

March, 2021

Volume 2, Issue 3

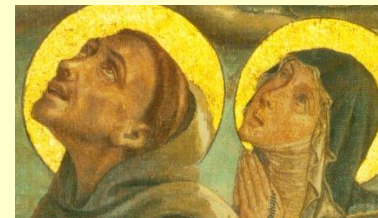
Il Poverello

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

It has been almost a year since the world has been living with the danger and the restrictions imposed by COVID. For many, it may seem to be one long Lent, but for Franciscans, it has become a time of both challenges and opportunities.

We are challenged by the isolation we must undergo in order to stay healthy and to protect others. When we leave home, we have been asked to mask and maintain social distancing. The dispensation from attending Sunday Mass is still in effect at this writing, and many at-risk people remain at home instead of with their parish families until we are all safe again. It has been this way since March 16, 2020 – the day after Ash Wednesday last year.

On the other hand, we have been given opportunities to fully live our vocation and Faith. For those of us who are able to attend Mass, the Sign of Peace has become a more dignified and heartfelt gesture, since we must extend peace without contact and at a distance. The very act of attending Mass has become dearer to us, since we could not attend for 6 weeks last Spring, including Easter. We make an effort to keep in touch with the homebound, which may have been a secondary consideration in less dangerous times. In many ways, we have been given a gift.

We find ourselves in the situation in which our good St. Francis lived. He faced living for Jesus in the midst of leprosy, the plague, poverty, immorality, and often unethical civil and religious leadership. And like St. Francis, we rise above these challenges to find creative ways to serve God and His Church, and to live in imitation of Jesus.

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, March 21
1:30 PM**

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

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

Franciscan Quote of the Month



“Since the death of Christ, almost every century has seen the persecution of Christians; there have always been heroes and martyrs who gave their lives – often in horrible ways – for Christ and their faith. If we hope to reach our goal someday, then we, too, must become heroes of the Faith.”

**Blessed Franz Jägerstätter, TOF (1907-1943) Feast Day – May 21
Farmer, Husband, Father, Conscientious Objector, Martyr**

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 Menser, TOF
Maria Elena Meza, TOF
Roberto Meza, TOF
Carol Perrine, TOF
Cindy Russo, TOF

Wednesday

Bill Marshall, TOF
Jim Miller

Thursday

Joanne Angeletti, TOF

Friday

Robert Burtscher, TOF
Linda Menser, 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 26 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.

March Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

None this month!



Birthdays

Joanne Angeletti, TOF – 3/4
LeeAnn Devore – 3/24
Judith Hoyt – 3/29

“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.

Our peaceful and prayerful demeanor brings 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

Rose Akins, TOF and Matt Poletti will represent the fraternity March 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. 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 you cannot find a substitute.**

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!

Profession Day

Profession Day for our Novices is approaching! We will 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 share this joyful day with us. We have 3 Novices from our fraternity in formation, along with 1 from Our Lady of America and 4 from Padre Pio – we are abundantly blessed!!! More details later - keep praying for our Novices!

According to the Constitution of the Franciscan Third Order, Article 24: *Profession in the Third Order is a solemn religious act whereby one of the faithful, moved by divine grace, dedicates himself to God, promising to observe the holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the world, by living according to the commandments of God and the Rule of our holy Father Francis; and promising to atone for transgressions committed against the Rule or these Constitutions, should the Visitor or the Superior so wish. Profession is, therefore, a special renewal of the baptismal promises and a self-consecration, whereby one of the faithful living in the world promises to use particular means for leading a life in full accord with the Gospel. In this way, he unites himself by a closer bond to our Lord Jesus Christ and becomes a member of the great Franciscan family. Because of this, tertiaries should hold their holy profession in high esteem throughout their lives.*

March 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 March Exercise of Religion Challenge and commit to reflect during this Lent, especially on Fridays, on the Passion of Christ?

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, as well as other materials and colors. 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.

Besides Moderation in all Things,

Does the Third Order Rule Require Any Other Kind of Self-Discipline?

The Third Order rule and constitutions indicate also the need of mortification or self-denial in lawful things, since without it there can be no progress in the spiritual life. The rule prescribes two extra days of fast and recommends other fast and abstinence days; and the constitutions declare expressly that tertiaries “shall use the goods of this world in the fear of the Lord, and put themselves under the yoke of service and of loyalty to God by controlling the gratification of corrupt nature, the gratification of the eye, and the empty pomp of living.

A Blessing from Bishop Malesic

February 4, 2021

Mr. Robert Burtscher, TOF
 Minister, SS. Francis and Clare Fraternity, TOF
 3862 Fairfield Dr.
 Mogadore, OH 44260

Dear Mr. Burtscher,

On September 29, 2020 I received a letter from you as Minister of the Saints Francis and Clare Fraternity, writing on behalf of the members of their emerging fraternity of the Third Order of St. Francis. This group, which is presently in the process of transferring from the Secular Franciscan Order of Friars Minor, St. Frances Cabrini Fraternity, is located within the Diocese of Cleveland in Barberton, Ohio. Through a process of prayer and discernment and under the direction of Father Vit Fiala, OFM, the group wishes to commit themselves to live the Gospel according to the Franciscan Rule of 1883 approved by Pope Leo XIII. This fraternity will function under the vigilance and patronage of the Province of the Immaculate Conception, located in New York. Father Robert Campagna, OFM, the Provincial Minister, has approved the fraternity and appointed Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM as their Spiritual Director.

In accord with the Code of Canon Law, Canon 304, I am in receipt of and have become familiar with the Statutes of the Franciscan Tertiaries of the Order of Friars Minor, Province of the Immaculate Conception and the Letter of Establishment of an Emerging Fraternity, St. Francis and St. Clare of the Third Order of St. Francis (TOR) in Barberton, Ohio. It is my understanding that the group, with the permission of the Bishop of the Eparchy of Parma, Most Rev. Milan Lach, S.J. and the Pastor of the Parish, Rev. Miron Kerul'-Kmec, will meet monthly at St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Barberton.



As a Community of Franciscan Tertiaries, the members of Saint Francis and Saint Clare Fraternity have promised their prayer for my personal intentions, for the needs of our Diocese and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. I am most grateful for their prayer and will pray for their continued growth in holiness and witness to the Gospel. I also welcome their commitment to assist with the works of the Church particularly their respect for all life, ministry to the poor, the infirm and those who are incarcerated. May God continue to bless their work!

Let us continue to pray for many blessings upon this newly formed fraternity of Saint Francis and Saint Clare. I look forward to hearing from them annually, and know that Francis and Clare will inspire and intensify their desire to live out the Franciscan mission of restoring all things in Christ, living a life of simplicity and trust in the presence and goodness of God.

May God bless you and those you love.

Your brother in Christ,
 Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic, JCL
 Bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland

cc: Rev. Robert Campagna, OFM
 Rev. Vit Fiala, OFM

Lord, It Is Good for Us to Be Together!

We met for our February gathering on February 21 at St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, with 26 members in attendance, in addition to 2 affiliates, Fred Kramer and Annie Butts, and Fr. Vit. We also had members attending virtually, including Roberto and Maria Elena Meza, TOF, Ericka Witover, TOF, and Linda Menser, TOF.

We started by praying the Liturgy of the Hours, led by Kenny Green, TOF, Carol Perrine, TOF, and Mike Butts, TOF, and then Lectio Divina, after which we discussed our inspiration from that Scripture and prayed with our partners.

Roberto Meza, TOF led our Ongoing Formation on the Introduction to Article 2 of the Constitutions. Roberto explained: 1) How to observe the Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ while living in the world, and how we are called to be an example to others; 2) To seek out the glory of God by sanctifying ourselves and our neighbors, and how we are bound by the virtue of the profession we made before the Church; 3) To live faithfully in the spirit of penance, by observing the Rule with care in our individual social life; a spirit of prayer is the foundation to the spirit of penance; and by observing the Rule with care in our individual social life.

As we enjoyed bagged lunches, we discussed the questions Roberto prepared at our tables, and then revealed our thoughts to the assembly afterward.

Fr. Vit expanded on our ongoing formation discussion. Society has changed from being Christ-centered. Sin is more selective – it is politically correct, and privilege is viewed as a social sin. Homosexuality/transgenderism is not a sin per society. How do we live in such a culture? It is an opportunity for us to exhibit loyalty to God and His Church. The Church is alive and will survive. It has survived persecution, war, plague, and far more. Socialistic ideas are being imposed on children. It is for us to show and explain the way of God and His Church. We must be prepared to defend the Faith properly. We seek the good and avoid evil. We must know what is good in God's eyes and to present it in such a way that others want what we have.

Wooster St. Mary was selected as the recipient of the food pantry collection, and Mike and Annie Butts delivered it.

Cindy Russo, TOF will prepare the Little Portion for March.

We discussed gifts for Frater Gastor Bahati's Ordination, which will take place in August. Cindy Russo, TOF generously offered a chalice from Jerusalem. We gave some thought to clerical garb. We also intend to continue collecting rosaries for Frater Gastor to have on hand when he visits the villages of his future parish. Jennifer Kerns, TOF has already made several beautiful rosaries that will certainly be put to good and holy use. Please, in your kindness, continue to create rosaries for our good Frater Gastor! They do not need to be made of expensive materials. Ms. T. O. Bennett from WILB Catholic Radio will hand deliver our gifts when she attends the Ordination, so we will need to have the gifts ready by the June Gathering at the latest! Also, see Bob Burtscher, TOF if you wish to make monetary donations, which are also very welcome, by the June Gathering.



We ended our February Gathering with prayer for our bishops, parish priests, Frater Gastor and all the seminarians of Borromeo and St. Mary Seminary in Cleveland (which educates men of the Cleveland and Youngstown Dioceses, as well as Franciscan seminarians), as well as our personal prayers for our shut-in and ill members and all our needs. We then finished out with our ritual prayer, and received Fr. Vit's blessing until we meet again on March 21 – same time, same place!

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

Date	Description	Petty Cash	Expenses
	St. Nicholas Byzantine Church		-\$150.00
	Spiritual Director		-\$435.00
	Newsletter, Office Supplies, Postage, Paper		-\$628.84
	OLCA Shrine Donations (Investiture)		-\$110.00
	Scapulars (26 + 11)		-\$119.23
	Investiture Luncheon		-\$107.00
	Gathering (Food 12/20/20)		-\$60.00
	Day of Recollection		-\$250.00
	Queen of Heaven (Investiture, Picnic)		-\$75.00
	Candles and Formation copies		-\$87.47
	St. Raphael Book Store (voter guides)		-\$15.00
	TOTAL COMMON FUND:		\$2,834.20
12/31/2020	TOTAL EXPENSES:		-\$2,037.54
12/31/2020	BALANCE:	\$796.66	

Date	Common Fund	Monthly-In	Expense	Balance
1/31/2020		\$301.00	\$50.00	\$251.00
2/29/2020	\$251.00	\$290.50	\$90.00	\$451.50
3/31/2020	\$451.50	\$8.00	\$70.00	\$389.50
4/30/2020	\$389.50	\$50.00	\$000	\$439.50
5/31/2020	\$439.50	\$69.70	\$55.00	\$454.20
6/30/2020	\$454.20	\$369.00	\$157.47	\$665.73
7/31/2020	\$665.73	\$40.00	\$312.73	\$393.00
8/31/2020	\$393.00	\$400.00	\$185.00	\$608.00
9/30/2020	\$608.00	\$355.00	\$140.00	\$823.00
10/31/2020	\$823.00	\$381.00	\$356.98	\$847.02
11/30/2020	\$847.02	\$190.00	\$560.36	\$476.66
12/31/2020	\$476.66	\$380.,00	\$60.00	\$796.66

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!

Equality Act

Our bishops, including Bishop Bonnar of Youngstown, Bishop Malesic of Cleveland, and Bishop Lach of the Eparchy of Parma, have asked us to support their opposition to the Equality Act, which is in defiance of Church teaching. Our bishops say the Act would discriminate against people of faith and threaten unborn life. We join with our bishops to oppose this legislation. Call Senators Rob Portman and Sherrod Brown as soon as possible. Let them know we join with our bishops opposing the Equality Act and thank them for serving the public. Please consider contacting your congressman to encourage him or her to vote **against** it.

Just a Reminder

- We are blessed to use the St. Nicholas facility for our monthly gatherings, and we are grateful. Out of respect for the facility guidelines and the current State of Ohio mandate, we ask our members to wear masks during the gathering, and at any time they are inside any of the St. Nicholas buildings, in order to protect ourselves and each other. See you March 21!
- For the months of March, June, September, and December, all our members will receive both The Troubadour and Il Poverello. The Troubadour is the quarterly newsletter of the Tertiaries of the Immaculate Conception Province of the OFM – which means our fraternity, the Padre Pio fraternity (Youngstown), and Our Lady of America fraternity (Ashtabula). Il Poverello is the monthly newsletter of the SS. Francis and Clare Fraternity. They will be released a few days apart on the months noted above.

Save the Date (March, the Month of the St. Joseph)

March 13	Novice Retreat at Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted
March 21	Gathering at St. Nicholas at 1:30 PM
June 5	Profession at Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted
August 15	Picnic
September 6	Franciscan Hike
November 13	Day of Recollection



PRAY



FAST



GIVE