

May, 2021

Volume 2, Issue 5

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



Something to Consider

From Called to Commitment by Gervais Asby, OFM Cap., Hubert Delesty, OFM, Cap, and Basile Chaignat, OFM, Cap.



Wanting no other defender for the spiritual and temporal interests of his Order, Francis chose Mary as the only “Advocate” of the Friars Minor. His idea was that Mary would stand up for them before the Lord, take care of them, and protect them in all the difficulties and crises they would encounter.

On our part, this calls for joy in the knowledge we have been placed by Francis himself under the powerful protection of the Mother of God.

Let us therefore have recourse to her with the greatest confidence, precisely because we have been admitted to the Franciscan family so dear to her heart. Let us go to her in all our difficulties, in all our sorrows, and in all our joys as well; let us take everything to her: personal matters, family affairs, and financial troubles; practical problems and academic ones – let us place them all in her hands and implore her to preserve us in the Franciscan life we have chosen. Like St. Francis, let us get into the habit of reciting the Hail, Holy Queen with fervor and confidence. And let us be faithful in our daily recitation of “The Angelus”.

Fraternity Council

Roberto Meza, TOF
– Acting Minister
Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM
– Spiritual Director
Larry McNutt, TOF
– Secretary
Pepe Ventosa, TOF –
Councilor
Debbie Ventosa, TOF
– Formation Director
Mary Dye – Council Helper
Susan Kramer, TOF
– Newsletter

Next Gathering –

Sunday, May 19

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!**

Catholic Quote of the Month

*“To live without faith, without a heritage to defend,
without battling constantly for truth, is not to live but to ‘get along’;
we must never just ‘get along’.”*

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati (1901-1925) Feast Day – July 4
**Patron of Students, Young Catholics, Mountaineers, Youth Groups,
Catholic Action Movement, Dominican Tertiaries, & World Youth Day**



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.

May Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

Kenny Green, TOF; Pepe Ventosa, TOF;
Rose Zaratsian, TOF – 23 Years

Eileen & Rick Dunlap, TOF; Susan Kramer,
TOF; Larry & Lucy McNutt, TOF – 6 years



Birthdays

Mary Dye – 5/23

Stand for Life

Robert Burtscher, TOF and Matt Polleti will represent the fraternity May 18 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.**

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. Be sure to RSVP to Mary Dye for a boxed lunch. Please consider a donation of \$10 to our fraternity to cover the costs of lunch. This may be included in the Common Fund of the May Gathering. 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!



Third Order Rule and Constitution

Contact any member of Council for hard copies of our Rule and Constitution. Both are available on our website (www.thirdorderfranciscans.com), but if you do not have computer access, Council will be happy to provide you with printed copies.

Mix it Up!



Do you find yourself always sitting with the same fraternity brothers and sisters at the Gathering? Well, it's time to mix it up!

We have been blessed with the presence of newcomers to our monthly gatherings, who may at some point want to join us. Because they are visitors and fellow Catholics, we must make every effort to be hospitable and welcoming to everyone.

It is wonderful to be able to catch up with beloved friends, but we need to spread the love and reach out to get to know others outside of our own circle of acquaintances!

Acting Minister

Bob Burtscher, TOF has recently found it necessary to step back from his duties as Minister because of personal reasons which require his time and attention. Roberto Meza, has stepped up from Vice-Minister to carry on with leadership of the fraternity. Gracias, Roberto!

In your kindness, please pray for both Bob and Roberto as they move forward on the path God has set for them!

Mary Dye has generously agreed to assist as "Council Helper". We are grateful her help with organizing and tying up loose ends. We appreciate her "Fiat!"

Requiescat in Pace

Our beloved sister, Betty Smith, died April 30 at the age of 85. Betty was a long-time member of both our fraternity and St. Francis de Sales Parish in Coventry Township. She was kind, soft-spoken, and gentle in imitation of St. Clare. Several fraternity members prayed the Wake Service graveside. May Jesus send His angels to accompany Betty on the next leg of her journey to heaven.

Upcoming Elections

Council has named Joanne Angeletti, TOF as coordinator of our upcoming elections in the Fall, and she has graciously accepted.

If you want to nominate yourself or others for any Council position, please contact Joanne. Positions are open to any professed member, including the incoming June profession class.

Remember – serving the fraternity on Council does not show a lack of humility. To the contrary, it speaks of the brother's or sister's dedication to serving the fraternity and his or her brothers and sisters in a position of servant. Don't be shy – give it some thought!

May Exercise of Religion

The very heart of Franciscan devotion to Mary: “The Poverello glorifies Mary because she has brought the infinite majesty of God close to us, because she has placed God within our grasp.” This quote is taken from *Call to Commitment in the School of St. Francis*.

With May being the Month in Honor of Our Lady, our fraternity encourages those who will not be at the May Gathering to either join virtually as we pray the yearly Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary or participate privately as time allows this month. Those at the May Gathering will participate in honoring Our Lady as a community by praying the consecration.

The consecration prayers can be found on the website.



Article 68. Every year in the month of January or June, each fraternity shall publicly make or renew its solemn consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and in the month of May or December, its consecration to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, using the approved prayers.

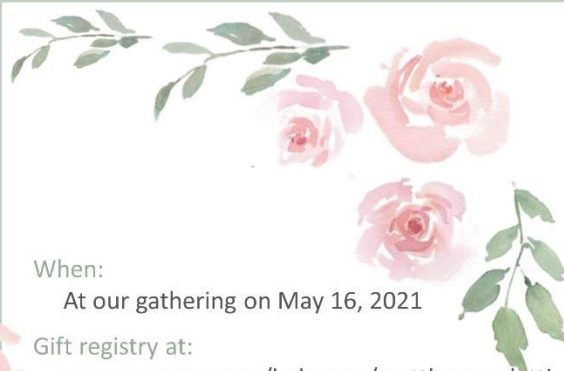
Please join us for a

Franciscan Baby Shower

for Matt and Jess Poletti, proud
parents of little

Caroline Elise Poletti

Expected arrival: July 4, 2021



When:

At our gathering on May 16, 2021

Gift registry at:

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

Can purchase gift individually or together with
other members if so desired.

As Franciscans, we will give anonymously, so
please do not include gift tags.

Monetary donations are also welcome.

Lord, It Is Good for Us to Be Together!

We met for our gathering on Sunday, April 18 at St. Nicholas Byzantine Church, with 32 members present, including Fr. Vit, Annie Butts and Fred Kramer, several Inquirers, and our Franciscan affiliates, and several members who were with us virtually. These included Larry and Lucy McNutt, TOF; and Ericka Witover, TOF.

We began with the opening ritual prayer, and then Liturgy of the Hours, led by Kenny Green, TOF. And then, on to Lectio Divina, which was the Gospel of the day, which was on Jesus visiting His apostles before His Ascension. It was read by Pepe Ventosa, TOF. We shared what spoke to us from the readings with our partners, and then prayed together.

Ongoing Formation was led by Carol Perrine, TOF, who spoke on Section 1, Article 4 of the Constitution of the Franciscan Third Order – “It is the duty of the Third Order, as a leaven of the Gospel perfection put into the world, to give stability and strength to Christian life within the Church, and to maintain and spread Christ’s kingdom by setting before others a pattern of genuine holiness.”

Carol pointed out that, as tertiaries, “we are bound to service” through our profession if we “desire to live a life of perfection.” All St. Francis’s followers wanted what he had – his joy in his vocation of serving God, imitating Jesus, and serving the poor, both the needy and the poor in spirit. As a result of this, St. Francis established the OFM (the First Order), the Poor Clares (the Second Order), and the Third Order, which is specifically for his lay followers.

Carol discussed how we can constantly pray and have Jesus in our hearts and minds. Breathe in and pray, “Jesus”. Then breathe out and pray, “I love you.” And also, the traditional Byzantine prayer, inhale

“Lord Jesus, Son of the Living God”, then exhale “Have mercy on me, a sinner.” (Note from the editor – this is also helpful when one has difficulty getting to sleep – to inhale and exhale deeply as we pray.)

Carol then taught we serve as leaven for the Gospel. She encouraged us to read the Gospel and meditate on it every day, whether we attend Mass that day or not. And then perhaps to extend our time with Scripture to read further into the New and Old Testaments, much as we do when we practice Lectio Divina.

When we know the Gospel, we can then put it into practice with confidence. Perfection of our understanding of the Gospel develops the best version of ourselves, and people around us will recognize we are changed by our actions. As St. Francis teaches, we will be proclaiming the Gospel without words.

Carol said human virtues and theological virtues give stability and strength to a Christian’s life within the Church. The goal to a virtuous life is to become like God, and our imitation of St. Francis, who, by extension, imitated Jesus, gives us a guide in this ambition.

We continued to discuss Carol’s teaching as we enjoyed our lunches, and discussed the questions Carol gave us. The common question was to name one or two behaviors we plan to do to achieve holiness.

Father Vit then continued with his thoughts to ponder. We can learn about God in creation, but the only attribute of God that we cannot find in creation is His holiness. Through the Incarnation, in the Person of Jesus we can now see the holiness of God.

Maria Elena Meza, TOF delivered the Infirmarian Report. She asks that we pray for our shut-ins and excused, including Pat and Deanna Hurley, OFS, Sandy Pollino, OFS, Bob Burtscher, TOF, Betty DeMarco, TOF, Dorothy Takacs, OFS, and Elizabeth Francis, TOF. Sandy Pollino very much enjoyed the card we sent, but continues to struggle with caring for her mother while dealing with her own health challenges.

Please RSVP to Mary Dye by May 23 for the upcoming Profession on June 5 at the Shrine in Youngstown. Mass will be at 2 PM, with a reception to follow.

Ericka Witover is on the Isolated Tertiary Formation Team, which will start April 29. Fr. Dennis Arambasick, OFM will also lend his guidance and wisdom with Isolated Tertiary Formation. We are blessed, indeed!

As a reminder, our June Gathering will be the Profession on June 5 in Youngstown. We hope as many as possible will be able to attend.

Mike Butts, TOF will deliver the food pantry offering to St. Mary in Wooster.

Chris and LeeAnn Devore, TOF are currently in possession of the St. Angela Merici relic, and Cathy McCausland is in possession of the St. Frances Xavier Cabrini relic.

We will have a baby shower for the Polletis at the May Gathering. They are expecting their little girl, Caroline, on July 4. Please refer to the baby shower invitation which appears in this edition of the newsletter for further details.

Our Rule and Constitution are both available on the website (www.thirdorderfranciscans.com). If you don't have computer access, please contact anyone on Council. Council will be glad to provide hard copies on request.

Mary Cate Roberts, TOF will prepare the Little Portion for the May Gathering, and Matt Polleti will deliver it.

Bob Burtscher, TOF and Matt Polleti will represent the fraternity for the Stand for Life on May 18.

At future Gatherings, please consider sitting with different fraternity members. Our membership is growing, thanks be to God, and we need to get to know one another better. We do not want anyone feel like a stranger in our fraternity!

At this point, we prayed for our country and for other countries, especially those in danger of COVID, and particularly for the victims of abortion. We also prayed for Deacon Gastor Bahati and the seminarians at St. Mary Seminary and Borromeo Seminary in Cleveland, which serve both the Cleveland and Youngstown Dioceses. We remembered as well our parish priests, including Fr. Frank Basa of Akron St. Bernard who will be celebrating his 50th Jubilee in May, and our bishops and their intentions. We also prayed for the soul of Fr. William Karg, who was pastor of Akron St. Sebastian for many years, and who died in April.

We then prayed for more personal intentions, which included Bill Marshall's brother, Eileen Dunlap's daughter, our beloved isolated tertiaries, Rose Zaratsian's brother, and the mentally challenged. And we all are asked to remember to pray for Bob Burtscher, TOF, who stepped down as minister for personal reasons, as well as Roberto Meza, TOF, who stepped up to act as Minister until we hold elections. Both brothers have served us well, and we ask for God's blessings on them both.

We ended the April Gathering with our ritual prayer, a blessing from Fr. Vit, and a reminder that our next Gathering will be May 19, same time (1:30 PM), and same place (St. Nicholas Byzantine Church in Barberton).

Save the Date (May, the Month of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

May 19	May Gathering (St. Nicholas Byzantine Church)
June 5	Profession at Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted (June Gathering)
August 15	Picnic
September 6	Franciscan Hike
November 13	Day of Recollection

*The fruit of silence is prayer.
The fruit of prayer is faith.
The fruit of faith is love.
The fruit of love is service.
And the fruit of service is peace.*



*St. Teresa of Calcutta (1910-1997)
Founder of Missionaries of Charity;
Servant of the Church and of the Poor and Dying
Feast Day - September 5*