



...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 VIII. Those Who Were Cured of Various Diseases

1. At Citta della Pieve there was a boy who was a beggar and had been deaf and dumb since his birth. His tongue was so short and slender that those who had examined it were inclined to think that it had been almost completely cut out. A man named Mark took him into his home for love of God; and when he realized that he had found a benefactor, the boy often stayed with him. One evening when Mark was having supper with his wife and the boy was there, he remarked to his wife, "I think it would be a great miracle if St. Francis gave him back his hearing and his speech." And he continued, "I promise God solemnly that if St. Francis is so good as to do that, I will pay this boy's expenses as long as he lives."



There and then the boy's tongue grew and he spoke saying, "Glory be to God and St. Francis. He has given me back my speech and my hearing."

2. Brother James of Iseo suffered a bad hernia while he was still a boy living in his father's house. Notwithstanding his youth and his infirmity, he was inspired by the Holy Spirit to join the Order of St. Francis, but he never told anyone about his injury. When the body of St. Francis was being transferred to the church where his remains are now kept like a precious treasure, Brother James took part in the celebration, paying due honor to the sacred relics of the saint who had been glorified in heaven. There he approached the tomb and embraced it devoutly. Immediately all his organs were restored to their proper position and he felt that he was healed. He

laid aside the truss he had been wearing and never felt any pain after that.

Brother Bartholomew of Gubbio, Brother Angelus of Todi, Father Nicholas of Ceccano, John of Sora, a man from Pisa, and another from Cisterna, Peter from Sicily, and a man from Spello near Assisi, together with many others were miraculously cured of similar ailments by the mercy of God and the Intercession of St. Francis.

3. A woman from the Marittima who had suffered from mental illness for five years had lost her sight and hearing. She used to tear her clothes with her teeth and had not the slightest fear of fire or water; to crown it all she eventually developed epilepsy. Then God took pity on her and one night she was miraculously enlightened by his saving light and saw St. Francis sitting on a high throne. She threw herself on the ground before him and begged him to cure her. As he gave no sign of granting her petition, she made a vow, promising that as long as she could she would never refuse an alms to anyone who asked her for love of God or his saint. St. Francis immediately remembered the pact he himself had made with God so long ago, and he blessed her with the sign of the cross, restoring her to perfect health.

It has also been stated that a girl from Norcia, as well as the son of a nobleman and a number of others, were delivered from a similar affliction by the saint.

Bonaventure—Major Life of St. Francis (1263)





VISITOR'S MESSAGE

Homily by Fr. Robert Altier Divine Mercy Sunday, April 19, 2020



Readings: Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pet 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

On the first Easter the Apostles locked themselves into a room because they were confused and afraid. This Easter people were

locked in their homes, confused and afraid. As we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday today, I think it is absolutely paramount that we take to heart the words our Lord Himself asked to have written below His picture: Jesus, I trust in You! The Apostles trusted Jesus, sort of. When push came to shove, they put their trust in their own selves and forgot about trusting God. In the panic of our day, it is easy to do the same.

Perhaps we can look at the present situation, among other things, as an opportunity to evaluate our faith and our trust. In the second reading today St. Peter says God has "given us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." In the same reading He says: "you may, for a little while, have to suffer through various trials, so the genuineness of your faith ... may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

So, our present trials are meant by God to purify our faith. Hope is built upon this faith; everything is perfected by charity. We profess our belief in Jesus, but in times of trial we may waver a bit. Just look at St. Thomas from today's Gospel. A couple weeks earlier Thomas was the one recommending to the other Apostles that they should all go to Jerusalem and be killed with Jesus. Now, he refuses to believe. After our Lord mercifully shows Thomas the wounds in His hands and side, Thomas is able to make an absolute act of faith that has inspired millions of people over the centuries: "My Lord and my God!"

Each of us willingly makes this same profession, but now we have the opportunity to prove it. To say Jesus is Lord and God is not just an objective statement, it needs to be the foundation of a subjective relationship. In the first reading we are told that the early Christians devoted themselves to "the teaching of the Apostles and to communal life, to the breaking of the Bread and to the prayers." We do not have the opportunity right now to focus on the communal life because it is hard to develop

community at six foot intervals. Neither do we have the ability to devote ourselves to the breaking of the bread, or the Holy Mass, because we are not able to be at Mass.

However, we all have the opportunity to focus on the teaching of the Apostles by reading the Scriptures and to allow their teaching to affect the way we live by spending time daily in prayer. Even if we cannot get to Mass, we can watch Mass live streamed or recorded. It is not the same as being at Mass, but for the moment it may be the best we can do. There are also some parishes that have a camera set up for adoration of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. The camera is set on the monstrance and, while we cannot be in the actual presence of our Lord, what we are looking at live is truly Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

If you find yourself locked in your house, try to turn your house into something of a monastery or a hermitage for the present time. Set a schedule for prayer and for work. This is what the monks and nuns do. Split up your prayer so that there will be some prayer in the morning, some in the afternoon, and some in the evening. Interspersed between the prayer are times of work and meals. Some of the work is preparing meals and cleaning up afterward, but there may be some other projects around the house that you can work on while you have the time.

If we are frightened and confused, this tends to lead to behaviors that are not good for us. If we are bored we are more prone to fall into sinful activities. Try keeping the computer and TV to a minimum. It may take a bit to adjust to the silence, but once you do, you will love it! The silence allows you the opportunity to speak with the Lord throughout the day or, if there are no words, to just be with Him in the silence.

This kind of ordered and prayer filled life will not only keep you occupied, but it will remove the fear and the confusion. It will also allow us to put our faith into practice, make the objective truth into a subjective relationship, and result in being able to look at our Lord and say honestly: Jesus, I trust in You!

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ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE... Every Day

"Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me." (Luke 9:23)

We carry this Scripture passage as part of our life in the Lord. This was a most important message to us from Jesus. There is so much there, and it is not easy for we need

to carry our cross daily and our cross draws its form from our lives and is in our lives as much as it was on Jesus' shoulder as he walked to Golgotha. He gave us this admonition before he experienced his death, as he walked among the people, as he taught them. He gives it to us in our lives, as He still walks with us, and he still teaches us.

Daily is a big demand and daily is worth pondering. What things go on in our day that constitute the cross? Everything is the only answer. Not just the negative things. All the things of our day.

If we are a painter painting is our cross. When we help the children with their math their math is our cross, and maybe even the children are sometimes. When a mosquito bites us it is a cross. When the sun shines too brightly or the road is too long it is a cross. When we have something to do for others, but also when we have something to do for ourselves, it might be a cross. Things that take time are often crosses. Things that take money or effort too. The simple fact is that our cross is everywhere, and we do well to ponder that, and rejoice in that. For no one on the planet is without crosses but only those who realize that they are from God merit from them, and the crosses are our gift to God. What he doesn't create He allows, and he wants us to benefit from all things, even this pandemic. We can and should offer it to God.

Our Lady has said, in recent apparitions, that we need to pray, in silence, with our eyes on the Cross. Our salvation is in the Cross, and certainly our call to follow Christ is in accepting our crosses as God gives them to us and they are a part of each of our days.

The Psalm prayer of Monday, Third week of Easter, Office of Readings, says: **"Father, accept us as a sacrifice of praise, so that we may go through life unburdened by sin, walking in the way of salvation, and always giving thanks to you."** Every day we need to be a sacrifice of praise to God—in every way in that day. So, in our work, and in our play, and in the things we do in a day we need to be, not become, a prayer of praise to God. So our crosses are part of our praise. So dedicate

what you do to God and offer it to Him in praise and gratitude for all He has done and given us. All of us. Everything is His, he created everything, including each of us. So sanctify every day by just realizing it is from God and offering what you do, say, and think to Him in praise and gratitude for all He has done and is still doing, moment to moment, in our lives. He never stops working, and he works to save us.

And in another place that same day St. Peter says: **"...offer to God the sacrifice of a blameless life."** So this too needs to become part of every day. Part of the cross we carry and a joyful part of it. To avoid sin and offer God a blameless life in praise of His Name is a wonderful part of every day which will bring us great joy and happiness.

Finally, of course, our Rule is a part of every day and in living it we sanctify every day. Over time we don't think about it anymore because we just become the Rule. Once we become the Rule it is the way we live but the merit of living it is never lost. In living it we praise God! Just in living it! We have made a commitment to live it and that commitment is holy and commends all we do in living the Rule to God as a prayer. So, we become prayer. We don't just say prayers. We are prayers in living our Rule, and our lives, in recognition of and praise of the one and only, majestic and infinitely powerful, wonderful, and good God, and His Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ who is Himself the fullness of God.

So we do need to make an effort to offer every day to God and make it holy. God expects us to do that and in His Words to us the Lord tells us, by reading between the lines, that we will have crosses and that these are and will be part of our lives, and in living them and offering them to God we sanctify ourselves and we become like Jesus who lived all the trials of His life in peace and silence and in surrender to His Father's will. So in living our lives like that, in peace, and silence, and surrender to Jesus, we become holy and we become like Jesus. He wants that from us and He will give us eternal life with him for living that way. He thirsts for us. We need to thirst for him.

On May 1st the bishops of Canada and the United States are consecrating their countries to Mary. We should all join them and consecrate ourselves to Our Lady, every day, and in every way. She is our mother and was the advocate of the Orders St. Francis established, including the Brothers and Sisters of Penance.

So, let's go forth in peace and confidence and the joy that is the Holy Spirit. Let us serve the Lord, love Him always, and praise Him in all we do and say and

are, every day.

May the Lord bless and lead us all!

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



Spiritual Communion...

by Janet Klasson, BSP

From the Gospel Reading on the Feast of the Ascension

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.' (Matthew 28:20b)

My dear brothers and sisters, to be deprived of the "kiss of Jesus" in the Holy Eucharist is the ultimate penance is it not? Who would have imagined? God may not have willed it, but he has allowed it. In the Book of Heaven, Jesus often laments to Luisa Piccarreta how greatly offended and even repulsed He is at having to descend into hearts ill-prepared to receive him, especially in the tragic case of being forced to descend through the hands of a priest who is himself in a state of mortal sin. Jesus made these laments to Luisa around the time of the World Wars, but how much worse is it now? Only God knows, but we can all lament with him, not just at the loss of his Holy Kiss, but at the sin that has increased his passion and led to this great penance.

So, we wait in God's own hope for a return to the Sacraments and in-person Masses. For now at least, those with access to technology can participate in online Masses. But even those who do not have access to technology, spiritual Communions are available, encouraged, and according to our desire, may be made as many times a day as needed.

Lately I have come across several resources which relate the great value of spiritual Communions and I will leave the greater part of the article here to the inspiring and comforting words of others.

In *The Dialogue of Catherine of Siena*, Jesus says to her:

"This food (the Eucharist) strengthens little or much, according to the desire of the recipient, whether he receives sacramentally or virtually. He receives sacramentally when he actually communicates with the Blessed Sacrament. He receives virtually when he communicates, both by desire of communion, and by contemplation of the Blood of Christ crucified, communicating, as it were, sacramentally, with the affection of love, which is to be tasted in the Blood which, as the soul sees, was shed through love. On seeing this the soul becomes inebriated, and blazes with holy

desire and satisfies herself, becoming full of love for Me and for her neighbor. Where can this be acquired? In the house of self-knowledge with holy prayer, where imperfections are lost, even as Peter and the disciples, while they remained in watching and prayer, lost their imperfection and acquired perfection. By what means is this acquired? By perseverance seasoned with the most holy faith." [*The Dialogue of St. Catherine of Siena*, Saint Benedict Press, 2008, p. 117-118]

From the book, *Jesus, Our Eucharistic Love*:

Jesus Himself told St. Catherine of Siena in a vision how precious a spiritual Communion is. The Saint was afraid that a spiritual Communion was nothing compared to a sacramental Communion. In the vision, Our Lord held up two chalices, and said, 'In this golden chalice I put your sacramental communions. In this silver chalice I put your spiritual communions. Both chalices are quite pleasing to me.' (*Jesus, Our Eucharistic Love*, Fr. Stefano M. Manelli, FI, Academy of the Immaculate, 1996, p. 62)

Jesus, Our Eucharistic Love is available in part as a [free preview on Google Books](#). Beginning on page 60 is a chapter on spiritual Communion, with many more quotes from saints for our edification. [Academy of the Immaculate](#) has it for sale at a very low price.

I also found an excerpt on spiritual Communion from *The Blessed Eucharist* by Fr. Michael Muller CSSR in a chapter titled, "On Spiritual Communion":

WHEN a soul has once begun to practice frequent Communion, she can no longer live without it.

Even if she were to communicate every day, it would seem too little. She would desire, if possible, to receive Our Lord every moment. It is the Blessed Sacrament itself which produces this effect, for such is the sweetness of that Divine Food that they that eat it hunger still and they that drink it thirst again. It is Our Lord Himself who excites this desire in the hearts of the



faithful, and He also has provided a means of satisfying it. While He was yet on earth, He not only imparted many graces to those who were near Him, but He also wrought many miracles in behalf of those who were at a distance.

In like manner, He now not only bestows many graces upon us when He actually enters our hearts in Holy Communion, but He also imparts many to us by means of spiritual Communion. St. Catherine of Siena, while on one occasion assisting at the Mass of her confessor, St. Raymund, felt the most ardent desire to be united to Jesus Christ; but as she had been forbidden to communicate, she did not dare to receive. Our Lord, however, was so moved by the fervor of her love that He worked a miracle in her favor. At that part of the Mass in which the priest breaks the Sacred Host into three pieces, the smallest portion disappeared from the altar, flew through the air and rested upon the tongue of St. Catherine. St. Raymund was much disturbed at the disappearance of the particle, but the Saint relieved his anxiety by telling him that Our Lord Himself had been pleased to communicate her in reward for her great desire for Holy Communion. He displays a similar love towards everyone who has a true desire to be united to Him. As soon as a soul ardently desires to receive Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, He comes to satisfy her desire, not indeed as He did to St. Catherine under the Sacramental species, but by the way of spiritual Communion. This devotion is so full of grace and consolation that it is of the greatest importance that everyone should know how to practice it. I will therefore say a word in explanation of it.

spiritual Communion, according to St. Thomas, consists in an ardent desire to receive our Lord Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament. It is performed by making an act of faith in the presence of Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, and then an act of love, and an act of contrition for having offended Him. The soul then invites Him to come and unite Himself to her and make her entirely His own; and lastly, she thanks Him as if she had really received Him sacramentally.

The spiritual Communion may be made in the following manner: "O my Jesus, I firmly believe that Thou art truly and really present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love Thee with my whole heart, and because I love Thee, I am sorry for having offended Thee. I long to possess Thee within my soul, but as I cannot now receive Thee sacramentally, come at least in spirit into my

heart. I unite myself to Thee as if Thou wert already there; never let me be separated from Thee."

The graces which are bestowed in this way are so great that they may be likened to those which are imparted by an actual reception of the Sacrament.

One day Our Lord Himself told St. Jane of the Cross that as often as she communicated spiritually she received a grace similar to that which she received from her Sacramental Communions. He also appeared to Sister Paula Maresca, foundress of the Convent of St. Catherine of Siena at Naples, with two vessels, one of gold and the other of silver, and told her that in the golden vessel He preserved her Sacramental Communions and in the silver vessel her spiritual Communions. The Fathers of the Church go so far as to say that one who has a very great desire for Communion, accompanied with great reverence and humility, may sometimes receive even more graces than another who, without these dispositions, should actually receive Our Lord in the Sacramental species; for as the Psalmist says: "The Lord hears the desire of the poor, and fills their hearts with good things."

The advantages of this mode of Communion are very great. To practice it, you will not need to go to church or make a long preparation or remain fasting; you will not need to ask the permission of your confessor, or to seek a priest to give it to you as in Holy Communion. Hence, the venerable Jane of the Cross used to say: "O my Lord, what an excellent mode of receiving without being seen or remarked, without giving trouble to my spiritual father, or depending on anyone but Thee, who in solitude dost nourish my soul and speak to my heart."

But the chief advantage of spiritual Communion is that it may be so often repeated. You can receive Sacramental Communion at most but once a day, but spiritual Communion you may receive as often as you please. St. Alphonsus advises one who wishes to lead a devout life to make spiritual Communions at his meditations, at his visits to the Blessed Sacrament and whenever he hears Mass. But especially he should endeavor to multiply them on the eve of his Communions because, as Father Faber of the Society of Jesus remarks, they are most powerful means to attain the dispositions necessary for a good Communion. The Saints were much addicted to this devotion.

The Blessed Angela of the Cross, a Dominican nun, was accustomed to make a hundred spiritual Communions every day and a hundred more every night, and she used to say: "If my confessor had not taught me this method of communicating, I could scarcely live." If you ask how she could make so many, I answer with St. Augustine: "Give me a lover, and he will understand; give me a soul that loves nothing but Jesus Christ, and she will know how to do it." [The Blessed Eucharist by Fr. Michael Muller CSSR, Tan Books and Publishers, 1868, ch 11]

<http://www.catholictradition.org/Eucharist/bless-ed-eucharist11.htm>

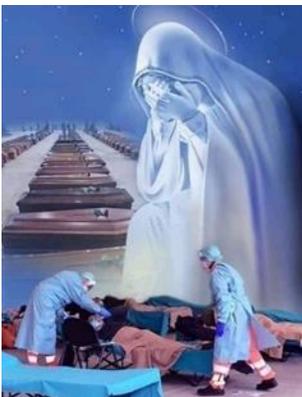


May all these saints worship the Lord with us in every spiritual Communion we make, for His glory, for the salvation of souls, and for the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Friends, may our longing for His Holy Kiss increase with each spiritual Communion. May this time of penance also increase our desire for the repentance of souls and a return to holiness in the Church, which alone can save the world. Let us offer up our sufferings in the Divine Will in reparation to our merciful Lord for the sins of so many in the Church and in the world, both now and when we are once again gathered in adoration, love, and gratitude around the Table of the Lord. Fiat!

Janet Klasson BSP, Divine Mercy Chapter, Canada

OUR LADY WEEPS FOR THOSE WHO DIE WITHOUT PRAYER **Posted by the "Prayer Captain" to the BSP Online Forum**



Some of us have forgotten our responsibilities to pray for others, and some of these "others" are falling victim to not only the current pandemic but to lack of prayerful intercession being made for their souls.

We may not think that our prayers could count that much, but to the person that is falling into Hell, it could have been invaluable! Make no mistake, brothers and sisters—we will be held to account for many that pass through our attention each and every day! Our Lord is ever mindful of our actions, of not only the thing we do in our lives but also the omissions, the things we don't do!

First of all, prepare yourself to go into the presence of the Lord! As the day begins, have you made an examination of conscience and prayed the necessary prayers? In the event that Confession is still not accessible, praying a daily Act of Contrition is absolutely necessary to prepare yourself for Mass! Here is the one I pray, its from the Flame of Love Cenacles found at theflameoflove.wordpress.com

Pray the Act of Contrition:

Forgive me my sins, O Lord, forgive me my sins;

the sins of my youth, the sins of my age, the sins of my soul, the sins of my body; my idle sins, my serious voluntary sins; the sins I know, the sins I do not know; the sins I have concealed for so long, and which are now hidden from my memory. I am truly sorry for every sin, mortal and venial, for all the sins of my childhood up to the present hour. I know my sins have wounded Thy Tender Heart, O My Savior, let me be freed from the bonds of evil through the most bitter Passion of My Redeemer. Amen.

O My Jesus, forget and forgive what I have been. Amen

After praying the act of contrition, find a good online Mass. One has been posted here on the forums by Bishop Robert Barron and as it is the one I "attend," I can recommend it wholeheartedly! If you have already prayed your Act of Contrition, then you are ready to make your "Spiritual Communion" at the appropriate time. At Bishop Barron's Mass, the prayer for Spiritual Communion will show up on the screen. After I pray my Spiritual Communion, I pray an Act of Thanksgiving to thank the Lord for His gift of Himself to us!

Act of Thanksgiving

*My good Jesus,
 I thank Thee with all my heart for giving me Thyself,
 the Source of all graces, in holy communion.*

*I thank Thee for all the blessings
that I have received from Thee,
especially through the Holy Eucharist,
in which Thou art ever present to console us
and to help us in our needs.*

*In thanksgiving of all Thy favours,
I offer Thee all that I am and have.
Dispose of me according to Thy pleasure.
May Thy will be done in me and through me now
and forever.*

*Jesus, receive my poor offering.
What can I give Thee?
I give myself to Thee, that I may always serve
Thee.
I give Thee my body, that it may be chaste and
pure.
I give Thee my soul, that it may be free from sin.
I give Thee my heart, that it may always love
Thee.
I give Thee every breath that I shall breathe, and
especially my last;
I give Thee myself in life and in death, that I may
be Thine forever and glorify Thee eternally.*

*Remember the words of Jesus:
"Ask and you shall receive," and pray for yourself.
O Jesus, wash away my sins with Thy precious
blood.
O Jesus, the struggle against temptation is not yet
finished.*

*My Jesus, when temptation comes near me,
make me strong against it.
In the moment of temptation may I always say,
"Jesus, mercy!"
"Mary, help of Christians, help me!"*

*O Jesus, may I lead a good life;
may I die a happy death.
May I receive Thee in Holy Viaticum
before I die.
May I say when I am dying,
"Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
I give you my heart and soul."*

*Listen now for a moment to Jesus;
perhaps He has something to say to you.
There may be some promise you have made and
broken,
which He wishes you to make again and keep.
Answer Jesus in your heart,*

*and tell Him all your troubles.
Then pray for others.*

*O Jesus, have mercy on Thy holy Church.
Bless our Holy Father,
and grant what he asks of Thee.
O Jesus, have pity on all sinners, heretics, and
infidels.
Save them by Thy most precious blood.*

*O Jesus, bless my father, my mother, my brothers
and sisters;
my relatives, friends and benefactors;
and all for whom I have promised to pray;
bless them as Thy kind Heart know how to bless
them.
O Jesus, have pity on the poor souls suffering in
purgatory, and give them eternal rest.
Amen.*

Yes, it is a long prayer, however, it helps us to fully reflect on our actions in consuming the Holy Eucharist, and gives us food for thought that we might not appreciate, otherwise. I highly recommend it!

Also, I recommend time spent in adoration at least once a day. There are many available sites now that they are necessary during the pandemic, but one I personally appreciate, is the live perpetual adoration from Tyburn Convent:
<https://adoration.tyburnconvent.org.uk/>

The only time it is not available is when they are celebrating Mass. However, it convenes again right afterward.

You can also pray your Spiritual Communion prayer during your time of Adoration. Padre Pio did so several times a day and recommended it. The more we place ourselves in the presence of God, the closer we grow to Him! And the closer we grow—the more we will hear His voice speaking to us!

So pray, brothers and sisters! Our salvation and the salvation of others may very well depend on it!

May God's Blessings be with each and every one of us this day and always!

*To keep a lamp burning, we have to keep putting
oil in it. –St. Mother Teresa, Missionary*



POPE FRANCIS REQUESTS WE ADD THESE TWO PRAYERS AT THE END OF THE ROSARY THIS MAY

First Prayer

O Mary,
You shine continuously on our journey
as a sign of salvation and hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who, at the foot of the cross,
were united with Jesus' suffering,
and persevered in your faith.

"Protectress of the Roman people",
you know our needs,
and we know that you will provide,
so that, as at Cana in Galilee,
joy and celebration may return
after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the will of the Father
and to do what Jesus tells us.
For he took upon himself our suffering,
and burdened himself with our sorrows
to bring us, through the cross,
to the joy of the Resurrection.
Amen.

We fly to your protection,
O Holy Mother of God;
Do not despise our petitions
in our necessities,
but deliver us always
from every danger,
O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.



Second Prayer

"We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God".

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

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.



Renewing our consecration to
Mary

Friday, May 1
3pm Eastern | 2pm Central | 1pm Mountain | 12pm Pacific

Visit facebook.com/usccb or lacatholics.org/consecration to
join the live-stream and pray as one nation.



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

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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of St. Francis

65774 County Road 31
Northome MN 56661