

May, 2020

Il Poverello

The newsletter of the SS Francis and Clare Fraternity
of the Third Order of St. Francis

Lord, help me to live this day, quietly, easily. To lean upon Thy great strength, trustfully, restfully. To wait for the unfolding of Thy will, patiently, serenely. To meet others, peacefully, joyously. To face tomorrow, confidently, courageously.
St. Francis of Assisi

www.thirdorderfranciscans.com

Volume 1, Issue 2



A Word from Bob Burtscher, TOF – Acting Minister

Since we have been unable to meet due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic and quarantine, I am writing to you as Minister to let you know about plans we have for our fraternity.

Currently, only Roberto Meza, TOF, and I are Council members - Roberto as your Vice-Minister, and I as your Minister. Pepe Ventosa, TOF is assisting us, and Debbie Ventosa, TOF continues as Formation Director. We are carrying on in order to move forward to have a full Council. We are working on our website and fraternity statutes. We would like to get organized with our apostolates and plan for activities, such as our picnic and maybe a hike at the park in early Fall. It will be beneficial to have a Council for more representation of the membership of the fraternity.

It seems best to have a Council appointed by Fr. Vit. This Council will function only temporarily as we get more organized. Hopefully in a year or so, maybe after those in Formation are professed, we can vote for a Council that will serve our community for three years. This is in full accord with our Constitutions. Per Article 122:

“At the establishment of a new fraternity, according to the Ceremonial of the Order, the Council is appointed by the one who establishes the fraternity, after consultation with the director already appointed. In other cases, the Council shall be elected at a general meeting by the professed tertiaries, who have not been deprived of the right to vote.”

We need volunteers who are willing to serve in this temporary council. If you feel called, please contact me. We have gotten in touch with some members to see if they wish to serve. If you would like to nominate someone, let me know and we will contact him/her. **Important: We need to hear from you by Monday, May 11.** We will proceed as follows:

1. May 12: We will have a list of members willing to serve in the Council.
2. May 13-15: Roberto and I will assist Fr. Vit as he discerns whom to appoint. Please keep us in your prayers.
3. May 15: Fr. Vit will decide whom to appoint for the different Council positions.
4. May 17: Fr. Vit will appoint the Council. Since the restrictions from the COVID-19 remain and we cannot gather in May, you will hear through the newsletter who has been appointed as new members of Council.
5. In late May, Council will have its first Council meeting.

I invite you to pray and discern if you are called to serve our fraternity. I look forward to hearing from you! Love and prayers – Bob Burtscher, TOF

Fraternity Council (to be elected soon)

Robert Burtscher, TOF – Acting Minister
Roberto Meza, TOF – Acting Vice-Minister
Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM – Spiritual Director
Debbie Ventosa, TOF – Acting Formation Director
Susan Kramer, TOF – Newsletter

Monthly Gathering

3rd Sunday, 1:30 PM
St. Nicholas Byzantine Church
1050 Robinson Ave, Barberton

**Next Gathering –
TBA after COVID-19
Quarantine is lifted**

No Gathering in May

**Visitors are always joyfully
expected and are heartily
welcome!**

Franciscan Quote of the Month

Long live Christ the King! (dying words as he clutched his Rosary before execution for defending a priest from Republican forces and for praying the Rosary in public during the Spanish Civil War)



**Blessed Ceferino Giménez Malla, TOF (1861-1936) – Feast Day May 4
– Martyr and Patron of the Spanish Catholic Romani (Gypsy) people**

Eucharistic Adoration



Sunday

Clarice DeJesus
Betty DeMarco, TOF

Monday

Rose Akins, TOF
Louise Daniel
Virgil Daniel
Judith Hoyt, TOF
Richard Russelo, TOF

Tuesday

Michael Butts, TOF
Chris Devore, TOF
LeeAnn Devore, TOF
Eileen Dunlap, TOF
Rick Dunlap, TOF
Therese Harper
Larry McNutt, TOF
Lucy McNutt, TOF
Maria Elena Meza, TOF
Roberto Meza, TOF
Cindy Russo, TOF

Wednesday

Bill Marshall, TOF
Carol Perrine, TOF
Richard Russelo, TOF

Thursday

Joanne Angeletti, TOF
Carol Perrine, TOF

Friday

Robert Burtscher, TOF
Debbie Ventosa, TOF
Pepe Ventosa, TOF

Saturday

Susan Kramer, TOF

The apostolate of daily Eucharistic Adoration is VITAL to our Fraternity. It does not depend only on the 27 brothers and sisters listed above and is not only limited to one day. If you wish to take a place on the Adoration list, please contact Susan Kramer. When you find yourself at church, or when you think of it at home while we are quarantined, say a prayer of adoration to our good Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Get to Know Matt Poletti, Formation Student – by Elizabeth Francis, TOF

Our fraternity is blessed with wonderful individuals in Initial Formation. We will try to have brief biographies on each these individuals so we can get to know them better. Let us welcome Matthew Poletti.

His favorite quote is from St. Francis of Assisi: “Holy humility confounds pride and all the men of this world and all the things that are in the world.”

Matthew studied at St. Andrew University in Laurinburg, North Carolina, on a Bagpiping Scholarship. He met his future wife, Jess, there when she was involved with the Equestrian Program. Sadly, his religious education had stopped after First Communion. While at the university he wanted to continue in the Catholic faith. Fr. Saxon, of St. Mary Catholic Church in the area helped him study and he received the Sacrament of Confirmation. He takes his Catholic Faith very seriously.

He is a member of Little Flower Parish, Canton, and is an active member of the Knights of Columbus and the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre. He is looking forward to assisting with the Rite of Christian Initiation and the Adult Education programs. His wife, Jess, was in RCIA until the pandemic put that on hold.

St. Padre Pio has a special place in his life. While he was studying in India, he prayed the rosary, and he had an image of this wonderful Franciscan saint. Perhaps that was a nudge towards the Third Order Seculars. We are called to our vocations in many and varied ways; we just need to be alert, to listen, and to respond. He thinks the fraternity will assist him to grow spiritually. “I know it already has, through my readings, as well as the practice of Lectio Divina, and praying the Liturgy of the Hours.”

Investiture as a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre (Matt is on the right) →



Matthew has special musical talents, playing both the bagpipes and the trumpet. He hopes participate in an amateur bagpipe competition. He was blessed to play the pipes for three of his grandparents' funerals, but after playing for his Grandmother Poletti's funeral he put them away, until recently. He played for her, and perhaps she nudged him to the Franciscans. She was a Third Order Franciscan. Perhaps he would be willing to play them for us sometime.

Although he is new to Little Flower Parish, he is looking forward to assisting with the Rite of Christian Initiation and the Adult Education Programs and the Home-bound Ministry.

Matthew wrote, “I plan on contributing as much as I can for the fraternity. I know that I have a lot to learn, so at this point I don't know specifically what I can contribute other than to the ministries I signed up for. Hopefully I can do well in spreading the message of St. Francis which will hopefully will help to grow the fraternity.”

Rest in Peace

Our sincere condolences and prayers to Kenny Green and his family. Kenny's brother, Robert, died on April 17. He was married to his wife, Carol, for 48 years. They had three children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Additionally, Robert had 7 siblings and many nieces and nephews. Robert served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, and earned a Purple Heart for bravery and injury on the lines. He was a 100% disabled Vietnam veteran. Robert was a devout Christian who loved the Lord above all else. A memorial service will be held when conditions allow.

May the angels lead Robert on the next part of his journey to Jesus, and may Jesus and His Blessed Mother comfort Kenny and his family during this distressing time.

May Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

Eileen & Rick Dunlap, TOF;
Susan Kramer, TOF; and
Larry & Lucy McNutt, TOF
– 5 Years

Kenny Green, TOF;
Pepe Ventosa, TOF; and
Rose Zaratsian, TOF – 22 Years



Birthdays

Mary Dye – 5/23

SS. Francis and Clare Fraternity Lectio Divina App



“St. Francis put into practice his ideal of imitating Christ by constant recourse to the Gospel. Actually, this is the only way any Christian can follow effectively in Christ's footsteps; he must consult the Gospel if he is to find out how to live, for it is there, in the Gospel, that Our Lord has left us a record of his life.” *from Call to Commitment.*

Would you like to imitate St. Francis by going to the Gospels to follow in Jesus' footsteps? Would you like to develop the habitual practice of praying with the Gospel in Lectio Divina?

If you answer yes to any of these questions, please join our fraternity's "TOF Lectio Divina App." By joining, you will be praying the Gospel and sharing the Word with your brothers and sisters.

For more information, please contact Pepe.

Mass and Adoration via Television, Facebook, and You Tube

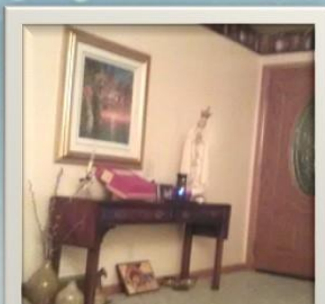
It is a sacrifice to be unable to attend Mass and Adoration at our parishes. Check with your home parish and diocese to find out when and by which means Sunday or daily Mass is offered, on television, Facebook, and You Tube. For instance, the Cleveland Diocese airs Sunday Mass at 6 AM on Fox 8 television, as well as on their website, where you can access daily Mass from St. John Cathedral. If your parish has a website, check for messages from your pastor and information on Masses which may be broadcast from your parish. EWTN is an excellent source to view daily and Sunday Mass, as well as the Rosary, Divine Mercy chaplet, and other quality Catholic programming.

Our Personal Portiunculas

While we have been under quarantine during the COVID-19 pandemic, we have had to sacrifice attending Mass and receiving Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. We are grateful to God for keeping us safe and healthy, and to our pastors and Dioceses for providing Mass, Stations, Adoration, and other devotions via television and the internet, along with pastoral encouragement which keeps us in touch with each other, and more importantly, to our Faith. And we are also thankful for those who care for the sick, those who provide us with food and the necessities of life, and others who continue to place their lives at risk by removing our trash, providing our utilities, delivering the mail, and who maintain our standard of living by their hard work. Since we cannot worship with our fellow parishioners, we asked you to provide us with pictures of your personal Portiunculas – the quiet corners of your home where you spend time in prayer and conversation with God and listen to what He tells you. Here are the beautiful pictures we received from our fraternity family:



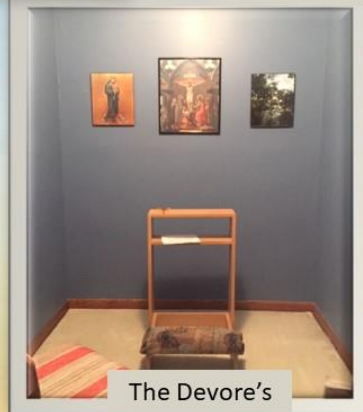
Miller's



Angeletti's



The McNutt's



The Devore's

“Be still and
know that I am
God.”

Psalm 46

Our own Portiunculas, the little corners of our homes where we spend quiet time in prayer with our Lord Jesus.



Dates to Remember (May, the Month of Our Lady)

May 1	Feast of St. Joseph the Worker
May 3	4 th Sunday of Easter
May 10	5 th Sunday of Easter (Mother's Day)
May 15	Fraternity Council Elections
May 17	6 th Sunday of Easter (Feast of St. Paschal Baylon, OFM)
May 24	7 th Sunday of Easter (Ascension of Our Lord)
May 25	Memorial Day
May 30	Feast of St. Joan of Arc, TOF
May 31	Pentecost Sunday
September 7	Fall Hike with Fr. Vit (Labor Day Weekend)



Pentecost fires blaze again at every Confirmation as Christ sends His Spirit to make us soldiers of His Body on Earth. – Venerable Fulton J. Sheen