

Saint Bonaventure (1221-1274)

OFS Monthly Formation

June 2022



Saint Bonaventure writes ...

“Who can express the fervent charity which burnt in the heart of Francis, the friend of the Bridegroom? For he seemed to be absorbed, as a live coal in the furnace, in the flame of divine love. As soon as he heard the love of the Lord spoken of, he was moved, excited and inflamed, as if the chords of his heart within vibrated to the sound without. And he was wont to say that to offer this love of our heart as an alms was a noble prodigality, and that they were to be accounted most foolish who valued it less than money; for that the

priceless worth of divine love was a sufficient purchase-money for the kingdom of heaven, and that He who has so greatly loved us is greatly to be loved in return. Therefore, to excite himself by all things to divine love, he rejoiced in all the works of the Lord’s hands, and, by the glory and beauty of that mirror, he arose to the principle and cause of them all” (The Life of St. Francis of Assisi).

The Rule of the OFS, 2:

“..the brothers and sisters, led by the Spirit, strive for perfect charity in their own secular state. By their profession they pledge themselves to live the gospel in the manner of St. Francis by means of this rule approved by the Church”.



Statue of Saint Francis and the Brothers, facing the Basilica of Saint John Lateran, Rome

Rite of Profession

During the Rite of Commitment to Gospel Life or Profession, the person to be professed reads the formula of profession which concludes with the following intention; “that I may reach the goal of perfect Christian love”.

The Holy Gospel 1 John 4:10

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins”.

Some quotes to ponder from St. Bonaventure (one of the early exponents of the Sacred Heart)

“Let us approach that most humble Heart of Jesus most high, that is to say, through the door in His side pierced with the lance; there without doubt lies hidden an ineffable treasure of most desirable love; there will we find devotion, thence draw the grace of tears, there learn meekness and patience in adversity, and compassion for the afflicted, and there, above all, obtain a contrite and humbled heart”. Elsewhere, in relation to the opening in Christ’s side, St. Bonaventure writes; “arise, then, beloved of Christ, be like a dove nestling in the opening of the hole; there cease not to watch like the sparrow who has found her home, there like the turtle-dove hide the offspring of your chaste love, there place your mouth to drink water from the sources of the Saviour” (The Mystical Vine; The Tree of Life).

Statue of the Sacred Heart, Tyburn Monastery, Bombay, Auckland



Let us pray dear Lord, in this month when the Church honours your most Sacred Heart, through the intercession of Ss. Francis and Bonaventure, for the fires of perfect Christian love to be enkindled in our heart, because in this world (as Saint Francis was known to cry through the streets), ‘love, is not loved’.