

August, 2020

Volume 1, Issue 5

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



Something to Consider

Over the last couple of months, since the quarantine was lifted and the world learned of the murder of George Floyd, we in the United States have undergone an upheaval in what we have come to know as “normal”. What should have been relief and joy at being given the freedom to venture out in public and attend Mass again, has been turned into reflection on how we perceive and treat those of other races and nationalities, and how much we value our Faith and our country.

As Catholics and Franciscans, those in our fraternity have been either brought up with an appreciation of the dignity of others, or have at least learned to do so later in life, because we know it is what Jesus expects of us. St. Francis himself famously had a dread of lepers from early childhood, which, though prayer, he fought to overcome. In those days, lepers were readily recognized by their ulcerated flesh and the stench which came from their wounds. They were forced to live apart from their communities and families, unloved and uncared for in their painful and ultimately terminal illness. They wore bells to warn others of their approach. No one knew how to cure leprosy. It was a truly dreaded disease, much as we fear COVID-19, and the only defense was to avoid it all costs – as we do when we wear masks, practice social distancing, and sanitize frequently to fight against COVID-19.

St. Francis was able to defeat his revulsion of lepers through fervent prayer and steadfast resolve to please Jesus. He not only overcame his fear and dread of lepers, but he engaged them in brotherly conversation and put his own life at risk by caring for their needs personally. The example of St. Francis serves us well as we venture into examining ourselves when it comes to our dealings with others.

The life of St. Francis also inspires us in our defense of our beloved Church when it is attacked, as we seem to be experiencing currently. Statues depicting our Mother, Jesus, and the saints are being vandalized, and churches are being torched or destroyed. St. Francis would not have reacted to these things with vengeance, but he might have used these dreadful assaults as an opportunity to bring others to Jesus and His Church. We can do no better than to follow his holy example.

Fraternity Council

Robert Burtscher, TOF
– Minister
Roberto Meza, TOF
– Vice-Minister
Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM
– Spiritual Director
Larry McNutt, TOF
– Secretary
Pepe Ventosa, TOF –
Councilor
Debbie Ventosa, TOF
– Formation Director
Susan Kramer, TOF
– Newsletter

IMPORTANT CHANGE!

**Next Gathering –
Sunday, August 16
1:30 PM**

**Queen of Heaven Pavilion
1800 Steese Road
Uniontown, OH**

**Fraternity Picnic!
Please wear your masks!**

Franciscan Quote of the Month

“We become what we love, and who we love shapes what we become. If we love things, we become a thing. If we love nothing, we become nothing. Imitation is not a literal mimicking of Christ, rather it means becoming the image of the beloved, an image disclosed through transformation. This means we are to become vessels of God's compassionate love for others.”

**St. Clare of Assisi (1194-1253) – Virgin, Abbess, Defender of the Blessed Sacrament,
Foundress of the Poor Clares - Feast Day August 11**



Eucharistic Adoration



Sunday

Betty DeMarco, TOF

Monday

Rose Akins, TOF

Louise Daniel

Virgil Daniel

Judith Hoyt, 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

Carol Perrine, TOF

Cindy Russo, TOF

Wednesday

Bill Marshall, TOF

Carol Perrine, TOF

Thursday

Joanne Angeletti, 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 24 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, say a prayer of adoration to our good Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

August Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

Bob Burtscher, TOF – 24 Years

Carol Perrine, TOF – 23 Years



Birthdays

Debbie Ventosa, TOF – August 6

Jim Miller – August 15

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Ministry to Shut-Ins, Convalescents, or Excused Members

Maria Elena Meza, TOF, who heads the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Apostolate, requests that each sister or brother give a phone call to those members who are shut-ins, convalescents or excused and unable to attend our fraternity gatherings. It is essential to maintain contact with them, and if possible, to pray together for their needs during the call or outside of it. This includes Bill Marshall, TOF; Sandy Pollino, OFS; Deanna and Pat Hurley, OFS; Eileen Dunlap, TOF; MJ Toole, TOF; Mary and Paul Tag, OFS; and Lee Gaydos, OFS.

Stand for Life

Joanne Angeletti, TOF, and Matt Poletti, novice and formation student with the North Canton class, will represent the fraternity the third Saturday of August at the abortion clinic in Cuyahoga Falls from 10 AM to Noon. If you wish to add your support, feel free to join them. **Remember to use the residential parking around the corner, and not business parking or Acme's parking – you will be towed. Also, be sure to remain on the sidewalk at all times, and to maintain a courteous, charitable, and Christian demeanor. If you are unable to fulfill your commitment, find a substitute. *NEVER* go alone to the clinic – pray from home if your partner will be absent and cannot find a substitute.**

Little Portion for August

Rosanne Shepherd, novice and formation student with the Northfield class, will prepare the Little Portion for August. Chris and LeeAnn Devore, TOF, will deliver this to the street people of downtown Canton. Thank you, Rosanne, Chris, and LeeAnn!

Wake Service

Fraternity Council has put together a Franciscan Third Order Wake Service for our new fraternity. Anyone who wants a Wake Service must fill out a request, which you can obtain from Bob Burtscher, TOF, or download one from our website (www.thirdorderfranciscans.com). Don't assume your family will know your plans for funeral arrangements. Acting now will save them worry and give you peace of mind.

Building Our New Fraternity

In your kindness, please consider adding a little extra to the Common Fund as we start our new fraternity, or mail in your contribution if you cannot make it to the gathering. There have been many ongoing expenses associated with our journey to the Third Order, including costs for the Investiture and other activities. Anything you can do will help us transition our fraternity into the direction in which God leads us. And remember – God will **never** be outdone in generosity!

Reminders!

If you are interested in obtaining a Franciscan habit burial shroud, Joanne Angeletti, TOF has three beautiful handmade shrouds for sale. They are easily adjustable to fit men or women of any size, and are made of high-quality fabric. Please contact Joanne if you would like one.

If you are throwing away a face mask, please cut off and save the elastic cords that are the ear pieces. The elastic is difficult to find right now. Joanne is making masks and will sanitize and reuse the elastic.

August Gathering/Picnic

We are having a picnic and want
you to come!

SS. Francis and Clare
Fraternity

1st Annual



Date: Sunday August 16, 2020

Place: Queen of Heaven Parish
1800 Steese Road,
Uniontown, OH

Time: 1:30pm

Sunday, August 16 at 1:30 PM, we will be holding our annual fraternity picnic, which will serve as our August Gathering. We will meet at the pavilion of beautiful Queen of Heaven parish in Green, as we have for the last few years. We are most appreciative of the warm hospitality of Father Dave Durkee and the parish.

Council will provide chicken, potato salad, and beverages, which will be served by gloved and masked volunteers. If you wish to bring something to share, please make sure it is in single servings, or if you are bringing something that needs to be served, bring a serving utensil so that it can be served to our people – and notify Susan Kramer so we do not have too much overlap on food. If you prefer water to soft drinks, please bring your own bottled water. We are trying to avoid everyone serving himself and touching a common serving utensil, either by using pre-packaged servings or by gloved and masked servers. If you do not feel comfortable with these arrangements, please feel free to bring a bagged lunch – we certainly understand! Council will also provide paper products.

Around 2 PM, we will meet in the church for the Investiture and Novitiate ceremonies for those members who were unable to join us in Youngstown on July 11!

Even if it rains, we will still be able to enjoy the company of our fraternity members under the pavilion! ***Please plan to join us – we can all use a carefree afternoon of relaxation and the comfort of our Franciscan family!***

Thank You, Betty!

Betty DeMarco, TOF has graciously accepted the position of website assistant. Her duties are to oversee the website and monitor for content that is Catholic and is faithfully in accord with Church teachings and doctrine.

The website (www.thirdorderfranciscans.com) has been expanded to include Upcoming Events, Ritual Prayers, and more – as well as archived copies of the newsletter. Check it out, and if you have any observations you want to share about it, contact Pepe Ventosa, TOF or Betty DeMarco, TOF.

Get to Know Novices Virgil and Louise Daniel – by Elizabeth Francis, TOF

The SS Francis and Clare Fraternity is blessed with a number of individuals in formation. This includes wife and husband, Louise and Virgil Daniel, members of St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish in Barberton.

Married for 50 years, they have five children, three grandchildren, one step-grandson--and a granddaughter due in September.

Virgil learned about the Third Order Franciscans from Joanne Angeletti, TOF, a fellow St. Nicholas parishioner. But it took talking with his wife, Louise, whose Aunt Louise was a Third Order Franciscan, to encourage the seed to grow. Now it is blooming. He said, "I came along for the ride." Both bring wonderful gifts to the fraternity, both intellectual and active service.

Louise and Virgil are graduates of Marriage Encounter and are Cursillistas. In June, they celebrated 50 years of marriage. They served as Pre-Cana Coordinators for the Ohio Deanery, Eparchy of Parma for 14 years. It was a blessing for those in the Pre-Cana program to have individuals who truly exhibit the vow of, "Till death do we part."



Virgil earned a B.S. from Bowling Green State University in Secondary Education and Comprehensive Social Studies. During his career as an officer of the U.S. Army, he was assigned to the United Nations as a military observer in the Middle East. This had a special blessing: he and his family made an official Holy Land Pilgrimage.

While in the military he studied at the JFK Center for Military Assistance-Foreign Area Office Course; Defense Language Institute, Staff School. He also earned a Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology at St. Mary-of-the-Wood College in Indiana and a Master of Education, School Counseling at Kent State University. During this time, he also did graduate work in several fields, earning an MA in Pastoral Theology from St. Mary of the Woods College and a Master of Education, School Counseling at Kent State University.

Louise earned a Bachelor of Science Degree at Bowling Green State University and a Master of Education, School Counseling Degree, from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, LA. A licensed Professional Councilor, she retired from Padua Franciscan High School. She was blessed by connections with Franciscans throughout her life.

This couple is very active in caring for others in a variety of ways. Louise volunteers at a soup kitchen and is a member of the Women's Altar Society at their parish. Virgil is a Master Catechist and a Certified Pastoral Minister in the Diocese of Cleveland. At St. Nicholas Parish he serves as a cantor and assists with adult education.

Louise notes that she likes to ask individuals questions and notes, "I am also a very good listener." This is a gift that is often absent in our society; we hear words, but don't comprehend, or appreciate, what is really being said.

Louise is attracted to St. John Vianney. "I am particularly drawn to his humility. It is so impressive the hours and hours he spent hearing confessions." Virgil has long admired St. Clare of Assisi and her deep spirituality. "For me, it is her complete confidence in the Real Presence in the Eucharist. The Eucharistic miracle attributed to her complete faith and confidence saving her community from invading forces has always held my attention. I am a Catholic because I believe - actually, I know - that God reached out to me personally through the Eucharist."

Virgil has never really retired. His second career was in high school education. "I retired from the Army into a High School ROTC position in Barberton." When that program concluded he went back to school at Kent State University. Then he taught at Padua Franciscan High School. "For my first three years I was a teacher of theology, particularly Old Testament, but also Church History and Catholic Beliefs." Then he worked to the Counseling Department for 21 years.

Even his path to Catholicism is interesting. He grew up in a Unity Church in Lee's Summit, Missouri, an offshoot of New Thought, broadly related to, but not the same as, Christian Science. In college, he had a crisis of faith and was tending to be an agnostic. But the Lord had a path for him. He dated a series of Catholic women, and then he met Louise. "Being Catholic was not part of the plan. Louise left that entirely up to me. She was Catholic and that wouldn't change for her."

"My journey into the Catholic faith is lengthy. I gave some serious consideration to the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints, the Mormons. Suffice it to say, God had a plan for me and touched me directly through the Eucharist. I made my Profession of Faith in 1975 on the Feast of St. Gertrude (November 16) in Bamberg, Germany. An interesting side note, the chaplain who received me into the faith was an OFM priest. I was confirmed several years later at Fort Bragg, NC."

Welcome to the SS Francis & Clare Fraternity!

Lord, It Is Good For Us To Be Together!

Saturday, July 11 our fraternity met at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted in Youngstown to celebrate the Investiture Ceremony and Reception of the Novices of the Third Order of St. Francis, with all of us wearing masks to cooperate with Diocesan guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic. We were joined by our brothers and sisters of the Padre Pio Fraternity of Youngstown and the Our Lady of America Fraternity of Ashtabula.

We started out with Confession, and then Holy Mass celebrated by Father Vit. Afterwards, we met in the basement meeting room of the Shrine and enjoyed a lunch with baked chicken, pizza, pasta salads, fresh cherries, cookies and more, and the opportunity to visit with our fellow Third Order Franciscans from Ashtabula and Youngstown. Then we returned to the church for our clothing in the habit of the Third Order.

→ ***Elizabeth Francis, TOF receives her cincture from Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM Bob Burtscher, TOF; Judith Hoyt, TOF; and Susan Kramer, TOF***

There was a total of 37 people present, including those receiving the habit of the Third Order and their family members. Our fraternity was represented by 11 professed members who received their blessed scapulars and white cinctures, with 3 from Our Lady of America and 6 from the Padre Pio fraternity.



Ten students were also present and underwent the Novitiate ceremony, in which they progressed from Postulancy into the Novitiate. They received brown cinctures, scapulars, and a candle. Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM, our Spiritual Director, was the celebrant and was assisted by Br. Joshua Critchley, OFM.

← ***Brother Joshua Critchley, OFM, speaking a few words of inspiration to the Third Order***



It was a beautiful, joyful day for all of us, and we are most grateful to Fr. Vit and Br. Joshua for everything they did to make it a day none of us will ever forget. We are also thankful for the generous hospitality of the Padre Pio fraternity of Youngstown, who made sure the meeting room was sparkling clean, and who set up and served coffee. The Our Lady of America fraternity from Ashtabula provided additional refreshments and assisted as well. It was certainly a joint effort, and a blessing to all there!

Brother Joshua Critchley, OFM and Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM →



Annual Hike with Friar

Come and join Fr. Vit for a morning of hiking, prayer, ongoing formation, food and fellowship!

When: Monday September 7, 2020

Where: The Ledges Trail at Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Itinerary:

9:00 am: meet at the parking lot

9:15 am: hiking starts

11:30 am: lunch at Fisher's Café and Pub in Peninsula, OH

What to bring: water bottle, sturdy shoes for hiking, bug spray. Hiking stick optional but helpful. Also optional, small mat to sit on the ground.

Note: The trail is 1.8 miles long with some steep areas. We will only hike a small and easier section of the trail. There are a few areas with tree roots exposed. It is considered an "easy" hike.

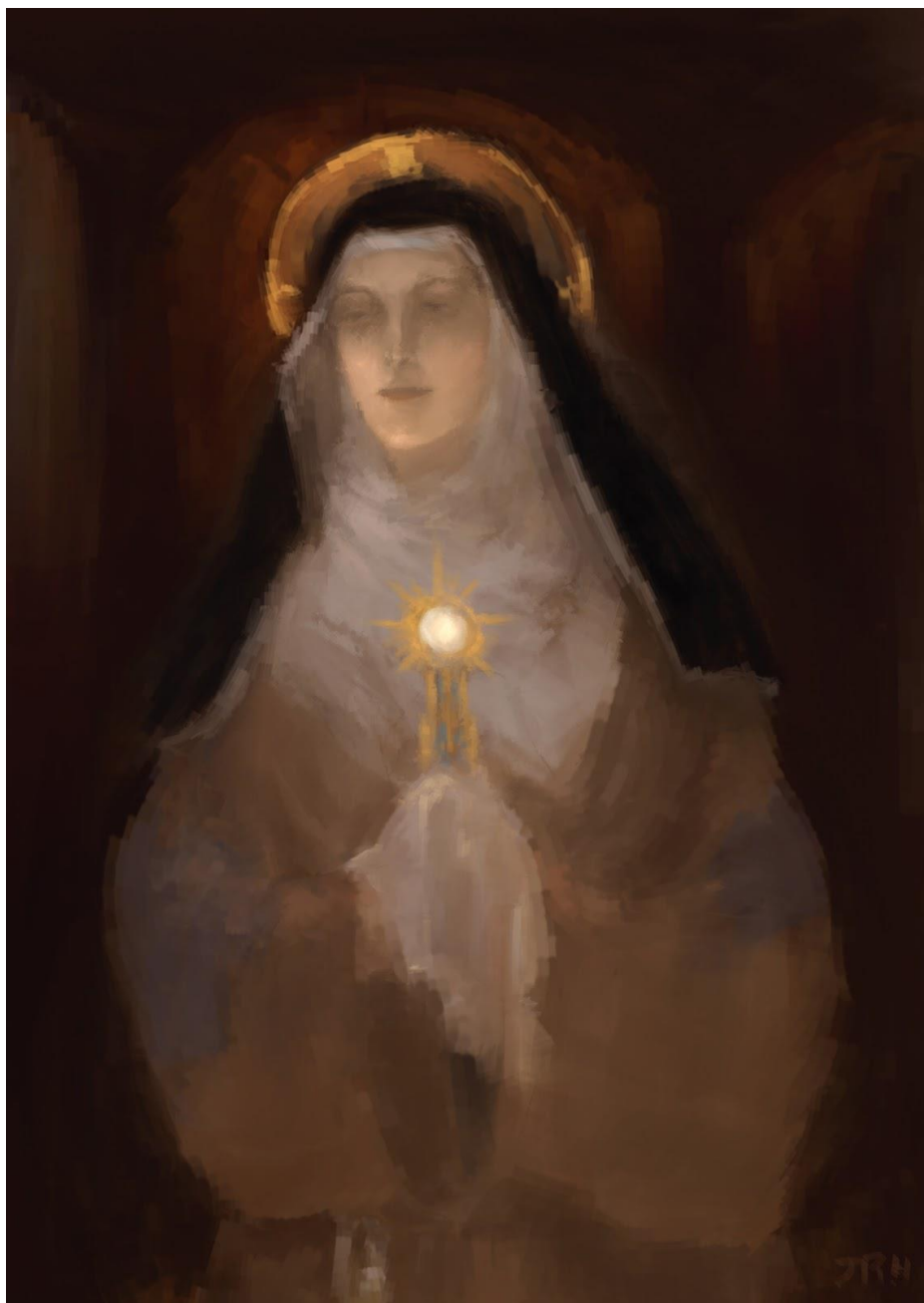
Directions: take 8 north. Take exit #10 and make a left on Seasons Rd. Go ¾ of a mile and turn right on Akron Cleveland Rd. Then a left on Kendall Park Rd (1.2 miles). The entrance to the Ledges is about 1 mile on the right side.

*****Important***** Please RSVP to Pepe



Save the Date (August, the Month of the Blessed Sacrament)

August 15	Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady
August 16	Fraternity Picnic at Queen of Heaven Pavilion (August Gathering)
September 7	Fall Hike with Fr. Vit (Labor Day Weekend)
November 14	Day of Reflection (Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted Shrine, 8:30 AM)



**St. Clare of Assisi Holding the Blessed Sacrament
in Defense of Her Convent and Assisi Against Invading Armies**

“If a well-known and trustworthy person were to go to a public square and tell all the idlers loitering there that on a certain hill they would find a gold mine and could take all they wanted, do you think anyone would shrug his shoulders and say he did not care? They’d be dashing there as fast as they could!”

Well, now, doesn’t the tabernacle hold the most precious treasure ever to be found on earth or in heaven? Unfortunately, there are many who cannot see it because they are blind. Yet our faith unerringly tells us that endless riches are to be found there. People sweat and toil to make money, and yet, in the tabernacle dwells the Lord of the universe. He will grant you what you ask, if you really need it.

Isn’t Our Lord Jesus Christ Lord and Master of all? Go to Him then. Ask and it shall be given you; knock and it shall be opened to you! Jesus longs to grant you favors, especially those you need for your soul.”

– St. John Bosco, Third Order Franciscan