

'FOLLOW ME!'

Luke 9:23

Monthly Newsletter of

The BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF PENANCE



of St. Francis

November 2010

BONAVENTURE AND HIS LESSONS ON ST. FRANCIS:

Chapter II—Francis gives himself completely to God and rebuilds three churches.



1. (Continued from October newsletter)...He was quite willing to devote himself entirely to repairing the ruined church of San Damiano, although the message really referred to the universal Church which Christ "won for himself at the price of his own blood" (Acts 20, 28), as the Holy Spirit afterwards made him realize and he himself explained to the friars.

Making the sign of the cross, he laid his plans immediately. He took some bales of cloth for the market and went straight to Foligno where he sold them, together with the horse he was riding. Then he made his way back to Assisi and went into the church he had been told to repair. There, he met the poor priest who was in charge and greeted him respectfully, offering his money for the repairs to the church and for the poor, and begging him humbly to let him live with him for a little while. The priest agreed to let him stay, but for fear of his parents he refused to take the money. In his dislike of money in any form, Francis threw it on the window-sill, and had no more interest in it than if it were dust.

2. When his father heard that Francis was living with the priest, he was very upset and he hurried to the church without delay. When he heard the threats of those who were looking for him and realized that they were drawing near, Francis hid in a secret cave; he was new to the service of Christ and he wished to avoid his father's anger. He remained in hiding for a number of days, imploring God continuously in a flood of tears to deliver him from the hands of his persecutors and enable him, in his goodness, to fulfill the desires he himself had inspired. Eventually he was filled with overflowing joy and fell to reproaching himself as a coward, lacking in determination. At that, he laid aside his fear and left his hiding place, taking the road towards Assisi. When the townspeople saw his haggard looks and the change which had come over him, they thought that he had gone mad, and they threw stones and mud from the streets at him, shouting insults after him as if he were a lunatic. But Francis was deaf to it all and no insult could break or change him. When his father heard the uproar, he immediately rushed after him, determined to crush him, not to protect him. Throwing compassion to the winds, he dragged him home where he tried to persuade him first with words and then with blows, before he finally put him in chains. But that only made Francis more eager and determined than ever to carry out his plans, as he realized the words of the Gospel, "Blessed are those who suffer persecution in the cause of right; the kingdom of heaven is theirs" (Mt 5, 10).

Bonaventure—Major Life of St. Francis (1263) Part I



VISITOR'S MESSAGE:



HOMILY BY FATHER ROBERT ALTIER

In the readings this morning, we hear about Wisdom and how Wisdom is found by those who seek her, by those who desire to find her. But we are also told in the same reading from the Book of Wisdom that it is not just some kind of lazy desire to be saying something to the effect of, "Yeah, it would be nice to have Wisdom." That is not enough of a desire. One must demonstrate the desire because, if we look at that first reading again, we are told that if we are vigilant, if we are keeping vigil looking for

Wisdom, and if we are awake at dawn seeking Wisdom, then we will find her. We are told that Wisdom desires us even more than we desire her, and if we are truly looking for her that she will be found.

Now we need also to be very clear what this wisdom is. It is not a worldly wisdom; it is not a matter of being able to be shrewd and so on; that is not what we are talking about. Saint Paul makes very clear in his first chapter of the First Letter to the Corinthians that Jesus Christ is the wisdom and the power of God. The wisdom that we seek is the wisdom of God. And the wisdom of God is the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, who became man in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The world was seeking that wisdom for centuries, and when He came they missed Him. The world continues to seek and the world continues to fail to find because what happens is that we try to impose our own human wisdom onto God. Rather than seeking Wisdom and being vigilant looking for Wisdom, we instead try to use our own human ingenuity to determine what God's wisdom is going to look like. We assume that we know how we are going to find this wisdom; consequently, when God presents this wisdom to us, because His wisdom does not fit what we expected, we reject it. And so what happens is that we are imposing our own definition onto God rather than allowing God to teach us – and it does not work. In fact, such a failure has that been that sociologists now say that we live in a post-Christian era. And anyone following religious trends would say that we now live in a neo-pagan society because we have followed human wisdom rather than God's wisdom.

So we need to ask ourselves, and a little bit more seriously, about this wisdom, because Jesus in the Gospel reading tells us about the wise virgins and the foolish virgins. He tells us about how they did not bring oil for their lamps as they were waiting for the bridegroom. When we look at what Saint Paul was talking about in Thessalonians, he was fully expecting that the Second Coming was going to arrive in his own day. Jesus, in the Gospel reading, instead says, "The bridegroom was long delayed." And so He has been, two thousand years long delayed at this point, and it is going to be much longer.

All we need to do is look in our own day when everybody thought that they knew the wisdom of God and they kind of put God into a little cubby-hole and everybody got ready for the year 2,000. There was this sudden rush of religiosity, and 2,000 came and it went, and suddenly people's religious fervor went right back to where it was before: their devotion to what somebody once called "Our Lady of the Pillow", that is, failing to get out of bed on Sunday morning and come to church because their devotion to sleep was far more important to them than God. Their religious fervor had only to do with selfish interests, thinking that the end of the world may have been at hand when in fact it was not. And now they have given way to their worldly ways once again because they attempted to impose upon God their own wisdom rather than allowing God to teach wisdom to them. Once again, they are not being vigilant, but rather they are sleeping. Not the type that Saint Paul talks about of those who have fallen asleep, but rather they have fallen into a slumber that the world and the flesh and the devil have placed upon them, or in fact that they have willfully and freely chosen.

We must understand that if we are going to be able to live the faith we profess, that today more than ever in America, we must be vigilant. And that vigil must require prayer, fasting, and self-denial. The current of the present society is so strong that even those who truly desire to remain faithful to Our Lord are often being swept up in the current. Maybe they are not getting into the main current of the river but they are wading out into it far enough that the current is sweeping them away because they are not firmly rooted in Christ.

If we wish to be able to find that wisdom and be found by Wisdom at the gate, as we hear in the first reading, we must be vigilant, we must be seeking Wisdom at all times. Not just simply looking for selfish purposes to be able to say, "Well, if the Second Coming happens today, then I better make sure that I'm with Jesus. But otherwise, I want to live a totally hedonistic life." We cannot do that. We have to say, "If I'm going to be living for God, then I need to live for God. And I can't be trying to play this game and see if I can get away with living a sinful, selfish life right up to the minute that my wisdom tells me God is going to arrive." If we simply look back a couple of years, we find a lot of foolish people who put enough oil in their lamps only to last to January 1st of the year 2,000. And then, when suddenly the Bridegroom did not arrive according to their wisdom, their lamps went out and they have not returned yet from the merchants.

The Lord is not so foolish as to do things the way we think it is going to be done. Why would He have arrived in the year 2,000? Everybody expected Him and He tells us it will happen at a time that we do not expect and therefore we need to stay awake. So we can ask ourselves, each one, are we really awake? Are we watching for the Lord? Are we looking at the signs of the times? Are we keeping ourselves in the state of grace? And not just minimally in the state of grace – are we growing in God's grace and in love for God? Are we seeking the Lord in prayer? Are we truly living our faith? Are we doing what we are supposed to in the Lord? Are we keeping our torches burning? Do we have enough oil – that is, enough grace – to be able to keep our lamps burning all the way to the end, whenever that might come?

We do not know when it is going to happen. What we can be fairly well assured of, I think, is that the end is nowhere in sight. There is going to be some severe trouble coming very soon but it is not going to be the end of the world. But it will be the end for many, many, many people in this society and throughout the world. We need to use the wisdom of God in order to see what is coming and in order to make our way through it. Only those who are truly vigilant, only those who are united with Jesus Christ in prayer and in faith are going to be able to survive the period of trial which is to come because it will be severe. And if our faith is limited only to coming to Mass on Sunday and having nothing else to do with Our Lord, chances are very unlikely that we are going to make it through because even though there is faith it is minimal. We need, Scripture tells us, to stay awake, to be vigilant, to be praying, to make sure that we have enough oil because we do not know how long it is going to last.

We do not know how severe it is going to be and we must never allow ourselves to think we have things in such control that we will be able to survive because Our Lord told us that were the time not shortened, even the elect would fall astray. By ourselves and by our own wisdom we *cannot* survive; that is an absolute and a guarantee. By our own wisdom and our own ingenuity, we *cannot* survive the period that is to come upon us. Only by the grace of God and by the wisdom of God can we make it. And so each one of us needs to be deeply rooted in prayer. We need to be vigilant. We need to put into practice what it is that we proclaim and profess and preach, that is, that we believe in Jesus Christ. We need to look at each one of those elements of the Creed that we are going to profess in just a couple of moments and we need to ask, "Do I really and truly, from the depths of my being, believe these things that I am professing to believe?" We need to live them. We cannot any longer just give lip service to our faith. We cannot pull out the Creed every Sunday and read it without really even knowing what it says and what it means and then walk away and forget totally what it was we just professed because what we really believe and what we really live is something entirely different.

We need to look at that. We need to bring it to the very depths of our being. And in the midst of the deepest, darkest, most difficult time that human history has ever known, we had better be able to hold fast to what we profess or we will not survive. It is something which is beyond us. What will be coming upon the world is much larger than any one of us and it is much larger than what any one of us can do

anything about. And that is a gift. Otherwise, in our arrogance, we would think that we could do something about it and in our own human wisdom we would think that we could control it. It is way larger than we are and we can do nothing about it, except to pray. We need to praise God for that because that is a gift. When we realize how small we really are and how powerless we are in the face of all of these things, then we will recognize that only the power of God, who is Jesus Christ, and only the wisdom of God, who is Jesus Christ, can conquer what is to come. And only the wisdom and the power of God, who is Jesus Christ, the fire that is lit within each one of us, will be able to provide to keep that flame burning in our hearts so that our torches will still be burning when the Bridegroom arrives.

Our part is merely to cooperate. That is all we can do. We cannot control it. We cannot try to manipulate it. We cannot try to tell God how it is going to work because it is beyond us. We need to look to God. We need to allow the Holy Spirit to teach us and guide us. We need to unite ourselves with Our Blessed Lady because this is her time, given over to her by God. We need to allow her to lead us to her Son and we must remain united with Him. We must enter into His Sacred Heart and allow the flame of His Heart to ignite ours. We must allow the love of God to be that torch which burns within us. And we must allow His grace to provide the oil to keep that fire burning. That is the only way.

We must understand that this is the most graced time in human history. We are about to enter into the darkest time, and we are about to enter into the most graced time that humanity has ever known. "Where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more," the apostle Saint Paul told us. And so the grace of God is going to be available in abundance. As long as we operate according to His wisdom, there will be plenty of grace, plenty of oil to keep our flames burning. But if we try to impose our wisdom on God and tell Him how it is going to happen, the Bridegroom will be delayed in His coming and we will not have enough oil to keep our torches alight. We need now to put aside all of our human wisdom, all of our own ideas about what is going to happen, and we need to seek God, to seek His wisdom, to be vigilant, and to allow Wisdom to find us.

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



ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE...

A Reflection on the Feast of All Saints



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On Halloween, in 1995, we met with Bishop Roger Schwietz in Duluth (now Archbishop of Anchorage, Alaska) to request permission to form the BSP! We went to him even though he was not the bishop of our diocese, because he was factually Bruce's confirmation sponsor, and we did not know where to begin to form the BSP! Nothing had been done. We were starting, and all we knew was we had to have the support of the Church!

We apologized for meeting with him on Halloween night, no less, and he said: "This is the perfect time to meet to talk about your desire to form a group of laity who wish to live the Rule of life that St. Francis gave them so they can become saints! It is 'All Hallows Eve'" he said. The vigil of the feast of All Saints! And after he heard our story he said: "This is a good and holy thing!" Shortly after that he personally took us to see our Archbishop, Harry J. Flynn, in the diocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, and the rest is history. Archbishop Flynn gave us permission to form the BSP, to live the life that St. Francis gave us, to gather in support of it, and to promote it in the Church! We were on our way!

With that in mind it is a good time for us all to consider our committment to become Saints! All in heaven are saints! We want to go to heaven, so we want to, and need to, become saints.

Let us all consider how God calls us all to be with him in these Scripture verses which were sent to us by Victor Christianus, a recent BSP Inquirer. Let us become Saints, and the Rule that St. Francis gave us is the narrow path we can follow to do it!

Psalm 115:15 - Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

Psalm 67:36 - God is wonderful in his saints: the God of Israel is he who will give power and strength to his people. Blessed be God.

Psalm 96:10 - You that love the Lord, hate evil: the Lord preserveth the souls of his saints, he will deliver them out of the hand of the sinner.

Wisdom 4:15 - That the grace of God, and his mercy is with his saints, and that he hath respect to his chosen.

Ecclesiasticus 42:17 - Hath not the Lord made the saints to declare all his wonderful works, which the Lord Almighty hath firmly settled to be established for his glory?

Judith 6:15 - Saying: O Lord God of heaven and earth, behold their pride, and look on our low condition, and have regard to the face of thy saints, and shew that thou forsakes not them that trust on thee, and that thou humblest them that presume of themselves, and glory in their own strength.

Daniel 7:18 - But the saints of the most high God shall take the kingdom: and they shall possess the kingdom for ever and ever.

1 Corinthians 6:2 - Know you not that the saints shall judge this world?

Ephesians 1:18 - The eyes of your heart enlightened, that you may know what the hope is of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.

Apocalypse 8:3-4 - And another angel came, and stood before the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given to him much incense, that he should offer of the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar, which is before the throne of God. And the smoke of the incense of the prayers of the saints ascended up before God from the hand of the angel.

1 Peter 5 - And when the prince of pastors shall appear, you shall receive a never fading crown of glory.

John 15:5-8 - I am the vine: you the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same beareth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing. If any one abide not in me, he shall be cast forth as a branch, and shall wither, and they shall gather him up, and cast him into the fire, and he burneth. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you shall ask whatever you will, and it shall be done unto you. In this is my Father glorified; that you bring forth very much fruit, and become my disciples.

Bruce and Shelley Fahey BSP
Administrators, Minnesota





NO GREATER LOVE: by PAUL BEERY BSP

The coming of the lawless one by the activity of Satan will be with all power and with pretended signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are to perish, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Therefore God sends upon them a strong delusion, to make them believe what is false, so that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12)

Please bear with me for writing about a uniquely American phenomenon, our 2010 mid-term election, from the perspective of a freedom-loving Christian American patriot. This is not a purely national political matter, but part of the profound spiritual warfare going on around the world. Will we be governed by God-centered politicians, or Secular Socialists who are putting God and the People of God in the closet, who think they can govern unaided by the grace of God? Politics and faith cannot be separated. I see followers of St. Francis supporting and promoting the greatest evils known to mankind, abortion and homosexuality, by their choice of political parties. How on earth can any Christian – especially a Franciscan – fail to recognize the difference between the Gospel of Life and the Culture of Death? I don't seek a Christian theocracy, only fidelity on the part of the People of God to Jesus Christ. If I am preaching to the choir here, so be it. That's who I am. At least when I stand before God I won't have to take responsibility for one of the choir members leaving and crossing over to the dark side.

Western Christian Civilization would not now be in the tank except for the failure of Christians to live up to their faith. One of the defining moments came in 1930 at the Lambeth Conference when the Anglican church accepted the contraceptive mentality. Eighty years later we have millionaires saying they cannot afford more than two children. No. They have been secularized, and accepted the wisdom of the world which is totally contrary to the teachings of Jesus Christ. Life is the most precious gift bestowed upon us by the Creator. If we fail to choose life, we are on the wrong side. There are only two choices: good and evil. It's that simple. God has not made life so complicated that one needs a University degree to understand the Gospel. Count the number of shepherds and peasants, those who are totally unlearned in the ways of the world, who are Saints on this All Saints Day – along with learned intellectuals who didn't let their learning get in the way of submitting themselves to a Higher Authority.

The most recent indignity which set me off is the following AP headline in our local secular newspaper: "Lay Catholic bloggers aim to purge dissenters," subtitled "Enraged activists challenge Church officials who they say stray from orthodox teachings." Enraged activists? Folks, I never knew I was an "enraged activist" until reading this article, which has clearly identified me correctly. So I give public notice: from now on, anyone who reads this article needs to know that it comes a deranged activist! Read on at your own risk. You have been warned.

I never had any inclination to be a professor, but there is one thing I have always wanted to do, and that is publicly analyze the bias of the "mainstream media." News stories no longer give you an objective view of the day's news. Nearly all are opinion pieces loaded with liberal "talking dog" points that belong on the editorial pages. Describing someone like me as an "Enraged activist" is a perfect example of the corruption of our language and civil discourse – and that in a supposed news story. The liberal left loves to change the definition of words to their perceived benefit. A classic example is to accuse conservative Christians promoting limited government as mandated by America's Constitution of being "fascists" or "Nazis" seeking to introduce a dictatorship. What? That makes absolutely no sense. The whole purpose of limited government (which our Founding Fathers mandated when they saw the despotism of the French Revolution) is to avoid the kind of dictatorship which can only be brought about by unlimited government power! Thomas Paine said that government at its best was a "necessary evil," and at its worst an "intolerable one." Limited government is "of the people, by the people, and for the people," because God takes care of the People of God. He is our Savior, not the government. We are dependent upon Him, not the government. The perfect manifestation of this concept today is found in the Tea Party, a grassroots movement if there ever was one, a group of wonderful patriots who are shocked at how far most politicians in this country have strayed from the Constitution. We even have a president who considers it

a "negative document" that limits the power of the federal government which he seeks to increase. Surely the Fed can do all kinds of good things for and to its hapless subjects who are too stupid to take care of themselves, who need their wealth forcibly re-distributed to others, so all can depend on a Secular entity instead of on their loving God who clothes the lilies of the field with such beauty. Jesus could as well have said to us: "How much more will I clothe and take care of you who are made in My Image and Likeness, who I seek to engage in an intimate, eternal love relationship!"

Meet Socialist absurdity. The above mentioned secular article seeks to describe members of what could be called a "Catholic Tea Party," merely a group of people who are shocked and scandalized at how far from the Gospel many "Catholics" have strayed. One of the most outspoken bloggers who seeks fidelity to the teachings of Jesus Christ is Michael Voris. He has produced "Real Catholic TV" which pulls no punches, on which one can be guaranteed to find the truth. In this sense the Michael Voris website is similar to Mother Angelica's EWTN. In fact, the two are closely allied for defining the "sensus fidelium" correctly, giving voice to the faithful who are faithful! Yet look who is leading the People of God astray.

The liberal left has corrupted the teachings of Jesus Christ and the minds of millions of His followers, and has done so with impunity since Vatican II, under the guise that it is "Pastoral" to allow the wolves to tear apart the sheep. Jesus the Good Shepherd laid down His life for His sheep. Everyone who loves the Lord with all their heart and soul has to suffer from this incredible miscarriage of justice. Frequently it is the faithful who are subject to Church discipline. Yet ironically, even according to the "spirit of Vatican II," lay people are supposed to get more involved in the affairs of the Church. Well, faithful lay people are finally coming to the table at this late date to help clean up the mess left by the Sexual Revolutionist Baby-Boom generation of "Christians" who turned virtue into vice, piety into perverted sexual excess, and the teachings of the Gospel into a political agenda honoring every leftist Caesar that comes along.

Mother Angelica blazed the way. With the fire of the Holy Spirit, she stood up to dissident bishops and leftist Catholics at great cost, having to appeal to the Vatican for protection from them. They tried to silence her and take away her network. She promised to burn it to the ground before that happened, but Vatican officials backed her, EWTN was saved, and truth has been proclaimed around the world.

It was recommended that Michael Voris appear on EWTN's "The Journey Home," a program that features Protestant ministers and "reverts" (Catholics who have left the Church and returned home) telling their conversion stories. Voris has a compelling story to tell, but a local bishop asked EWTN to not allow him to appear. However, Voris also has the backing of the Vatican, as he seeks to publicly expose and oppose various destructive forces in the Church. "We're no more engaged in a witch hunt than a doctor excising a cancer is. We're just shining a spotlight on people who are Catholics who do not live the faith." In this Voris is being true to Cardinal Raymond Burke of the Apostolic Signature, who said that obedience to the Magisterium and the demands of the natural moral law are not only important for salvation, but required if the Gospel of Life is ever to overcome the Culture of Death.

In his talk "Catholic Orthodoxy: Antidote Against the Culture of Death," Cardinal Burke stated: "The relationship of the Magisterium to our eternal salvation lies at the very foundation of our life in Christ. In a world which prizes individualism and self-determination, the Christian is easily tempted to relativize the authority of the Magisterium, popularly known as "cafeteria Catholicism." The response of both Bishop and the faithful to the exercise of the teaching authority of Christ is obedience, for they recognize in the truths proclaimed, regarding faith and morals, the infallible guide to their salvation in Christ Who said to His Apostles: **"He who hears you hears Me."** (Luke 10:16)

"But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning to be saved through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth." (2 Thessalonians 2:13)

Paul Beery BSP - Morning Star Chapter - Minnesota



A MEDITATION: by JANET KLASSON BSP

From the First Reading of the Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

The King of the universe will raise us up to an everlasting renewal of life, because we have died for his laws.

(2 Maccabees 7:9)

You have probably heard of the book called, "The Purpose-Driven Life". A lot of people have used its 40-day program to sort out what God is asking of them. We can spend a lot of time and energy trying to figure out our purpose in life. There is nothing wrong with that. But, as Catholic Christians, we are taught that our ultimate goal and purpose is sanctity. We are called—all of us—to a life of holiness. Anything that does not lead us to holiness is a distraction. God wants all of us to become saints. Only saints make it to heaven. Yet, how many of us have made sanctity our main goal in life?

Author Frank Sheed, in his book, *Theology for Beginners*, made this observation:

"As a body, we hope to go to heaven, which means spending eternity with the Blessed Trinity, and we expect the experience to be wholly blissful; but in the prospect of spending an hour with the Blessed Trinity here below, there is no anticipation of bliss."

How true! The evil one is very good at finding all manner of distractions that on the surface seem so much more agreeable than prayer. But without prayer, we will likely never become a saint. Anyone reading this article probably has a great desire to work towards sanctity. We all want to spend eternity in heaven. But if we do not consider the effects of our sanctity—or lack thereof—on those around us, we are missing the main point of our call to holiness. God does not call us to holiness for ourselves alone, but in order that his light may be present in the world. His light is not static, but active and transformative. In what may only be described as a great mystery of faith, weak and broken souls like us are called to participate in God's saving action on earth.

I have spent some time recently listening to presentations by Marino Restrepo (links included at the end of this article). Marino's testimony is amazing. Away from the Church for 33 years, he dabbled in all manner of New Age practices and led a very sinful lifestyle. At age 47 he was kidnapped by Colombian guerrillas and held prisoner in the jungle. Fifteen days into his captivity, at a very low point, the Lord appeared to him. He experienced an illumination of conscience, and had visions of heaven, purgatory, and hell. For the remaining months of his captivity, he begged the Lord not to let him die without confession. Miraculously, after several months, the rebels let him go. He now travels the world telling his story, calling the world to repentance and Christians to renewed sanctity.

Everyone is called to sanctity. Everyone is offered grace, and everyone is free to reject that grace. He says that sometimes in families there is only one person who has accepted the call to faith. But that is not a reason to despair, for that person then becomes a conduit of grace for all the other members of the family. "Your acceptance of the call to sainthood is a gift to your whole family." In other words, God has given them the gift of your faith.

Marino says that the person of faith is given all the graces being rejected by other family members. Amazing! This is confirmed by St. Faustina in her Diary, #1294: "The Lord has given me to know that when a soul does not accept the graces intended for it, another soul receives them immediately." Marino says that because of the dark times we live in and the fact that so many are rejecting the graces God wants to give the world, "there has never been a greater opportunity to achieve sainthood than today."

It follows that after receiving holy Communion, it would be a good idea to pray, "Lord Jesus, I accept all the gifts and graces it pleases you to give me at this time, and all those being rejected by others. Also, please renew in me all the graces I have ever received through the Eucharist, so that your holy will may be accomplished in the world."

Part of Marino's message to Catholics is that we are not "better" than anyone else, but that we are entrusted with the great responsibility of being Eucharistic warriors. When we receive the Eucharist, we feed the world. As Eucharistic warriors we need to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation often. In this way the light of Christ shines through us into the world, unimpeded. We become agents of grace, often without even being aware.

The call to a life of penance is a call to holiness. The Rule helps keeps us on the path to sanctity. By embracing the call, we become conduits of the light of God's love to the world. Let us embrace that call with renewed fervor in this dark hour. The Lord has need of willing workers. Let us embrace Mary's "Fiat" for the glory of God. Amen.

Marino's website: www.marinorestrepo.com. To view recorded talks by Marino Restrepo you can go to www.youtube.com and search for his name. To find the talks referenced in this article add one of the following search terms to his name in the search field: Testimony or Spiritual Warfare Part 2 or Radical Change. The talks are divided into several parts.

Janet Klasson BSP - Divine Mercy Chapter - Canada

From www.pelianito.stblogs.com October 29, 2010

Psalm 95: 7-8 O that today you would hearken to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

"My children, your work and prayer is pleasing to me. Let me fill you with my light. Let my light pour forth, spilling out your every pore. The world is dark and I have great need of willing workers, light-bearers, Christ-bearers who can illuminate the hearts of those whose hearts are steeped in darkness.

"My children, return to me! 'O that today you would listen to his voice. Harden not your hearts!' Beloved ones draw near. I am so near, just waiting for you to reach out your hand. Let me fill you with my light, my peace, my abiding joy. Let me do this. Oh my children, I long for it!"

Jesus, open our hearts to your light that we may become light-bearers, and bring you to the world. May your light spill out our every pore for the sake of the souls you long to save. Here I am Lord, I come to live in your will. Save souls!

Author: Janet Klasson



MORNING STAR

NEWS ON THE ASSOCIATION

DAN FUREY'S PROFESSION:



Congratulations to Dan Furey, of Valdosta, Georgia, who has completed his formation and professed to the Rule of the BSP. Dan made his profession in his own parish to his priest on October 30 shortly after completing his lessons. In an email to Bruce he said, "I confessed and then PROFESSED!!!!!" Dan is our 37th professed member. Praise God! Let us keep him, and all of the BSP, in our prayers.

Here is a picture of Dan and his wife Cecilia taken after his profession.

Bruce and Shelley



"We believe in the life eternal. We believe that the souls of all those who die in the grace of Christ—whether they must still be purified in purgatory, or whether from the moment they leave their bodies Jesus takes them to paradise as He did for the Good Thief—are the People of God in the eternity beyond death, which will be finally conquered on the day of the Resurrection when these souls will be reunited with their bodies. We believe that the multitude of those gathered around Jesus and Mary in paradise forms the Church of Heaven, where in eternal beatitude they see God as He is, and where they also, in different degrees, are associated with the holy angels in the divine rule exercised by Christ in glory, interceding for us and helping our weakness by their brotherly care. We believe in the communion of all the faithful of Christ, those who are pilgrims on earth, the dead who are attaining their purification, and the blessed in heaven, all together forming one Church; and we believe that in this communion the merciful love of God and His saints is ever listening to our prayers, as Jesus told us: Ask and you will receive."

(Pope John Paul II, The Credo of the People of God)

The **BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF PENANCE OF ST. FRANCIS**

A.k.a. BSP, is a non-profit Private Association of the Faithful, which is dedicated to renewing the ancient way of penance as contained in the First Rule of the Third Order of St. Francis of 1221 for lay people in our modern world. We have the blessing of the Catholic Church to do this through several of its Archbishops, Bishops, and priests. If you are bound by another Rule of life in another profession of the way of St. Francis that does not permit you to enter other religious families you are nonetheless invited to add the elements of this beautiful way of life that Saint Francis of Assisi gave us to the lifestyle of your profession.

All members, and Franciscans, are welcome to submit articles for consideration for inclusion in this newsletter if they are directed towards the spiritual formation of members or are the outgrowth of the lifestyle of the Association. Just send them to the BSP at minncc@aol.com. Feel free to share this newsletter with your friends or neighbors. It is intended to be the primary monthly communication of the Association, and ongoing formation for all members and friends. And if you can find it in your heart and in your budget remember that donations to the BSP are used strictly to promote the lifestyle and are tax deductible.

We remain, always, sincerely yours in the love of Jesus Christ!

Bruce and Shelley Fahey BSP
Editors

Welcome to the Brothers and Sisters of Penance!

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

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