

January, 2021

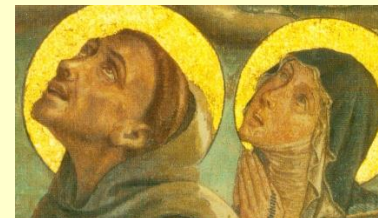
Volume 2, Issue 1

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 begin a New Year, which Pope Francis has declared both the Year of St. Joseph and the Year of the Holy Family, and with the hope that the end of COVID-19 pandemic may be near at hand, it is time to look forward to living our vocation with joy and devotion. Not only as Franciscans, which we continually are at work perfecting, but our other vocations as well.

We are very grateful for the healthcare vocations of our brother and sisters who put their lives in danger to relieve the suffering of the sick, the elderly, and the imprisoned. So many of our fraternity are married and parents, just as Mary and Joseph were, and work at these vocations so well, nurturing each other and their children, and working to get their loved ones to Heaven.

Some of us serve our parishes as Eucharistic Ministers, Catechists, Altar Servers, Readers, Parish Councilors, and more. To assist our pastors and parishes is a privilege and an act of spiritual mercy.

We also admire the work of the most faithful men's group of the Church, the Knights of Columbus, many of whom are members of our fraternity. They defend the Church and its teachings unselfishly and unapologetically, as we also do as Franciscans.

And of course, we honor Fr. Vit Fiala and Fr. Dennis Arambasick, who serve the Church as priests and members of the OFM. Where would we be without them?! **Blessed New Year to all our Franciscan family!**

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, January 17
1:30 PM**

**St. Nicholas Byzantine
Church
1051 E. Robinson Ave.
Barberton, OH 44203**

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

Franciscan Quote of the Month



“Do not lose heart even if you should discover that you lack qualities necessary for the work to which you are called. He who called you will not desert you, but the moment you are in need, He will stretch out his saving hand.”

**St. Angela Merici (1474-1540) Feast Day – January 27
Third Order Franciscan, Founder of the Ursuline Sisters, Educator**

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.

January Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

Bill Marshall, TOF – 29 Years



Birthdays

Sandy Pollino, OFS – 1/1
Eileen Dunlap, TOF – 1/7
Chris Devore, TOF – 1/9
Kenny Green, TOF – 1/12
Roberto Meza, TOF – 1/16
Pepe Ventosa, TOF – 1/20
Larry McNutt, TOF – 1/22
Matt Poletti – 1/23
Maria Elena Meza, TOF – 1/25

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!

January Collection for Embrace

There will be a representative from Embrace at the January Gathering, who will speak on the work of Embrace, which supports pregnant women, the unborn child, and their families with supplies and moral support. We will be collecting baby shower items such as diapers, baby wipes, baby clothing (newborn to age 4 or 5), baby food, formula, and whatever may help. Monetary donations will also be gratefully accepted!

From the Province

“From the Province” is the latest addition to our website (www.thirdorderfranciscans.com). This includes Tertiary Community Statutes, Tertiary Community Newsletter (The Troubadour), and Tertiary Community Statistics. Take a look, and see how we are growing and developing!

Novitiate Retreat

A novitiate retreat is planned for March 13 at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted. Please keep the novices in your prayers – they are quickly approaching their Profession!

Welcome!

Julia Tarulli, TOF and Jennifer Kerns, TOF have transferred to our fraternity. Both come to us from the OFS fraternity in Dover. Julia has been a Franciscan for 22 years, and Jennifer for 3 years. Jennifer comes from Vienna, West Virginia and Julia from New Philadelphia, and they are already making the sacrifice of travelling over the miles to be with us, for which we are grateful! God bless you both, sisters, and welcome!

Father Eugene Kubina, TOR – by Elizabeth Francis, TOF

Fr. Eugene Kubina called me on Christmas Day. It really perked up my day! He is well into his 90s and is still active. I don't think he will ever age.

Fr. Eugene has been at St. Bernadine Monastery for many years. While he was in Ohio, which is his home state, he was pastor of St. Ambrose in Windham, and was also Spiritual Assistant for our fraternity. He was the priest at my profession.

Come and See

Formation Director Debbie Ventosa is planning a Come and See at Casa Ventosa on January 18, 2021 at 6:30 PM. If you would like to invite someone who may have the Franciscan charism to learn about the TOF and this person plans to attend, please let Debbie know so she can have a packet ready. We might all pray about it and see if Jesus and our good St. Francis has someone in mind for the TOF!



Requiescat in Pace

We extend our sincere condolences and prayers to Mike Butts and his family. Mike's father died in December. May the angels escort him to the presence of Jesus, and may His face shine on him.

Blessing Bags



As often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.

Jennifer Kerns, TOF, a new member who comes to us from Vienna, West Virginia, came across an idea that seems very Franciscan. It is to carry blessing bags in your car to distribute to those in need when you encounter them on street corners or wherever they may be soliciting for help.

The blessing bags can contain single-serving snacks that can be eaten without preparation or with hot water, that do not require a can opener, and can be put in large zipper bags to stay fresh. Some of the supplies suggested include: Vienna sausages, Spam, tuna or chicken salad and crackers, Cup of Noodles, beef jerky sticks, granola bars, trail mix, fruit or applesauce packs, pudding cups, bottled

water, juice boxes, or small bags of carrots and celery with single-serving peanut butter. It may also be helpful to include plastic forks and spoons, napkins, and small or single-serve packets of Purell or baby wipes so they can clean their hands. If you can put the blessing bags in a plastic shopping bag, that is helpful as well because they can carry it easier because it has handles.

For those of us who use Magnificat magazines, you could also add an outdated Magnificat as well. The scripture readings, stories of saints, and spiritual articles are always useful and encouraging!

Stand for Life

The fraternity has no one scheduled for January because of the weather. If you are interested in being part of this apostolate, please contact Roberto Meza. The following are the guidelines to keep in mind: **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.**

Eucharistic Adoration

Please consider joining other fraternity members who dedicate time weekly to Eucharistic Adoration at their home parishes and elsewhere. We depend on Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to continue the work of our fraternity – we can do nothing without Jesus. Remember, the Blessed Sacrament does not have to be exposed in order to participate in Eucharistic Adoration – you can simply meditate on Our Lord's great sacrifice at your parish home any time. If you want to be included on our Adoration roster, please contact Susan Kramer, TOF.



Prison Ministry

In December, we gathered the money we have collected all year for the prison ministry and bought Catholic Bibles from St. Raphael Bookstore. They were taken to one of the Ohio Correctional Institutions.

2021 Exercise Challenge

Submitted by Pepe Ventosa, TOF

“Early in his apostolic life Francis became aware that Christians cannot be trained without community life. So when, like a trail of gunpowder across Italy, there sprang up many Franciscan communities whose members were bound together by fraternal charity, these communities soon became known as fraternities.”

From Face to the World, by John Francis Motte, OFM.

Article 63 of the Constitution reads, **“Tertiaries, even those who belong to other pious associations, shall do their utmost to attend the monthly meetings enjoined by the Rule.”**

Our Constitutions, reminding us that the TOF is a “school of Christian perfection”, purposely refers attending our monthly gatherings as an “*exercices of religion*”. The vocation to the Franciscan way of life is lived in fraternal communion. Our life in fraternity encourages us to lead a life of love of God, love of neighbor and Christian virtues.

This past year presented many of us an obstacle to participate in our monthly fraternity gatherings due to the Covid-19 pandemic. And it seems, at least for now, that this may extend to the new year, 2021. If you are in the situation of being unable to attend any of our gatherings due to the risk of contacting Covid-19 or for any other reason, please let us know. We have a list of members that can connect with you virtually through their phones so that you can be “present” at our gatherings. If you are interested please contact Pepe in advance and he will put you on contact with someone who will connect with you. We miss you and would love to have you with us again.

Would you take the 2021 Exercise of Religion Challenge and commit to attend all of our gatherings this year, either in person or virtually?



Lord, It Is Good for Us to Be Together!

Sunday, December 20 we met at St. Nicholas Parish in Barberton for our monthly gathering. Our attendance of 24 included our honored visitor, Ms. Bernie Rieman of Wooster St. Mary.

As usual, we began our gathering with the Ritual Opening Prayer of the Third Order Franciscans, which was led by our Minister, Bob Burtscher, TOF. After that, the Liturgy of the Hours led by Kenny Green, TOF; Debbie Ventosa, TOF; and Matt Poletti.

Lectio Divina was read by Pepe Ventosa, TOF, followed by discussion with our partners. It was the beautiful narrative of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary by the Angel Gabriel, which was the Gospel of the 4th Sunday of Advent.

As recommended by our Constitution, Article 68, for the month of December, we renewed our consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary as part of our Franciscan vocation. We depend on the intercession of Our Lady and St. Francis daily.

Wooster St. Mary was selected for the food pantry collection, and was delivered by Mike and Annie Butts. The January collection will be for Embrace, which supports pregnant mothers, the fathers, the child and siblings, who may be in crisis or need.

After saying grace, we enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner, with fried chicken provided by the fraternity, and various other tasty dishes provided by our members. We were all certainly ready for a party after all the sacrifices of 2020, and it was truly good for us to be together!

The fraternity recognized members who have achieved milestone anniversaries in 2020 including the following:

- **Elizabeth Francis, TOF, 30 Years.** Elizabeth has previously edited both the fraternity newsletter and the OFS regional newsletter, as well as the national OFS Tau Magazine. Elizabeth also served as Minister and Vice-Minister of our previous fraternity.
- **Judith Hoyt, TOF, 20 Years.** Judith is also a Eucharistic Minister at her parish, a prayer warrior, and ministers to the sick.
- **Rick Dunlap, TOF, 5 Years.** Rick is a retired teacher, a Knight of Columbus, and was Treasurer of the St. Frances Cabrini Fraternity.
- **Eileen Dunlap, TOF, 5 Years.** Eileen runs an Irish dance school, serves on parish council at Little Flower Parish, and brings her Faith into all she does.
- **Larry McNutt, TOF, 5 Years.** Larry is secretary of the fraternity, and assists wherever he is needed.
- **Lucy McNutt, TOF, 5 Years.** Lucy (*with help from Larry*) ensures that the hospitality for our gatherings is organized and that everyone has plenty to eat. Lucy is a retired teacher, and she and Larry care for their beloved grandchildren.
- **Susan Kramer, TOF, 5 Years.** Susan edits Il Poverello, our fraternity newsletter, and The Troubadour, the quarterly newsletter of the Third Order Franciscans of the Immaculate Conception Province. She is a Eucharistic Minister and member of Parish Council at her parish, Akron St. Bernard, and with her pastor, co-edits The Memorare, the bi-monthly newsletter of St. Bernard and their sister parish, St. Mary.

We then prayed for the needs of those in our fraternity and community, including a special prayer for Frater Gasto, the seminarian of the Diocese of Moshi whom we have spiritually adopted. To this we asked for spiritual protection for the seminarians of Borromeo Seminary, which prepares men of both the Cleveland and



Youngstown Dioceses for the priesthood. We added prayers for our parish priests and pastors, including Fr. Daniel Dozier, TOF, our isolated tertiary brother, Bishop Malesic of Cleveland and Bishop-elect David Bonnar of Youngstown (*who will be installed in January*), Fr. Miron of St. Nicholas, shut-ins, family members, the poor souls in Purgatory, and in thanksgiving for all our blessings.

Kenny Green, TOF, assisted by Bob Burtscher, TOF, favored us with his annual Christmas narrative of St. Francis and the first Nativity recreation.

← **Bob Burtscher, TOF and Kenny Green, TOF**

Pepe Ventosa, TOF, has prepared brochures for distribution at our parishes. The brochures explain the TOF and provide information for anyone interested in joining us. Formation Director Debbie Ventosa, TOF is planning a Come and See for prospective postulants in a few weeks. **If you are willing to ask permission of your pastor to place the brochures in the entrances of your parish church, please contact Pepe for brochures.**



Pepe Ventosa explained that the fraternity council would like to implement outreach to the homebound of our gatherings via Facetime and What's App. Anyone who has access to these applications on their cell phones is asked to assist in broadcasting future gatherings to those who are unable to attend for any reason. It is important for us to live in community, even with the challenges of COVID, distance, and other obstacles. Think about helping out your brothers and sisters by assisting in this effort!

← **Brother Max Angeletti**

We rounded out the afternoon with singing of Christmas hymns. ***God bless and protect us all in 2021! Our next Gathering will be January 17 at 1:30 PM at St. Nicholas!***



Pope Francis has proclaimed the Year of St. Joseph, from December 8, 2020 through December 8, 2021.

From the Vatican News website, “Pope Francis describes St. Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father, a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.”

Further, “The Holy Father wrote *Patris Corde (With a Father’s Heart)* against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, which, he says has helped us see more clearly the importance of ‘ordinary’ people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble St. Joseph, ‘the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,’ who nonetheless played ‘an incomparable role in the history of salvation.’”

There is a plenary indulgence which will be granted during the Year of St. Joseph, under the following guidelines (per [Vatican News](#)):

The plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful under the usual conditions (Sacramental Confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the Pope’s intentions) to Christians who, with a spirit detached from any sin, participate in the Year of St. Joseph on these occasions and manners indicated by the Apostolic Penitentiary:

- The plenary indulgence is granted to those who will meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord’s Prayer, or take part in a Spiritual Retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph. “St. Joseph, an authentic man of faith, invites us”, the decree reads, “to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew fidelity to prayer, to listen and correspond with profound discernment to God’s will.”
- The indulgence can also be obtained by those who, following St. Joseph’s example, will perform a spiritual or corporal work of mercy. St. Joseph “encourages us to rediscover the value of silence, prudence and loyalty in carrying out our duties,” the decree notes.
- The recitation of the Holy Rosary in families and among engaged couples is another way of obtaining indulgences, in order that “all Christian families may be stimulated to recreate the same atmosphere of intimate communion, love and prayer that was in the Holy Family.”
- Everyone who entrusts their daily activity to the protection of St. Joseph, and every faithful who invokes the intercession of St. Joseph so that those seeking work can find dignifying work can also obtain the plenary indulgence. On 1 May 1955, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St. Joseph “with the intent that the dignity of work be recognized by all, and that it inspires social life and laws, based on the fair distribution of rights and duties.”
- The plenary indulgence is also granted to the faithful who will recite the Litany to St. Joseph (for the Latin tradition), or the *Akathistos* to St. Joseph (for the Byzantine tradition), or any other prayer to St. Joseph proper to the other liturgical traditions, for the persecuted Church *ad intra* and *ad extra*, and for the relief of all Christians suffering all forms of persecution. Because, the decree notes, “the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt shows us that God is there where man is in danger, where man suffers, where he runs away, where he experiences rejection and abandonment.”

Good St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

Feast Day of St. Joseph – March 19

Feast Day of St. Joseph the Worker – May 1

Save the Date (January, the Holy Name of Jesus)

January 1	Feast of Mary, Mother of God (<i>Holy Day of Obligation</i>)
January 6	Feast of the Epiphany
January 17	Gathering at St. Nicholas at 1:30 PM (Bring baby shower gifts for Embrace!)
January 18	Come and See at Casa Ventosa, 6:30 PM
March 13	Novice Retreat at Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted

Constitutions Franciscan Third Order, Article 11

“Since the continual growth of the Third Order should be in holiness rather than in numbers, careful inquiry shall be made whether candidates are fit for entry into the Order, according to the conditions laid down in the Rule and these Constitutions. Those are fit for membership, who, called by divine grace, desire to dedicate themselves to God in a special way in the world; that is, wish to be pleasing to God and to be of service to the Church and to human society according to the spirit of St. Francis.”



What are you doing, O Magi? Do you adore a little Babe, in a wretched hovel, wrapped in miserable rags? Can this Child be truly God? Are you become foolish, O Wise Men? Yes, these Wise Men have become fools that they may be wise.
– St. Bernard of Clairvaux