



...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 IX. Those Who Refused to Honor the Saint by Not Keeping His Feastday

3. A knight from Borgo San Sepolcro in the province of Massa Trabaria spoke lightly of St. Francis' miracles; he insulted pilgrims who came to his tomb and slandered the friars, making fun of them in public. On one occasion, when he attacked the saint's renown, he committed the additional crime of blasphemy. "If it is true," he said, "that this Francis is a saint, may fall by the sword today. If it is not true, then may I go safe." God's anger made no delay in punishing him as he deserved, because even his prayer was sinful. A short while afterwards, he wronged his nephew and the young man took a sword and ran it through his body. He died that very day in his crimes, a slave of the Devil and a child of darkness, so that others might learn to praise St. Francis' miracles devoutly and not attack them blasphemously.

4. A judge called Alexander did everything he could with his poisoned tongue to prevent people from honoring St. Francis. As a result, he was deprived of his tongue by the divine judgment and remained dumb for six years. As he suffered in the very organ by which he had sinned, he was reduced to heartfelt contrition and he was sorry that he had talked so loudly against the saint's miracles. St. Francis had pity on him and his indignation died away; he received the penitent back into his favor, as he appealed to him humbly, and restored his speech. From that time on, the man devoted his blasphemous tongue to praising the saint, so that the punishment he had endured served at once to reform him and make him devout.

Chapter X. Various Other Miracles

At Gagliano-Alternò in the diocese of Sulmona, a woman named Mary who was very devoted to our Lord and St. Francis went out one summer's day to get something to eat. It was very warm and she became faint with thirst, but there was nothing to drink; she was alone on the barren mountainside. She lay down on the ground, almost unconscious, and began to pray devoutly to St. Francis. As she continued praying humbly and lovingly, she was overcome by the heat and the thirst, together with the hard work, and she fell asleep. Then St. Francis came to her and called her by name. "Get up," he said. "Drink the water which God is giving to you and many others." The woman awoke at the words and felt stronger. She grasped a fern which was growing beside her and pulled it out by the roots. Then she dug about with a piece of wood and discovered running water. At first it was only a drop, but it suddenly developed into a spring, by God's power. She drank and had enough. Then she washed her eyes; her eyes had been bad as a result of a long illness, but now she felt that she had received new sight. She hurried home and told everyone about the extraordinary miracle, to the glory of St. Francis. People came from far and near when they heard the story, and experience proved the power of the water; many people were cured of various diseases after they had been to confession and used the water. There is a spring there to this day and an oratory has been built in honor of St. Francis.





VISITOR'S MESSAGE



Homily by Fr. Robert Altier

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, October 4, 2020

Readings: Is 5:1-7; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43

In the Gospel reading today our Lord tells a parable about a vineyard owner who did everything correctly to ensure his vineyard would provide good grapes. The vineyard was leased to tenants who were to provide the owner with a portion of the grapes. When harvest time arrived, the owner sent servants to obtain the grapes, but the tenants abused and killed them. When the owner sent his son, the tenants killed him, too. Their sin had corrupted their minds to the point they were not able to think clearly (this happens with any mortal sin) and they had actually convinced themselves that if they killed the son, they would acquire the vineyard. Needless to say, this did not meet with the approval of the owner.

Considering that it was to the chief priests and the elders that Jesus spoke this parable, it is almost certain that they would have called to mind the passage from Isaiah, which we hear in the first in the first reading. The differences are that the vines in the Isaiah passage produce wild grapes and the owner simply destroys the vineyard whereas in the Gospel, the grapes seem fine, but the people who tend the vines were not. Also, instead of destroying the vineyard, Jesus says it will be taken away from the care of the tenants and given to others who will produce its fruit.

However, in each case, the story addresses the Jewish people. In the passage from Isaiah, the vines God planted are the people of Israel; in the Gospel passage, the tenants are the chief priests and elders who are to care for the people. It is implicit in the Gospel reading that the people of Israel are still the vines, but in this case they are not being cared for properly. Jesus tells the chief priests and elders that the vineyard will be taken from them and given to others. We are now the New Israel; you and I are among the vines the Lord has planted. God has also given care of His vineyard to the Pope, Bishops and Priests.

We will leave to the Lord the question of the care the hierarchy has provided to these choice vines. Considering our Lord's statements to the chief priests and elders of His time, being among the

hierarchy today should not make anyone very comfortable. So, while God will judge the members of the hierarchy, each of us needs to look at our own self and ask if we are producing good grapes for the Lord or, rather, if we are producing wild grapes.

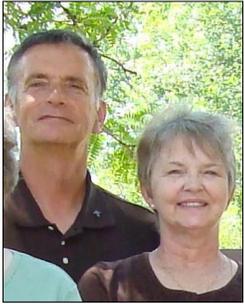
Without the leadership of good and saintly shepherds, many people have begun to justify all kinds of behaviors that are offense to God. The lack of catechesis has resulted in many people essentially making up their own religion. They call themselves Catholics, but they often do not know what the Church teaches on basic doctrines or they reject the teachings and substitute them with their own ideas. Truth and charity provide the foundation for an orderly life. The absence of a solid foundation has left many teetering and in danger of collapsing.

This, along with the constant bombardment of noise and temptations from every direction has left people filled with anxiety. St. Paul, in the second reading, tells us to have no anxiety at all. Many people feel overwhelmed and unable to cope. While this is a terrible scourge for those who suffer from this kind of anxiety, I do not think this is the kind of anxiety St. Paul was addressing. Rather, when he tells us to pray with thanksgiving and to make our requests known to God so the peace of God will fill our minds and hearts then follows immediately with the instruction to think about whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, and gracious, he is pointing to the cause of a spiritual kind of anxiety.

Recall that St. John tells us that fear has to do with judgment and that perfect love casts out all fear. The reason for this is that if we are acting in true charity, there is no sin and, consequently, no fear of a negative judgment. So, if we are giving into things that are untrue, dishonorable, impure, ugly, or vicious, we are going to be filled with anxiety for two reasons: first, because these gravitate against our dignity and, second, because the judgment in their regard is going to be harsh.

We cannot bear good fruit if we are immersed in bad situations. We need to free ourselves from these bad influences and strive to live virtuous and holy lives. Then the good vines our Lord has planted will bear good fruit and provide God with His share of the produce of our best fruits.

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ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE...

The Rosary



October is the month of the Holy Rosary and so it seems most appropriate that our message this month be on the rosary. Most of this history we discovered on the Internet, but we share it happily.

The rosary is an incredibly [rich practice of prayer](#) that developed slowly, evolving over the centuries. The first recorded use of the word 'rosary' did not appear until 1597, but the roots of the rosary are found much earlier.

The Hail Mary prayer came together slowly. It took more than a thousand years. The earliest version simply added Mary's name to the message delivered by the angel Gabriel to Mary: "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee" (Luke 1:28).

Around 1050 AD, the words Elizabeth used to greet Mary during the Visitation were added: "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb" (Luke 1:42). In 1261, Pope Urban IV added the name of Jesus to the end of Elizabeth's words.

St. Peter Canisius published the Hail Mary in his 1555 Catechism with almost the entire final petition: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners."

Eleven years later, the Catechism of the Council of Trent (a work that Canisius was instrumental in creating) included, for the first time, the entire final petition, concluding with the words "now and at the hour of our death. Amen."

The version of the Hail Mary we pray today was given official approval in 1568.

Catholics were not the first to pray with beads. And while the exact origin of prayer beads is unknown, men and woman of many faiths and cultures (Hindus, Greeks, Buddhists, and more) have (and do) use beads to pray. In fact, the word bead in English is actually derived from an Old English word that means prayer.

THE ORIGIN OF THE ROSARY:

It is widely believed that in 1214 St. Dominic had a vision of Mary. She is said to have presented him with the rosary, both the beads and the prayers to be prayed.

Dominic had a tremendous devotion to Mary and the rosary, which he promoted wherever he traveled to preach. He encouraged Catholics to gather in small groups to pray together what was an early form of

the rosary together. These were quite possibly the first expressions of the prayer groups and small group communities that are still having a powerful impact today.

After the full development of the Hail Mary prayer, the term "rosary" was finally given in 1597. For 320 years, from 1597 until 1917, the form of both the Hail Mary and the rosary remained the same.

During those 320 years, there was much written and spoken about the rosary. Most notably, Pope Paul VI said when we pray the rosary, we can experience the key moments of the Gospel. It is a simple, beautiful, and focused meditation, especially when focusing on the [Mysteries of the Rosary](#).

The mysteries of the rosary were introduced by Dominic of Prussia sometime between 1410 and 1439. This gave each decade of the rosary a unique quality. Each mystery leads us to ponder very specific events in the lives of Jesus and Mary and the lessons they hold for our own lives today.

There were originally three sets of mysteries: the Joyful Mysteries, the Sorrowful Mysteries, and the Glorious Mysteries.

The Joyful Mysteries

- The Annunciation
- The Visitation
- The Birth of Jesus
- The Presentation
- The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

The Sorrowful Mysteries

- The Agony in the Garden
- The Scourging at the Pillar
- The Crowning with Thorns
- The Carrying of the Cross
- The Crucifixion

The Glorious Mysteries

- The Resurrection
- The Ascension
- The Descent of the Holy Spirit
- The Assumption
- The Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth

On October 16, 2002, almost 600 years after the original Mysteries of the rosary were established, Pope John Paul II proposed adding a new set of mysteries called the Luminous Mysteries (the Mysteries of Light).

The Luminous Mysteries are:

- The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan
- The Wedding at Cana
- The Proclamation of the Kingdom
- The Transfiguration of Jesus
- The Institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper

THE FATIMA PRAYER:

On May 13, 1917, Mary appeared to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal. Mary told the children to pray for world peace by reciting the rosary every day. On July 13, 1917, Mary asked the children to add a short prayer to the end of each decade of the rosary: "O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of thy mercy." Today this is referred to as the Fatima prayer, and many Catholics incorporate it into the rosary as Mary requested.

THE PROMISES OF OUR LADY TO THOSE WHO PRAY THE ROSARY:

The Blessed Virgin Mary promised to Saint Dominic and to all who follow that "Whatever you ask in the Rosary will be granted." She left for all Christians Fifteen Promises to those who recite the Holy Rosary.

Imparted to Saint Dominic and Blessed Alan

1. Whoever shall faithfully serve me by the recitation of the Rosary, shall **receive signal graces**.
2. I promise my **special protection** and the **greatest graces** to all those who shall recite the Rosary.
3. The Rosary shall be a **powerful armor against hell**, it will **destroy vice, decrease sin**, and **defeat heresies**.
4. The Rosary will **cause virtue** and good works to flourish; it will obtain for souls the **abundant mercy of God**; it will **withdraw the hearts of men from the love of the world and its vanities**, and will **lift them to the desire for eternal things**. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means.
5. The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the Rosary, **shall not perish**.
6. Whoever shall recite the Rosary devoutly, applying himself to the consideration of its sacred mysteries shall **never be conquered by misfortune**. God will not chastise him in His justice, he shall not perish by an unprovided

death; if he be just **he shall remain in the grace of God**, and become **worthy of eternal life**.

7. Whoever shall have a true devotion for the Rosary **shall not die without the sacraments** of the Church.
8. Those who are faithful to recite the Rosary shall have **during their life and at their death the light of God** and the **plenitude of His graces**; at the moment of death they **shall participate in the merits of the saints** in paradise.
9. I shall **deliver from Purgatory** those **who have been devoted to the Rosary**.
10. The faithful children of the Rosary shall **merit a high degree of glory in Heaven**.
11. You shall **obtain all you ask** of me **by the recitation of the Rosary**.
12. All those who **propagate the Holy Rosary** shall be **aided by me in their necessities**.
13. I have obtained from my Divine Son that all the **advocates of the Rosary shall have for intercessors the entire celestial court during their life and at the hour of death**.
14. All **who recite the Rosary** are my sons and daughters, and brothers and sisters of my only Son Jesus Christ.
15. Devotion of my Rosary is a **great sign of predestination**.

THE BATTLE OF LEPANTO:

Christian sailors joined Pope Pius V (a Dominican) in praying the Most Holy Rosary, and defeated a much larger Turkish force at the Battle of Lepanto in 1571. The battle was a turning point in repelling the Turkish invasions of Europe. To remember the battle and Our Lady's intercession, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (originally Our Lady of Victory) was established on October 7th.

Christians were greatly outnumbered in this encounter. They commanded only 214 boats and 80,000 troops. The Turkish force totaled 120,000 troops, about 225 galleys, and an additional 50 smaller boats. The battle occurred at a time of transition in naval warfare, and Lepanto stands as the last great naval engagement in ships powered by oars. Every schoolchild knows how the battle ended. The weather, which favored the Turks at dawn, changed, and Christian forces were able to overwhelm their enemy. 9,000 Christians died in the battle, but 12,000 were released from slavery in

Turkish galleys. Turkish losses were far greater. Even by modern standards, these are amazing statistics for a single battle, fought within a single day, and it ended the assault of Europe by the Turks forever.

Pius V, a Dominican friar, prayed the rosary throughout the battle and attributed the victory to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. Hence the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (which was first called the feast of Our Lady of Victory) on October 7. Naturally, the feast is dear to Dominicans and their friends. But the Pontiff's were not the only prayers addressed that day to the Mother of God. The Christian troops are said to have prayed the rosary throughout the night before the battle, and some sources say that the rhythmic repetition of the prayer thoroughly frightened and demoralized the

Turkish host.

The Rosary, when we pray it, continues to take the fallen stuff of our lives and transform it into something noble and fine. In the Rosary we have the opportunity to contemplate all the human events we are familiar with – birth, death, friendship, deceit, joy, sorrow, defeat, victory, and triumph – and to sanctify them by identifying our experience of these events with the experience of the same events in the lives of our Savior and his Mother.

So, let us all pray the rosary. For us, the BSP, for world peace and peace in America, and for all our special intentions!

May the Lord bless and lead us all!

Bruce and Shelley

Sources: Dominican Friars: Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, and America Needs Fatima

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



HAVE NO FEAR! by Janet Klasson, BSP



From the First Reading, on the Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.
(Isaiah 25:8b)

Dream: A few nights ago, I had a dream that a yellow snake was dangling head-first from a tree quite near to me. I was alarmed and asked the Lord to take it away. He told me to "touch it". When I did, I found that it was empty, hollow, and had no strength or power to harm me, like a deflated balloon. Not only that, it was yellow, the symbolic color of cowardice. The message, I felt, was that the children of God have nothing to fear in these darkening days. Still, fears assail us on every side. It is good to remind ourselves often that we have nothing to fear, that God is in control, and that all we need to do is to remain in a state of grace, and trust in him "beyond reason" as Frances Hogan has said.

Last month's message was brought to you by the letter "c". This month it's the letter "f".

Fear – An emotional response to fearful things or things beyond our control is instinctive, part of our human nature. How we react, however, is well within our control. Prudential actions are always right but dwelling on our fears only gives them power. Endless news stories, videos, and discussions will likely only serve to magnify the very fears we are trying to dispel. This is no time to feed those demons. Ration

the TV and computer, and do not perpetuate revolving discussions. Be a sign of hope for others. "Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear." (Ephesians 4:29)

Facts – Be a fact-checker. What do I know to be true? How do I know this is true? Where is the evidence? Is this person qualified to make these statements? Are they credible? Are they instilling fear? If you can't get satisfactory answers to these questions, it would be better to set it aside until it can be verified.

Focus – It helps to change our focus to what is necessary and immediate. Once, when I was going through a tough time, I found it effective to stop and ask myself, "Am I ok **right now**?" The answer was always yes. God is in the sacrament of the present moment, not the unchangeable past or the unknowable future. It helps to get out of our own heads, stop listening to the talking heads, and "put on the mind of Christ." (Philippians 2:5)

Faith – When those fears creep into our thoughts, reinforcing what we believe could be enough to

chase them away. Pray the Creed or the Our Father slowly, taking every phrase into your heart. In St. Faustina's Diary Jesus told her: *"I desire that you would all have more faith at the present time. How great is My joy at the faithfulness of My spouse in the smallest things."* (St. Faustina's Diary, 352)

Father – Who's kids are we, anyway? The Almighty God's, that's whose! *Every hair on our heads has been counted.* (Matthew 10:30) *He has carved us on the palm of his hand.* (Isaiah 49:16) Climb into his lap, whisper your fears into his ear and watch them instantly dissolve.

Friendship with Jesus – Of course we all know that Jesus is our friend. Now, I don't know about you, but treating him that way, talking to him all day is not something that comes naturally to me. Yet I find that when I do it, he makes his presence felt in small ways that only mean something to the two of us. He knows my weakness and how to build up my trust in him. He is near.

Flesh - Jesus is our friend, but also our Savior who gives us his Flesh to eat and his Blood to drink as food for our journey. Wow! That's taking friendship to an unimaginable level! If we start acting like we carry the Lord of Life within us, it will make all the difference.

Feast – Jesus prepares a feast for us at every Mass in anticipation of the Wedding Feast of the Lamb, to which we are all invited. If we remain in a state of grace we have the assurance that not only will we be his guests at the heavenly banquet, but we will reign with him in heaven! Brothers and sisters, we are not made for this world. When the troubles of the world get to us, it might help to get into the habit of saying, "So what? This earth is passing away and I'm made for eternity. Jesus I trust in you!"

Fortitude – Fortitude is a gift of the Holy Spirit. We know that we received fortitude and the other gifts at Baptism and they were strengthened at Confirmation. The question is, has that gift ever been opened? Is it still waiting to be put into practice? Something to ponder.

Family – Often one of the biggest fears we have is that our family members are no longer practicing the faith. We have tried everything to bring them to faith, but our words fall on deaf ears, and we fear for their souls.

News flash! God has a secret weapon to get them back, and that secret weapon is YOU and ME! God has not given up on our loved ones and we shouldn't either. He has given our loved ones the gift of OUR faith. And if he has called us to increased prayer and penance, he has given us invincible weapons with

which to defeat the enemy. If we have also consecrated ourselves to his Mother, we are behind the velvet-lined shield that no enemy can penetrate. In addition, we are strengthened with the Bread of Life—Jesus himself! Our only weakness then is our sin, and the more we go to confession the more we will plug the holes in our armor caused by sin. We must never be discouraged in our mission, for in Christ, we are assured that we have the victory. Not only that, we are armed and dangerous (to quote Marino Restrepo)!

Fusing – If you are learning about the Gift of Living in the Divine Will through the Vatican-approved writings of Luisa Piccarreta, you will have heard the term "fusing". By fusing ourselves into Jesus—doing everything united with him in each moment—we allow him to live his life again on earth, with unimaginable, hidden, consequences for a multitude of souls. He tells Luisa (May 16, 1917): *"My daughter, every time the creature fuses herself in Me, she gives to all creatures the influence of Divine Life; and according to what creatures need, they obtain their effect: those who are weak, feel strength; those who are obstinate in sin, receive light; those who suffer, comfort; and so with all the rest."* I cannot recommend strongly enough the importance in these times of learning about this [Gift of All Gifts](#). It is meant for everyone.

St. Francis – Let us not forget our allies in heaven, especially our Seraphic Father, St. Francis, whose feast day we celebrate this month. In the "Lessons on St. Francis" at the top of each newsletter, we often read about the miracles attributed to him in his life and after his death. He is ready, willing, and able to help us if we but ask. Indeed the whole heavenly army, all the angels and saints, as well as the souls in purgatory stand ready to help us. All we have to do is ask, and if what we desire conforms to the Will of God, it will be done.

Forgiveness – Sometimes our fears are a reflection of our doubts about having been forgiven of our sins. Jesus tells Luisa (May 12, 1917): *"I would say to one who doubts about my love, and feared that she might be lost: 'How is this? I give you my Flesh for food, you live completely of my own. If you are ill, I heal you with the Sacraments; if you are stained, I wash you with my Blood. I can say that I am almost at your disposal - and you doubt? Do you want to sadden Me? Tell Me, then: do you love someone else? Do you recognize some other being as another father, since you say that you are not my daughter? And if this is not, why do you want to afflict yourself and sadden Me?"*

Jesus told St. Faustina, *"Oh, how I love those souls*

who have complete confidence in Me — I will do everything for them.” (St. Faustina’s Diary, 294).

God’s mercy is infinitely greater than our worst sins, and we do God a great disservice if we think our sins are greater. Repent, confess, and let it go! Then we can become agents of God’s mercy by letting it flow through us to those who have hurt us. This too will bring us freedom from fear and other evil influences. *“Pray for souls that they be not afraid to approach the tribunal of My **mercy**. Do not grow weary of praying for sinners. You know what a burden their souls are to My Heart. Relieve My deathly sorrow; dispense My **mercy**.”* (St. Faustina’s Diary, 975)

Fear of the Lord – Fear of the Lord is another of the Gifts of the Spirit. The Church teaches that it is not the quaking fear of punishments from an Almighty God, but the fear of offending one we love dearly and who loves us dearly. It is meant to be a source of peace and not anxiety, of hope and not despair. It is the filial fear of the little one who is afraid to hurt the feelings of the Beloved Father. If we know God as a loving Father, we can surrender to his love and count on his forgiveness and grace in the sacraments. *If God is for us, who can be against*

us? (Romans 8:31)

Fatima – We have the promise of Our Lady of Fatima that in the end her Immaculate Heart will triumph. We can trust in that. Whatever befalls us, however dark it is, let us never take our eyes off the light that beckons in the distance.

Forward – *“This one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 3:13-14)

This month of October is the month of the rosary, chief weapon of the army of Mary. We have nothing to fear, even should pains befall us. The promised Era of Peace lies ahead. Let us march forward in faith, hope, and trust.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. (Isaiah 25:8b)

Alleluia!

22 Ways Franciscans Changed the World

Fr. Casey OFM is a young Franciscan priest with a YouTube Channel called, [“Breaking in the Habit”](#). This week he posted a video called [“22 Ways Franciscans Changed the World”](#). It’s less than eight minutes long and well worth watching. There were a lot of things on the list that surprised me. It filled me with holy joy to see all that God has done to change the world through St. Francis and his followers, and those were just the high-profile items. The little, hidden ways that God has been glorified through Franciscans, we will give even greater praise to God for when we get to heaven. May God be praised in all Franciscans!

Janet Klasson BSP, Divine Mercy Chapter, Canada

The Transitus of St. Francis

(Submitted by “a friend of St. Francis, named Jim”)

October 4 is the day the church sets aside to celebrate St. Francis of Assisi’s birth to eternal life. Francis is easily one of the church’s most beloved and venerated saints. October 3 is the vigil of his passing and bears a special name, the *Transitus* (Latin for passage or going over).

Many times Franciscans, like us, get together as a community to observe through prayer, song, and reflection St. Francis’s life. Unfortunately, we may not have the opportunity to do that this year, so this is a proposed personal St. Francis Transitus to be prayed on October 3.

Light a candle and sit before a cross.

Begin with the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be prayers.

Sing or pray, A Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord Make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred let me sow love;

Where there is doubt faith;

Where there is despair hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

To be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;

To be loved as to love.

For it is giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

And it is in dying we are born to eternal life.



St. Francis' Call from God

St. Francis was on his way to do battle for Walter De Brienne as a soldier. While he was traveling, he came across a knight who had fallen on hard times. Francis impulsively gave the knight all his new weapons and armor.

That night according to Thomas of Celano (St. Francis early Biographer), Francis had a vivid dream. He was shown a large palace, its wall hung with gleaming, weapons, shields, chainmail, and helmets.

God spoke to Francis and said, "Who do you think will reward you better for this the master or his servant?"

Francis answered, "The master."

"Then why are you leaving the master for the servant?"

"Lord what do you wish me to do instead?" Francis replied.

God said, "Return home and you will be told."

Reflection: How has God called out to you?

Rebuild my Church

One day, freshly converted and burning with the love of Jesus, Francis walked into his local chapel of San Damiano on his way to pray in the fields.

But this day proved to be different for Francis. As his biographer, St. Bonaventure, describes:

One day when Francis went out to meditate in the fields, he was passing by the church of San Damiano which was threatening to collapse because of extreme age. Inspired by the Spirit, he went inside to pray.

Kneeling before an image of the Crucified, he was filled with great fervor and consolation as he prayed. While his tear-filled eyes were gazing at the Lord's cross, he heard with his bodily ears a voice coming from the cross, telling him three times: 'Francis, go and repair my house which, as you see, is falling into ruin.'

Trembling with fear, Francis was amazed at the sound of this astonishing voice...he prepared to put his whole heart into obeying the command he had received. He began zealously to repair the church materially, although the principle intention of the words referred to the Church which Christ purchased with his own blood.

Reflection: As a Franciscan how am I rebuilding the church in my soul? And how am I rebuilding my local church?

St. Francis' Guiding Bible verses

Matthew 19:21

Jesus said to him (the rich young man) If you wish to be perfect go sell what you have and give it to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven.

Luke 9:30

He said to them "take nothing for the journey neither walking stick nor sack nor food nor money and let no one take a second tunic.

Matthew 16:24

Then he said to the disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

Reflection: What New Testament verses serve as your Franciscan guides?

St. Francis and the Leper

Francis now developed a spirit of poverty with a deep sense of humility and an attitude of profound compassion. He had never been able to stand the sight of lepers, even at a distance, and he always avoided meeting them, but now in order to arrive at perfect self-contempt he served them devotedly with all humility and kindness, because the prophet Isaiah tells us that the Christ crucified was regarded as a leper and despised. He visited their houses frequently, and distributed alms among them generously, kissing their hands and lips with deep compassion.

(Bonaventure Major life of St. Francis I, 6)

Reflection: What do I have to overcome to be more humble?

Simple Fruits—Charity & Humility St. Francis and Pope Francis

Furthermore, let us produce worthy fruits of penance. Let us also love our neighbors as ourselves. Let us have charity and humility. Let us give alms because these cleanse our souls from the stains of sin. Men lose all the material things they leave behind them in this world, but they carry with them the reward of their charity and the alms they give. For these they will receive from the Lord the reward and recompense they deserve.

We must not be wise and prudent according to the flesh. Rather we must be simple, humble and pure. We should never desire to be over others. Instead, we ought to be servants who are submissive to every human being for God's sake. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on all who live in this way and persevere in it to the end. He will permanently dwell in them. They will be the Father's Children who do his work.

They are the spouses, brothers, and mothers of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This excerpt is from a letter by St. Francis of Assisi (Opuscula, edit. Quaracchi 1949, 87-94), used in the Roman Office of Readings for the feast. (Liturgical Memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi on October 4. For Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation on St. Francis' famous Canticle of the Sun, see [Laudato Si.](#))

Reflection: As a Franciscan, how have I simplified my life?

Canticle of Brother Sun and Sister Moon - St. Francis of Assisi

Most High, all powerful, all-good Lord, all praise is Yours, all glory, all honor and all blessings.

To you alone, Most High, do they belong, and no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your Name.

Praised be You my Lord with all Your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun, Who is the day through whom You give us light. And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour, Of You Most High, he bears the likeness.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, In the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air, And fair and stormy, all weather's moods, by which You cherish all that You have made.

Praised be You my Lord through Sister Water, So useful, humble, precious and pure.

Praised be You my Lord through Brother Fire, through whom You light the night and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You my Lord through our Sister, Mother Earth

who sustains and governs us, producing varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.

Praise be You my Lord through those who grant pardon for love of You and bear sickness and trial.

Blessed are those who endure in peace, By You Most High, they will be crowned.

Praised be You, my Lord through Sister Death, from whom no-one living can escape. Woe to those who die in mortal sin! Blessed are they She finds doing Your Will.

No second death can do them harm. Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks, And serve Him with great humility. Amen.

Reflection: How has St. Francis changed my thinking about God and His Creation?

Sing "Let there be Peace on Earth" (Jill Jackson Miller/ Sy Miller 1955)

*Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let There Be Peace on Earth
The peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father,
Brothers all are we.
Let me walk with by brother
In perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me.
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow,
To take each moment and live
Each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.*

Reflection: Think about how St. Francis has shaped your life.

Go Forth in Peace.



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** at <http://bspenance.org/forum/>. Hope to see you there!

HANDBOOK OF THE ASSOCIATION...



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

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



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

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