



Dear Penitent,

The Brothers and Sisters of Penance of St. Francis (BSP) now have a chapter in the Archdiocese of Toronto, a community in which to discover anew the history of St. Francis of Assisi and the Rule of Life he gave to his Third Orders in the year 1221.

St. Clare Chapter was recently approved and recognized by Bishop Robert Kasun, CSB, Archdiocese of Toronto, to provide the spiritual growth and development needed to help those called to become “Brothers and Sisters of Penance”. This is a humble vocation of prayer, fasting, and penance, lived in the home and brought into the world, gently, through our daily interactions with those around us.

Chapter meetings are held monthly and help those in formation to discern their call to live the penitential lifestyle. Those living at a distance from Chapter meetings are welcome to become members by connecting with their local Chapter leader. The entire formation period is set up to last four years. Year 1 is Postulancy, followed by a 3-year Novitiate, after which the penitent may profess to living the Rule of the BSP for one year or for life. This is a profession, not a vow. During the Novitiate, one is required to have a spiritual director/mentor while submitting monthly lessons, which consist of reflections, reading of scripture, and an optional Catechism study.

Lessons for all levels of formation may be downloaded from the BSP website <http://bspenance.org>, and submitted when complete to the formation advocate in person at a Chapter meeting, by email, or by postal mail. In addition, the BSP website, offers access to monthly newsletters and the opportunity to participate in the online members’ forum, with full privacy and access to leadership.

For more details and initial contact information, please visit the BSP website. In your email to the administrators, please mention your desire to connect with the St. Clare Chapter.

“we are little lights carrying the gospels”





Introducing...

THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF PENANCE

of St. Francis

The **Brothers and Sisters of Penance of St. Francis (BSP)** is an Association of lay Catholics from all walks of life who are dedicated to personal renewal by living the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ more perfectly. The form of life of members is that of the First Rule of the Third Order of St. Francis 1221, a penitential plan of prayer, fasting, and simple external observance. In living the Rule we follow Jesus, who said: ***“Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me.”*** (Luke: 9:13)

The Rule of 1221 is the foundational Rule of the BSP. Both ancient and holy, its tenets were the basis of many medieval penitential groups and Third Orders, and the life-path of many Saints and Blessed within the Church. It stands forever as a call to lay people to follow fearlessly the path of the Lord and His Saints. Its lifestyle is timeless and holy, completely authentic in its call to ongoing personal conversion.

The mission of the Association is to reinstate in the world the form of life of the early penitential movements of the Catholic Church as in the days of St. Francis of Assisi. The BSP has the approval of several bishops including, from its inception in 1996, Archbishop Emeritus Harry J. Flynn of Minneapolis. The BSP was founded in Minneapolis and has since spread to Canada and many other countries.

Come and see if this life is what you are seeking. Join our family of lay people who strive for personal holiness, at home, in the ordinary circumstances of their lives.

“...in the world, but not of it, for Christ!” —BSP motto

<http://bspenance.org>

