Second Temptation:

# James 1:13 Happy is the one13 who endures testing, because when he has proven to be genuine, he will receive the crown of life that God14 promised to those who love him. 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted by evil,15 and he himself tempts no one. 1:14 But each one is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desires. 1:15 Then when desire conceives, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is full grown, it gives birth to death. 1:16 Do not be led astray, my dear brothers and sisters.16 1:17 All generous giving and every perfect gift17 is from above, coming down18 from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or the slightest hint of change.19 1:18 By his sovereign plan he gave us birth20 through the message of truth, that we would be a kind of first fruits of all he created.

God does not put us to task as is said by the quote from James. He gives gifts freely and he does not or is not affected by temptation including the temptation of our sins. We cannot know this God if we are in sin. My experience with the religious beliefs I espouse tells me he is a loving God and he’s at pain even to explain his love on the cross. But his advocacy does not allow him to be effected by our sins when he helps us. My abomination, my insanity is the sin I offered on the cross. His gift of Faith is more precious to me then even my sanity and through my Franciscan rosary observance I hope to alleviate the sin of my existence (choosing fantasy over reality).

 The part I wanted to emphasize in our last meeting is I don’t know God. I can only appreciate God as a sinner and as a sinner I tempt God: Making God unable to be reached because of my sin.

 I know what you’re thinking now Pat’s on a guilt trip. No, Pat’s not on a guilt trip, he’s showing how bad and yet curable that this leprosy is which I’m now considering. In Franciscan terms I must look in the eye of the leper and see myself.

 There is no one to help me, not even God. Like the leper I’m In-sanitus {without cleanliness}. My sinful lives as a schizoid hurts no one in creation accept myself. It’s my seeming innocuous presentation in your therapy sessions that make me real.

 At this point I want to give you a short video I taped on St. Francis.