time learning how to live more fully in the Divine Will through the writings of Luisa Piccarreta. Please see my page, ["Divine Will Resources"](#) for more information. Here are a few more ideas, any of which may be prayed in conjunction with the Rosary, Our Lady's specific Fatima request. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us!

Suggestion 1:

### ***Fatima Chaplet***

*On the large beads of the Rosary:*

*My Jesus, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love you. I ask pardon for all those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope, and do not love you.*

*Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore you profoundly. I offer you the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifferences, by which he is offended. Through the infinite merits of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg for the conversion of poor sinners.*

*On the small beads of the Rosary:*

*Jesus, Mary, Joseph, I love you, save souls!*

*Glory Be to the Father... (three times)*

Suggestion 2:

### ***Litany of Our Lady of Fatima***

*Most Holy Virgin, who has deigned to come to Fatima to reveal to the three little shepherds the treasures of graces hidden in the recitation of the Rosary, inspire our hearts with a sincere love of this devotion, so that by meditating on the mysteries of our redemption that are recalled in it, we may gather the fruits and obtain the conversion of sinners, the conversion of Russia, and this favour that I so earnestly seek, (name your intention) as well as the promotion of the Fatima message in my country and around the world, for the greater glory of God, for your own honour, and for the good of all people. Amen*

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be to the Father ...*

*Litany of Our Lady of Fatima:*

*Our Lady of Fatima, pray for our dear country.*

*Our Lady of Fatima, sanctify our clergy.*

*Our Lady of Fatima, make our Catholics more fervent.*

*Our Lady of Fatima, guide and inspire those who govern us.*

*Our Lady of Fatima, cure the sick who confide in thee.*

*Our Lady of Fatima, console the sorrowful who trust in thee.*

*Our Lady of Fatima, help those who invoke your aid.*

*Our Lady of Fatima, deliver us from all dangers.*

*Our Lady of Fatima, help us to resist temptation.*

*Our Lady of Fatima, obtain for us all that we lovingly ask of thee.*

Our Lady of Fatima, help those who are dear to us.  
 Our Lady of Fatima, bring back to the right road our erring brothers.  
 Our Lady of Fatima, give us back our ancient fervor.  
 Our Lady of Fatima, obtain for us pardon of our manifold sins and offences.  
 Our Lady of Fatima, bring all men to the feet of thy Divine Child.  
 Our Lady of Fatima, obtain peace for the world.  
 O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.  
 Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Let us Pray: O God of infinite goodness and mercy, fill our hearts with a great confidence in Thy dear Mother, whom we invoke under the title of Our Lady of the Rosary and our Lady of Fatima, and grant us by her powerful intercession all the graces, spiritual and temporal, which we need. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

O my Jesus, FIAT! Grant each of us the grace to know what is the best way for us to participate—as our daily duty allows. In the Divine Will, through the Flame of Love, bless our efforts to cooperate with your unimaginable graces for the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart and the coming of the Kingdom of the Divine Will! O Jesus! I long for this with the longing of our Mother, which irresistibly drew you to earth at your Incarnation. Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus—come to reign in our hearts! 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' St. Francis the Birds

Peace my little sparrow friends. The feast days of some Saints brought a delightful comparison concerning the Saints' insights with our lofty friends—the little birds! (Why I

would have never thought of such a topic...smile!)

In Saint Francis' life there are numerous times we see him interacting or making references to our little friends. In artwork throughout the ages Francis is depicted with, among other animals, a delightful array of the smaller species of the great bird kingdom. It is no accident that a number of outside bird feeders and drinking ponds are adorned with our Saintly Father and this speaks well of his gentleness and kindness towards our brothers and sisters the birds.

In the "Story of a Soul" by Saint Therese of Liseiux she makes mention, in places, of how at times she felt as a little bird. One such excerpt in Manuscript B at page 198 is very telling of her spiritual flights in reference to birds. Ah, let my little wings enlighten my dear sparrows. She wrote:

*"I look upon myself as a weak little bird, with only a light down as covering. I am not an eagle, but I have only an eagle's EYES AND HEART. In spite of my extreme littleness I still gaze upon the Divine Sun, the Sun of Love, and my heart feels within it all the aspirations of an Eagle. The little bird wills to fly toward the bright Sun that attracts its*



*eye, imitating its brothers, the eagles, whom it sees climbing up toward the Divine Furnace of the Holy Trinity. But alas! the only thing it can do is raise its little wings; to fly is not within its power!*

*'What then will become of it? Will it die of sorrow at seeing itself weak? Oh no! the little bird will not even be troubled. With bold surrender, it wishes to remain gazing upon its Divine Sun. Nothing will frighten it, neither wind nor rain, and if dark clouds come and hide the Star of Love, the little bird will not change its place because it knows that beyond the clouds the Bright Sun still shines on and that its brightness is not eclipsed for a single instant.' Id.*

In another place the Little Flower intimates, "In order for me to translate my thoughts, I have to become like a solitary sparrow (See Psalm 101:8), and this is rarely my lot." She herein laments not being able to seek solitude as "...a lone sparrow on a rooftop..." Again she equates herself mentally to the small insignificant sparrow. Food for thought!

The Franciscan Saint Joseph of Cupertino (d. 1663) eloquently passed on to us this thought, "Consider the birds of the air; they come down to the ground to get food but swiftly fly back into the air. Similarly, the servants of God must stay on earth only as long as is necessary and soar up quickly again to heaven in spirit of praise and glorify God. Note too, how careful birds are not to land in muddy places and

how they avoid tumbling into the dirt. In like manner men must not involve themselves in things that defile the soul but soar aloft again in spirit to glorify the Most High God by their holy deeds."

Remarkably there are several other Saints that also drew spiritual parallels between little birds and themselves. The onus, to me, is on "little" or seemingly the unimportant and humble. That, of course, would bring us sparrows full circle to the first premise of St. Francis and the way he, and other Franciscans that followed in his footsteps, and have determined that this humble and "little way" would be the course to follow. Of natural course the "Little Poor Man" chose the words of Jesus for those who

would seek and find the Kingdom of God and they should do so "as little children." In closing the following quotes do seem so apropos:

*"To be little is to recognize one's nothingness, to expect everything from God as a little child expects everything of its father.*

*"To be little is not to be discouraged at our faults, for children fall often, but they are too small to hurt themselves very much."*

-St. Therese, the Little Flower

*pax et bonum*  
Bro. Sparrow

Bob Hall BSP, Little Flower Chapter, N. Carolina



## **"THOSE WHO DO NOT DO PENANCE"**



"All those men and women who are not living in Penance, who do not receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, who practice vice and sin and walk after the evil concupiscence and the evil desires of their flesh, who do not observe what they have promised to the Lord, who in their body serve the world through the desires of the flesh, the concerns of the world and the cares of this life. They are held captive by the Devil whose children they are, and whose works they do. They are blind because they do not see the true light, Our Lord Jesus Christ. They do not possess spiritual wisdom because they do not have the Son of God, the true wisdom of the Father. It is said of them: Their wisdom has been swallowed up and cursed are those who turn away from your commands. They see and acknowledge, know and do evil, and knowingly lose their souls.

"See you blind ones deceived by your enemies: the flesh of the world and the devil because it is sweet for the body to sin and bitter to serve God, for every vice and sin flow and proceed from the human heart as the Lord says in the Gospel. And you have nothing in this world or that to come. And you think you will possess the world's vanities for a long time, but you are deceived because a day and an hour will come of which you give no thought, which you do not know and of which you are unaware when the body becomes weak. Death approaches and it dies a bitter

death. And no matter where, when, or how a person dies in the guilt of sin, without Penance and satisfaction, if he can perform an act of satisfaction and does not do so, the Devil snatches their soul from its body with such anguish and distress, that no one can know what it is like, except the one receiving it.

"And every talent, ability, knowledge and wisdom they think they have, will be taken away from them and they leave their wealth to their relatives and friends who take and divide it and afterwards say, 'May his soul be cursed because he could have given us more and acquired more than he distributed to us.' Worms eat his body and so body and soul perish In this brief world and they will go to hell where they will be tortured forever.

"In the love which is God, we beg all those whom these words reach to receive those fragrant words of Our Lord Jesus Christ written above with divine love and kindness. And let whoever does not know how to read, have them read to them frequently. Because they are spirit and life, they should preserve them.

"And whoever has not done these things will be held accountable before the Tribunal of Our Lord Jesus Christ on the Day of Judgement."

(\*Francis of Assisi The Saint Vol 1)

Submitted by "Penitent"



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

### 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/>

Sample from the Forum:

**A sister posts:** *"Pax et Bonum! It is becoming more obvious to me that if we put Poverty first, then Simplicity automatically falls in place. For example, when poor, we simply don't have the means for elaborate belongings, books/binders, artwork, foods, dwellings etc., and even if we do own or use some elaborate items, we keep ourselves in check by not going overboard with any of it - especially not to impress, compete, boast or hoard. Being Penitents living Rule 1221 keeps us in this state of simplicity and in check - with ourselves and others. What a humble way to live in a grace given by God! So small; so simple....."*

**A brother replies:** *"That is a beautiful reflection! I once read a reflection that Francis wanted Poverty because it would truly make him a Peacemaker: Because nobody could ever covet anything of his (since he didn't own anything) they would truly believe his words of peace and love since he obviously had no ulterior motive. In either case voluntary Poverty truly does lead to Simplicity; since I don't covet anything of anyone else I don't have any need to add unneeded things to my house."*

**Bruce responds:** *"Very true, and very well said, sister+. We must at least be poor in spirit for even in that we enter in to simplicity. The Rule is a good guide for us in this journey."*

### HANDBOOK OF THE ASSOCIATION...



The BSP Handbook, titled *Stella Matutina: Handbook of The Brothers and Sisters of Penance of St. Francis* is now available for order.

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

### BSP MEMBER WEBSITES

- ✠ [Brothers and Sisters of Penance of St. Francis](#) facebook page by Lisa Drago, BSP
- ✠ **The Joy of Penance** by Janet Klasson [www.joyofpenance.wordpress.com](http://www.joyofpenance.wordpress.com)

### OTHER NEWS

**Divine Will 3-Day Conference: *Discover the Gift of Living in the Divine Will through the writings of Luisa Piccarreta, Servant of God*** with speaker Fr. Robert Young, is being held at **Mary Mother of the Church, Lower Level, 3333 Cliff Road East, Burnsville, MN, from Friday, October 20, 2017 to Sunday, October 22, 2017.** For details, please see the poster linked on the homepage of the BSP. Questions? Contact Joanne at 651-227-4556 or [divinewillsaintpaul@gmail.com](mailto:divinewillsaintpaul@gmail.com). Hosted by the Divine Will Cenacle in St. Paul. THIS IS NOT ORGANIZED BY THE BSP, BUT WE ARE HELPING TO PROMOTE THIS IMPORTANT MESSAGE.



After the Mass for the Marian Day of the Year of Faith, the Holy Father made the following Entrustment to the Blessed Virgin of Fátima.



My God, I  
believe, I adore, I  
hope and I love  
You! I ask pardon  
of You for those  
who do not  
believe, do not  
adore, do not  
hope and do not  
love You!

*Blessed Virgin Mary of Fátima,  
with renewed gratitude for your motherly presence  
we join in the voice of all generations that call you blessed.*

*We celebrate in you the great works of God,  
who never tires of lowering himself in mercy over humanity,  
afflicted by evil and wounded by sin,  
to heal and to save it.*

*Accept with the benevolence of a Mother  
this act of entrustment that we make in faith today,  
before this your image, beloved to us.*

*We are certain that each one of us is precious in your eyes  
and that nothing in our hearts has estranged you.*

*May that we allow your sweet gaze  
to reach us and the perpetual warmth of your smile.*

*Guard our life with your embrace:  
bless and strengthen every desire for good;  
give new life and nourishment to faith;  
sustain and enlighten hope;  
awaken and animate charity;  
guide us all on the path to holiness.*

*Teach us your own special love for the little and the poor,  
for the excluded and the suffering,  
for sinners and the wounded of heart:  
gather all people under your protection  
and give us all to your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus.*

*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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PENANCE



of St. Francis

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