

November, 2020

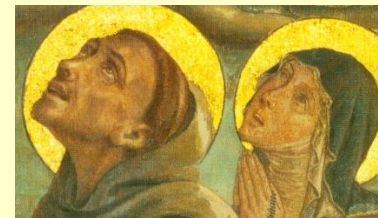
Volume 1, Issue 7

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

There has been a great deal of confusion worldwide over remarks made by Pope Francis in a secular documentary released the third week of October. In the absence of a clarification from the Vatican, the following message was sent from His Excellency, Bishop Edward Malesic of Cleveland (who has a licentiate in canon law), to the priests of the Diocese (direct quote follows):



1. Comments made by the Holy Father in documentaries or interviews do not, in and of themselves, constitute a change in universal or particular law.
2. I have not received any official notification that the Church's understanding on this matter has changed,
3. The quotes attributed to the Holy Father in the recently-released documentary film, "Francesco", do not alter or realign Church doctrine, but actually reaffirm the traditional definition of Marriage as a lifelong, life-giving, committed union between one man and one woman.
4. The Holy Father's remarks remind us that we all have the right to belong to a family, and that even persons who have homosexual attractions should not be excluded from their families of origin, nor from the Church.
5. Consistent with prior remarks, it appears that the Holy Father is addressing the matter within the framework of Church teaching: the objective truth of the definition of Marriage; respect for the dignity of objective truth of the definition of Marriage, respect for the dignity of every person at all times, regardless of sexual orientation; and safeguarding the civil rights of peoples by legal authority, even if they are living in situations that we do not condone.
6. It is always important to go to the Pope's actual words in the proper context rather than relying on reports about them.

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 –
Saturday, November 14
8:45 AM**

**Our Lady Comforter of the
Afflicted Shrine
517 S. Belle Vista Ave.
Youngstown, OH 44509**

**Please wear your masks,
in compliance with
COVID-19 restrictions!**

Quote of the Month

"The only thing we have to ask God for in prayer is the desire to be holy."

**Blessed Carlo Acutis (1991-2006) – Devoted to the Eucharist, the Blessed Trinity,
Our Lady, and St. Francis of Assisi; Patron of Youth and Computer Programmers
Beatified October 10, 2020 in Assisi**



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.

November Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

None this month!



Birthdays

Carol Perrine, TOF
– 11/9

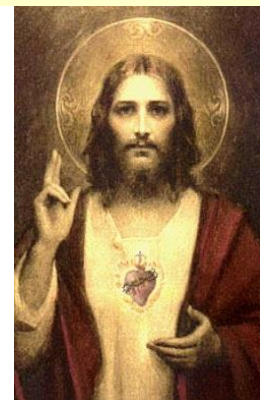
Reminders!

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!

Requiescat en Pace

We were saddened to learn of the death of Tom Perrine, our beloved sister Carol Perrine's husband. Tom had lived with health difficulties for many years, but kept his spirits up with Carol's selfless care. Tom's funeral was held at St. Francis de Sales Church in Coventry. We are also grieving for Julia Tarulli, OFS, who lost her husband Chet in October. Julia is discerning joining us in the TOF.



Good Jesus, in Your endless mercy, welcome your devoted sons Tom and Chet on the next step of their journey to You. Send Your angels to accompany them on the way. Hold Carol, Julia, and their children in Your loving arms. Give them Your comfort, Your protection, Your blessing and Your peace. In Your Most Holy Name, Amen.

Stand for Life

Rose Akins, TOF, and Debbie Ventosa, TOF will represent the fraternity on November 21 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.

Ongoing Formation – by Rose Akins, TOF

Ongoing Formation for the October Gathering was on Article 1 of our Constitution. We began with the prayer to the Holy Spirit. Council is more fully developing an ongoing formation program for the future.

Article 1 states: *“The Third Order Secular of St. Francis is an association of the faithful who try to achieve Christian perfection in the world, under the direction of the Franciscan Order and according to its spirit, but in a manner suited to life in the world. This they do according to the Rule drawn up for them by the Seraphic Father Francis, as approved and interpreted by the Apostolic See.”*

We received some ideas for Exercises in Christian Perfection by working at a word puzzle prepared by Rose for us – it was like playing “Wheel of Fortune”! These ideas included daily Mass and Communion, reverence for God's churches, praying at all times, repentance for our sins and accepting spiritual direction, spiritual reading, reflection on the Passion of Christ, attending the monthly Gathering, a monthly day of recollection, an annual Franciscan retreat, and consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

We discussed these exercises, and found that we were on top of some, and deficient in others. Rose explained how these exercises are promoted by the Order so that we may grow closer to Jesus and the Church, and thus become better Catholics and Franciscans. She also explained how we can fit them into our daily lives so that they become a habit. These disciplines will strengthen us for the mission God gives us in our vocations, in imitation of St. Francis.

November Exercise Challenge

Submitted by Pepe Ventosa, TOF

In his *Letter to the Faithful* St. Francis said, 'how happy and blessed are those who love the Lord and do as the Lord himself says in the Gospel: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul, and your neighbor as yourself."'

Article 61 of our Constitutions states that Tertiaries shall "... **examine their consciences daily, and correct the sins they have committed by truly repenting of them.**"

Daily examination of conscience, especially done at the end of each day with night prayers, provides us with an opportunity to look deep inside our souls for those occasions when we failed to love our Lord with all our heart and soul and failed to love our neighbor as ourselves. As we strive for perfection, our constitution encourages us, in imitation of St. Francis and through a life of penance, to take a moment for self reflection so that we may love God above all, with a pure heart and a pure mind.

Would you take the November Exercise of Religion Challenge and commit to a daily examination of conscience during this month?



Meet Therese Harper, Novice & Formation Student – by Elizabeth Francis, TOF

Therese Harper is a member of St. Augustine Parish in Barberton, where she is active with the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Women of Faith, the parish soup kitchen, the Holy Hour program, Dress a Girl (sewing dresses for girls in poor countries), and is a Eucharistic Minister.

Therese is also a member of the Padre Pio Prayer Group and volunteers at the Rhoda Wise Shrine in Canton. "My gifts, I suppose, are to make a difference in the short time I am here on earth, and if it means that I need to step up and volunteer to lead, well, I will do it!"

Therese married her high school sweetheart, Terry. They have three daughters. Somehow, with all the activities Therese works at, she finds time to babysit her three youngest grandchildren (there are also five older grandchildren). She feels a special blessing as a grandmother, and is doing her best to instill Catholic values with them.

Therese and her husband have a dog named Gizmo, and enjoy her daughters' dogs as well.

She makes time for other things as well, including gardening, sewing and crafts, which she enjoys more now that she is retired from Chase Bank after 27-1/2 years.

Therese has enjoyed trips to Fatima, Lourdes, Assisi, Medjugorje, Poland, and Italy with the Padre Pio Prayer Group. "It has been a true blessing, and has had a profound affect in growing in my faith. It was after one such pilgrimage that I felt called to seek out the Franciscan Way of Life. Sometimes it is a struggle from day to day, and I know that God has a purpose for me. He is not done with me yet!"



Community Statutes – by Pepe Ventosa, TOF

On October 6, 2020 the ministers of the three local TOF fraternities – Pat Cuttica, TOF; Gil Pluhar, TOF; and Bob Burtscher, TOF – met at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted to sign, with Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM, the Statutes of the Community of Tertiaries of the Province of the Immaculate Conception. The Statutes are guidelines specific for our community, covering a wide range of topics such as entering the Order, Formation, the role of the fraternity council, and several others. This document is already posted on our website (www.thirdorderfranciscans.com), and I invite you to study it to learn more about our new community. Our fraternity continues to work on our own Fraternity Statutes and hope to have these completed in the next few months. If you would like to take a look at what we have so far, please ask one of the Council members. **(photo above: Bob Burtscher, TOF; Pat Cuttica, TOF; Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM; and Gil Pluhar, TOF)**



Day of Recollection (and November Gathering)

Please consider attending our annual Day of Recollection 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

Lord, It Is Good for Us to Be Together!

Sunday, October 18 we met at St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Parish in Barberton for our monthly gathering. Our attendance of 26 included several formation students, Fr. Vit, and our honored visitors: Denise Williams, Jim and Barb Adolph, and Teresa Kamenar, all of Barberton St. Augustine Parish, in addition to Jennifer Kerns, who drove all the way from Vienna, West Virginia!

After introductions, we began with Liturgy of the Hours, led by LeeAnn Devore, TOF, Kenny Green, TOF, and Mary Dye. Following this, Pepe Ventosa, TOF led the Lectio Divina, and we then discussed what spoke to us in the Scriptures and prayed with our partners.

Bob Burtscher, TOF reminded us that the annual Day of Recollection – “A Tale of Two Cities: But Our Citizenship is in Heaven” (Phillipians 3:20) will be held on November 14 at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted. Our gracious brothers and sisters from the Padre Pio Fraternity in Youngstown will supply us with a light breakfast and then lunch. We will have the privilege of attending Mass, Confession, and Adoration in addition to the talks led by Fr. Vit. We are asked to notify Roberto Meza, TOF if we plan on attending so he can RSVP to the Padre Pio Fraternity and they will know how much food to prepare for us. The fraternities will cover the cost of the meals, but any donations will be gratefully accepted by Bob Burtscher. If you are in need of a ride, contact a Council member.

Bob reported that we had a good turnout for the Transitus, held at St. Nicholas on October 3. Several of our people also attended Divine Liturgy, which was held at 5 PM before the Transitus, and we had the added pleasure of hearing Virgil Daniel, one of our novices and Formation students, cantor beautifully. There were 27 of us who attended the Transitus, in addition to Julie and George Hertz and Gil and Liz Pluhar from Our Lady of the Americas fraternity in Ashtabula. Maybe next year, if we are not under COVID restrictions, we can get together for a meal afterward!

On behalf of our Infirmarian, Maria Elena Meza, TOF, Bob asked us to email or call members who are quarantined, sick, or unable to attend our monthly Gathering. These include Pat and Deanna Hurley, Sandy Pollino, Deacon Fred Brown, Paul and Mary Tag, Rick and Eileen Dunlap, Bill Marshall, Lee and Dave Gaydos, Betty Smith, Dorothy Takacs, and Debbie Ventosa.

Bob Burtscher, TOF and Susan Kramer, TOF reported the October Stand for Life went reasonably well. Tragically, there were clients during the time we were there, as well as a person who loudly tried to distract us from our prayers, and the usual static from clinic workers. We started out with more clinic workers than those of us who were praying. But before we knew it, the cavalry arrived! At least a half dozen Newman students (Roo Catholics) from the University of Akron, accompanied by a large, beautiful banner featuring Our Lady of Guadalupe, prayed the Rosary on their knees on the sidewalk, as well as the faithful Knights of Columbus from St. Bernard, and others who joined our prayer. By the time we left, there were 16 of us on the sidewalk! God and Our Lady are at work and in our presence, and will never abandon us! Rose Akins, TOF and Debbie Ventosa, TOF are scheduled for November.

St. Francis de Sales Parish was selected for the food pantry donation, and Kenny Green, TOF will deliver it.

After Rose Akins, TOF's ongoing formation presentation, we enjoyed our bagged lunches and friendly conversation.

Fr. Vit then expanded on Rose's lesson. We learned that the most important spiritual exercise in our relationship with God for us is repentance and discernment, per St. Anthony of the Desert. The reason for this is that sin is the only thing that separates us from God. The difference in the degree of closeness between a holy person and God as opposed to a sinner and God is immense.

St. Catherine of Siena was horrified when God answered her question about how God saw her, with all her accumulated sins. We should never take our sinfulness for granted or presume all will be forgiven – we must ask God to forgive us. Father told us the difference between people in heaven and people in hell is that the people in heaven asked for forgiveness.

Only a free person can love, so we must not be bound by sin. God will **never** violate human freedom. But, in order to become closer to God, we must orient our spiritual life toward a closer relationship with God. Repentance allows us to receive more of the divine life into our hearts, and we are more receptive of God's light. Also, to love someone does not mean we must agree with him or her, which is very important to remember in these divisive times.

The Liturgy of the Hours is an extension of the Mass, and is the prayer of the Church, so it is good to develop the habit of praying it every day.

Penance will bring us closer to God, and is our recognition of our sins.

Father suggests two days of fasting per week, and two days of feasting on Saturdays and Sundays as a discipline.

Following Fr. Vit's insights, Bob Burtscher, TOF reminded us our next Gathering will be Saturday, November 14 at the Shrine, starting with Mass at 8:45 AM in the church. We concluded our Gathering with the St. Michael Prayer and the Ritual Prayer.

Tertiary Community Update

Our Region will start publishing a quarterly newsletter, The Troubadour, starting in December.

On December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, we will celebrate the one-year anniversary of the Franciscan Tertiaries of the Immaculate Conception!

Save the Date (November, the Month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory)

November 1	All Saints Day
November 2	All Souls Day
November 14	Day of Recollection (<i>Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted Shrine, 8:45 AM; Bring Your Mask!</i>)
November 17	Feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary (<i>Co-Patron of the Third Order</i>)
November 21	Stand for Life (Rose Akins, TOF and Debbie Ventosa, TOF)
November 29	Feast of All Saints of the Seraphic Order
December 8	Feast of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception (<i>Holy Day of Obligation</i>) *One-year anniversary of the Franciscan Tertiaries of the Immaculate Conception!



“The clients of this most merciful Mother are very fortunate. She helps them both in this life and in the next, consoling them and sponsoring their cause in Purgatory. For the simple reason that the Souls in Purgatory need help so desperately, since they cannot help themselves, our Mother of Mercy does so much more to relieve them.”

St. Alphonsus Liguori, Doctor of the Church, The Glories of Mary