

October, 2020

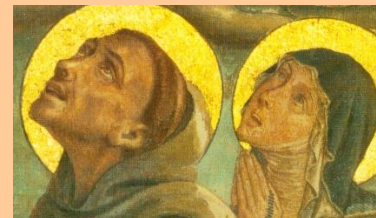
Volume 1, Issue 6

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

We are quickly approaching the Presidential election! We will do well to remember the wise, faithful words of Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield, Illinois: ***“You need to think and pray very carefully about your vote, because a vote for a candidate who promotes actions or behaviors that are intrinsically evil and gravely sinful makes you morally complicit and places the eternal salvation of your own soul in serious jeopardy.”***



Bishop Paprocki's thoughtful pastoral advice is more relevant than ever this year. Neither candidate is ideal in all facets. Perhaps the thing to consider is what we were taught before the last presidential election by our good Fr. Dennis Arambasick, OFM – the five non-negotiables.

As Fr. Dennis explained so clearly to us, the five non-negotiables, all of which are intrinsically evil in the eyes of the Church, are as follows: abortion/contraception, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, homosexual “marriage”, and human cloning. We can in no way justify, accept, or promote any of these issues in view of our Catholic Faith.

Bishop Paprocki points out, by our vote, we are complicit in promoting the agenda of the person or party which we support. As Catholics and Third Order Franciscans, we must defend the teaching of the Church in our words and actions – 24/7.

It may also be helpful to check out <https://www.ewtn.com/vote/> for guidance. So, vote wisely and in line with the teaching of the Church, and may God be merciful to the United States and all our citizens!

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, October 18
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



“Man should tremble, the world should vibrate, all heaven should be deeply moved, when the Son of God appears on the altar in the hands of a priest.”

**St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) –Salesman, Soldier, Deacon, Mystic, Stigmatist,
and Founder of the Franciscan Order
Feast Day – October 4**

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.

October Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

Elizabeth Francis, OFS – 30 Years

Maria Elena & Roberto Meza, TOF; Sandy Pollino, OFS; Mary & Paul Tag, OFS – 7 Years

Rose Akins, TOF; Betty DeMarco, TOF; Dave & Lee Gaydos, OFS – 4 Years

Chris & LeeAnn Devore, TOF; Cindy Russo; TOF – 2 Years



Birthdays

Rick Dunlap, TOF – 10/2

Rose Akins, TOF – 10/3

Bob Burtscher, TOF – 10/13

Reminders!

If you want to pass out flyers at the Gathering, send group emails in the name of the Fraternity, or if you want to have the floor to discuss anything, please run it past Bob Burtscher before the meeting.

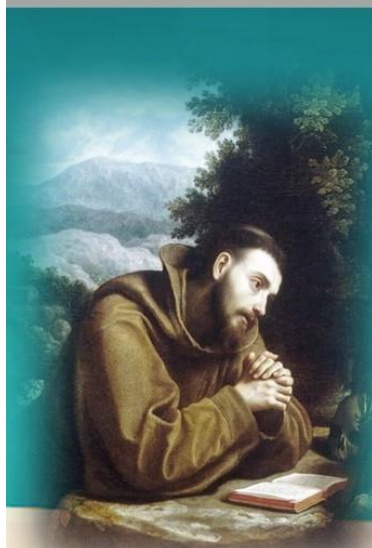
Also, Council is still looking for a volunteer to oversee the fraternity photo album. If the Spirit urges you, please see anyone on Council!

Stand for Life

Bob Burtscher, TOF, and Susan Kramer, TOF will represent the fraternity on October 17 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.**

October's Exercise Challenge

Submitted by Pepe Ventosa, TOF



St. Francis, incessantly desiring to grow in union with God, set aside special periods for more intense prayer and reading of the Gospels.

Article 62 of the Constitutions reads, *“Daily, if possible but especially on Sundays and holy-days, Tertiaries shall devote some time to mental prayer or spiritual reading. They shall make frequent use of the Sacred Scriptures, particularly of the holy Gospel, and also of the life of our holy Father Francis and of the other saints of the Seraphic Order. Likewise, by means of the pious exercise of the Way of the Cross, they shall reflect, especially during Lent and on Fridays, on the last sufferings of Christ.”*

Our Constitution invites us, in imitation of St. Francis, to develop a desire of complete union with Our Lord by encouraging in us the practice of setting aside periods for regular prayer and study.

Would you take the October's Exercise of Religion Challenge and set aside maybe just 20-30 minutes for prayer/spiritual reading once a week, maybe Sundays, during this month?

MJ Toole's Daily Prayer

Below is the prayer our sister, MJ Toole prayed every morning with her fellow residents at her nursing home. MJ entered into eternal life in August after a long and faithful life. May she see the face of Jesus!

Lord, thank You for another day in this life of mine.
 Give me the grace to live it well, no matter what I find.
 Bestow from Your abundance, whatever I may lack
 To use hours wisely, for I cannot have them back.
 Lord, thank You for another in which to make amends.
 For petty thoughts and nasty words inflicted on my friends.
 For sometimes losing patience with troubles that I find.
 And seeing faults in others' lives, and not the ones in mine.
 Lord, thank You for another chance in which I try to be
 A little more deserving of the gifts You've given me.
 For yesterday is over, and tomorrow is far away
 And I remain committed to the good I do today.



A Letter to My Children – by Virgil Daniel, Novice to the TOF

My Dear Sons and Daughters,

What is very much on our minds, your Mother and I, is the looming election on November 3 – an election that could, indeed, change our country irreparably. Whatever your politics, you must be part of this national conversation and cast a vote in accordance with your conscience. In the end, there is no more important function for citizens of a free nation than to exercise their right to vote. This November, the silence of not voting will matter more than ever.

Mom and I have never missed an election, and 2020 will be no different. We vote in the Primaries, as well, seeking the selection of candidates we believe will be the best for our local, state, and national governance. We will be voting as our conscience, not our emotions, will lead us. As Catholics, this means “*an informed conscience*” in accordance with Church teaching, with our Catholic faith that comes to us from the Apostles this past nearly two thousand years. This has real implications for this election – not that it hasn’t in the past. As you know and would expect, I research the issues and the candidates; I actually read both Party Platforms.



I proudly wore the uniform of the United States of America for nearly 25 years and believe deeply in the values that are enshrined in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, values which came down to us now some 244 years after Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin first penned the Declaration. Abraham Lincoln famously called the Declaration, “an apple of gold in a frame of silver,” i.e. the Constitution. This also forms my conscience.

For all these reasons, Mom and I want you to know what we are voting for this November in terms of specific issues and trends in recent times – and why. These things carry weight beyond the back-and-forth of political rhetoric. They transcend the sound-bytes that tend to govern our accession of the “daily news,” as it were. They are fundamental issues of “truth, justice, and the American way,” as the introduction to the 1950s series Superman so famously endorsed.

So, we are voting

- For the unborn infant to survive full-term always, with the possibility of adoption and a full life for those not wanted. This includes those who survive a late-term abortion.
- For institutions, such as the Little Sisters of the Poor, to continue their ministry of love and charity over and against government interference in such things as contraception and gender diversity, issues that impinge upon their faith and core values, issues which they have been forced to defend at least twice in the courts, issues which were decided in their favor by the Supreme Court, only to be harassed in court again. One presidential candidate has vowed to go around the Supreme Court and ensure that the Little Sisters of the Poor adhere to contraception mandates.
 - This would also include private businesses being protected from similar government mandates against their fundamental rights to religious belief and freedom to practice those beliefs even in hiring practices and the decision whether or not to provide services that go against these religious beliefs.
 - This also includes healthcare professionals being forced by government mandate to perform so-called medical procedures that violate their religious beliefs and conscience without losing their license to practice.
- For the Knights of Columbus to continue to protect and promote life from conception to natural death without being destroyed as an organization for taking such a stance. To ensure that this organization for Catholic men remains what it is without government interference in its policies, practices, or membership – and that membership in the Knights is not some kind of a potential religious test for Federal judges and offices, something expressly forbidden by the Constitution, but which has reared its ugly head in Senate Judiciary Committee hearings.

- Therefore, we are voting that Catholics may continue to practice their faith, in accordance with their consciences, without government mandates upon their faith and practice. In other words, our fundamental right of Religious Freedom and to act according to our consciences. This includes opposing the so-called Equality Act, which would make the positions and beliefs of Catholics irrelevant – even criminal offenses – in the ongoing gender diversity debate.
 - Indeed, this means that all persons of good faith and conscience may act in accordance with their religious beliefs and conscience without government interference.
- It goes without saying that one of the most prerogatives of the Presidency is the appointment of justices to the Supreme Court. As the events of the past few years have shown, this is an extremely sensitive issue. On the other hand, justices sitting on the Supreme Court should not be “safe, non-controversial,” thus, milquetoast, jurists. They must be persons of character and conviction on both sides of the political divide, but they must not be victims of a “litmus test” for their selection. Indeed, the Constitution forbids such tests, including a test of their religious faith. This is why Senate elections matter as well.
 - We must have originalists and strict Constitutional interpreters sitting on the Federal Bench at all levels. Only the Congress is empowered to legislate under the Constitution, not the Supreme Court.

Finally, we seek to vote for someone for whom the phrase, “God Bless America” is a statement of commitment to the founding principles of our great Republic, someone who isn’t silently, under his/her breath, adding, “except where your religious beliefs interfere with my political agenda.”

GOD BLESS YOU! Mom and I pray for you and yours daily. And, MAY GOD BLESS AMERICA!

Day of Reflection (and November Gathering)

Please consider attending our annual Day of Reflection on November 14, which will start at 8:45 AM with Mass in the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted, along with the Our Lady of America (Ashtabula) and the St. Padre Pio (Youngstown) Fraternities. It will be good to be with our brothers and sisters again. This will serve as our November Gathering. Please RSVP to Roberto if you plan on attending. If you are interested in carpooling, please contact Bob Burtscher, TOF. Hope to see you there!

A Tale of Two Cities

“But Our Citizenship is in Heaven- Phil
3:20”



DAY OF RECOLLECTION

November 14, 2020

Place: Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted
Youngstown, OH
Speaker: Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM
Time: 8:45 AM

Franciscan Tertiaries of the
Province of the Immaculate Conception

Ongoing Formation – by Pepe Ventosa, TOF

Ongoing Formation for the September Gathering was on the Rule, Constitution, and the Call to Perfection. We began with the prayer to the Holy Spirit. Council is more fully developing an ongoing formation program for the future.

We discussed a series of recurring themes present on these essential TOF documents, including:

1. The call to Christian perfection. As Pope Benedict XV said in *Sacra Propediem*, St. Francis founded the Third Order to give those living in the midst of the world's turmoil a means of acquiring Christian perfection.
2. A reference of the TOF as a "school" or "gymnasium" to assist its members in achieving Christian perfection.
3. The Third Order being for many, or, as Pope Leo XIII said, "the Third Order was born fitted to a multitude.

We looked into the chapters and sections of the Constitutions. It is essential that members become familiar with this wonderful document. In the upcoming Ongoing Formation sessions, we will be focusing mostly on Chapter II, "The Way of Life". It is in this chapter we enter the "school", the "gymnasium" of the Third Order as we learn about Christian perfection.

We closed this presentation with this challenging quote from Pope Benedict XV: ***"It is, then, desirable, that in every city, town, and even in each village, the Third Order count henceforth a sufficient group of members, not of inactive adherents satisfied with the mere title of Tertiaries, but instead, of those who spend themselves with zeal for their own salvation and the salvation of their brothers."***

For those who want to study the Rule of Pope Leo XIII, it can be found at <http://thirdorderfranciscans.com/secular-franciscan-order/rule-ofs/>. The Constitution is available at <http://thirdorderfranciscans.com/secular-franciscan-order/constitution-ofs/>. If you prefer to go to our main webpage, go to www.thirdorderfranciscans.com, click on Third Order, and there you will find these documents and a variety of others that are well-worth studying.



Have You Been Approached? – by Debbie Ventosa, TOF

Have you been approached by one of the Novices to act as a sponsor? If so, please consider accompanying our future brothers and sisters along the way. If you have questions about your role, below is a summary of sponsor duties.

A sponsor is an active professed member of the fraternity serving as a companion who journeys with the Postulant and Novice. The Sponsor attends the formation classes and is actively involved in the process of formation. Together they learn the spirituality of St. Francis and St. Clare and are an additional guide and resource for those in formation. They develop a friendship with the Postulant or Novice. Sharing prayer, how they came to this vocation, how they live this way of life, and experience the scriptures as well as the Holy Spirit's guidance in their lives. The sponsor is a good listener, prays for their friend, nurtures their vocation and accompanies them along this journey as they walk together toward the will of God.

Lord, It Is Good for Us To Be Together!

Sunday, September 20 we gathered together at St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Parish in Barberton for our gathering. Our attendance of 27 included several formation students (Leslie Ann Magda, Matt Polleti, Louise and Virgil Daniel, Jim and Nettie Miller, Therese Harper, and Mary Dye), Fr. Vit, and our honored visitors, Gil Pluhar (minister of Our Lady of America TOF fraternity in Ashtabula) and Carol Cook, who belonged to the Solanus Casey Fraternity of the OFS, which had been closed down some years ago. We met in the big

meeting room next to the church entrance, where we could spread out, observing social distancing and masking guidelines. It was indeed good for us to be together!

As we always do, we started our Gathering with the Ritual Prayer and then the Midday Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours. After that, we had Lectio Divina, led by Chris Devore, TOF, which was the Gospel reading of the day. We discussed the word or phrase that spoke to us with our partners at our assigned table.

Transitus this year will be held at St. Nicholas on Saturday, October 3 at 6:30 PM. Joanne Angeletti wants us all to know we are all most welcome to attend Divine Liturgy at 5 PM ahead of the Transitus, which will fulfill our Sunday Mass duty. We are so grateful for the always hospitable Fr. Miron Kerul-Kmec and the Byzantine community for accommodating us so graciously!



The Day of Recollection will be held on Saturday, November 14 at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted in Youngstown. Our day will start with Mass at 8:45 AM in the Shrine church, followed by a light breakfast and morning studies in the basement meeting room. We will have the privilege of Adoration and Confession at 11 AM to Noon, and then lunch in the meeting room. The Youngstown fraternity will generously provide breakfast and lunch, and will be reimbursed by our fraternity (*please add a little extra to your monthly donation to cover this!*) After that, we will remember our deceased members of all three fraternities, and then further instruction for the remainder of the afternoon. Please consider attending, and if you want to carpool, contact Bob Burtscher for arrangements.

Michael Butts, TOF, and Therese Harper witnessed on behalf of the fraternity at the Stand for Life on September 19. They reported no major problems, although, sadly, there were clients that morning. Bob Burtscher, TOF and Susan Kramer, TOF will Stand for Life on October 17.

After this, we enjoyed our bagged lunches and discussed the questions Pepe had prepared on the Ongoing Formation. We then went over the results of our discussion with the entire group.

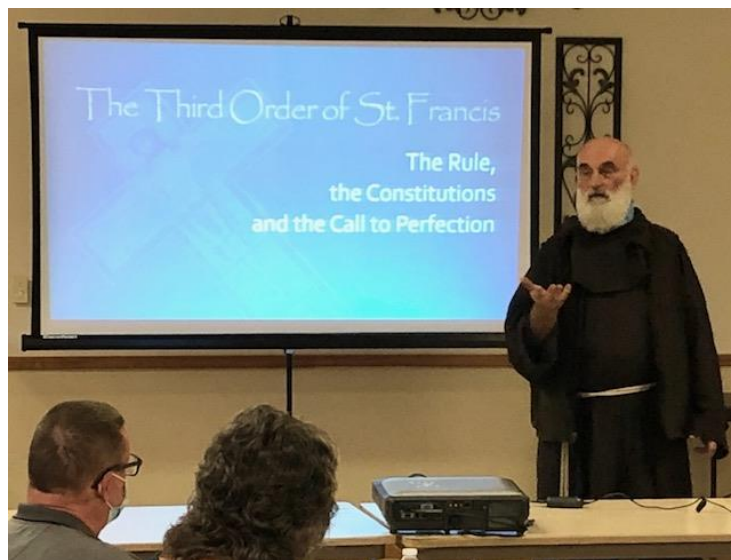
Father Vit then gave us the benefit of his teaching, sharing with us the three stages of the spiritual life according to St. Bonaventure. Although progress in the spiritual life is slow, he encouraged us not to give up. We should never be satisfied with our spiritual life, because the moment you become satisfied is the moment that you stop growing. Our main Spiritual Director is the Holy Spirit.

We held a Franciscan Wake Service for MJ Toole, OFS and Richard Russelo, OFS, who both recently died. We were unable to do this as we normally do at the funeral home, since under the COVID-19 regulations it is not possible. The prayers were led by Mike Butts, TOF and Bob Burtscher, TOF.

St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish was selected for the food pantry collection. Joanne Angeletti, TOF will deliver our donation.

Please continue to pray for our shut-ins and sick (Sandy Pollino, OFS; Pat and Deanna Hurley, OFS; Bill Marshall, TOF; Dorothy Takacs, OFS, and our long-distance brothers and sister Deacon Fred Browne, OFS and Mary and Paul Tag, OFS.)

We prayed for Frater Gastor Bahati of the Diocese of Moshi, Tanzania, who will be ordained in July, 2021 and is currently assigned to the staff of his Bishop for his pastoral year. We also included our local seminarians



of the Youngstown and Cleveland Dioceses, newly-installed Bishop Edward Malesic of the Diocese of Cleveland, and the future Bishop of Youngstown, yet to be named. We remembered our Isolated Tertiary, Fr. Daniel Dozier, and his parish in Olympia, Washington. As always, we prayed for our parish pastors and priests, who care so unselfishly and faithfully for our souls.

Our next Gathering will be held Sunday, October 18 at 1:30 PM at St. Nicholas Byzantine Church.

Save the Date (October, the Month of the Holy Rosary)

October 3	Transitus of St. Francis (St. Nicholas Byzantine Church, - Divine Liturgy at 5 PM - which fulfills our Sunday duty - and Transitus at 6:30)
October 4	Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Founder of the Franciscan Order
October 18	October Gathering (St. Nicholas Byzantine Church, 1:30 PM; Masking & Social Distancing Maintained)
November 14	Day of Recollection (Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted Shrine, 8:45 AM; Bring Your Mask!)
November 17	St. Elizabeth of Hungary (Co-Patron of the Third Order)
November 29	Feast of All Saints of the Seraphic Order



“When I pray the Hail Mary, the heavens smile, the angels rejoice, and the earth is happy.”

St. Francis of Assisi

“Bring me my weapon.” – St. Pio of Pietrelcina