



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

BONVENTURE AND HIS LESSONS ON ST. FRANCIS:

Chapter II. The Foundation of the Order – the Power of Francis’ Preaching

4. *Sixth lesson:* Francis was spending the night in prayer on one occasion, as was his custom, and he withdrew from the company of the friars. Then about midnight, as some of the friars slept and others prayed, a brilliant chariot of fire came through the door of the hut. It was surmounted by a ball of light which shone like the sun, and it turned here and there three times about the room. The friars who were awake were dumbfounded at the sight of the miraculous splendor, while those who were asleep woke up terrified. The shining light seemed to illuminate their hearts just as it lit up their surroundings, and their consciences were laid bare to one another by its extraordinary powers of penetration. As they looked into one another’s hearts they realized at once that it was their father Francis whom they had seen under the appearance of this vision. **God had revealed him to them as one who came in “in the spirit and power of an Elias” (Lk 1:17), and had been**

made a leader of his spiritual army, “a chariot and a charioteer” (cf. 4 Kgs 2:12) for his chosen people. When the saint rejoined the friars, he took occasion from the vision they had been shown from heaven to encourage them. He probed the depths of their consciences and foretold the future; his miracles brought him such renown that it was clear that the twofold spirit of Elias rested upon him in abundance. **There could be no doubt that it was perfectly safe for anyone to follow his life and teaching.**

(Note from Janet: It was truly providential that this passage was “next up” for this particular newsletter. As we move ever forward in the Association, towards our eternal goal, we can be confident in the miraculous help and guidance of our Seraphic Father, St. Francis. Thank you St. Francis, for this word of encouragement! Fiat!)



ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE...

Change is in the wind!

Dear brothers and sisters, the time has come for Shelley and I to retire from leading the Private Association of the Brothers and Sisters of Penance of St. Francis. *BRUCE TURNS 75 THE END OF THIS MONTH* and we decided that we should retire from actively leading the Association. That age is consistent with Church regulations on retirement of major Church leaders.

Consistent with this decision we are pleased to say that our Escondido, California Chapter will assume all responsibilities for the life and livelihood of the Association, and that on an international scale. All existing records will be transferred to their control, and they will assume responsibility for the Web page



Bruce and Shelley, BSP retreat 2007

and its content with this change. They have a solid and well-organized leadership, and it is fully expected that things as they exist will continue on some reasonable basis as they decide it. So look forward to future communication from them on what is to come and how they will handle things.

We will remain Administrators of the Association but in name only. We will be grandfathered as it is said, and they will decide if they are going to appoint other Administrators in California with whom they can work. The title of Administrator is in the leadership files of the Association and they can decide how they want to proceed in that regard. They can change these things of course, and the Web page, but we would expect they would communicate any significant changes to you, our membership, when they do things.

That said, we have thoroughly enjoyed our journey through the years leading the Association and trust the Holy Spirit will guide us into the future through our Escondido leaders. It is up to them to communicate their plans as they formulate them. Escondido will be responsible for future issues of the newsletter, and its content, as Janet Klasson has also decided to retire from producing the newsletter and administering the website. Neither she nor we are disappearing, but we will assume new roles in the life of the Association, always available to all members as friends and companions on the journey. We take this opportunity to thank Janet for all she

has done and given the BSP, and wish her continued success in her life and work whatever that may be.

We are proud of our leaders in Escondido for agreeing to take the BSP forward into the future. It will be challenging but we hope fun, and the BSP will continue to grow and prosper and promote the life of penance that St. Francis gave us all for the good of all. The times are chaotic and challenging and the world is drawing away from God, so our penance, prayer, and sacrifices are important for the good of us all!

We especially encourage our professed members to be patient with this change and to live the Rule to the fullest they can for their own good and the good of all. Professed members are so because they made their professions to the Lord, and their responsibility to live the Rule and how they live it is between them and God. Escondido can advise all members on how to make future communications with them to get their questions answered and advice on living the Rule.

Our Thanks to all members for all they have given us over the years! It has been exciting, and we look forward to a bright and holy future for the BSP and all within it.

May the Lord bless and lead us all!

Yours in Jesus forever!

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



Changed, not ended...

by Janet Klasson, BSP

From the Second Reading, Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. (James 1:17)

The change of Administration of the *Brothers and Sisters of Penance of St. Francis* being announced in this newsletter will seem sudden to most of you. However, be assured Bruce and Shelley have been considering the possibilities for some time. The changes have been prayed about, and planned, for months if not years. Archbishop Hebda and our Visitor, Fr. Robert Altier, have been consulted, and the process has been shared with those directly involved in the changes. There are perhaps a few details yet to be finalized but it is as good as done, as God wills.

As Bruce mentioned in his article, I will be passing on the torch of the newsletter and website to our dedicated brothers and sisters in the St. Anthony Chapter in Escondido. It may surprise you a little to hear that the St. Anthony Chapter will be the home of the new BSP headquarters, but everything I know about them gives me great confidence and hope. They are beautiful, generous souls, and are well equipped to take this on. Fiat!

While contemplating these changes, I took time to reflect on how grateful I am personally for the gift of the Association of the BSP, and not least for the



fidelity, friendship, and guidance of Bruce and Shelley. God be praised for their many *generous acts of giving* (James 1:17).

There are times in life that God's will for you is made abundantly clear. Please allow me to share with you how God led me to the BSP.

In 2002 I had to work at our family business on Easter Sunday. I was not happy about it, but it could not be helped. The weekend schedule was set in stone. I knew it would be slow that day, so I thought, at least I could read a good Catholic book while at work. I remembered that the book, "The Song of Bernadette (of Lourdes)" was available in the library I worked at during the week, so I went to see if I could find it. I wasn't exactly sure where it was on the shelf, but when I went to the card catalogue my hand flipped exactly to that card! When I went to the shelf, my eye fell exactly on that book! The message was clear!

Reading about St. Bernadette sparked in me an interest in Our Lady's messages to her beloved children. I subsequently read several books on various Marian apparitions and noticed a common element in the messages—a call to deeper prayer and regular fasting. This call rang clearly in my heart, but as I tried to put it into practice, I found it very challenging—I was either too strict with myself or not strict enough. I knew I needed a community, but as I lived in a remote area that seemed far out of reach.

Then, I got another broad hint from God. My eyes fell on a book that had sat unread on my own bookshelf for 15 years: "God's Fool: The Life and Times of Francis of Assisi" by Julien Green. As I read the book it ignited something in me. My heart was drawn to the simple Saint from Assisi, so I decided to investigate Franciscan Third Orders on the internet. The first site that came up was the BSP. When I read their rule, I burst into tears! It was exactly what I felt called to, and miracle of miracles, they had online formation! I was overwhelmed. Our gracious God had guided me to the BSP step by step. May His Name be praised forever!

I made my profession in 2007, and 14 years later, I can't imagine my life, especially my spiritual life, without the BSP and the Rule of 1221. I am eternally grateful for all God has done for me, for all of us, and indeed the world, through the Rule and the Association. Learning to live the Rule leads us from the chaos of the world to rhythm of the Rule, from self-indulgence to detachment, from disobedience to obedience. The Rule gives us a firm foundation

through which we can grow in virtue and on which we can kneel to make our offerings to God for the good of all. Eventually, the Rule becomes as comfortable as an old sweater and we don't even remember how different we are—***in the world, but NOT of it, for Christ.*** Simply put, living the Rule of 1221 is grace upon grace poured on the penitent for the sake of the world, and it is God who does it all. Fiat!

God be praised in all of it, but I am sure I am speaking for us all when I thank God for Bruce and Shelley, two faithful Franciscans who fell in love with the Rule of 1221 in its original form and responded whole-heartedly to the vision and call to form the Brothers and Sisters of Penance of St. Francis. The call came with plenty of challenges, but the Lord's work in willing souls always bears fruit.

Bruce and Shelley also answered the call of Pope Saint John Paul II to use the "new technologies" to evangelize. It is a great gift to most of us that Bruce and Shelley answered the call to build a BSP website in the early days of the internet. Our latest professed brother, Ian Vincent, is a Canadian living in Japan, whose main method of communication to the rest of us has been the BSP Forum on our website, where he often posts interesting tidbits. The BSP has almost from the beginning been an international association.

In another miracle, God called Anna Feroni of Italy (may she rest in peace) to join the BSP—someone who was trained in HTML code and who built the website that has served us for two decades. I took over from her when her health began to fail—but I had only the most basic training in code. There were times when I got into trouble and had to ask for her assistance. After she passed, when I got into trouble I would pray, "Anna, you gotta help me!" And the solution would pop into my head. God be praised!

Yes the BSP is God's work, from beginning to middle, and will be until Divine Decree brings about its end.

Still, it was Bruce and Shelley who answered the call, who were always so generous with their time, even while raising a large family. Anyone who had Bruce as formation director was blessed with his gentle and loving guidance. And if Jesus is the Captain of the BSP ship, and St. Francis is the First Mate, Bruce has been the rudder keeping us on track, and Shelley has been the anchor, mostly hidden yet indispensable.

Well done, good and faithful servants. Enjoy the extra time you will have to spend with your family, God's holy blessing. Fiat!

Janet Klasson BSP, Divine Mercy Chapter, Canada

A few more things...

† If you would like to send Bruce and Shelley an acknowledgement...

Here is their contact information as found on the website:

65774 County Road 31, Northome, Minnesota 56661
Phone: 218-897-5974; Email: minncc03@gmail.com

† Administrator contact information on the website will change by September 15.

† Newsletter submissions going forward...

Beginning with the October issue, **content submissions must be sent to justinpanlasiqui@gmail.com**. Please have your submissions to Justin by the 25th of the month if at all possible, to give time to get the newsletter put together.



VISITOR'S MESSAGE

Homily by Fr. Robert Altier

Sunday Sermon for August 29, 2021

Readings: Deut 4:1-2,6-8; Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mk 171-8, 14-15, 21-23

In the first reading today, Moses tells the people of Israel to be sure to follow the commandments of the Lord

exactly and, by doing so, they will give evidence of their wisdom and intelligence to the nations. Of course, the first question we must ask is: if observing the commandments of God demonstrates wisdom and intelligence, what does a failure to live according to the ways of God demonstrate?

When we consider the precepts imposed on the Jewish people, we must remember that many of the laws were added because of the disobedience of the people. Since everything is contained in the law that commands us to love God and neighbor, nothing more needs to be said. However, when people refuse to love or want to redefine what love is, the intention of the lawgiver must be clarified. Being human, the Jewish people liked to make God's Word say what they wanted it to say; for this reason God added new precepts to make clear His intention.

The biggest problem with a multiplicity of laws or commandments is that following the letter of the law can become the main focus of the practice of religion. Catholics fall into the same trap as the Jews have over the centuries: we give God lip service while our hearts are far from Him. If all we are doing is following rules, we are failing to love Him. A trained animal can do just as much so, while we certainly want to do what our Lord has asked us to do, we must also do it for the right reason.



We see this same point in the second reading where St. James tells us to be doers of the word, and not hearers only. If we do not carry out the commandments of God, St. James tells us we are deluding ourselves. This could sound like the point I made above is not correct, and that all we need to do is follow the rules. Thankfully, St. James must have anticipated this and tells us that true religion is found in caring for widows and orphans in their need and keeping oneself unstained by the world.

In other words, it comes down to loving God and loving neighbor. If we simply follow the rules, we can be robotic in our practice of the Faith, but then give into any vices that are not explicitly forbidden. If we are going to keep ourselves unstained by the world, it means we must keep our focus on God, making sure that our relationship with Him is growing. It is only by drawing nearer to God that we can be assured that we will not be drawn by the allurements of the world.

Moses makes this point clear when he asks the people of Israel (after telling the people about observing the commandments of God) "What great nation is there that has gods so close to it as the Lord, our God, is to us whenever we call upon Him?" God is close to us because He loves us; we will be close to Him only when we are loving Him. Just going through the motions or just practicing external observance of the commandments will not bring us close to God. In fact, what that can do is cause us to think we have earned or deserved to be rewarded by God for what

we have done.

Love does not seek to be rewarded. In fact, the fulfillment that comes from love is found in the giving of one's self, not in receiving from the other. God loves us, so He is already close to us and prepared to give us everything. However, the greatest gift we can receive is not the various spiritual and material gifts God gives, but God Himself. This is what is received by those who love Him. Love is a two way street; it is two persons giving and two persons receiving. God is giving Himself completely to us; we can only receive His gift of self if our hearts are open to receive. Our hearts open when we choose

to give, so the more we give, the more our hearts are open to receive.

It is difficult for us to open our hearts to love and to be loved because, as our Lord makes clear in the Gospel, there is a lot in our hearts that is not love. He tells us that what defiles us is what comes from within our hearts. He gives us a number of examples: evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, etc. If we were to break this down, it means selfishness or the willingness to use others rather than love them. So, to give proof of our wisdom and intelligence, love God and neighbor!

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Franciscan Saints

By Ian Vincent, BSP

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In this time of quarantine and lockdown I wanted to highlight a Franciscan saint who is well aware of people's hardships. Many people know of Saint Father Damien of Molokai. He ministered to those suffering from Hansen's disease (leprosy) who were permanently quarantined on the island of Molokai, Hawaii. Lesser known is his successor Saint Mother Marianne Cope, a Sister of St. Francis of Syracuse, New York. For 35 years she, and 6 of her sisters, volunteered to help the people suffering from Hansen's disease, from 1883 until her passing in 1918. In November 1885, she opened the Kapiolani Home with the government's support to provide

shelter to homeless female children of Hansen disease patients. Only the Sisters were willing to care for children associated with people suffering from Hansen's disease. Because of her care for the people forced to live in quarantine, separated from their loved ones, she was called the Mother of Outcasts. For those of you who live in New York State, the Saint Marianne Cope Shrine & Museum is located in Syracuse. This is a chapel that would be well worth visiting for those who wish a Franciscan pilgrimage. More information can be found here <https://www.saintmarianne.org/>

God Bless everyone!

Ian Vincent, BSP, Canadian member living in Japan

The Power of the Mass

By Michael Gustek

Jesus said, "We must work the works of Him who sent Me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." (Saint John 9:4-5)

What do these words spoken by our Lord mean? To an unbeliever, most likely, it will mean nothing especially the second sentences. For an unbeliever, they always live in darkness because they have no supernatural faith which allows them to see the truths taught by Christ and His Church. To those who confess to believe but only believe when it is convenient probably see it as Jesus telling His followers to accomplish their work during the day then at night they should rest. As for verse 5, they

may see it to mean Jesus brought the light of faith to His disciples as He walked this earth and then is the light for the world through those who confess the name of Jesus. This may be true and could be applied in this way but would come from one separated from the One True Church of God.

What do these words really mean as revealed by Christ and His Catholic Church? First, what is meant by "the works of Him who sent Me?" Me is Jesus. Him is the Father.

What is meant by "while it is day; night comes, when no one can work.?" Day is the time between Jesus' first coming and His second coming. Once Jesus



comes again, all will be revealed. The King will come to separate the goat and the sheep. Those who have done evil will go into the everlasting fire. Those who have done good and believed in Jesus and all that He has revealed through His One Church will go into everlasting life. Nothing else can be done after that.

During our lifetime, we must remember the words from Canon Law #1752, "...the salvation of souls, which must always be the supreme law in the Church, is to be kept before one's eyes."

What does verse 5 mean? As a Catholic, we believe Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. He will be on this earth in the Eucharist until He returns in His glorified body at the end of time. Not only is He the light of the world, in the Eucharistic He is offering Himself to the Father and preventing the just judgment to be administered on the earth. If you do not believe this, read the following two quotes which is just a few stating the same truth.

"It is most consoling to think that over 300,000 Catholic priests daily stand at the altar offering the holy Sacrifice to the Most High, in adoration and thanksgiving, in atonement for the sins of the world, and drawing God's mercy upon us and the suffering souls in purgatory. In many thousands of tabernacles, the Son of God spends day and night in

solitude and loneliness, praying to His Heavenly Father to have mercy on us. Many millions of Catholics gather at least once a day in churches throughout the world, assisting at the holy Sacrifice, receiving Holy Communion or making a visit. Indeed, what would become of the world if it were not for the holy Sacrifice of the Mass! What would become of me without holy Mass!" Things Liturgical: Holy Mass, by Father Nerius, O.F.M. Cap., 1945, pg.48

"Turn away Thine anger from us. (Psalm 84:4) How is it that the weight of God's wrath is kept from falling on the sinful world? It is the power of the Mass which stays His hand. It is also those hidden lives of sacrifice, of penance, of prayer, which, known to the world, are passed in the cloister, and, through the merits of the Redeemer, go far to appease the anger of the Lord." The Little Office of Our Lady: A Treatise Theoretical, Practical, and Exegetical by Father Ethelred L. Taunton, 1903, pg. 322

Thanks be to God for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Saint Padre Pio once said, "It would be easier for the world to survive without the sun than to do so without the Holy Mass." Please pray for holy priest. Without holy priest, there will be no Holy Mass.

O Jesus! In honor of Thy Sacramental Presence in all the Tabernacles throughout the world, have mercy on us.

MORNING STAR: NEWS ON THE ASSOCIATION...

THE WRITINGS OF ST. FRANCIS IN A FREE DOWNLOAD

All are welcome to download a pdf of the writings of St. Francis made available at the Online Library of Liberty.

https://oll-resources.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/oll3/store/titles/1172/StFrancis_0535_EBk_v6.0.pdf

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.



"Charity is certainly greater than any rule. Moreover, all rules must lead to charity."

–St. Vincent de Paul

A BIT OF HISTORY...

I invite you to read the [History of the BSP](#) is in our handbook and on our website. History is what leads us to the future. God be praised for both!

You will get a feel for Bruce and Shelley's love for the BSP if you read the [Stella Matutina Blog](#). Here is an excerpt followed by a passage on the BSP Butterfly:

March 31, 2007

Let us fly!

Filed under: [Morning Star](#) — Bruce @ 10:17 am

Flightless rear fledges, only guiding things,
thought in error strong when empty of power,
the gift of flight comes from Godly wings
beating tirelessly; through them spirits would flower.

And we live our lives in the power of our commitments, whatever they are, for every man commits to something even if it is never to get committed! We, if we wish to be followers of St. Francis, do so by striving to live the tenets of the lifestyle he gave us as our response and commitment to live the Gospel. Through this manner of living we seek Union with the Lord. The First Rule of the Third Order of 1221 was designed to "feather our wings??, not our tails. It does give us the spiritual tools to grow in holiness. For the simple fact is that souls are like birds. As depicted in the dove at the start of this section, our souls can fly without those tail feathers, but not without those wing feathers.

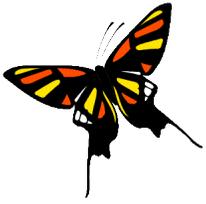
This entire analogy, was the cause of this poem. There was a man who was on a fishing trip in Northern Minnesota in the Spring of 1990. A robin wandered into the entryway of the cabin where he was staying. As he tried to capture the bird to release it he grasped its tail and began carrying it towards the door. The bird did not wait to get to the door. It flapped its wings and flew away leaving all its tail feathers in his hand! Every single feather! The man was absolutely incredulous to see it fly to the top of a tree nearby quite content to be free!

The simple fact, that the leaders of every Order in the world should know, is that people don't need excessive guidelines, constitutions, books, or statutes to advance in holiness. They don't even need Rules of life except that they will create their own Rule of life if they are not given one. Hence, the Lord, who knows the heart of man well, gave us all the one Rule, the Gospel. And if we were not fallen, we would not even need the Gospel for it would be written in our consciences and we would never violate our consciences.

The other Rules, given to us by the Saints, which now includes so many and diverse Rules as to defy summation and includes the Franciscan charisma through the Rule of 1221 among others, all simply confirm and embellish the Gospel. They make it easier to see the Gospel and live if for particular groups of people in particular ways, which simply recognizes that "The body of Christ is His Church.?? (Eph 1:23), and it, like any body, has many members which coexist and function together as one person.

So, the First Rule of the Third Order of St. Francis of 1221 was given to us lay people to show us how to live the Gospel. St. Francis was not interested in having us live a Rule. He wanted us to live the Gospel and that is the intent of his Rules for any of his Orders. To live the Gospel, that is the key to holiness, and that is no "child's play?? except, perhaps, a child of God. Walking is fine, but to be saints we must learn to fly! We should all, everywhere, remember that the power of flight lies in our wings! Prayer, ministry, fasting, sacraments amidst joy!

<http://www.bspenance.org/blog/archives/category/reflections-on-a-morning-star/>



WHY THE BUTTERFLY AS A SYMBOL?

The butterfly was selected as one symbol of the Association (the other is the crown of thorns) because it was given to us during prayers for the Association to depict

what was going to happen to those who lived the Rule of 1221. They would become butterflies so to speak. Converted souls for Christ. This is most appropriate as a caterpillar transforming into a butterfly is a meaningful symbol of conversion. A butterfly begins as a worm, a caterpillar, and then enters a cocoon and essentially dies as a caterpillar and emerges in beautiful, winged form. Even so, we must die to ourselves to become souls for Christ. Hence the butterfly is the symbol of any person who has died to the things of the world and converted to become a new person who belongs to God. For this reason the motto of the Brothers and Sisters of Penance of St. Francis, a.k.a. the BSP, is "IN THE WORLD BUT NOT OF IT FOR CHRIST."

But there is more to the story, which we are able to share with you because we have the permission of Father Valerius Messerich O.F.M., a true friend, holy friar of St. Francis, and our first Visitor and spiritual guide, to do so. The Lord gave many visions as confirmations on what the association would be during the early, formative years of the Association. Many of these visions included the butterfly. What follows are a few of the visions as recorded in the personal journal of a BSP member, who has shared them here for everyone's consideration. All of them were received during prayer.

"I asked the Lord how fast the Association would form and how large it would become, and he showed me a vision of a beautiful hovering butterfly. As I gazed the butterfly became a faucet. As I studied this strange spectacle a drop of water formed slowly at the mouth of the faucet. Then the drop fell VERY SLOWLY until it hit a flat surface. When it hit it VERY SLOWLY shattered into numerous droplets that went to the left and right, and on both ways they became sparkling bright as they spread out until they hit the surface of the ground again. At that time each of the droplets became a beautiful, full color butterfly of the same variety except that one of the butterflies, amidst them all, had a bright diamond heart that pulsated as it flew away. I understood the dream to

mean that the Association would form slowly, but that among those that pursued the lifestyle of the First Rule of the Third Order of St. Francis of 1221 all would become beautifully converted to the Lord, i.e. butterflies, and some of these would be saints of great holiness. Praise God! The one drop became many droplets and so many will come to the Association, become butterflies, and who knows, perhaps more faucets? More droplets? More butterflies?"

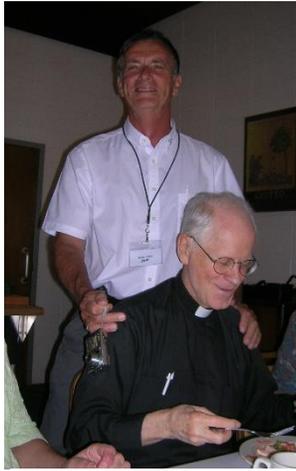
"There was another shock associated with the vision of the butterfly. When I went in search of a butterfly on my computer to log the story in my journal, the butterfly in this vision turned out to be the Microsoft butterfly! The same one in the artwork in the hard drive of my computer! It was a shock when I saw it! To me this was an indication that the computer, and Internet, would be an integral part of what we would become as an Association. It was not the end though, of the butterfly in our life."

"In 2003, a new name was sought for the Minnesota group consistent with the original vision of the Association, which was to stay focused on the message of St. Francis. We took a vote of our members, and found that they favored the name Brothers and Sisters of Penance of St. Francis. I put that at the head of the new draft of the Web page and filed it. When I recovered the electronic file, to edit it and check for errors, a butterfly had been added to the name, right after Penance, and before 'of St. Francis'. It would show up in the electronic "View" document, but would not be present in any other use of the file when it was launched! I confirmed that this could not have happened by normal means through our IT people, and so could only conclude that St. Francis had also voted for the name Brothers and Sisters of Penance of St. Francis, and more than that. The position of the butterfly indicated that we, as lay people following St. Francis, are the 'butterflies of St. Francis', that is converted souls of the way of life given us by St. Francis. Praise God for this confirmation!"

So, when you see a butterfly, whether or not you join the BSP, remember your call, to always be a converted soul of the Lord! Blessed be the Lord!

https://bspenance.org/History_page.shtml

A few memories...



Bruce with 2007 Retreat Master Fr. Thomas Dubay



Retreat 2007



Retreat 2010



St. Anthony Chapter professions, Escondido Retreat 2012



Retreat 2013



Retreat 2015

(Note: the photos do not depict all the attendees of the retreats, only the BSP members in attendance.)

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 minncc03@gmail.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)



The BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF
PENANCE



of St. Francis

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