Around 40 persons attended the retreat this year led by Fr. Michael Becker (seated in front) who spoke on the theme: “To Fulfill All Righteousness”. BSP members once again were joined by non-members who felt called to spend the weekend meditating with Fr. Becker. (More retreat photos are included elsewhere in the newsletter.)

**BONAVENTURE AND HIS LESSONS ON ST. FRANCIS:**

Chapter V—The Austerity of Francis' Life and the Comfort which Creatures Gave Him

4. Like the wise trader in the Gospel, Francis was anxious to profit by every possible occasion and use all his time to gain merit, and so he wished to live in obedience to another rather than be a superior, and obey rather than command. He resigned his position as general of the Order and asked for a guardian whom he could obey constantly. He was convinced that the fruits of obedience are so abundant that anyone who submits to it can never spend a moment without drawing some profit from it. He always used to promise to obey the friar who happened to be with him on his journeys, and he once remarked to his companions, “Among the many graces which God has given me in his goodness is this: I would obey a novice only one hour in the Order, if he were made my guardian, just as willingly as if he were the oldest and most experienced friar in the Order. A subject should never look upon his superior as a man; he should remember God for love of whom he is subject. The more contemptible the superior, the more valuable is the humility of him who obeys.”

He was asked on one occasion who was a truly obedient person and he gave the example of a dead body. “Take a corpse,” he said, “and put it wherever you like. You will see that it does not object to being transferred, does not complain about where it is put, and does not protest when cast aside. If you set it on a throne, it will look down, not up; if you dress it in royal robes, it will only seem paler than ever. A person like that is truly obedient; he does not mind where he is put, and he makes no effort to be sent elsewhere. If he he is promoted to office, he preserves his humility, and the more he is honored, the more unworthy he thinks himself.”

Bonaventure—Major Life of St. Francis (1263)
Our Lord tells us in the Gospel reading today that He is going to the Father and when He returns that He is going to convict the world on three points: on sin, on righteousness, and on condemnation; sin and righteousness, of course, being exact opposites of one another; and righteousness being the way that we are called to live our lives, that is, to live our lives in rejection of sin.

If we consider what Our Lord tells us, He says, “Sin, because they refuse to believe in Me.” Now, on one hand, we can look and say, “We are responsible only for what we know.” But the fact of the matter is that we know Jesus is Lord and we know what the truth is. If we refuse to accept that truth and live according to the truth, then we are the ones who are responsible for sin. But it is not that so much either because in this case He is telling us that it is a refusal of people to believe at all, but they all know. If we look at our society which has become neopagan, it is made up primarily of people who used to call themselves Christian; and, all of a sudden, they have abandoned the Lord. Even the pagan peoples who live in this country have heard plenty about Jesus to be able to know Him and to be able to believe in Him, and yet they have chosen against Him. They are without excuse. It is not as though they are living in the backwoods of some strange land that has never heard of Christ, but rather these are people who know better and yet they have chosen themselves over the Lord.

And then He tells us it is about righteousness: righteousness, because He is going to the Father. In other words, the only ones who are going to be able to go to God are the righteous. They condemned Him as an unrighteous person, as a criminal, and yet He is the Righteous One above all others. He also lays out for us the pattern: If we are going to be righteous, we are going to be ridiculed, we are going to be rejected, and we are going to have to suffer just like He did. It is going to be a proof of the righteousness. When we look at the Book of Wisdom in the second chapter, we are told exactly that: Let us condemn him to a shameful death and let us have a proof of his righteousness, of his gentleness. So the Lord is asking each of us not only to live in an externally righteous way, but to be internally righteous.

When we look at Paul and Silas in the first reading, for instance, they are beaten with rods, they are thrown into prison, they are chained by their feet – and they are singing hymns to God! How many of us would be willing to do that? Most of us would probably be screaming and complaining and wondering why God abandoned us. With other prisoners there, maybe we would actually pray, but heaven forbid that anybody might know we were Catholic. So the thought of singing hymns and psalms to God at that point is something that most of us probably would not be willing to do. But these men were living righteous lives. They suffered for it and they continued to live exactly in the same manner. The Lord will ask the same of us.

And then condemnation, the Lord tells us, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. Yet he is still the ruler of this world. Once again, we see not only the distinction between sin and righteousness, but we also see the reward for each. Those who are righteous get to go to the Father. Those who want to be like the ruler of this world get to be with the ruler of this world for eternity because they will be condemned. They are condemned not only for failing to believe in the Name of the Lord, but they will be condemned for failing to live according to the way of the Lord.

So we have to make sure as we look at our own selves that we are accepting Who Jesus is, the fullness of Who He is, and that we are living according to that fullness, that we are living righteous lives, that we are living upright and proper lives, that we are living lives of prayer and holiness. That is what it is to be righteous. Otherwise, if we claim to be followers of Christ and we refuse to live according to the ways of Christ, but rather we want to live according to the standards and ways of the world, then the Lord tells us that is where the condemnation is going to lie. In a nutshell, that is exactly what Our Lord is telling us.

We have a choice to make: either believe in Jesus and live what we profess and go to heaven, or refuse to believe in Him and follow the ruler of this world – Satan himself – and be condemned. Those are the only two choices. We can no longer be playing footsie with this. Too many Catholics are trying to say, “I’m Catholic but I want to be just like everyone else.” It does not work. To be just like everyone else is to immerse yourself in the filth of this world, and we cannot do that any longer. It is time that we step aside from that and put our faith into action, that we look very seriously at what it means to follow Jesus Christ. What does it mean to believe in Him? What does it mean to love Him and to put that into practice?

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

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**Prayer of Abandonment**

By Blessed Charles de Foucauld

Father, I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will. Whatever you may do, I thank you; I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures. I wish no more than this, O Lord.

Into your hands I commend my soul; I offer it to you with all the love of my heart, for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands without reserve, and with boundless confidence, for you are my Father.
ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE...

In the Sight of God

So many people just do not realize who God is. God is omnipotent. That means 'all-powerful'. No power man can unleash can match the power of God, who made the sources of all power in the universe. He is 'omniscient'. That means he knows all things. Nothing escapes his notice. Everything that happens in the universe happens within God. So, he knows the hairs on our heads and when a sparrow falls, and this the Lord told us. Who can even comprehend this? He is also infinite in all of his powers, and existence. He is, and has always been, and will always be.

The powers God has are the same powers he has given our souls—memory, intellect, and will. Only His powers are infinite. So, he is infinitely intelligent, meaning there is nothing he doesn’t know and understand perfectly. He is an expert on every subject, it was once said. He is infinite in His will, and how it operates in the universe. All things exist in Him, and because of Him and for Him. He keeps everything in existence. How he does that only He knows.

In the gospel on the rich fool the Lord tells the story of a man who builds a bigger barn to hold all that he owns. He plans to live a life of luxury after he does that. To be happy, eat, drink, and be merry, for many years. The story goes on to say the God says to him, “You fool, this night your life will be required of you. To whom will all this piled up wealth of yours go?”

That is the way it works with the man who grows rich for himself instead of growing rich in the sight of God.” So, what exactly does ‘in his sight’ mean, since his sight is infinite, and he knows all things.

Well, to put it simply, His sight is of everything at all times and in every way. He sees and knows all things. This means that all we do and say is before God even as we do it, and we will be judged on it all. This is a holy pondering for those of us who believe in God. Yet, this should also give us joy. Since the Lord tells us how to live in the Gospels we know that when we do that, and live as He tells us we should, that we are storing up treasure in heaven. God will not forget, in His infinite love for us, all that we do for love of Him now.

So, we have chosen to live the Rule of 1221, given to us by St. Francis, and this life we live will be pleasing to God even as it demands much of us. Our living it will be in His sight, and we will know we have done something beautiful for God when we die and bring to Him this treasure. We need to add to it all manner of good deeds. Kindness and generosity to the poor, love of God and neighbors, and kindness and compassion in all of our actions. We need to avoid storing up treasures in this life, but should give our treasures away to those who need them or have less, our of love for the Lord, knowing that in His sight when we do that we are putting gold in our heavenly coffers.

In all things let us be true and faithful servants of God, and faithful followers of St. Francis.

Bruce and Shelley Fahey BSP Administrators - Morning Star Chapter – Minnesota

NO GREATER LOVE by Paul Beery BSP

"I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure." (Matthew 11:25)

Fr. Becker gave a wonderful retreat, totally Gospel-oriented. Father instilled in us an interest in, and love for the Word of God, which I hope to share in the coming months. First a message from him:

"I enjoyed the retreat, and especially all the folks who participated. The promise/vow of Sheila on Sunday, was also quite inspiring to all. I give praise to our Heavenly Father! May your community continue to grow and flourish in grace." —Fr. Becker

I will begin with a summary of Father’s last talk on Sunday morning, which centered on the Holy Family, beginning with St. Joseph. The parts in bold are Fr. Becker’s phrases that I found particularly significant.

We all know the story of Annunciation, of the Archangel Gabriel revealing to Mary that she is to be the Mother of the

1 Luke 12:21
Mary let Joseph live by obedience. She knew that the hour would come when all would be revealed to him by God. That was a tremendous cross for Joseph to carry, for he firmly believed in Mary's virtue. Yet, he would echo the same refrain as Mary: "How could this be?" When it was revealed to him in a dream, he was obedient to God's will without hesitation in taking Mary as his wife. And when he was told to flee into Egypt in a dream, he acted instantly. The virtuous make decisions more rapidly, for they are aided by prudence and wisdom.

Father gave a pithy story on the virtue of Joseph. A wife watched her husband look at a pretty girl, and scolded him. He said, "It's OK if I look at the art on the wall, as long as I don't take the picture down." Would that life were so simple. Joseph lived with the most beautiful woman in the world! Also the most virtuous. Who can care for perfection without having the greatest humility? God prepared Joseph to care for Mary, to live a life of chastity. In this way, Joseph was not only the guardian of the purity of Mary, but also the dignity of women, and the guardian of the purity of the Church.

Joseph's influence on Jesus is shown in the story of the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11). Look at how closely the actions of Jesus parallel those of Joseph ("Joseph was a just man, unwilling to expose Mary to the Law"). When Jesus bent down and began writing in the sand, it showed He was unwilling to expose the woman caught in adultery to the Law, just as Joseph was unwilling to expose Mary. One can imagine Jesus thinking, "As Joseph protected the Mother of God, so I will protect this woman."

We can easily see the protective nature of Jesus. "While I was with them I protected them and kept them safe by that Name you gave me. I have not lost any of those you have given into my care, except the one doomed to destruction..."

There are a number of private revelations on the life of Joseph. He was devoted to longing for the coming of the Messiah. One can only imagine how devoted he was to the Messiah when he came, and Joseph was appointed by God to be His guardian! It could well be that Joseph felt unworthy to take Mary's hand in marriage. It's difficult to imagine the magnitude of the task—being the guardian of both the Mother of God, and the Son of God! Who could feel worthy of such an exalted station?

The most important male Saint lived as a simple carpenter, a dignified quiet life of witness; a life of good works, not words. Mary and Joseph were the first persons to live the Gospel life Jesus came to teach. They began to think as one, as all blessed married couples do. The light of Jesus shone upon them, and they reflected it back to others. To honor Joseph is to honor Jesus, just as to honor Mary is to honor Jesus. Pope Francis has added Joseph's name to all the canons of the Mass, inspired by Pope Benedict XVI. Thus Joseph is officially honored as the guardian of Holy Mother Church.

Jesus learned not only from Joseph, but from His Blessed Mother. Mary's Magnificat was apparently well known to Jesus. Fr. Becker gave a little glimpse into this fact when he was celebrating Mass for the Missionaries of Charity in Minneapolis, Minnesota. That's where Donna and I met him, as he comes from the Seminary in St. Paul to celebrate Mass nearly every Tuesday morning. He said one day that after hearing the following Gospel reading from Matthew, he spontaneously commented: "That was Jesus' Magnificat!"

Compare the two passages, Luke 1:46-56, with Mt. 11:25-30:

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
My spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.
For he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed.
The Almighty has done great things for me.
And holy is his name!

He has mercy on those who fear him,
In every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
He has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
And has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
And the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
For he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers,
To Abraham and his children forever.

I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.

Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.

All things have been committed to me by my Father.

No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son, and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him.

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

There is something of Mary in Jesus besides her flesh and blood. The Chosen People were taught well. One could say

Mary anticipated the teachings of Jesus in her Magnificat. Jesus and Mary begin by praising God the Father, the Lord of
A Penitent’s Journey Toward Righteousness
A MEDITATION by Janet Klasson BSP

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’ (Matthew 3:13-17)

The above scripture passage was the foundation on which Fr. Becker based his retreat talks. He began by challenging us in his first talk to reflect on two things during the course of the retreat: righteousness and mission. What areas in me are in need of change, and what is God asking of me at this time?

He gave some inspired teachings based on a bible study of the journey of Mary Magdalene and of Mary and Joseph, as well as the example of other saints, including Blessed Elena Guerra, Apostle of the Holy Spirit, and her student St. Gemma Galgani, both of whom died on April 11 some years apart. It is well worth researching these two holy women as Blessed Elena has some important teachings on the Holy Spirit—even the pope listened to her!

For now I would like to quote a few simple but profound points from Fr. Becker’s talks. First of all, our need for righteousness may be traced back to original sin. Well do we know that left to our own devices we couldn’t muster enough righteousness to fill a thimble. But there is good news and that is—Jesus! To quote St. Gemma Galgani: “Gemma is good for nothing, but Gemma and Jesus can do all things.” Therefore righteousness begins with faith followed closely by repentance. Once we believe and repent three things happen:

- Jesus allows us to participate in his righteousness.
- God brings our righteousness to fulfillment.
- God receives our righteousness from Jesus.

It was indeed a blessed retreat. To get the full effect of Fr. Becker’s teachings, it is best to listen to them from Jesus.

One of the treasures I was given was a direct answer to the question: What areas in me are in need of change? I shared one of the reflections at the retreat, as I feel they may assist me in my daily struggle to become holier. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak indeed! I have posted these messages to my blog: www.pelianito.stblogs.com.

Joel 2:12 Yet even now says the Lord, return to me with our whole heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.

"Beloved child, you honor me with your lips but your heart is far from me. Root out the idol! Turn to me with fasting and weeping. Crush everything in you that does not lead to me. Let my holiness flow through you unimpeded. Let my holy joy satisfy all your cravings. Let my Spirit dwell in you as an only child, a favored son. Let my peace fill you and do not be afraid to let go of all you cling to. Be assured that what you fear to lose is nothing and what you stand to gain is everything. Empty yourself! I am waiting for a place to lay my head.”

O my Jesus, forgive me for all the times I have placed an idol in my heart. I humbly repent of my attachments and ask you O
Lord to fill me with your holy joy so that I may never look back. Jesus, you know my weakness. Let my heart not be divided but grant me every grace I need to act with temperance in all things. Jesus I trust in you. Amen.

Luke 12:3 Therefore, whatever you have said in the darkness will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be proclaimed on the housetops."

"Beloved, do you see that what comes out of your mouth must issue from a pure spring? Let no idle talk issue from you. Let only light come through you and banish any dark thought. Hold every thought captive to Christ and let him say yea or nay to its utterance. Light, my child. Speak only light."

Jesus, you know my weakness, my folly. Help me to keep you always in my sight, so that only light will issue from me. Let only your light come through me. Jesus help me! I surrender my tongue to your use. Jesus help me! Amen.

Acts 14:22 They strengthened the spirits of the disciples and exhorted them to persevere in the faith saying, “It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.”

"My beloved, up to now your hardships have tested you and strengthened you. Those that are coming will be insurmountable outside of grace. I send you trials to build up your strength and so you will learn to persevere in faith. A day is coming when faith will be all you have left. But when you have faith you have everything. Therefore do not fear the time to come. Embrace the cross as I did, knowing that what it gives in grace far surpasses what it costs. Little one be at peace.”

Dear sweet Jesus, I have so little to offer you. I am weak and unrighteous but in you I am made righteous. Jesus I place all my trust in you. Amen.

Janet Klasson BSP, Divine Mercy Chapter

(The messages on the Pelianito Journal blog are the fruit of Janet’s lectio divina. She submits all messages to her spiritual director, a Catholic priest. You may read his remarks here: http://pelianito.stblogs.com/on-private-revelation.)

MORNING STAR: NEWS ON THE ASSOCIATION...

SHEILA MAZIERE PROFESSES TO LIVE THE RULE OF THE BSP FOR LIFE

Those who attended the retreat this year were blessed to witness the profession of Sheila Maziere of San Diego CA to the BSP. The profession took place at Sunday Mass, presided over by Fr. Michael Becker who also received Sheila’s profession. Witnesses were Paul Beery and Janet Klasson. Sheila is a member of the St. Anthony Chapter based in Escondido CA.

Professed members of the BSP renew their professions with Fr. Michael Becker. From left to right: Paul Beery, Rebecca Maness, Bruce Fahey, Dorothy Winczewski, Sr. Jane Ellen Smith, Janet Klasson.
The Brothers and Sisters of Penance of St. Francis, a.k.a. the BSP, is a private Association in the Catholic Church whose members strive to model their lives according to the First Rule of the Third Order of St. Francis, which St. Francis of Assisi gave the laity in 1221. As such an Association we are a bona fide non-profit organization in the United States and are listed in the National Directory of the Catholic Church.

The first professions in the Association were made to Archbishop Harry J. Flynn on January 11, 2003, in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. The first, and found ing, Visitor of the Association was Father Valerius Messerich O.F.M., now deceased. Father Valerius was also the spiritual director of the Queen of Peace Region of the Secular Franciscan Order simultaneous to guiding the BSP.

The Mission of the Brothers and Sisters of Penance is to renew the lifestyle of the Rule of 1221 in our own lives and our modern world for the love of God and as a Gospel witness to the world.

The Vision of the Association is to be a family of Catholic lay brothers and sisters who are seeking Union with God in fulfillment of the Gospel after the manner and according to the example of the early penitents in the Catholic Church, which included many Saints and Blessed.

There are now 32 professed members who remain active in the Association, including three priests, one brother, and two sisters who have taken up the Rule of the BSP and wish to be known as active members. These professed members reside in 14 different States, and in Canada. Two have died since making their professions.

The BSP remains worldwide in scope due to the Internet. There have been slightly more than 800 inquirers to the BSP since October 2003 when we first started keeping records, including those professed. We have members in 45 countries, and all 50 States. The top four States with the highest number of members are: 66 from California, 51 from Minnesota, 42 from New York, and 32 from Florida. Canada has the highest representation outside the United States with 30 members.

In 2012 there were about 100 inquirers, and from January to August 2013 about 75. There have been 227 people who have entered formation since we started keeping records, including those who have professed. There are currently about 20 people in active formation with the Administrators, in addition to those being managed directly by the local Chapters.

Financially, the BSP is solvent, but not rich. We have a little more than $500 in the bank and currently receive about $20 a month in cash donations. This does not cover all the expenses, but individual members quietly contribute where they see a need. The Headquarters of the BSP is, at present, the Administrators’ home, and the Chapters serve as headquarters where they exist.

The current leadership structure of the BSP includes Visitors, Administrators, a Prayer Captain, a Web Master, as well as the Chapters and their Ministers. Once there are a sufficient number of leaders in the BSP, officers will be elected, and elected leaders will need to meet regularly. Since we currently have no real amounts of money, and no formal business location for the BSP, the decision has been made by those in leadership positions not to elect officers at this time.

Our Visitors are Father Robert Altier O.C.D.S., of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, and Father Anthony Cirignani O.F.M., who resides in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Each Chapter is required to have its own Visitor or Spiritual Assistant, and to date all have one.

We have four operational Chapters in the BSP at this time. Morning Star Chapter in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis is the founding Chapter of the Association. That Chapter maintains our liaison with the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, in which the BSP was founded and also sets up and runs an annual retreat for BSP members. We also have Chapters of the BSP in several other locations: Escondido, California; Somers, Connecticut; and Canada. Two other Chapters have been discontinued at this time due to death or relocation of members. One was a prison Chapter in the penitentiary in Butner, North Carolina, and the other was in Coon Rapids, Minnesota.

Chapters are important to the BSP. We persist in encouraging members to form Chapters wherever they are. It is a simple process, and conforms to what St. Francis expressed in Article 19 of the Rule of 1221, where it says: "All the brothers and sisters are to foregather every month…and there assist at Divine Services".

A number of bishops have communicated their support of the BSP over the years. Archbishop Harry J. Flynn supported the BSP as it started and accepted the first professions in the Association. The current Archbishop in the diocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Archbishop John Nienstedt, has given the Brothers and Sisters of Penance his blessing also, formalized in a letter of October 27, 2008. His Imprimatur is in our Handbook.

The Rule and Statutes of the BSP has been translated into Spanish and German and posted on the Internet by interested parties in other countries. We do not track the progress of the Rule in other languages or other countries at this time, so have no idea if there is a following in these other countries. Put simply, it is hoped that the First Rule of the Third Order of St. Francis gets translated and communicated to all countries in the world.

Overall, the state of the BSP may be described as strong and healthy, although it is small. God continues to bless the BSP. Due to the wide variety of members from all walks of life everywhere in the world, the BSP is loosely organized. In time the BSP Administrators hope to tighten up the operational leadership structure of the BSP as leaders arise in our Chapters.

The role of the Administrators embraces much that transpires in the BSP at this time. One of their primary functions is to keep the mission and vision of the Association alive. New inquirers contact the Administrators.
by submitting Inquirer applications either by email or postal mail. The Chapters and the Chapter leaders are adding members locally. Questions and problems that arise in the Association go through the Administrators, who have been authorized by the Visitors of the Association to serve as spiritual directors to anyone in the Association on living the Rule, and are often called to do this. The Administrators operate out of their home in northern Minnesota and maintain regular communication with the Visitors.

Our primary message remains simple. St. Francis gave us this way of life, and it was lived for over 700 years in the Church before it was abandoned. It is a holy way of life. It is a doorway to heaven. One of the “narrow gates” described by our Lord. Few there are who follow it, but many Saints and Blessed have done just that. Living this life is like joining a marathon. The finish line of this marathon is heaven. All who run will get there.

This is the first annual report of the Private Association of the Brothers and Sisters of Penance. The authors of this report are the Administrators and it has been reviewed by local leaders in the BSP. Questions on this report should be directed to the Administrators.

**DON'T FORGET TO ORDER YOUR HANDBOOK!**

The BSP Handbook, titled *Stella Matutina: Handbook of The Brothers and Sisters of Penance of St. Francis* is now available for order. We have used a print-on-demand service at Lulu.com to print the book. This means we do not have to keep a stockpile of books, but customers order directly from Lulu, which prints them as they are ordered and ships them directly to the customer. This simplifies the ordering process for the administrators.

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. Bruce and Paul also have copies available.

May the Rule of 1221 lead many souls on the path to holiness.

Bruce and Shelley Fahey, Administrators

**Photos from the retreat...**

![Fr. Michael Becker hams it up for the camera.](image)

![Attendees at prayer in the Chapel.](image)
Morning Star Chapter Members
(L to R)
Back row:
Janet Klasson
Bruce Fahey
Paul Beery
Ted and Donna Welter
Dorothy Winczewski
Mary Kay Kennedy
Front row:
Sr. Jane Ellen Smith
Sheila Maziere
Rebecca Maness

Liturgy of the Hours

Quiet prayer

Food and fellowship

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

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

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

Bruce and Shelley Fahey BSP, Editors

Welcome to the Brothers and Sisters of Penance!

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

Website: www.bspenance.org

The BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF PENANCE OF ST. FRANCIS

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