

September, 2020

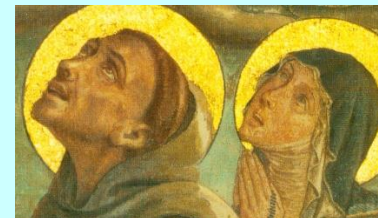
Volume 1, Issue 5

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

As we slowly emerge from our quarantine cocoons, we look at our world with new eyes. Everything seems changed, and small luxuries we previously took for granted, such as hugging dear friends, attending Mass, shopping for necessities, or even enjoying another day of good health, feel extravagant and even a little dangerous. We have a new appreciation for what we should have always treasured.

We Americans, we Catholics, we Franciscans, are well-equipped and ready to meet the challenges we face now, and what the future may bring us, with courage, patience, and steadfastness – just as those who came before us have done.

What better example can we possibly have than that of the Holy Family? Surely Mary, who was probably only 14 or 15 at the time, was absolutely stunned to be visited by an angel – who then asked her if she would bear the Son of God, even though she was a virgin. She knew that no one in her community would understand – and would assume the worst. St. Joseph must have been terribly hurt and troubled to know that his beloved fiancée, for whom he had the utmost respect and whom he loved with all his heart, was expecting a baby that was not his. Then he was told that this happened through the direct action of God, and that he was asked to protect and honor his future wife and her child for the rest of his life. When King Herod was bent on the terror of the murder of the Holy Innocents, St. Joseph was asked – in the middle of the night, no less – to pick up his little family and leave everything they knew behind, and to move the three of them to Egypt. And our good Jesus, every day of His life on earth, faced disbelief and ridicule from the very people who knew him best. Put into perspective, our troubles seem small in comparison.

In each of these cases, Jesus, Our Lady, and St. Joseph trusted in the guidance and Will of God. It certainly could not have been easy, especially when everyone around them did not understand why they acted as they did – and their mission seemed insurmountable. Like our good St. Francis and St. Clare, who left their comfortable, conventional lives behind, we seek to live for God and to please Him by our lives, no matter what the cost. It takes courage to change our lives and to trust God, and to move forward into the unknown. But the rewards are priceless and last forever!

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

**Next Gathering –
Sunday, September 20
1:30 PM
St. Nicholas
Byzantine Church
1051 Robinson Ave.
Barberton, OH 44203**

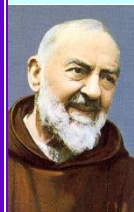
**Please wear your masks,
in compliance with
COVID-19 restrictions!
And please bring
a bagged lunch!**

Franciscan Quote of the Month

*“Do not let your heart become troubled by the sad spectacle of human injustice.
Even this has its value in the face of all else.*

And it is from this that one day you will see the justice of God rising with unfailing triumph.”

**St. Pio of Pietrelcina, OFM (1887-1968) – Priest, Stigmatist, Bilocationist, Teacher, Spiritual Director
Feast Day – September 23**



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

Thursday

Joanne Angeletti, TOF

Friday

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

Saturday

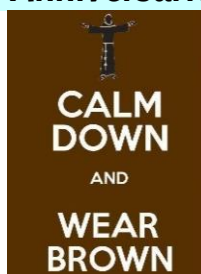
Susan Kramer, TOF

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.

September Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

None this month!



Birthdays

Fr. Dennis Arambasick, OFM – 9/3
Pat Hurley, OFS – 9/3
Rose Zaratsian, TOF – 9/10
Larry McNutt, TOF – 9/17
Virgil Daniel – 9/22

Requiescat in Pace

We are deeply saddened to learn of the deaths of our sister, M. J. Toole, OFS and our brother Mike Butts's dear mother, both in mid-August. At the end of July, Manda Hoffman – the mother of Debbie Ventosa, TOF – was also received into the loving arms of Jesus. In addition, Ruth Kramer, Fred Kramer's mother, died in late July, as well as Fr. Vit's mother.

M. J. had previously been a member of the Solanus Casey Fraternity, which was closed down, and she transferred to the St. Frances X. Cabrini Fraternity along with other fraternity members a few years ago. All four women were good and devout Catholic wives and mothers, and examples of strength and faith to their families. May the angels guide them on the next step of their journey to Jesus, and comfort and protect those they leave behind.

Wake Service

At the September Gathering (September 20 at 1:30, St. Nicholas Byzantine Church), we will pray the Franciscan Wake Service for Richard Russelo, TOF and Mary Jeanne Toole, OFS. Richard died in June, and M.J. passed away in August. There was no previous opportunity for the wake service previously because of the COVID restrictions, so we will remember our dear brother and sister in September.

Stand for Life

Mike Butts, TOF, and Therese Harper, novice and formation student with the Northfield class, will represent the fraternity on September 19 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. It may be easier to pray without distractions across the street, rather than in front of the clinic. 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.**

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!

September Hike with Father Tuscan

Annual Hike with Friar

Come and join Fr. Joe Tuscan, OFM Cap 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 shorter and easier section of the trail. There are some areas with tree roots exposed and steps. 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 Wyoga Lake Rd and then a quick right on State Rd (Akron Cleveland Rd). At the next light make a left on Truxell Rd (1.2 miles).

The entrance to the Ledges is about 1 mile on the right side.

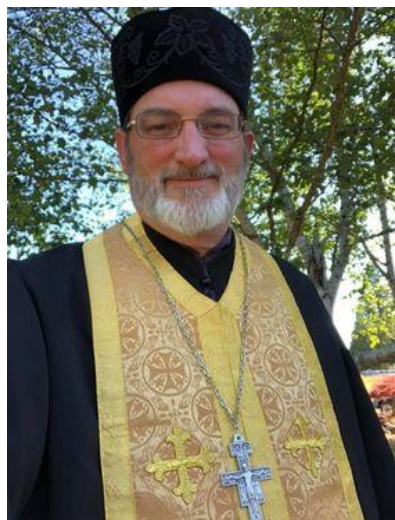
*****Important***** Please RSVP to Pepe



Isolated Tertiaries – by Pepe Ventosa, TOF

Have you ever heard of the term “Isolated Tertiary”? Probably not, unless you have taken a look at the Constitutions of the TOF or were at our picnic in August. Isolated tertiaries are professed members of the Third Order of St. Francis who, due to a reasonable cause, are not enrolled in a TOF fraternity. Usually this is due to a lack of a fraternity within driving distance.

Pope Leo XIII had a desire to make the Third Order of St. Francis more accessible to people as he had a strong belief that the Church could be renewed by members of the Third Order. In his encyclical *Auspicato Concessum*, written the year before his new Rule, he describes the Third Order as an “extremely efficacious remedy” for the evils of the time and added, “we desire that by your endeavours especially it may be increased and extended to many”.



The concept of an “isolated tertiary” opens up the Third Order to those who wouldn’t be able to join because of lack of a local fraternity. It assists in taking St. Francis’ model for reaching Christian perfection to the most isolated places.

With this we would like to welcome Fr. Daniel Dozier, TOF. Fr. Daniel, from Olympia, Washington, is the first Isolated Tertiary of our new community of Tertiaries. He was a member of the Secular Franciscan Order for several years and was established as an Isolated Tertiary by Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM, on July 23, 2020. Welcome, Fr. Daniel!

← Fr. Daniel Dozier

“Therefore, take pains that the people may become acquainted with the Third Order and truly esteem it; provide that those who have the cure of souls sedulously teach what it is, how easily anyone may enter it, with how great privileges tending to salvation it abounds, what advantages, public and private, it promises” - Pope Leo XIII

September’s Exercise Challenge

Submitted by Pepe Ventosa, TOF

St. Francis had a deep reverence for Catholic churches, where the Most Blessed Sacrament is reserved. He was known to kneel down and say a short prayer whenever he saw a Catholic church.

Article 58 of the Constitution reads, ***“They shall sow deep reverence for God’s churches, whether these are large and richly furnished, or small and poor; and they shall make visits to them readily, whenever an opportunity occurs. There they shall adore Christ with the words of their Seraphic Father: ‘We adore You, most holy Lord Jesus Christ, here and in all Your churches throughout the world; and we bless You, because by Your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.’”***

Our Constitution invites us, in imitation of St. Francis, to develop an awareness of Our Lord’s True Presence in the tabernacle of all Catholic churches.



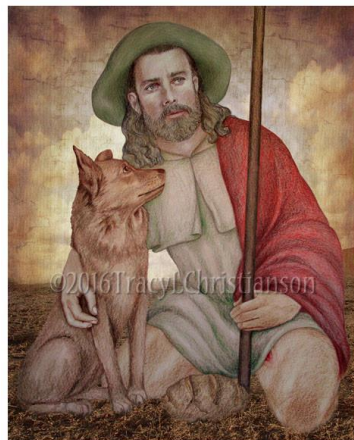
Would you take the September’s Exercise of Religion Challenge and say this prayer each time you go by a Catholic Church during this month?

St. Rocco, Invoked Against Plagues and Epidemics **– submitted by Paul Zimny, from the Cleveland St. Casimir parish bulletin**

The entire world is suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic, and has been for the last 6 months. This fast-spreading virus, despite efforts, has now even infected entire nations, such as the US and Italy. Originating in China, it has now reached every part of the world, including right here in our own backyard. The daily news reveals new and more stringent measures aimed at curbing this menace.

Epidemics are nothing new to the world. What changes is our response. These days we look to all sorts of scientific advances and government policies to find the answer, tell us what to do, and keep us safe. This is certainly understandable and should be done. However, in the past, the people of earlier times also took refuge in another comfort often overlooked today – Faith. God is present always and everywhere – including in our present malaise. Where there is faith and trust in God, devotion is born.

There is a saint, in particular, whose intercession is sought out precisely during times of plague and epidemic: St. Rocco. This devotion began in the Middle Ages when he was invoked to overcome and avoid contagions. Over time, with the succession of different miracles, faith in St. Rocco's intercession was extended to the realms of agriculture and animals to protect against plague, disease, and even earthquakes.



Why St. Rocco? He was a victim of the plague himself. Yet, with a firm faith and trust in God, he went among the other afflicted and devoted himself to their care. Many healings resulted from his prayers and intercession. He was ultimately miraculously healed himself.

Did you ever wonder why our Polish parish has a statue of St. Rocco (Sw. Roch in Polish) to the left side of the church entrance in the front Rectory garden? Well, during the great influenza epidemic of 1918, the parish forebears turned in prayer to God through the intercession of St. Rocco to be spared this ravaging illness that was killing millions. They prayed and they interceded and they promised that if they were spared, they would offer a fitting tribute in return. Well, not one of the parishioners died. What we see in the statue of St. Rocco is our people upholding their end of the bargain – that statue is a Votive Offering in thanksgiving for favors received.

Prayer is needed now and is the thing we need to do! Ask for the intercession of St. Rocco against this Coronavirus epidemic that is spreading like wildfire. Ask with “faith the size of a mustard seed” that we be preserved from this plague and kept free from this disease and all maladies of body, mind, and spirit.

Pray often for St. Rocco's intercession:

“O Great St. Rocco, deliver us, we beseech thee, from the scourges of good; through thy intercession, preserve our bodies from contagious diseases, and our souls from the contagion of sin. Obtain for us salubrious air; but above all, purity of heart. Assist us to make good use of health, to bear suffering with patience; and after thy example, to live in the practice of penance and charity, that we may one day enjoy the happiness which thou have merited by thy virtues. St. Rocco, pray for us that we may be preserved from all diseases of body and soul.” (Repeat 3 times.)

September Ongoing Formation

Pepe Ventosa, TOF will give a short introduction to the Rule and Constitutions, “The Rule, the Constitutions, and the Call to Perfection” at the September Gathering. This introduction will serve as a springboard for Ongoing Formation for the upcoming months. Please plan to attend!

September Gathering

Please come to the September Gathering at St. Nicholas Byzantine Church on Sunday, September 20 at 1:30. **We will take all necessary measures to ensure we are in proper compliance with COVID-19 restrictions, including social distancing. We ask that you also bring a bagged lunch to enjoy during our social time.**

And we will resume our pantry collection, so if you are able, please bring something to contribute to a local parish food pantry. Items that are especially welcome include peanut butter, tuna, pasta, beans, soap, shampoo, laundry detergent, toothpaste, toothbrushes, or any other nutritional or hygienic products. Hope to see you there!

Reminders!

Please check with Council before distributing flyers, brochures, holy cards, devotionals, or any other materials at the Gathering. Thank you!

Also, a black and red umbrella from Hilton Head was left at the picnic on August 16. Please see Bob Burtscher if it is yours!

Lord, It Is Good for Us To Be Together!

Sunday, August 16 we gathered together at Queen of Heaven parish in Green for our annual picnic and August gathering. In spite of welcomed rain, it was a beautiful day and we took shelter in the pavilion. We enjoyed a summer feast of chicken, potato salad, pasta salad, Greek salad, cupcakes, watermelon, and various other delicious summer food, all served in compliance with COVID-19 restrictions. It really felt like a combination of a Thanksgiving and a picnic, since we were so grateful to God for leading us to the next step of our vocations, and for protecting us throughout the pandemic.



We were delighted to share our meal with our friend of many years, Fr. David Durkee, who is pastor of Queen of Heaven. We also discovered later that Fr. Dave is celebrating his 40th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood! As always, Father’s hospitality and that of Queen of Heaven parish made us feel right at home. After we finished eating, Father led an expedition to show us the improvements and expansion of the parish’s grotto and outdoors shrine. We prayed with all our hearts for those who experienced the death of dear family members (Fr. Vit, and the Ventosa and Kramer families), and those who faced imminent deaths (the Butts and Toole families). And for all our members who have been ill over the last few months. We also remembered Frater Gastor, who is beginning his final year of seminary in the Diocese of Moshi in Tanzania with the privilege of serving as part of his Bishop’s staff,

as well as our local seminarians and parish priests, who serve us and God's Church so selflessly. We entrusted all these, and our families, to the endless mercy of God.

When Father Vit arrived, we all headed for the church for the Investiture of those members who were not present at the July Investiture. Joanne Angeletti, Betty DeMarco, Carol Perrine, Chris and LeeAnn Devore, Rick and Eileen Dunlap, Larry and Lucy McNutt, Bill Marshall, and Kenny Green were all received into the Third Order of the Franciscans. **Joanne Angeletti, Kenny Green, Bill Marshall, Betty DeMarco, Carol Perrine, Fr. Vit, LeeAnn Devore, Chris Devore, Eileen Dunlap, Rick Dunlap, Lucy McNutt, and Larry McNutt →**



Father Vit spoke beautifully to us about the responsibility of being a member of the Third Order, that it was not just a change in title, but a serious mission we accept to serve God and His Church, and to truly live Catholicism and Franciscanism and bring it to others by the way we live our lives.

Father cited the example of Fr. Daniel Dozier, who is pastor of St. George Byzantine Parish in Olympia, Washington, and is also an Adjunct Professor of the Byzantine Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius. In addition to this, Father is a contributor to the Catholic Answers website, is a published author of Catholic apologetics, and is a graduate of Franciscan University, where he has taught. Father is the son of a Byzantine priest, and a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. In June, he was ordained to the priesthood after many years of being a deacon. In July, Father was received into the Third Order Franciscans from the OFS by Father Vit, after over 20 years of being a Franciscan. 2020 is not only a year of the pandemic, but for Fr. Dozier, a year of new starts and great hopes in his holy vocations and service to God and His Church!

Fr. Vit pointed out that it took a great deal of courage on the part of Fr. Dozier to move forward in his vocation, both as a priest and as a Franciscan, and we would do well to display the same courage in our vocations, to welcome the challenges Jesus places on us as Franciscans, and to evangelize, by our actions and words, in imitation of Jesus and our good St. Francis. We added Fr. Dozier and his parish to our prayers for our newly-Invested members with great joy!

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

September 7	Fall Hike with Fr. Joe Tuscan, OFM (Labor Day)
September 20	September Gathering (St. Nicholas Byzantine Church, 1:30 PM)
October 3	Transitus of St. Francis
October 4	Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Founder of the Franciscan Order
November 14	Day of Reflection (Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted Shrine, 8:30 AM)
November 17	St. Elizabeth of Hungary (Co-Patron of the Third Order)
November 29	Feast of All Saints of the Seraphic Order



“Truly we are passing through disastrous times, when we may well make our own the lamentation of the Prophet: *‘There is no truth, and there is no mercy, and there is no knowledge of God in the land’* (Hosea 4:1).

**Yet in the midst of this tide of evil,
the Virgin Most Merciful rises before our eyes like a rainbow,
as the arbiter of peace between God and man.”**

***Pope St. Pius X (1835-1914) – Pope, Bishop, Priest, Third Order Franciscan,
Defender of the Faith and of the Blessed Sacrament
Feast Day – August 21***