

February, 2021

Volume 2, Issue 2

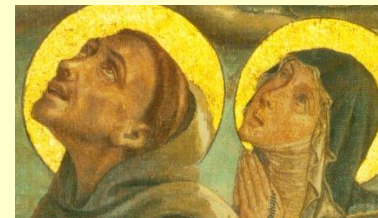
# Il Poverello

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](http://www.thirdorderfranciscans.com)



## Something to Consider

Americans are becoming accustomed to living under a new Presidential administration, with all its positive and negative aspects. It will be good for us to remember that sometimes the very best in us, as Catholics, Franciscans, and Americans, comes out in difficult times.

Our country has survived bitter and divisive wars, pandemics, racism, religious injustice, natural disaster, and far more. Some of us have lived in other countries, under oppressive, anti-Catholic regimes. As the Polish, Irish, Eastern European, Cuban, and Venezuelan people (and those of many other nations) can tell us – when our faith and values are tested, we must defend them all the more, no matter what.

The early Christians, perhaps more than those of any other time, lived and thrived under oppression, humiliation, injustice, torture, and execution. From a handful of faithful, they set the world on fire with the truth and message of Jesus and His Church. Like St. Francis and his little band of brother friars, they started out with a few good men and women to become an enduring and faithful presence in a disordered world.

And so, it must be with us. We must always be prepared to “live the Gospel, and bring the Gospel to life,” as our dear brother and sister, Deacon Fred and Joyce Brown, lived. Check for a remembrance of them in this issue.

No matter what the future brings, we must remember who we are, and Who we serve!

## 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, February 21  
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

***“I am not thinking of reward. I am working for God and do so cheerfully!”***



**St. Marianne Cope (1838-1918) Feast Day – January 23**  
**Sister of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis, Missionary, Teacher,**  
**Nurse, Assisted St. Damien of Molokai in his ministry to lepers**

## 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  
Linda, OFS  
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  
Linda, OFS  
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 25 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.**

## February Anniversaries and Birthdays

### Profession Anniversaries

None this month!



### Birthdays

Mike Butts, TOF – 2/1  
Louise Daniel – 2/6  
Julia Tarulli, TOF – 2/21  
Mary Cate Roberts, TOF – 2/29

## “A Eucharistic Journey with Franciscan Saints”

Joanne Angeletti, TOF found that EWTN will be airing “A Eucharistic Journey with Franciscan Saints” on Thursdays at 11:30 AM. This may be a good way to reinforce our Lenten goals! Check your cable listings – if you cannot watch it when it airs, maybe record it and view it later. Thanks, Joanne!!!

### **Stand for Life Ministry**

Vice-Minister Roberto Meza, TOF asks that you consider being part of the Stand for Life ministry of our fraternity. On the third Saturday of each month, two or three of our members gather to pray and witness from 10 AM to Noon at the local abortion facility.

We are not present to be confrontational, but to peacefully and prayerfully bring awareness of the evil of abortion that takes place at this site, to pray for the conversion of those who work at the abortion clinic, as well as the clients, and to bring the love and consolation of Christ to those who work and patronize the abortion clinic. We place the unborn children in the loving hands of Our Lady of Guadalupe and ask for her intercession.

Please contact Roberto if you can dedicate 2 hours any month of this year to this worthy and holy ministry. If you can assist more than one month, all the better. It is not the easiest work, nor is there always support outside of our group, but there is great satisfaction knowing what you do may save the life of an innocent baby.



### **Stand for Life**

Bob Burtscher, TOF and Matt Poletti will represent the fraternity February 20 for the Stand for Life. 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.**

### **Profession Day**

Profession Day for our Novices is on the horizon! We plan to celebrate on Saturday, June 5 at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted in Youngstown. Mass of Profession will be at 2 PM. Our neighboring fraternities, Our Lady of America (Ashtabula) and Padre Pio (Youngstown) will be sharing this joyful day with us. We have 8 Novices from our fraternity in formation, along with Margaret Sartor of the Ashtabula fraternity – we are abundantly blessed!!! As we get closer to June, more details will be available. Keep praying for our Novices!

### **Come and See**

Formation Director, Debbie Ventosa, TOF held a Come and See at her home on January 18. Thirteen guests were present for an introduction to the Third Order of St. Francis, along with seven professed members who assisted, including our good Fr. Vit.

As Debbie winds up Formation classes for the present class of Novices, please pray for those who may be incoming, and that our fraternity remains faithful and continues to grow!

### **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!

## Getting to Know Julia Tarulli, TOF and Jennifer Kerns, TOF

Julia Tarulli, TOF and Jennifer Kerns, TOF have recently transferred into the TOF community and our fraternity, and we are so glad!

Julia and Chet were married 61 years when he passed away three months ago. They had four children. Their son, Timothy, died three years ago. They have ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren

Julia's most important duty now is prayer, prayers from her heart for our country and her neighbors all around her neighborhood. She believes having Masses offered for our loved ones is important. She loves praying the Psalms and prayers from the "Mother's Prayer Book", and daily readings in the Magnificat. When she's able, she walks with her church in the Pro-Life Walk.

Julia was professed into the OFS at the Fraternity of St. Joseph of the St. Maximilian Kolbe Region on December 5, 1998, in Dover, Ohio. She served as Minister for three years and as Formation Director for several terms.

Julia's parish is Sacred Heart Catholic Church in New Philadelphia. She is a member of the Altar Society, the LCBA, and serves- as the Chaplain for the Altar Society. She goes to Holy Hour when she can. She loves to read, especially learning the Franciscan traditions and the lives of the saints.



Jennifer Kerns, TOF also comes to us from the St. Joseph Fraternity in Dover. She lives in Vienna, West Virginia, so it is a sacrifice for her to come to us, travelling 2-1/2 hours each way, but we are so glad God put us together. She is an artist, who paints, draws, and sculpts in bronze and clay. She also weaves baskets and hooks rugs. At one point she owned and operated two wicker furniture stores, and taught basket weaving to children at WVU. She has earned a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts and Journalism, and retired from the United States Treasury Department the year her husband died, 2007.

Jennifer has a son, and is a convert to Catholicism. She has an abiding interest in reading anything to learn more about the Church, the saints, and our Faith. She is in love with the Faith and cannot get enough of it!

She is a parishioner of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption in Marietta, and has an extensive prayer life, as well as being a daily Mass attendee, and is fervently devoted to the Rosary. Jennifer can be considered a prayer warrior.

Jennifer assists at the Daily Bread Kitchen and volunteers at the Divine Mercy Gift Shop at the Basilica. She has also made rosaries and donated them to the gift shop. She regularly prays with a pro-life group in front of the local Planned Parenthood facility, and creates blankets and baby clothing for the group to distribute. She has also made hats and scarves for underprivileged children in Cleveland. She is also involved in a wide assortment of Catholic study groups and service organizations in her area.



Julia and Jennifer visited the SS. Francis and Clare Fraternity in 2020. They liked it so much they decided to stay, and we are grateful. Their transfer was accepted by Council on November 6, 2020, and their investiture will take place soon, when they will receive their new habits. Welcome to our fraternity, Jennifer and Julia!

←**Julia Tarulli, TOF and Jennifer Kerns, TOF**

## February Exercise Challenge

*Submitted by Pepe Ventosa, TOF*

*"... 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." Constitution Art. 62*

In 1224, on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, while at Mt. La Verna devoutly contemplating the Passion of Christ, St. Francis received the stigmata.

In imitation of St. Francis, our Constitution invites us to look at Jesus Crucified so that by His grace we may eventually conform to Him.

***Would you take the February Exercise of Religion Challenge and commit to reflect during this Lent, especially on Fridays, on the Passion of Christ?***

### **Lives Well-Lived – Deacon Fred and Joyce Brown**



Deacon Dr. Fred Brown, aged 91, who faithfully served at Akron St. Mary until the merger with St. Bernard in 2010, as well as Our Lady of the Cedars Maronite parish in Montrose, died on January 3, 2021. Deacon Fred had been living with his son, Fr. Stephan Brown, SVD at St. Joseph Parish in St. Petersburg, Florida, where Fr. Brown is pastor.

Both Joyce and Deacon Fred were lay Franciscans for 17 years, and assisted in teaching Formation classes to those in discernment. Deacon Fred also served as interim Spiritual Assistant to our fraternity at one point when no friars were available. After they moved to Florida, Deacon and Joyce continued to offer valuable advice, and assist the Franciscans whenever they were in town. They never became strangers.



Deacon Fred not only preached the Gospel – he and Joyce **lived** it. He was an exemplary Catholic, deacon, Franciscan, family man and servant to his community and parishes, inspiring others to follow his worthy example. We were blessed to be touched by his ministry, and by his dear Joyce, who actively assisted and strengthened Fred, and worked for the Kingdom of God every day of her life. *May the angels lead Fred and Joyce on their journey to Heaven, and may they see the loving face of Jesus!*

### **Upcoming Elections**

Give some thought to running for a Council position! The current Fraternity Council was only meant to be temporary, while we established our new fraternity under the Third Order Franciscans. We plan to have the election at the September Gathering. More details to follow!

### **Rosaries for Frater Gastor**

Frater Gastor will be ordained in a few months! It is traditional for those of us who sponsor an African seminarian to give the gift of rosaries for the new priest, so he has a supply with him when he visits parishioners. If you are gifted in the direction of making rosaries, consider making them with green, yellow, black and royal blue beads, which are the colors of the flag of Tanzania, Frater Gastor's country. They do not need to be made of expensive materials – cord and plastic beads are acceptable. Please have them by the April Gathering – T. O. Bennett from WILB Catholic Radio will be travelling to Moshi for the Ordination and will deliver them to Frater Gastor.

## Lord, It Is Good for Us to Be Together!



We met for our January Gathering on the 17<sup>th</sup> at St. Nicholas with 25 members in attendance. Roberto and Maria Elena Meza, TOF and Larry and Lucy McNutt, TOF joined us via livestream. We were also blessed to be joined virtually by Ericka, OFS of Texas and Linda, OFS of California. They fit in with us easily, and feel like family already. Later on, Fr. Vit arrived to round out our group.

←**Susan Kramer, Carol Perrine, Rose Akins, & Leslie Ann Magda (standing), Eileen Dunlap & Cindy Russo (seated), & Ericka, OFS (virtual!)**

Minister Bob Burtscher, TOF introduced our guests, and then we started with Liturgy of the Hours. Kenny Green, TOF led, assisted by Debbie Ventosa, TOF and Bill Marshall, TOF.

Pepe Ventosa, TOF then read the Gospel of the day as we participated in Lectio Divina, and then, with our partners, we discussed how Jesus spoke to us and prayed together including His message.

Peggy from Embrace spoke to us on their mission of providing help and hope for pregnant women, unborn children, fathers, and families in crisis. All services are free, and the ministry is dedicated to the Lord. Embrace offers supplies and emotional support to families in distress, and functions as a real answer to the death sentence imposed by Planned Parenthood. Steadfast Fathers is an outgrowth of Embrace. They are a men's group for fathers, providing guidance on getting jobs, advice on legal problems, anger management, and help with daily life challenges.



Embrace hopes to someday get permission to speak to high school and middle school students at public schools, which is currently impossible because of COVID restrictions. Cindy Russo, TOF, suggested they approach that age group through Life Teen, which operates in several area parishes. Our fraternity sent a collection of goods for Embrace, including baby supplies and clothing as well as monetary donations.

Maria Elena Meza, TOF, reminds us to continue to pray for our shut ins and the ill. Our brother, Bill Marshall, TOF was present and is in recovery from joint replacements. He cannot kneel yet, but is increasing his walking incrementally – one day at a time!



←**Virtual Roberto Meza, TOF**

We then prayed for our general intercessions, including Frater Gastor Bahati, the seminarian of the Diocese of Moshi, Tanzania, whom we have spiritually adopted. We also prayed for our government, healthcare workers, military and police officers, and, as always, our parish priests, bishops, and local seminarians, who sacrifice so much and work tirelessly for our souls.

After enjoying our bagged lunches and catching up with one another, we listened carefully to Fr. Vit's ongoing formation (submitted by Debbie Ventosa):

- 1) Despite all the drama in society, if you live by faith you have a particular direction and goal. No matter what happens around you, nothing will change you.
- 2) Everything God allows is good for something. We must live our lives embracing our life the same way Jesus embraced His own life. We must embrace what God sends the same way Jesus embraced His cross, which He embraced out of love for us.
- 3) God loves us because He is good – not because we are good! The love between us and God is eternal. The only thing we take to Heaven is the love we have for God.
- 4) Mystical Theology:

- a. We can say things about God and His attributes: He is loving, kind, merciful, omnipotent, just, all-knowing, etc. But our concept of those attributes is limited by the fact we are human and our human brains and experience here on earth limit our ability of truly defining God. God is not able to be defined by us. God transcends our finite concept of Him.
- b. The closer we grow in relationship to God, the fewer words we have. What we have is silence, in awe and a burning desire for God.
- c. St. Francis sought solitude to refill his heart with the love of God.



Our Gathering concluded by receiving a blessing from Fr. Vit, and the reminder that our next Gathering will be Sunday, February 21 – same time, same place! **Leslie Ann Magda and virtual Linda, OFS →**

### **Treasurer's Report for Year Ending 12/31/2020 – submitted by Roberto Meza, TOF**

<b>Common Fund:</b>	\$2,532.22
<b>Expenditures:</b>	
St. Nicholas (Rent)	\$120.00
Spiritual Assistant Fee	\$445.00
Newsletter and Postage	\$189.97
Scapulars and Cords	\$314.23
Candles	\$49.00
Investiture Luncheons (chicken)	\$107.00
Day of Recollection Breakfast and Luncheon	\$205.78
December Gathering	\$60.00
Miscellaneous	\$244.58
<b>Balance:</b>	<b>\$796.66</b>

### **Save the Date (February, the Month of the Holy Family)**

February 17	Ash Wednesday
February 21	Gathering at St. Nicholas at 1:30 PM
March 13	Novice Retreat at Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted
June 5	Profession at Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted

### **Constitutions Franciscan Third Order, Article 11**

*“Article 9. Since the Third Order was instituted for the sanctification of the married state as well – for the first tertiaries were a married couple – it would be an excellent work to form and foster groups for married and engaged couples where such members are sufficiently numerous.”*

**It is easy to love people who are far away.  
It is not always easy to love those close to us.  
Bring love into your home, for this is where our love for each other must start.  
– St. Teresa of Calcutta**

