



...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 I. The Beginning of St. Francis' Religious Life

1. *First lesson:* The grace of God our Savior has dawned in our times in his servant Francis; our merciful Father, the source of all that gives light, came to meet him on his way with a plentiful share of his choicest blessings. We see in the course of Francis' life that God was not content merely to lead him from the obscurity of the world into the light, bringing him renown by his gifts of exalted virtue and merit; he did more—he proved Francis' claim to fame by the mysteries of the Cross which he accomplished in him so strikingly.

Francis came from the town of Assisi in the valley of Spoleto; he was called John by his mother, but his father changed his name to Francis. He retained the name his father gave him without forfeiting the privilege indicated by the one his mother chose. As a boy he was brought up among worldly companions and in a worldly atmosphere; when he had some idea how to read and write, he was given a job in a profitable trading business. However, with the help of God's grace, he never indulged his passions, like his loose-living companions, or put his trust in his store of riches, like his greedy business friends.

2. *Second lesson:* Even as a young man, Francis' spirit was one of gentle kindness and generous compassion for the poor. This seemed to have been implanted in the depths of his being by God and it remained with him all his life, so that his heart overflowed with goodness. He would not turn a deaf ear to the Gospel and he made a resolution never to refuse anyone who asked him for an alms, especially if it was for love of God. When he was at the very peak of his youthful career, he solemnly promised God that he would never turn away from anyone who begged an alms from him for love of God,

as long as he had anything to give. He kept this generous resolution all his life and it led him to an ever higher degree of grace and love for God. This fire of divine love was never extinguished in his heart, but as a young man he was taken up with the cares of this

world and could not grasp the hidden message contained in God's words. Then the hand of God came upon him; he suffered a prolonged and distressing illness, while his heart was enlightened by the infusion of the Holy Spirit.

3. *Third lesson:* After he had recovered his strength to a certain extent and undergone a change of heart, he happened to meet a knight who was of noble birth, but completely destitute. He was reminded of Christ, the generous King who became so poor, and he

felt such pity for the man that he took off the new clothes he had just got for himself and clothed him with them, keeping nothing for himself.

The following night, as he slept, Christ for love of whom he had come to the aid of the poor knight showed him a vision in his goodness; he saw a beautiful palace, full of armor, all emblazoned with the Cross. And he promised him that everything he saw would belong to him and to his knights, if he took up the standard of the Cross and bore it faithfully. After that, Francis began to withdraw from the rush of business; instead, he sought out lonely places where he could mourn for his sins. There he gave himself over unceasingly to groans beyond all utterance, imploring God to show him the way to perfection, and after prolonged and insistent prayer, he was found worthy to have his request granted.



*Bonaventure—Minor Life of St. Francis (1263)*





## VISITOR'S MESSAGE

### Homily by Fr. Robert Altier

#### Sunday Sermon for, January 24, 2021

**Readings: Jon 3:1-5, 10; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20**



is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." Jesus' words about the time of fulfillment were not something surprising to the people of the time of our Lord, but to hear a Rabbi stating this was probably very unusual.

The people knew the prophecies of the Old Testament and anticipated that God would intervene for them in some extraordinary way. Sadly, it appears that many thought God was going to intervene in a way they expected. But the way God chose to intervene was not expected, and therefore, was missed by almost everyone because He fulfilled the prophecies in a way infinitely beyond their expectations: by sending His Son into the world.

We also are living in a world of expectation as people anticipate a divine intervention to stop the world from going completely off track. Our Lady told us at Fatima that Russia would spread her errors, but that in the end her Immaculate Heart would triumph. So, there is solid reason for hope as we have watched the errors which began in Russia just over a hundred years ago spread throughout the world and appear to come to completion in our own nation.

In the meantime, we need to consider the other two points our Lord made in His opening statements to the world. First, that the Kingdom of God is at hand. Jesus began the Kingdom of God on earth, but we still pray daily that His Kingdom will come in its fullness. We are nearing the point where only the Kingdom of God will remain. Until then, there will be those who will fight against the Lord, but the pattern established centuries ago demonstrates that those who will not accept God's ways will find themselves outside His Kingdom where there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

This is why our Lord added the third point, the command to repent and believe the Gospel. As we await the fullness of His Kingdom, are we praying and doing penance for our sins? Are we repenting of those things which we know are enemies of the Kingdom of God and of our own souls? If we want the triumph of the Immaculate Heart, we need to

prepare for it. The primary preparation is preparing our own souls.

In the first reading we hear about the preaching of Jonah. When the people of Nineveh heard his message, they repented, fasted, and put on sackcloth. I suspect that if someone started preaching in our streets, most people would think the person was insane and they would be locked up. Thankfully Jonah, John the Baptist, and Jesus preached at a time when some people actually listened. Our pride does not allow us to hear the Word of God with our hearts; often it is not allowed to enter our ears.

Even if we are willing to hear the Word of God and to repent, it is not typical that we would put on sackcloth. We can still fast and, as St. Paul tells us in the second reading, there are some practical ways to express our repentance. He tells us time is running out, so those who weep should live as though they were not weeping, those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and so on. In other words, if we are going to repent of our sinful and worldly ways, the best thing to do is get rid of whatever leads us to the sin and to turn away from our worldly pursuits.

This does not mean quitting our jobs or leaving our spouse and family to live as a recluse. Rather, it means striving to live for the Lord. What are the things of the world in our lives that are either negative or inane? There may be good things that become attachments and must be let go. There may be foolish things that are a waste of time and money that can be set aside. We can increase our prayer time, go to daily Mass and Adoration, volunteer to help the poor or needy.

Simply put, we need to put our selfishness away and find true joy in serving God and neighbor. Frequently, we do things either because of necessity or because of what we can gain from it. While others may be served or helped, our motive may still be very selfish. It is time to put aside our selfish wants and desires and show true signs of our repentance. Now is the time of fulfillment: repent, believe the Gospel, and prepare your heart which is where the fulfillment of God's promises will take place first!

*Reprinted from The Wanderer Newspaper, used with the permission of Fr. Altier.*





## ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE...

### Be Not Afraid!



The gospel for January 6<sup>th</sup>, this year, was the story of Jesus walking on the water.

**"Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of**

**him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray. Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, because they all saw him and were terrified.**

**"Immediately he spoke to them and said, 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.' Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened." (Mark 6: 45-52)**

This comes right after Jesus has fed 5000 people with five barley loaves and two fish, and the disciples did not understand how He did it even though they handed it out! Jesus had remained behind to dismiss the crowd. The disciples were on their way across the lake and were having a tough time of rowing against the wind. So there must have been some kind of storm if not just a high wind.

The first thing that is pretty amazing is the disciples had not understood what Jesus had done! Consider that. They brought him five loaves and two fish, he blessed it, and they fed 5000 men not to mention any others that were there, yet they didn't get it! How could they not get it? Well, they had not yet come to the conclusion that Jesus was God. They must not even have considered him to be a prophet for the prophets were known to do marvelous things too. Here were our first brothers and sisters in the not-yet-formed Church and they did not even know that the Lord was God or even consider him to be a prophet. That should make us feel pretty good that we do know Jesus is God, and do know he can do such marvelous things at will. We have the huge advantage of having the gospels, of course, which they did not have which tell us who Jesus is and was.

Then Jesus sends them away, to dismiss the crowds,

however he did that, and then goes to pray, also an example to us, and then He comes walking to them across the water. Love that story! Can you imagine. What did they think about him walking on the water when the wind and waves were roaring? We can be quite sure they never saw anyone do that before but this too they did not get. Then Jesus says: "Don't be afraid." Wow. That was a wonderful and important thing for Him to do and it is a wonderful and important thing for us to remember in these days and our lives too. Do not be afraid!

We are all still crossing the seas of life. Sometimes the seas are calm and everything is wonderful but sometimes, and often times, there are storms on our sea. We all have troubles and difficulties, death and illness, trauma and challenges, that we face and often on a daily basis. We see our government making stupid decisions that negatively affect us and all people for purely political gain and we cannot stop them. We all need to remember that Jesus is walking on our sea too. He comes near us, and always walks with us, and as in the His times he tells us don't be afraid. We need to learn that and remember it. Don't be afraid.

That means we need to trust Jesus, right? Right! When things get tough or we don't know what to do we need to call to mind that Jesus is with us. We don't know what He is going to do but He can calm the seas of our life just as the sea of Galilee calmed when He got in the boat with His disciples. When He gets in our boat things will calm down.

The problem is we don't know when He is going to get in our life's boat. We don't know when the seas are going to calm down. If he had not gotten into the boat with His disciples in this Scripture story the seas would not have calmed down. He did get in it and the sea did calm down. There is a message here for us that we all need to remember and never forget. Don't be afraid. Trust in Jesus. Trust that He is there on the sea of your life and when He chooses, as He chooses, He will get in our boat and calm things down.

Being God, and always putting us to the test for our own good, He may not want to calm our seas. He may want us to slug it out. To keep on rowing, and grow in our trust of Him. He cannot make us do anything because he has decided not to make us do anything. He gave us free will. He can wait and see how we are going to react to things and how much we are really going to trust in Him in our lives. Our particular judgement comes from things like this. Do

we believe in God? Do we trust God? Or are we going just keep on rowing and rowing and rowing and hope that we can overcome the seas and trials and tribulations of our lives without consideration of God. So many do that, especially these days.

Where do you see God come up on TV for instance? Who do you see call on God to crush the pandemic, or solve our political battles, or cure our cancer and illnesses? You don't see it much. Watch as many movies as you like. As much TV as you like. Read as many books as you like but you will find very few that refer you to God to solve your problems. It just doesn't happen and that alone is a broad testimony

## In Pursuit of Christ

*(Reprinted from an earlier Newsletter)*

*In this season of Lent we really are in pursuit of Christ. The same Christ that walked the earth 2000 years ago. His message to us is that we would suffer. His call has always been the same. 'Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me.'*

*What a call. What a message. Not so bad until you consider the last words. Follow me. How on earth do we follow the Son of God who became the Son of man? When you examine how he lived and suffered, all of his life. Not just the blows he received in his Passion, which is the real focus of the Triduum and Lent. The real blows he received in his life at every turn from the very people he served. The people he came to save who didn't just reject him, they rebuked him and openly opposed his teaching and ultimately decided he was such a radical that he had to die.*

*He knew he was going to die. He was born to die. From his first day, the last day of his life was his focus, and being God he knew everything that was to happen. Hence in his life he often told his disciples that the **"The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised."** (Lk 9:22) He told them he was going to rise from the dead. The total focus of Lent is to prepare us for his resurrection, for Easter, and ultimately our own resurrection. The total focus of his life was to prepare his disciples for his resurrection because without the resurrection he was no Christ. Without the resurrection there would be no Church. No point in following Jesus.*

*Some years ago, when we were in the Secular Franciscan Order before we formed the BSP, Bruce was asked to coordinate a 'Consensus Planning' seminar for a large group of Midwest priests, in the Franciscan Order, who were trying to find ways to reach consensus on various issues. Bruce was a Human Resources manager and personnel trainer and knew how to do consensus management. So, it was a fun seminar for him.*

*The point of consensus management is to take a large group of people and get them to agree on a subject. It is*

of the Godlessness of this entire generation and our entire world.

We have much to pray for. We need to realize that we do not need to be afraid. We need to trust in God, and we are blessed, really blessed, to have a Rule of life that calls us to trust in God and make Him a permanent part of our lives. He is there to calm the seas of our life, and living the Rule, if it doesn't do anything else, keeps ever present before us in our minds, and hearts, and lives, that God is real and we believe in Him and in His message and presence to us.

May the Lord bless and lead us all!

*a technique and can be learned. So Bruce began the seminar with a question the priests had to agree on. The question was "How do we destroy the Catholic Church?". A challenging question for a group of Catholic priests, and they liked it.*

*He took the priests through the exercise. First he listed all the various ways as given by all the priests on a blackboard. Then they voted on them. The one that they agreed on, to destroy the Catholic Church, was: "Find the body of Jesus Christ."*

*If we find the body of Jesus Christ he did not rise. If he did not rise from the dead there is no reason for a Church in his name. He isn't God. But, of course, there is no grave to Jesus on earth or we would certainly have found it by now. Neither is there a grave for Mary on earth. So her Assumption is a given.*

*This is the Jesus we pursue. The Risen Christ: the Son of God and Son of man. The real question is how do we do that?*

*Faith is important and without faith you would not bother to pursue Jesus. If you don't believe in him why look for him? So, faith is a given and faith it is that saves us if we use that faith to pursue him. For if we pursue him we will always be looking for ways to grow closer to him and to find him. All who truly seek him will find him and he promised to reveal Himself to all who seek him. **"Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him."** (Jn 14:21) Confident in that we do well to seek him. How do we seek him?*

*Those of us that have faith and have been trying to live that faith know the answer to this question. We pursue, or seek that is, Jesus by loving him and our neighbor. Love coagulates around the pursuit of Jesus. Without love of God and neighbor, you will not find Jesus Christ. That love brings us to do things for the love of God to show God we are in pursuit of him. Some of those things are our Lenten sacrifices, which are designed to prepare us for Easter, his*

resurrection, and more importantly, for our own Easter, our own resurrection, which he has promised is the natural outgrowth of loving and pursuing him. Scripture is explicit here.

Jesus said: **"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."** (Jn 11:25-26) **"And I tell you, ask and you will**

**receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."** (Lk 11:9)

So, let us ask, seek, and knock until the Lord reveals Himself to us. It is in seeking him that we will find him. Direct your lives and your life under the Rule of 1221 towards finding Jesus Christ, and you will find him. Live the Rule and have a holy and happy Lent, and pursue the Lord.

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

## Holy Mass

### By Michael Gustek



**"Consequently He is able for all time to save those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for His own sins and then for those of the people; He did this once for all when He offered up Himself."** (Hebrews 7:25-27)

Does this passage sound familiar to you? What is Saint Paul referencing in this letter to the Hebrews? To help with the answer, here is a passage from Saint Leonard of Port Maurice writings titled *The Hidden Treasure: Holy Mass*.

"For myself, I believe that were it not for holy Mass, at this moment the world would be in the abyss, unable to bear up under the mighty load of its iniquities. Mass is the potent prop that holds the world upon its base. Therefore, when we are assisting at it, we ought to practice that which once Alphonsus of Albuquerque did, who, finding himself with his fleet in danger of perishing during a fierce and terrific tempest, adopted the following means: He took in his arms an innocent little child which was on board his ship, and lifting it up toward Heaven, he said, 'If we are sinners, this creature is certainly free from sin; O Lord, for love of this innocent, remit to us the death we deserve!' Will you believe it? The spectacle of that stainless babe was so pleasing to God that He tranquilized the sea, and changed into joy for these unfortunates their terror of a death already imminent. Now, what do you believe is done by the Eternal Father when the priest, lifting in the air the thrice-saved Victim, shows to Him the innocence of His Divine Son? Ah, then His compassion cannot resist the sight of the most spotless innocence of Jesus, and He feels as if

compelled to calm our storms, and to provide for all our necessities. Thus without that thrice-holy Victim, Jesus, first of all bloodily sacrificed for us upon the Cross, and daily since unbloodily upon our altars, it would be all at an end with us; each might say to the other, 'We part to meet in Hell.' Yes, in Hell! But possessing this treasure of holy Mass, hope breathes again; and if we but throw it not away by our own mismanagement, we have holy paradise with in our grasp." (Tan Books, pgs. 10-11)

In the letters to the Hebrews, Saint Paul is describing the Mass in which the one and only sacrifice by Jesus Christ for the redemption of the world is represented in an unbloody manner. Through the Mass, "He is able for all time to save those who draw near to God through Him." Jesus is truly present on the altar when the proper words of the consecration are pronounced by an ordained priest. The priest is *in persona Christi*, in the person of Christ. It is Christ, Himself, who pronounces these words which transforms the bread and wine into His Body and Blood. Oh, if only we would fully open our hearts and minds to what Christ and His Church have given us in Holy Mass, would we ever miss an opportunity to assist the holy Mass? How truly dark this world would be if there were no Mass!

*Ave Maria*

*Michael Gustek, BSP*





## Laws and Kings...

by Janet Klasson, BSP

**But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.** (Jeremiah 31:33-34)

Laws and kings were not part of God's original plan for humanity. The intense longing of God's heart as expressed in the above scripture passage (and echoed in Isaiah 42:6, Isaiah 54:10, Jeremiah 32:40, Ezekiel 37:26, Hebrews 8:8-12, and Hebrews 10:16-17) was that **his law would be written on our hearts, then we would be his people and he would be our God.** He created us for intimacy with him, the same intimacy that he and Adam shared before the Fall. Scripture says that they walked together in the garden in the cool of the evening in perfect unity and harmony. Paradise.

In the *Book of Heaven* (found by four independent Vatican-appointed theologians to contain no errors in faith or morals), Jesus tells Luisa Piccarreta that when Adam fell it was from such a great height that it was a miracle he survived. We have been striving to get back up there ever since. If climbing Everest takes two months on average, how high the climb must be that has taken humanity 6,000 years—and counting! Adam fell from a GREAT height indeed and the story of salvation history has been about the long trek back to the summit, a summit so far above us we can barely imagine it. How easy it is to get side-tracked, stop on the way, and forget all about the goal on such a long trek. It takes a Divine Mind to stay focused for millennia. Thanks be to our loving Father, who did not abandon or forsake us.

Adam may have survived the Fall, but he was badly broken. His disobedience brought disorder, disunity, disharmony, hard labor, sickness, sin, and death. His great Fall warranted a very harsh sentence. Fortunately, Divine Justice is not only perfectly just, it is also perfectly merciful. God was not willing to give up on fallen humanity. Nevertheless, the trek back up to Paradise would be unimaginably treacherous, the journey doomed outside of grace. For man it was impossible, but for God all things are not only possible, but once he decides for it, it is as good as done. So, God himself would need to accomplish our return to Paradise, but it would take a few thousand years of patience, require a couple of Base Camps, and a continuous line of Sherpas—the priests and prophets. Kings too, but not in the way man imagined.

After the Fall, the supernatural law and the natural law became shrouded by sin; man tended toward rebellion and lawlessness. God knew that if we were to survive the long journey back to Paradise we would need laws. He chose a lowly man, Moses, to receive the Tablets of the Law, the first Base Camp from which to re-plenish our spiritual supplies. He chose a lowly nation, Israel, to carry the treasure through to the Promised Land. From that lowly nation would come priests and prophets, the first Sherpas. He himself planned to be the Architect of the trek, the Leader of his chosen people. But this fallen race often lost sight of their goal and, at one point, seeing that all the pagan nations had earthly kings, they begged for one too.

**"Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, 'You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations.' But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, 'Give us a king to govern us.' Samuel prayed to the Lord, and the Lord said to Samuel, 'Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. Now then, listen to their voice; only—you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.'**

**"So Samuel reported all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking him for a king. He said, 'These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots; and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plough his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the**

**equipment of his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers. He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work. He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the Lord will not answer you in that day.'**

**"But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, 'No! but we are determined to have a king over us, so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles.' When Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the Lord. The Lord said to Samuel, 'Listen to their voice and set a king over them.' Samuel then said to the people of Israel, 'Each of you return home.'"** (1 Samuel 8: 4-22)

You can hear the deep sigh in the Lord's final words. Our God will never override the human will, even knowing what sorrow and woe it will bring. Still, despite man's infidelity and persistent rebelliousness, God's mercy and grace increased. He never lost sight of the goal, in fact, the closer we got to the goal, the more mercy and grace abounded. God's glorious plan of salvation advanced, an unimaginable plan to send his own Beloved Son to pay, in a Divine way, the ultimate price for our sins.

Thus, the trek back to Paradise passed through the Womb of a lowly Maiden, Mary. This new Eve would give birth to the new Adam, Jesus Christ, whose perfect obedience, even to death, death on a cross, would redeem fallen man and lead to the establishment of the Church, the second Base Camp, higher up. The spiritual supplies from this Base Camp were extraordinary. God gave us the King we did not expect nor deserve and went far beyond that, anointing all the baptized as priests, prophets, and kings.

Grace and mercy increased still more the nearer we got to the summit. We would need every holy Breath of it, as the higher we climbed the thinner the air became, and the icier the wind. Over the next 2,000 years, the teachings of the Church and the merits of the saints continued to fill our tanks with rich, purified air, as long as we remained faithful. The food

of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, gave us new-found strength for this most demanding last leg of the journey.

And here we are, still climbing, but increasingly more exhausted, sometimes even disheartened. Are we there yet?

It cannot be denied that we are on the cusp of events of cosmic importance. Our merciful Father has sent our Blessed Mother to soil her feet on the earth once more, to warn us repeatedly through approved apparitions to repent of our sins and pray the rosary. She is the ultimate Sherpa, our refuge of safety until in the end her Immaculate Heart triumphs as she promised at Fatima. God always saves the best for last.

I was recently struck by the following reading from the *Book of Heaven* by Luisa Piccarreta, Volume 30. Though it was written before the Second World War, it seems to speak even more clearly to our time—and our place on the trek. Jesus speaks to Luisa:

*"Poor peoples, poor children of Mine—under the regime of men without pity, without heart, and without the grace to be able to act as guides for their subjects. Indeed, the epoch of the Jewish People is being repeated, as they remained without a king when I was near to coming upon earth, and were under the dominion of an alien empire, of barbarous and idolatrous men who did not even know their Creator. Yet, this was the sign of My nearing Coming into their midst. That epoch and this one hold hands in many things, **and the disappearance of thrones and empires is the announcement that the Kingdom of My Divine Will is not far. It having to be a Universal, Pacific Kingdom, there will be no need of kings to dominate It—each one will be king to himself. My Will will be for them Law, Guide, Support, Life and Absolute King of all and of each one; and all the arbitrary and rightless leaders will be shattered like dust in the wind.** The nations will continue to fight against one another—some by war, some by revolution, among themselves and against My Church. They have a fire in their midst that devours them, that gives them no Peace, and they can give no Peace. It is the fire of sin, and the fire of acting without God that gives them no Peace; and they will never make Peace if they do not call God into their midst, as regime and bond of Union and of Peace. And I let them do, and I will make them touch with their own hands what it means to act without God.*

*"But this does not prevent the Kingdom of My Supreme Fiat from coming; this is all creature's*

stuff, of the low world, that My Power knocks down and disperses whenever it wants, and it makes the most serene Sky and the most refulgent Sun arise from the storm. On the other hand, the Kingdom of My Divine Will is from on high, from the Heavens, formed and decreed in the midst of the Divine Persons—no one can touch It or disperse It....Be certain, **do not worry because evils get worse**; Our Power, Our Winning Love that has the virtue of always Winning, Our Will that can do everything and, with Invincible Patience, knows how to wait even for centuries—but what It wants and has to do is worth more than all the evils of creatures—in the face of Its Invincible Power and Its Infinite Value, their evils will be like little drops of water, like many trifles that will serve for the Triumph of Our Love and for the greater Glory of Our Fulfilled Will.” (Luisa Piccarreta, Book of Heaven, Volume 30, January 3, 1932)

God is doing a new thing. We may not be able to see it but take heart! The summit is just above that last high cloud. After the Triumph of the Immaculate, we will really understand what St. Augustine meant when he said, “Love and do what you will.” For then—finally—we will be his people and he will be our God. Fiat!

**Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;  
look towards the east,  
and see your children gathered from west and east  
at the word of the Holy One,  
rejoicing that God has remembered them.  
For they went out from you on foot,  
led away by their enemies;  
but God will bring them back to you,  
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.**

(Baruch 5:5-6)

## Some of the Mountains Mentioned in the Bible

As an ongoing reminder of our goal, scripture continually points us to the summit.

From [https://www.bible-history.com/map\\_jesus/MAPJESUSMountains.htm](https://www.bible-history.com/map_jesus/MAPJESUSMountains.htm) (in alphabetical order):

- Mt. Ararat - The mountain or mountains where Noah's ark came to rest.
- Mt. Carmel - The scene of Elijah's sacrifice and where he challenged the prophets of Baal.
- Mt. Gerizim - Sacred from early times, this mountain is still the scene where the Samaritans hold the Passover.
- Mt. Gilboa - The scene of Saul and Jonathan's death (exact location is under speculation)
- Mt. Horeb - Most likely synonymous with Sinai. It was the scene of the burning bush, of the giving of the Law, and of Elijah's vision.
- Mt. Moriah - The site of Abraham's intended sacrifice, and the mountain on which the Temple of Jerusalem was built. The Islamic Mosque of Omar resides on the site today.
- Mt. Olivet - The Mount of Olives; the scene of David's flight from Absalom; of Jesus' weeping over Jerusalem; and of His Ascension.
- Mt. Pisgah - The headland of the Nebo range from which Moses saw the Promised Land.
- Mt. Sinai - The mountain where the Israelites encamped for nearly a year, and where the Law was given to Moses. Also called Horeb.
- Mt. Tabor - The site of Barak's camp, some identify this mountain as the scene of the Transfiguration of Jesus.
- Mt. Zion - The eastern hill of Jerusalem. It was the stronghold of the Jebusites, attacked by Joab, and became the site of David's palace and the Temple.

From <https://jesusalive.cc/mountains-in-bible/>:

In addition to the events on the Mount Of Olives, several other important events associated with Jesus occurred on mountains: The Sermon On The Mount: ([Mt 5:1-7:29](#)), The Mount Of Transfiguration: ([Mt 17:1-8](#))([Mk 9:2-8](#))([Lk 9:28-36](#)), The Great Commission: ([Mt 28:16-20](#)), and the feeding of the 5000 ([Jn 6:3-14](#)). Satan took Jesus to an “exceeding high mountain” to tempt Him ([Mt 4:8-10](#))([Lk 4:5-8](#)). Jesus often went up a mountain to find solitude and pray ([Mt 14:23](#))([Mt 15:29](#))([Mk 6:46](#))([Lk 6:12](#))([Jn 6:15](#)). Jesus was crucified at Golgotha (“Place of a Skull”) ([Mt 27:33](#))([Mk 15:22](#))([Lk 23:33](#)), which many scholars believe was a “hill” that looked like a skull.

Janet Klasson BSP, Divine Mercy Chapter, Canada



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

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### 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.

## The spirit of Lent is...



*...Reconciliation.*

# 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*



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