

April, 2021

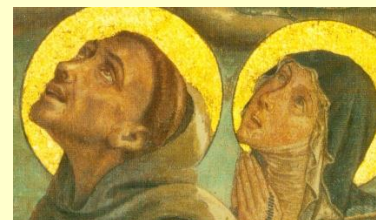
Volume 2, Issue 4

Il Poverello

The newsletter of the SS Francis and Clare Fraternity
of the Third Order of St. Francis

*O holy Father, protect those in Your name (John 17:11) whom You have given to me
in the world; they were Yours and You have given them to me. (John 17:6)
And the words which You gave to me I have given to them...*
St. Francis of Assisi

www.thirdorderfranciscans.com



Council Update

The Fraternity Council had a long discussion regarding the current mask mandate in the State of Ohio at our last council meeting.

It was voted to ask our members to please mask while at the Gathering. For those who are exempt or unable to mask, please contact any member of council (Bob Burtscher, TOF; Roberto Meza, TOF; Larry McNutt, TOF; or Pepe Ventosa, TOF), and we will make further accommodations.

We thank you for the charity you extend to others in cooperating with this request until the mandate is lifted.

Saint Francis and Saint Clare Fraternity Council



Fraternity Council

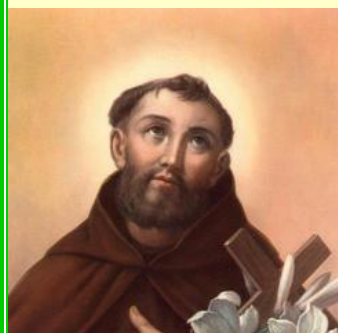
Robert Burtscher, TOF
– Minister
Roberto Meza, TOF
– Vice-Minister
Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM
– Spiritual Director
Larry McNutt, TOF
– Secretary
Pepe Ventosa, TOF –
Councilor
Debbie Ventosa, TOF
– Formation Director
Susan Kramer, TOF
– Newsletter

**Next Gathering –
Sunday, April 18
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



*“Woe to me if I should prove myself but a halfhearted soldier in
the service of my thorn-crowned Captain,”*

**St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, OFM Cap. (1577-1622)
Feast Day – April 24
Priest, Evangelist, Confessor, 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.*

April Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

None this month!



Birthdays

Bill Marshall, TOF – 4/7

Betty DeMarco, TOF – 4/17

Nettie Miller – 4/30

Stand for Life

Joanne Angeletti, TOF and Carol Perrine, TOF will represent the fraternity April 17 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.**

Novice Pre-Profession Retreat – submitted by Debbie Ventosa, TOF

Beginning with the 9 am mass at Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted Shrine in Youngstown, novices and formation teams from the three TOF fraternities in the province attended our first pre-profession retreat. The title of the retreat was “Franciscan Tertiaries: Longing for Perfection While Living in the World”. A talk by Fr. Vit outlining the gift of a Franciscan vocation and challenges ahead of how to live out the call of a Franciscan tertiary followed Mass. Confession and one hour of Eucharistic adoration was available in the church. A boxed lunch, Mid-day prayer and Lectio Divina began our afternoon session. Rose Akins, TOF, shared a heartfelt look into Profession and the commitment to live the Gospel

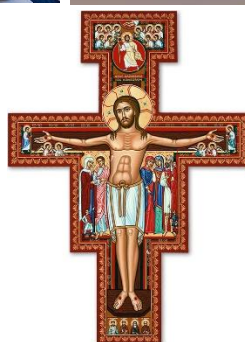
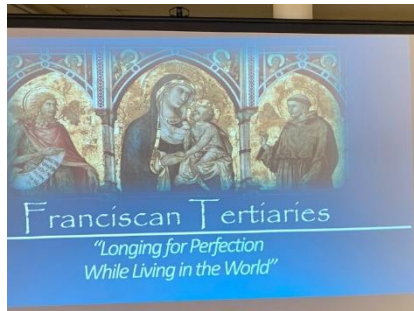
life, with her personal witness of the seriousness with which she approached her profession. Debbie Ventosa, TOF, in her talk titled “Profession: Not an End but a Means to Reach Perfection”, outlined the importance of growth in the spiritual life using the exercises of religion along with other aids as outlined in TOF documents. Time for small group discussions and reflective writing were available for participants.

←Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM

Fr. Ryan Furlong→

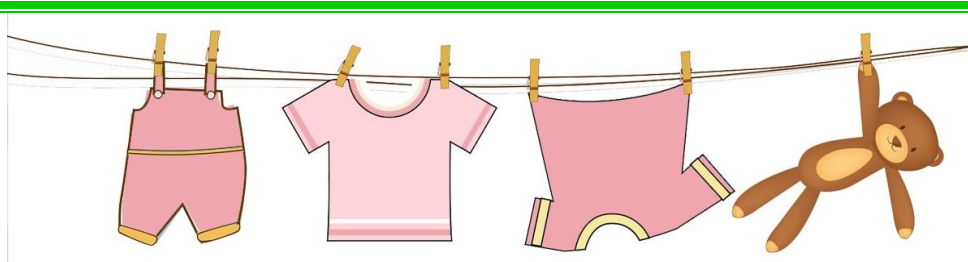


Please continue to pray for our novices as they approach Permanent Profession.



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 8 Novices from our fraternity in formation, along with 1 from Our Lady of America and 5 from Padre Pio, including Fr. Ryan – we are abundantly blessed!!! More details later – keep praying for our Novices!



Baby Shower Invitation!

Who? Matt and Jess Poletti are expecting a baby girl, Caroline Elise, due July 4

When? May 16 Gathering at 1:30 PM, St. Nicholas Byzantine Church

What to Bring? An item from the gift registry, individually or Franciscans can go

together to purchase - www.amazon.com/baby-reg/matthew-poletti-jessica-poletti-july-2021-middlebranch/3E2VQ22OPXMYZ

How? As Franciscans, we will gift anonymously if possible.

Monetary gifts are also welcome.

April's Exercise Challenge

Submitted by Pepe Ventosa, TOF

Studying the writings of St. Francis is an essential part of our formation. In these we can learn firsthand the spirituality of our holy Father Francis, helping us to "live in the midst of the world in the spirit of Christian penance" (ref. Const. Art 21).

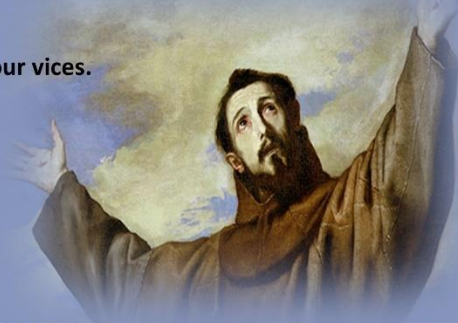
One of these writings is "The Admonitions". Although written for his brothers to address spiritual conflicts they were facing in the beginnings of the Order, this set of 28 exhortations are of great benefit to us today as we learn to deal, in the spirit of St. Francis, with our own spiritual shortcomings.

Admonition #27 brings out the importance of developing virtue in conquering our vices.

Admonition #27

How virtue drives out vice

- Where there is charity and wisdom, there is neither fear nor ignorance.
- Where there is patience and humility, there is neither anger nor disturbance.
- Where there is poverty with joy, there is neither covetousness nor avarice.
- Where there is inner peace and meditation, there is neither anxiousness nor dissipation.
- Where there is fear of the Lord to guard the house (cf. Lk. 11:21), there the enemy cannot gain entry.
- Where there is mercy and discernment, there is neither excess nor hardness of heart.



Would you take the April Exercise Challenge and, after prayerfully and humbly discerning your spiritual conflict (or vice) in Admonition #27, train this month on developing the virtue Father Francis recommends for you?

Lord, It Is Good for Us to Be Together!

We met for our gathering on Sunday, March 21 at St. Nicholas, with 35 members present, including Fred Kramer and Annie Butts, our Franciscan affiliates, and several members who were with us virtually. These included Larry and Lucy McNutt, TOF; Roberto and Maria Elena Meza, TOF; Ericka Witover, TOF, and Linda Menser, TOF. We joyfully welcomed several visitors: Carol Cook, OFS and Bernadette Raymond from Wooster St. Mary, and Inquirers Margaret Artino from Barberton St. Augustine, Lori and Jeff Zimmer from North Canton St. Paul, and Kathy McCausland (Mary Dye's sister-in-law) and her two children from Akron St. Sebastian.

We began with the opening ritual prayer, and then Liturgy of the Hours, led by Kenny Green, TOF, Eileen Dunlap, TOF, and Rick Dunlap, TOF. And then, on to Lectio Divina, which was the Gospel of the day, read by Bob Burtscher, TOF. We shared what spoke to us from the readings with our partners, and then prayed together.

Ongoing Formation was led by Cindy Russo, TOF, who spoke on Chapter 1, Article 3 of the Constitution of the Franciscan Third Order – "This life can be perfectly lived only in the union of the mystical Body of Christ, in which the tertiaries are intimately united by their profession. Hence, joined together by Gospel charity, they should zealously foster a family spirit both in their own fraternity and in the whole Order, and thus prove themselves a true community."

Cindy discussed on how we foster a family spirit, not only in our families, but in our fraternity, and how this relates to the concept of the Mystical Body of Christ. The Christian Church is a spiritual extension of Christ's body. Jesus is the head of our Fraternity (and of our Church). We help one another just as

Simon the Cyrene helped Jesus carry His cross on His way to Calvary. And we help one another to heaven – in our families and in our fraternity.

After Cindy finished her talk, we prayed Grace and ate our bagged lunches as we solved the crossword puzzle Cindy gave us, with clues from her talk. Afterward, we shared the answers with the entire group.

Saints Cosmas and Damian in Twinsburg was selected for our food pantry collection, and parishioner Leslie Ann Magda delivered it.

Joanne Angeletti, TOF and Carol Perrine, TOF will represent the fraternity at the Stand for Life at the abortion clinic in Cuyahoga Falls.

Cindy Russo, TOF prepared the Little Portion for the poor, which was delivered by Kenny Green, TOF and Bob Burtscher, TOF. Carol Perrine, TOF will prepare the Little Portion for the April Gathering.

The Infirmary Report was delivered by Bob Burtscher, TOF and Roberto Meza, TOF. The Hurleys are doing well, but ask that we continue to pray for their great-grandson, Jude, who has leukemia. Elizabeth Francis, TOF is keeping busy volunteering at Robinson Memorial Hospital in Ravenna. Betty Smith is recovering after a hospital stay. Dorothy Takacs, OFS is doing well and is in the care of her children. Sandy Pollino, OFS is in great need of prayer. She is caring for her mother, Angie, who is unwell, and Sandy is suffering from health challenges of her own. Betty DeMarco, TOF is in good spirits, and is awaiting her turn for the vaccine. We need to keep all these brothers and sisters in our prayers, as well as all those afflicted by the pandemic.

At this point, we offered intercessory prayers for several from our membership. These included Frater Gastor and all the diocesan and Franciscan seminarians at Borromeo Seminary in Cleveland, our families, for the healing of the victims of abortion, for the intentions and spiritual and physical protection of our bishops and parish priests, and for the poor souls in purgatory.

We concluded with the ritual prayers for the end of the Gathering. Our next Gathering will be on April 18, same time (1:30 PM) and same place (St. Nicholas Byzantine Church).

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 in the Fall. 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 (202) 224-3353 and Sherrod Brown (216) 522-7272 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

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) as well as all isolated tertiaries. The 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 (April, the Month of the Blessed Sacrament)

April 18	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

Memorare of St. Joseph

Remember, O most chaste spouse of the Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who implored your help and sought your intercession were left unassisted. Full of confidence in your power, I fly unto you and beg your protection. Despise not, O Guardian of the Redeemer, my humble supplication, but in your bounty, hear and answer me. Amen.

