2. Francis had learned deep secrets from the Teacher of all, but he was a true Friar Minor and he was not ashamed to ask advice from those who were not as advanced as he. He was always anxious to discover how or in what way he could serve God more perfectly according to his will. As long as he lived this was his greatest desire, the sum total of his philosophy, to inquire from everybody, learned or unlearned, perfect or imperfect, young or old, what was the most heroic way to reach the summit of perfection.

He now chose two of the friars and sent them to Brother Silvester. Silvester was the man who had seen a cross coming from his mouth, and he spent all this time in prayer on the mountain above Assisi. They were to tell him to ask God to solve his doubts and send him the answer in God’s name. He sent the same message to St. Clare, telling her to pray with her sisters and find out God’s will by means of the holiest and most simple of the sisters who lived under her. By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit Brother Silvester and St. Clare both came to the same conclusion. It was God’s will that Francis should go out to preach as herald of Christ.

When the friars returned and told the saint God’s will as they had learned it, he refused to delay and set out immediately. He left with such eagerness to obey God’s command and he travelled so quickly that the hand of God seemed to be upon him, giving him new strength from heaven.

3. When he was near Bevagna, he came to a spot where there was a huge flock of birds of various kinds. The moment he saw them, he ran to them and greeted them as if the understood, and they all turned towards him and waited for him. Those that had perched on the bushes bent their heads, when he came near, and looked at him in an extraordinary way. He went straight up to them and appealed to them all to hear the word of God saying, “My brothers, you have a great obligation to praise your Creator. He clothed you with feathers and gave you wings to fly, appointing the clear air as your home; and he looks after you without any effort on your part.” As he continued speaking to them like this, the birds showed their pleasure in a wonderful fashion; they stretched out their necks and flapped their wings, gazing at him with their beaks open. In his spiritual enthusiasm Francis walked among them, brushing them with his habit, and not one of them moved until he made the sign of the cross and gave them permission to go. Then they all flew away together with his blessing. His companions who were waiting on the road saw everything and when the saint rejoined them, in the purity and simplicity of his heart, he began to reproach himself for his negligence in never preaching to the birds before.

Bonaventure—Major Life of St. Francis (1263)
VISITOR'S MESSAGE

Homily by Fr. Robert Altier...

Reading (Exodus 14:5-18) Gospel (St. Matthew 12:38-42)

When Our Lord tells us in the Gospel reading that no sign is going to be given to this generation, the people of Israel had only to look, not only at all the things Our Lord Himself was doing in their day, but especially at all the things God had done for the Israelites throughout history, one of which, and the greatest perhaps, is what we heard today in the reading. The people of Israel had been enslaved for 430 years in Egypt, and now God was going to free His people. But the way that He was going to free them was not in a way that anyone would have expected. God has them wander around in the desert so it looks like they are completely lost, and then has Pharaoh hook up all of his chariots and all of his army and go in pursuit of the Israelites. They were completely trapped. We heard the people as they complained against God and Moses: "Why did you bring us out of Egypt? Weren't there any burial sites in Egypt for us? Why did you have to bring us out here to die in the desert?" And then the worst of all: "It would be better for us to be slaves of the Egyptians than it would to die out here." They would rather go back to their slavery.

In this particular case, as so many of the saints have pointed out, the Egyptians were symbolic of sin, and Pharaoh of Satan. So here are these people who are saying, in essence, "It would be better for us to go back to sin, because trying to live the way of God is not an easy thing. He's got us backed into a corner and it looks like there is no hope." I suspect we have all been in that situation probably more than once. Yet, just like with the people of Israel, it is a fascinating thing to watch how God simply opens something up and springs you right out of the situation that you found yourself in, that minutes before seemed utterly hopeless. Of course, it usually does not take just minutes. Like the Israelites, they had to camp there overnight, they had to sit there with the Egyptians breathing down their neck, and then God opened the Red Sea. Then they had to have the faith that if they walked out into the midst of the sea, like a wall to the right and to the left, that it was not going to collapse upon them. So too with us.

All it requires is trust. There are so many signs in our everyday life of the Lord's working if we would only pay attention. But then it comes to some great and extraordinary thing, and we want a sign. The Lord is going to say, "No, I'm working signs for you all the time. You don't need anything more." Instead, what He is going to do is turn it the other way; He is going to look at us and say, "I'm going to ask something of you – that is, faith and trust." And we say, "No, if You give me a sign then I'll have faith." He will say, "No, if you have a sign, it wouldn't require any faith. I'm asking you to have faith in Me and trust in Me that I will take care of things." That is all He is going to ask. He is going to require that we walk by faith. We do not like that; we want to walk by sight; we want to walk with something that is tangible. The Lord, however, is not tangible. Therefore, He is going to ask simply that we would make this complete act of faith in Him and trust Him completely. That is what He is looking for.

The signs are all around us, so we do not need anything more, as far as signs from God go. What we need is faith, what we need is trust, and to be able to rely on the Lord completely, to know that He has made the promises and He Who has made the promises is trustworthy.

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE...

Spellbound!

One of the things that is most apparent, for those who grow in the love of God, is that we get increasingly spellbound about God and what he does. Just as Jesus left the crowds spellbound at his teaching (Mt 7:21-29), He still leaves us spellbound at the motion of His Spirit and what he does in our souls, and what He is in Himself.

He is God! Praise God. He is the one who said "I am who am." (Ex. 3:14) Just that phrase alone opens the door to holy awe, which is one of the gifts of the
Holy Spirit, but only for those who care to know God. In the BSP we all care to know God better, and we will become increasingly spellbound with God as we move deeper into His Love.

How deep is His Love? How deep is the ocean? It is deeper than we can imagine, and He created it. How high is the sky? It is higher than we can see, as heaven is above it.

We are spellbound at His love, which was so great His Son came to become a man and die for us so we could be with him forever. Why would God do that? Only because of love. Can we really understand His Love? Can a creature know the Love of His Creator? Not likely.

We are spellbound at His power. We can hardly conceive of the power of a Hydrogen bomb, which can be up to or beyond a 100 megatons. A megaton is a million tons of TNT explosive. An explosion that mimics the sun but is in fact only a tiny fraction of the power the sun lets loose each day. Yet, our God made the sun, and the atom, and their forces which we have discovered to make nuclear bombs. We can only be spellbound to consider how great the power of God is to have done this.

We are spellbound if we consider the Judgment of Jesus Christ when we die. He knows everything, every word, thought, and deed, that is ours, and He will call them all to mind to judge us. He knows what we did and why and when we did it and who it affected. Thank Him for His mercy, and love him for His Love. Therefore His judgment will be perfect, and his decision final regarding our eternal future. We can only be spellbound to consider how he does that, and perfectly.

The fact is, He misses not a thing of his smallest creation. He is infinite in His power and presence. As Shelley always says to me, when I comment on how incredible God is, “He is God.” That is about all we can say, and should say, with deep love.

So, that is our God and much more. More than can be written. As we move deeper into the spiritual life we need to ponder his awesomeness, and rejoice to be spellbound. We will be in awe of God forever. His power, His presence, His grace to us, and His love. It is most beneficial to be held spellbound for the Love of God, and it is the essence of our Rule and the prayer of contemplation, and our journey into eternity in His Love.

In all things we belong to Christ. He knows us, loves us, and is our God. We are “In the world, but not of it, for Christ.”

(Reprinted from the July 2011 BSP newsletter.)

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

**NO GREATER LOVE by Paul Beery, BSP**

“Your Word is a lamp for my steps, and a light for my path. I have sworn and have made up my mind to obey your decrees. Accept, Lord, the homage of my lips, and teach me your decrees. Your will is my heritage forever, the joy of my heart. I set myself to carry out your will, in fullness, forever.” (Psalm 119:105)

It is said that one can gauge the seriousness and commitment of a relationship by the time one spends with the loved one. God has loved us into being. All we have and are we owe to Him. There is no greater love, and there can be no greater response than to live in the Divine Will, and be always the handmaid of the Lord, waiting expectantly for how to best carry out that Divine Will in our lives. “Pray without ceasing,” exhorts Paul the Apostle. Let us make the best use of the time we spend with the Beloved, for we have some very specific instructions following:

More from Fr. Valerius and Prayer in the Rule (continued from last month):

The Our Father expresses what God expects of us, how we are to worship and honor Him. The Hail Mary, on the contrary, states what God does for us. What God has done through Mary to bring about the birth of Christ is the most tremendous act that has ever happened in the world. The Hail Mary expresses so well God’s salvific plan as accomplished through the Incarnation of the Word of God, the Son of God who took on a human nature and became Jesus of Nazareth. The mystery of the Incarnation then, is our way too, our pathway to the Father, but it is also our way of partaking in the divine life, even now. And when we celebrate the Sacred Mysteries we are actually celebrating the Incarnation, the fact that
God is uniting with us in prayer. In fact, all the prayers in the liturgy have always expressed this: we pray “through Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever.”

We never pray in our own name. We pray in the Name of Jesus Christ, the one sole Mediator between God and man. It is to acknowledge our total dependence upon the Mystery of the Redemption, how Jesus Christ came not simply to proclaim His Word, but to enable us to keep it by His own personal example of taking upon Himself all the human miseries, all the limitations of human life and patiently bearing them, all the while proclaiming fidelity to the mission that God entrusted to Him: the mission of proclaiming that God is Lord of all. There is no one else to whom we give allegiance.

And that plays in so perfectly with your way of life and following the Rule of 1221 for the Brothers and Sisters of Penance. Quite simply, in following that Rule and disposing yourself for prayer that you may grow in prayer, removing all the obstacles that we experience, the things that take us away from God, the things that lead us to concentrate upon ourselves and our own needs. We abandon ourselves more completely to prayer, not concerned about providing for ourselves, but recognizing fully that we depend upon the providence of God. We would have nothing without Him.

When we begin acting as though we owe nothing to Him, we truly offend Him. Certainly we are to be responsible in using all the gifts, the talents He has endowed us with. That’s why we say it’s not just the prayer of our lips, but a prayer of all our actions, of everything that we do, that is carrying out the precepts of the Lord. The perfect prayer then is not simply the prayer of the lips, not only the prayer of the heart, feeling good about yourself and about everybody else, but the prayer of your hands and your actions whereby you recognize that the perfect prayer is the one where Jesus said: “I came not to be served but to serve.”

In the Church there have been many devotions that have developed, but as I like to say, probably the most basic and fundamental devotion that has developed within the Catholic Church is the Rosary. There we incorporate not only our profession of faith, the Our Father prayer, but the prayer of the Hail Mary, whereby we identify ourselves more closely with the Blessed Virgin. She put herself perfectly at the disposition of the Lord, saying, “Be it done unto me according to your will.” This is always our intention, that we please the Lord in all things, as the Scriptures exhort us to do. That whatever we do we try to do those things that are pleasing to God, pleasing to other people, not for evil purposes, but pleasing in supporting them in their lives, in following Jesus Christ more completely and fully.

Accordingly, we realize how important it is to have a prescriptive Rule that reminds us constantly of the prayers we are to say. And that, accordingly in your own personal life, during the three-year period of formation, you begin prayer slowly, and devoutly. But the most important thing is that you have that daily schedule whereby you set aside specific periods of time for prayer. This conscious recalling of God’s Presence, calling upon Him, is certainly important. By doing it faithfully and frequently during the day, little by little we begin entering into a deeper form of prayer whereby we continue to live in God’s presence and we continually experience His grace, enjoying His protection in all that we do. As you move into this way of life, as emphasized in the Rule, you should have a spiritual director of confessor whereby you begin seeing how often you are faithful in your relating to God or how often you are descending to things that gratify yourself. We don’t pray only when we feel like it, or when we have some divine inspiration. Rather, we recognize we have to attend to how faithful we are to prayer.

Paul Beery BSP, Morning Star Chapter, Minnesota

We are miserable beggars, Alleluia!
by Janet Klasson, BSP

From the Gospel Reading for the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The seventy returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!’ He said to them, ‘I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you.'
Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.’ (Luke 10:17-20)

One of the titles of St. Joseph is “Terror of demons”, which I was reminded of recently, when I had the privilege of making a pilgrimage to St. Joseph’s Oratory in Montreal. There in the votive chapel there are stations devoted to St. Joseph under some of his titles, one of which is St. Joseph, Terror of Demons. I certainly lit a candle at that station!

My trip to Montreal was a blessing from beginning to end! Although we saw many churches and did other things while there, the highlight for us were our two visits to St. Joseph’s Oratory, the preeminent shrine in Canada, fitting since St. Joseph is the patron saint of Canada. The founder of the Oratory was a humble, simple, uneducated man named Brother André Bessette, who was canonized in 2010. His life is extraordinary, so much so that at one point the secular press dubbed him “The Miracle Man of Montreal”. His story is well worth telling.

Brother André was born Alfred Bessette, the eighth of 12 children in a devout French Catholic home in the Montreal area. He was frail even from the time of his birth, and was sickly for all of his life. Consequently, he spent a good deal of time as a child in the company of his saintly mother, who passed on to him her deep devotion to St. Joseph. When Alfred was nine years old his father died in a tragic accident. From that time on, he took St. Joseph to be his father. Three years later his mother also died, and Alfred and his siblings, now orphaned, were sent to various relatives and friends to be cared for. In order not to be a burden to his aunt and uncle Alfred soon started to look for work. However, due to his frail health and chronic stomach pains, he never held a job for very long. He could not eat much and only grew to be 4’ 10” tall. His smallness and weakness made him unfit for manual labor, and he had difficulty keeping a job.

At one point Alfred went south to work in the textile mills in Connecticut, where providentially, he learned to speak English. However, that too ended, and he wound up back in Montreal, where he re-connected with Father André, his spiritual director. Fr. André sent him to the Congregation of the Holy Cross with the note, “I am sending you a saint.” Initially the congregation rejected him, as he was too frail and uneducated to become a priest, but Archbishop Ignace Bourget of Montreal intervened on his behalf, and Alfred entered the novitiate, receiving the religious name of Brother André, after his beloved spiritual director. They assigned this lowly brother to be doorman of Notre Dame College. He often joked, “When I joined this community, the superiors showed me the door, and I remained 40 years.”

As doorman, Brother André met a lot of people. He got to know them personally and prayed for each of them, regularly only sleeping a couple of hours per night if at all. He would often tell the pilgrims, “Pray to St. Joseph; I will pray with you,” and regularly used a St. Joseph medal, or the oil from the lamp burning in front of his statue as a sacramentals in his prayers for healing. Soon, healings were reported and Brother André’s ministry and fame spread. Before long, thousands of people per week were making the pilgrimage to request his prayers. About the use of sacramentals, Brother André would say, “Such things are acts of love and faith, of confidence and humility. Can one bargain with the good God? The best way...is to submit to His will.”

Brother André always gave credit for the miracles to St. Joseph. He longed to build a small oratory to St. Joseph. His superior told him he would have to raise the money himself, so he started by cutting the hair of the students at 5 cents a head. When he had raised $200 he was able to build a small oratory, or place of prayer. It was completed in 1904. However, as soon as it was completed it was already too small for the thousands of visitors who were coming each week. Work was begun on what is now called “The Crypt Church” which could hold 1,000 people. This was completed in 1917. However, it seemed a still larger building was needed, so in 1924 work was begun on the Oratory we see today. There were delays and problems—not surprising given the gargantuan undertaking that it was. At one point, during the Depression, they ran out of money to complete the dome. Brother André said, “Put a statue of St. Joseph in the middle of the building. If he wants a roof over his head, he’ll get it.” Within
two months, funds were provided by the many grateful souls that had been helped by his prayers, some of whom were quite wealthy. The current Oratory was not completed until 1967, 30 years after the death of Brother André!

Brother André died in 1937 at age 97. It was estimated that over one million people filed past his casket at his funeral—all this long before social media! It is also estimated that over 10,000 miracles were attributed to his prayers while he lived! My grandmother was one of those healed through his intercession. At a young age, she became deaf. As the family lived near Montreal, her parents took her to see Brother André. He prayed for her to St. Joseph and she was cured. My mother also made a pilgrimage to Montreal in 1947 at the age of 17. So, of course Brother André—and St. Joseph—hold a very special place in my heart.

As I mentioned, Brother André never took any credit for the healings himself, but always gave credit to St. Joseph. In the same vein, when I visited the Oratory I got a very clear impression, that St. Brother André was giving first place to St. Joseph. The first room we encountered after entering the building was the votive chapel, where pilgrims can light candles at any of the nine stations depicting titles of St. Joseph: Patron of the Church, Patron of families, Patron of the sick and suffering, Terror of demons, etc. I felt a strong presence in the votive chapel. St. Joseph himself seemed to be welcoming us. By contrast, St. Brother André’s tomb is off in a side room, out of the way. He seems to be saying to all visitors, “Pray to St. Joseph; I will pray with you.” It is a very moving experience.

In the gift shop we were able to find some relics, medals, and holy oil. I brought a good many items for friends and family. I was able to have the items blessed on site, and then touched the medals to the tomb of St. Brother André, thus making them third class relics.

I remembered all the members of the BSP at the Oratory, lit some candles, left your needs in the prayer depository of St. Brother André. There is so much more I could share, but perhaps this has just given you a reason to go there yourself.

As a Canadian, St. Joseph is very important to me. In addition to being Patron of Canada, he is also Patron of the Church, and Patron of the Archdiocese of Edmonton, my home diocese.

In reflecting on the life of St. Brother André one thing that occurred to me was that his mission and ministry in life was not primarily one of healing, but of making St. Joseph more well known and loved, of increasing devotion to him for the greater glory of God. I believe God means this to be the era of Mary and Joseph. The Church has had 2000 years in which to solidify her theology and establish Jesus Christ as her true and only centre. However, it seems that Jesus wants his Mother and Foster-Father to be more well known and loved now. He is bringing them out from behind the veil as if to say, “Children, here are your Mother and Foster-Father. Listen to them, as I do.”

We are living in extraordinary times. Grace abounds and the Divine assistance, which knows no limits is being poured out for us. May our love for and trust in Jesus, Mary, and Joseph lead us all deeper into the heart of the Holy Family. Blessed be God in his angels and in his saints! Alleluia!
Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"My beloved, what is a peacemaker? It is one who has died to self so that God’s will alone reigns in him. It is one who seeks out the lost and guides them to the merciful heart of God. It is one who trusts so implicitly in God’s goodness that he exudes peace, and others are attracted by it. Whatever your station in life, my beloved, you can die to self, guide the lost into my merciful heart, and place all your trust firmly in your loving, gracious Father. If you do this, it will be evident to all whose child you are. Draw near, my beloved, your Father waits.”

O beloved Father of my heart, here I am. Let our Mama teach me how to be a peacemaker so that I may die to self, lead souls into your merciful heart, and learn to trust you more. Father, I place all my trust in you through Jesus in the love of the Holy Spirit. Blessed Mother—teach me! Amen.

Janet Klasson BSP, Divine Mercy Chapter, Canada

(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: https://pelianitoblog.wordpress.com/about-2/on-private-revelation/.)

FROM THE ‘SPARROW’
The Lord and St. Francis

Peace to all my little sparrow friends! St. Francis, in his charm, and often in his writings, tried to describe the Lord God with words that were majestic but by comparison to what we now realize today, were inadequate. For his time, though, he was fantastic in praising the magnitude of the Lord. Today one can ask by today’s standards, “How big is God?”

Let’s examine Scripture to get an idea. Isaiah 66:1 says that the earth is His footstool. The earth has a diameter of about 7,900 miles. Imagine sitting on a chair and putting your foot on a globe that is 10 inches in diameter (about the length of a man’s foot). Does this mean that God’s foot is 7,900 miles long? It doesn’t, of course, but it is an interesting comparison.

Further, in Scripture, it says, "For a thousand years in thy sight are but yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night." ( Psalm 90:4) A night watch equaled 3 hours, so this saying that a 1,000 years for us is like only 3 hours for God. Since there are over 2.9 million 3-hour periods in a 1,000 years, this would show that God’s time scale is about 3 million times larger than ours. Such a God must be really, really big! In fact, these comparisons show that He is infinite and eternal.

Then this leads to the question of who is God! He is Spirit. He is the Creator who created us with a living soul and which is imbued with a dynamic spirit which has its origin with Him. He has no beginning and no end. He is unsearchable. His creation is beyond human grasp. He is the “I AM,” eternally existing in the present. He is omniscient (knows everything), omnipresent (is present everywhere), and omnipotent (has unlimited power). He reveals Himself as the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God has the power to create the whole world, as well as the power to forgive all the sins of the world.

Why, then, would we sparrows try to explain something that Scripture has adamantly says, that in our limited and little thinking capabilities, that we can’t explain? Apparently God wanted us to “try” to imagine how big and powerful He really is. If God had not meant it that way, He would not have mentioned these comparisons in His Word. We, little sparrows, look up to God in speechless wonder. As with St. Francis we try to put Him into words and thoughts that are so limited when describing His grandeur.

"Instead of becoming discouraged, I say to myself, 'The good God does not inspire us with desires that could not be realized. Therefore, in spite of my lowness, I can aspire to sanctity.'"

—St. Therese, the Little Flower

The Word of God

Peace my little sparrows! The "Word of God" is the words of Jesus found in Scripture. Words in themselves can be cutting and at times are meant to hurt those toward whom they are directed. God's
Word also cuts. It pierces and discerns "the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12) As expert sinners (yes even us little sparrows sin!), we make rationalizations and creative excuses in a sorry attempt to cover our sins.

God's living and active Word cuts through all this, piercing our hearts and souls to expose our sins. While this action may cause such heartache that our souls "melt," this is exactly what's necessary. Until we recognize that we are sinners, we see no need for Jesus. In love, God leads us to acknowledge our sins, confess them, and repent of them. Then, by His grace, His Word proclaims and reassures us that through faith in Jesus we are forgiven. Forgiven and renewed, we are strengthened by God's Word so that we may serve Him and others in thankfulness and joy.

How wonderful it is that we have a heavenly Father who loves us so much that He helps us to "put false ways far from [us]." (Psalm 119:29) His Word points out the path that He desires we follow. Through His powerful, living Word, God "disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness." (Hebrews 12:10) Thanks and praise to God for His cutting Word.

"When I read scriptures, everything seems clear. A single word shows my soul an infinite vision. Perfection seems easy to me. I see that it is enough to recognize our nothingness and to abandon ourselves, like little children, into the arms of the good God."

—St. Therese, the Little Flower

Pax et bonum

Bob Hall BSP, Little Flower Chapter, N. Carolina

MORNING STAR: NEWS ON THE ASSOCIATION...

BSP RETREAT NOW HAS A WAITING LIST!

As of this printing the BSP retreat is now at capacity and has a waiting list. To get added to the waiting list, please see registration information on page 9.

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.

BSP MEMBER WEBSITES

† Brothers and Sisters of Penance of St. Francis facebook page by Lisa Drago, BSP
† The Joy of Penance by Janet Klasson www.joyofpenance.wordpress.com

"God wants you to be in the world, but so different from the world that you will change it. Get cracking."

—Mother Angelica
ANNUAL RETREAT
Divine Will
and Divine Mercy
The Great Signs of Our Times

The spirituality of Luisa Piccarreta, with an emphasis on the Franciscan understanding of the "Communion of Will."

WITH RETREAT MASTER
Fr. Robert Young, ofm
AND A TALK ON SATURDAY BY Bishop Cozzens

Fr. Robert Young is a Franciscan Priest (OFM) who has been studying and sharing the Gift of the Divine Will for almost 20 years. He is the host of a radio program on the international Catholic network of Radio Maria called, "The Will of God in the Life and Writings of Luisa Piccarreta." Fr. Robert has also been commissioned by Pope Francis as a "Missionary of Mercy" for the Jubilee of Mercy this year. His "heart's desire" is to live this way of life more faithfully every day and to help others to come to know, love, and possess the Kingdom of the Divine Will in their lives. It is, he believes, "the fulfillment of all the hopes and desires of the human mind and soul." Come and see...

WHEN
August 19-21, 2016
Friday 4:00 pm to Sunday 2:00 pm

WHERE
Franciscan Retreat Center
Prior Lake MN

COST
$160.00 (includes accommodation & meals)
To reserve a place send $25.00 to:
BSP Retreat
c/o Paul Beery BSP,
2108 Pleasant Ave, #114
Minneapolis, MN 55404
612-871-2852 (Home)
612-730-4500 (Cell)

FOR MORE DETAILS see the BSP website:
www.bspenance.org

ALL ARE WELCOME!
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!

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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