

July, 2020

Volume 1, Issue 4

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

As we prepare for our Investiture, the following thoughts are particularly relevant. They were written by Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, a young man who lived only 24 years and died in 1924. He was a member of a wealthy family from Turin, Italy. His father owned the national newspaper, La Stampa, which at that time was a decidedly anti-clerical publication (after the death of Pier Giorgio, his father returned to the Church, and this was reflected in his newspaper). His mother was an accomplished artist. Both parents, who had an unhappy marriage, had fallen away from the Faith. In spite of this, Pier Giorgio devoutly adhered to the teachings of the Church, especially in regard to caring for the poor, and did so with joy. He died of tuberculosis on July 4, 1924, after asking his sister to use his money to buy prescriptions and food for poor families for whom he was caring. He was a lay Dominican, but his attitude was entirely Franciscan.

“After having fortified our spirit by applying ourselves with great diligence to works of mercy, and after having intensely studied the questions which are troubling us, then we can throw ourselves into the apostolate. And there are three distinct apostolates.

First of all, there is the apostolate of good example. We Catholics must strive to have our whole life guided by Christian moral law. Then there is the apostolate of charity by going among those who suffer and comforting them, among the unfortunate and saying a comforting word to them, because the Catholic religion is based on charity, which is nothing other than the most perfect Love. The Apostle Saint Paul says, ‘The charity of Christ needs us,’ and without this fire, which little by little must destroy our personality so that our heart beats only for the sorrows of others, we would not be Christians, much less Catholics.

Finally, there is the apostolate of persuasion. This is one of the most beautiful and necessary. Young people, approach your colleagues at work who live their lives away from the Church and spend their free time not in healthy pastimes, but in vices. Persuade those unfortunate people to follow the ways of God, strewn with many thorns, but also with many roses. We must sacrifice ... our ambitions, indeed our entire selves, for the cause of the Faith.”

Fraternity Council

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

IMPORTANT CHANGE!

**Next Gathering –
Saturday, July 11
11:00 AM**

**Our Lady Comforter of the
Afflicted Shrine
517 S. Belle Vista Ave.
Youngstown, OH 44502**

**Investiture of our members
into the Third Order.
Please wear your masks!**

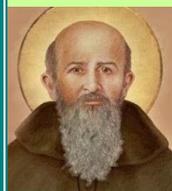
Franciscan Quote of the Month

“Everything exists for you, but you exist for Christ.”

St. Lawrence of Brindisi, OFM (1559-1619)

Feast Day July 21

Priest; Linguist; Doctor of the Church



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

Cindy Russo, TOF

Wednesday

Bill Marshall, TOF

Carol Perrine, TOF

Thursday

Joanne Angeletti, TOF

Carol Perrine, TOF

Friday

Robert Burtscher, TOF

Debbie Ventosa, TOF

Pepe Ventosa, TOF

Saturday

Susan Kramer, TOF

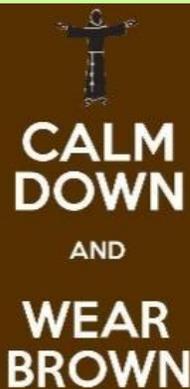
The apostolate of daily Eucharistic Adoration is VITAL to our Fraternity. It does not depend only on the 24 brothers and sisters listed above and is not only limited to one day. If you wish to take a place on the Adoration list, please contact Susan Kramer. When you find yourself at church, say a prayer of adoration to our good Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

July Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

Judith Hoyt, TOF – 20 Years

Debbie Ventosa, TOF
– 17 Years



Birthdays

Fred Kramer – July 6

Therese Harper – July 20

Cindy Russo, TOF – July 21

July Gathering

Having survived the COVID-19 quarantine successfully, we are finally looking forward to the Investiture of our professed members, and the progression of our students into the Novitiate. This will also be our July Gathering. We will be in the company of our brothers and sisters from Our Lady of America Fraternity (Ashtabula) and St. Padre Pio Fraternity (Youngstown), who will also participate in this ceremony.

On Saturday, July 11, we will meet at Noon at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted in Youngstown. If you want to come early, the privilege of Confession will be available starting at 11 AM. After Mass, we will have lunch in the basement meeting room of the Shrine. When we have finished our meal, we will then return to the church for the Investiture and Novitiate ceremonies.

Just as at our home parishes, we are asked to wear our masks and practice social distancing, in accordance with the Diocesan guidelines.

There was some discussion of bringing potluck dishes, but we decided on pizza and chicken. Cindy Russo, TOF, generously volunteered to bring the pizza, and Council will arrange for chicken, beverages, and paper products. We will do our best to comply with current health rules regarding sanitation. If you wish to assist in any way, please contact a Council member.

If you cannot attend, please contact Bob Burtscher, TOF, so that he can make arrangements for your Investiture at a later date. And if you need a ride to the Youngstown, please contact Bob Burtscher, and he will arrange for a ride share. Hope to see everyone there!

Requiescat in Pace



We are heartbroken to report that Richard Russelo, TOF died at the end of June from complications of a fall he suffered. His hospitalization and rehabilitation were especially painful because it occurred during the quarantine, and his family was unable to visit and offer comfort. He also endured blindness in his last few days. He was a good Franciscan and soldier for Christ, and we will miss him very much.

←Roberto Meza, TOF; Richard Russelo, TOF; Maria Elena Meza, TOF; & Rose Akins, TOF

Please continue to pray that Pope Francis may select good and holy bishops for both the Diocese of Cleveland and the Diocese of Youngstown. We await Pope Francis's decision with great hope!

Good Jesus, in Your endless Mercy, welcome our brother Richard, and send Your angels to accompany him on his journey to You. Comfort and protect his dear wife Judy, and their daughters, as well as Richard's family in Canada. Give them Your peace. And please, send us good bishops who love us, but who love You and Your Church even more. We ask this in Your Most Holy Name. Amen.

Formation News

Under the able guidance Formation Director Debbie Ventosa, TOF, our formation students have been steadily going forward in their studies. They returned to in-person classes in June, after following their lessons via email during the quarantine. And they will join with the professed members on July 11 to progress to Novitiate. Please keep Debbie and our 10 students in your prayers!



Virgil & Louise Daniel; Pepe & Debbie Ventosa, TOF; LeeAnn & Chris Devore, TOF; Matt Poletti, and Nettie and Jim Miller (North Canton Formation Class and Formation Team)



Rose Akins, TOF; Rosanne Shepherd, Margaret Sartor, Therese Harper, Leslie Ann Magda, Debbie Ventosa, TOF; and Cindy Russo, TOF (Northfield Formation Class and Formation Team – Not Pictured: Mary Dye and Paul Zimny)

Lord, It Is Good For Us To Be Together!

It was with great joy that we were able to resume meeting in person for our Gathering on June 28 at St. Nicholas in Barberton! We had 31 in attendance, all in masks and hands properly sanitized in accordance with anti-COVID-19 guidelines, including several formation students, Fraternity Affiliates Annie Butts and Fred Kramer, and Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM, who was accompanied by Brother Joshua Critchley. Brother Joshua is spending his summer at the Shrine before he returns to his seminary studies in Chicago.

We began our meeting with the Ritual Prayer of the Third Order, the Liturgy of the Hours, and then Lectio Divina, which was on the Gospel of the day. As always, we broke up into groups of two to discuss the word or phrase that spoke to us from the reading, and prayed with our partners.

Ongoing Formation was under the direction of Bob Burtscher, TOF, our Minister. After praying the Come Holy Spirit prayer, he discussed the principle of Love of One's Neighbor, citing selections from Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, and Matthew. Without love of our neighbor, our love of God is sterile and fruitless, and we cannot think of one without the other.

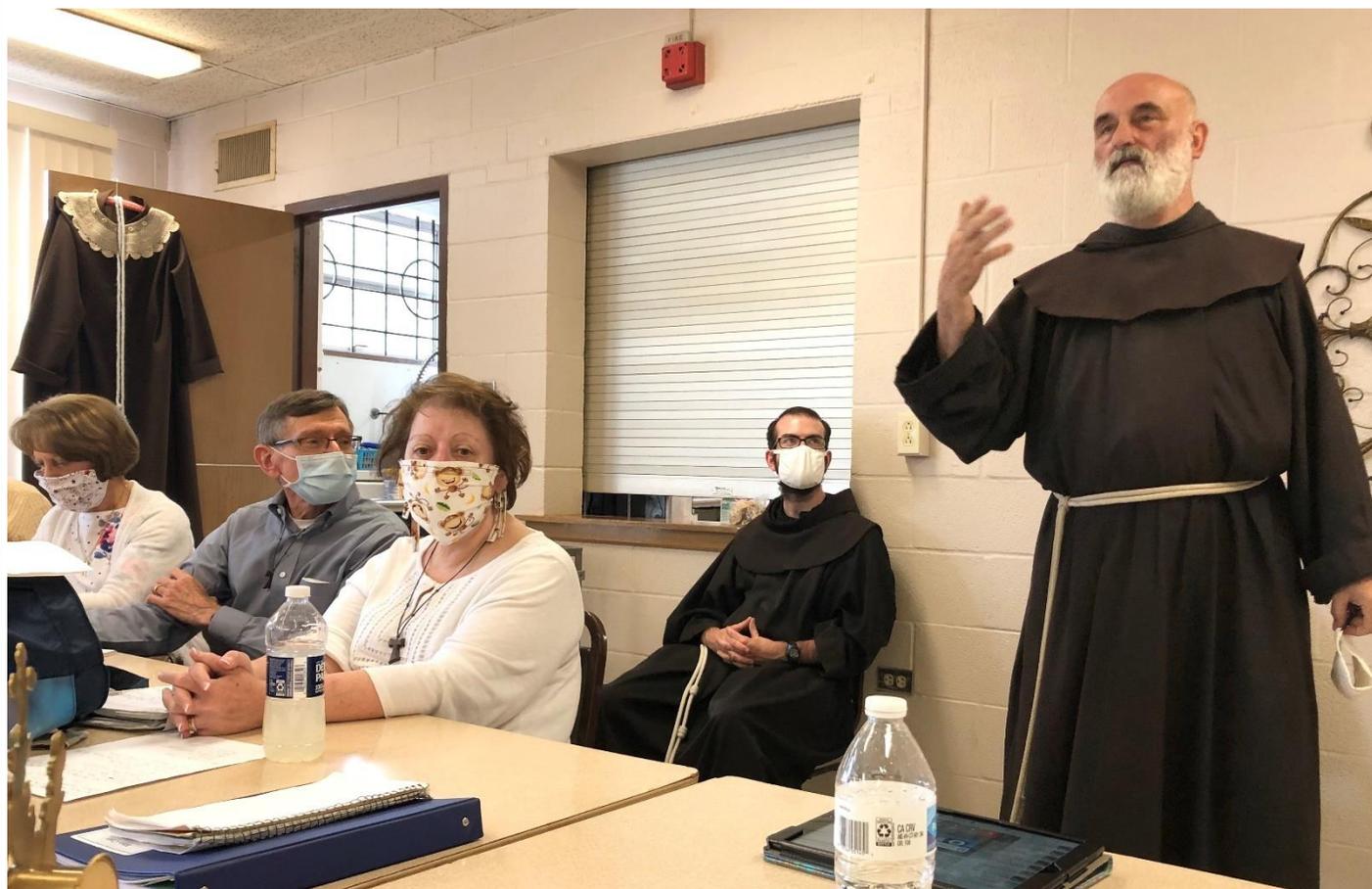
Bob mentioned the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, which embody practical and moral means to love others, and explained how loving one's neighbor is the charity of Christ.

We then counted off for our groups and discussed Bob's prepared questions on the subject of Loving One's Neighbor as we enjoyed our bagged lunches. The common question for each group was, "What is Love?" Afterward, each group noted their comments and answers for the questions, and discussed the challenges of loving others while under quarantine, and reaching out to those who are isolated.

Fr. Vit then expanded on the teaching, giving us the Church's view on the meaning and differences of love (i.e., eros – desire; filial – love and care of families and others; and agape – selfless love of one person for another).

God's love is beyond our understanding. He desires us and our souls, to the point of sacrificing His beloved Son. We cannot conceive of the boundaries of God's love. We cannot define Him by our earthly understanding. Love can defeat our egos and self-centeredness. Platonic love is a transforming force, but ends when it becomes physical. If we desire to be saints, we need to do our best to be faithful, keep trying, and to get up and start again when we fall! Desire to be a saint!

Father Vit then offered prayers for the soul of our recently deceased brother, Richard Russelo, TOF. We learned his funeral will be delayed indefinitely until his Canadian family is able to make the border crossing, which at this time is impossible due to COVID-19 restrictions.



Lucy McNutt, TOF; Larry McNutt, TOF; Susan Kramer, TOF; Brother Joshua Critchley; Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM

Joanne Angeletti, TOF has three burial shrouds for sale. Contact her if you are interested. Also, please save the elastic bands from your face masks if you are going to throw them away, since the bands are difficult to find right now. Joanne is making masks, and will sanitize the bands for reuse.

The food pantry collection went to St. Mary in Wooster. Mike and Annie Butts will deliver our offering.

We discussed the plans for the Investiture, which will take place on Saturday, July 11 at the Shrine in Youngstown (***please be sure to bring your masks!***) Fr. Vit informed us we are welcome to join in Confession at 11 AM, which will be followed by Mass at 12 Noon. After Mass, we will proceed to the basement meeting room for lunch. Once lunch is finished,

we will then return to the church for the Investiture ceremony for our professed members, and the Novitiate ceremony for our students.

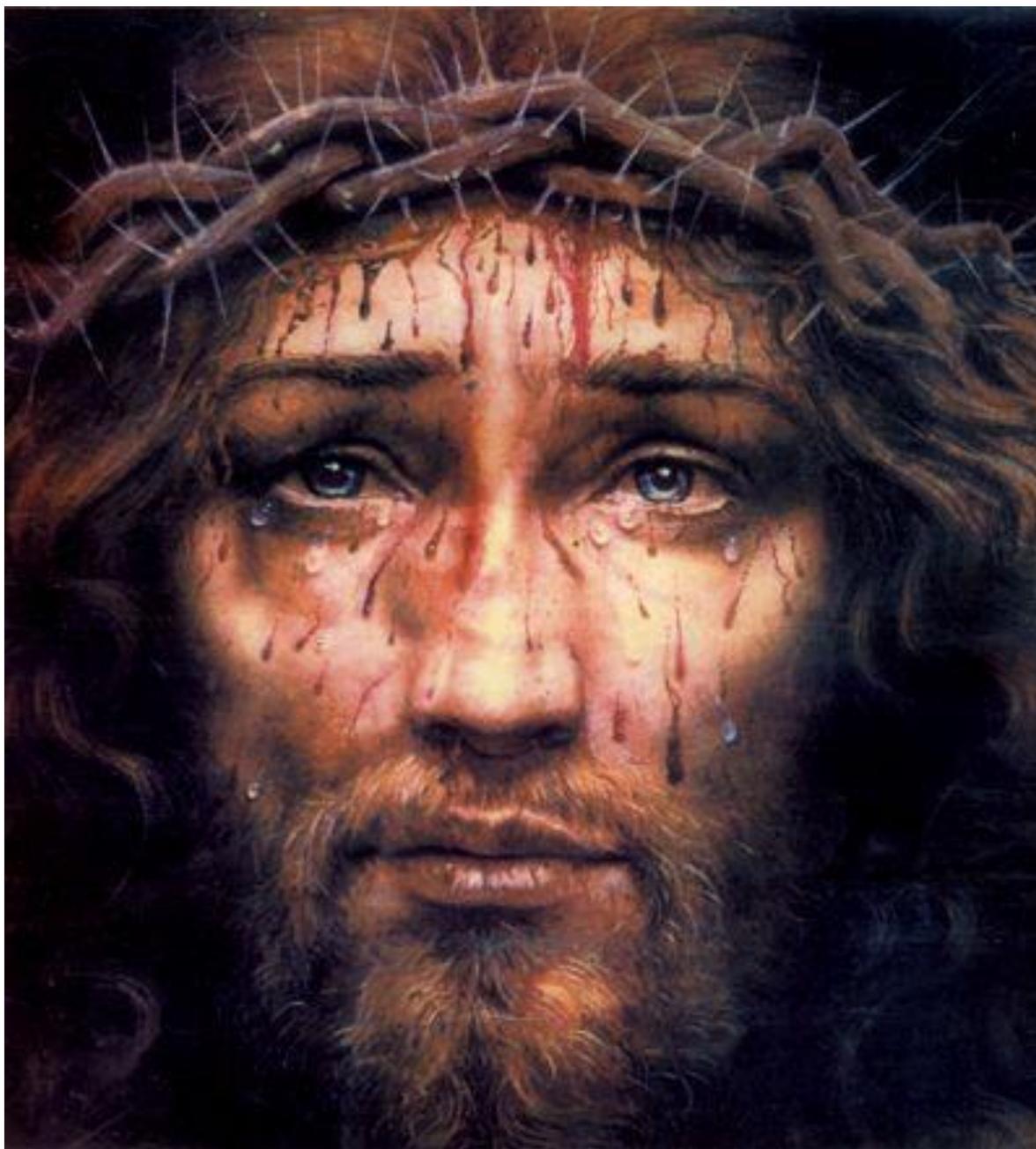
We also considered food for Investiture Day. After some discussion about bringing covered dishes, we decided it would be easier under the circumstances to bring pizza and chicken, and to serve the food cafeteria style, with a gloved server who will use tongs (Fred Kramer volunteered to serve). Cindy Russo, TOF very kindly offered to bring pizza, and Council will arrange for chicken, beverages, and paper products. If you wish to assist with any of this, please notify any Council member by Wednesday, July 8. Also, if you need a ride to Youngstown, please contact Bob Burtscher, TOF.

Our Infirmarian, Maria Elena Meza, TOF, was absent, but we discussed who is in need of prayer as suggested by those present. Our list includes Richard Russelo, TOF, as well as his daughter, Nicole, and Bishop Murry, SJ, who all died in June, and all members who were absent for any reason, particularly Kenny Green, TOF and Eileen Dunlap, TOF. We also remembered Debbie Ventosa, TOF who will be undergoing surgery, and her mother, Manda Hoffmann, who is in palliative care, as well as Mark Magda, Leslie Ann's husband, who is suffering from serious health challenges. We prayed for Rose Akins's mother, who has health worries. We also included those who live and work in nursing homes, hospitals, and prisons, and all who care for them, especially our brother and sister, Pepe Ventosa, TOF and Mary Cate Roberts, TOF, who are personally caring for the sick. And as always, we prayed for all priests and seminarians, particularly Frater Gastor Bahati in Tanzania and seminarians in Cleveland and Youngstown.

We ended our gathering with the closing prayers of the Ritual of the Third Order, and the blessing of Fr. Vit and Brother Joshua on all of us, for which we are most grateful. And then, under the direction of St. Nicholas parishioners Joanne Angeletti, TOF and Virgil and Louise Daniel, we sanitized the room and put everything back in order.

Save the Date (July, the Month of the Most Precious Blood)

July 11	Investiture Ceremony at Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted <i>(July Gathering)</i>
August 15	Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady
August 16	Fraternity Picnic at Queen of Heaven Pavilion <i>(August Gathering)</i>
September 7	Fall Hike with Fr. Vit (Labor Day Weekend)



***Eternal Father, I offer You the Most Precious Blood of Your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.
(Novena to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus)***