

June, 2021

Volume 2, Issue 6

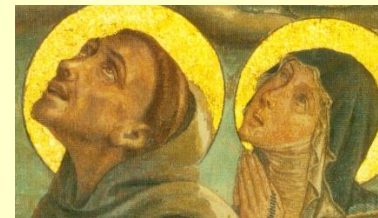
# Il Poverello

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



## Something to Consider

In Catholic tradition, the month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We are reminded of the unfailing mercy of Jesus to those who follow Him and do their best to follow His example and His guidance will sustain us in times of confusion, pain, and distraction from worldly vices. And that Jesus will never abandon those who honor His Sacred Heart.

St. John Chrysostom had this to say about the devotion to the Sacred Heart: *"Beloved, do not pass over this mystery without thought: it has yet another hidden meaning, which I will explain to you. I said that water and blood symbolized Baptism and the Holy Eucharist. From these two Sacraments the Church is born: from Baptism, the cleansing water that gives rebirth and renewal through the Holy Spirit, and from the Holy Eucharist. Since the symbols of Baptism and the Eucharist flowed from His side, it was from His side that Christ fashioned the Church, as he had fashioned Eve from the side of Adam...As God took a rib from Adam's side to fashion a woman, so Christ has given us blood and water from His side to fashion the Church. God took the rib when Adam was in a deep sleep, and in the same way, Christ gave us the blood and water after His own death."*

When we invite Jesus to live in our own hearts, He guides our lives in His Way. We find the inspiration to die to self and to truly love others by His example of agape, which is God's perfect and unconditional love.

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## 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, June 6**

**2:00 PM**

**Our Lady Comforter of the  
Afflicted Shrine**

**517 S. Belle Vista Ave.  
Youngstown, OH 44509**

## Catholic Quote of the Month

***"Actions speak louder than words.  
Let your words speak and your actions preach."***

**St. Anthony of Padua, OFM (1195-1231)      Feast Day – June 13**  
**Priest, Hammer of Heretics, Teacher,  
Doctor of the Church**



## 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.**

## June Anniversaries and Birthdays

### Profession Anniversaries

Mike Butts, TOF – 17 Years



### Birthdays

Elizabeth Francis, TOF – 6/13

Susan Kramer, TOF – 6/29

## Stand for Life

Rose Akins, TOF and Matt Poletti will represent the fraternity June 19 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 Novices is approaching! Mass of Profession will be at 2 PM. Novices from our TOF community, Our Lady of America (Ashtabula), Padre Pio (Youngstown) and SS Francis and Clare will profess together. We will celebrate on Saturday, June 5 at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted in Youngstown. We have 7 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!!! See you Saturday!



### **Third Order Rule and Constitution**

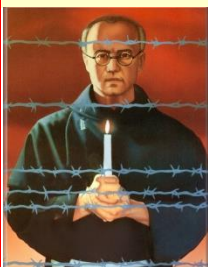
Contact any member of Council for hard copies of our Rule and Constitution. Both are available on our website ([www.thirdorderfranciscans.com](http://www.thirdorderfranciscans.com)), but if you do not have computer access, Council will be happy to provide you with printed copies.

### **Ohio House Bill 248 Information**

Currently in the State of Ohio, an important piece of legislation is being discussed, House Bill 248. The Bill is to enact Section 3792.02 of the Revised Code to authorize an individual to decline a vaccination and to name this act the Vaccine Choice and Anti-Discrimination Act.

Please familiarize yourself with this Bill and the importance of protecting an individual's right to conscientious objection. Notify your Ohio House Representative is so prompted.

### **St. Maximilian Kolbe Ministry to the Imprisoned**



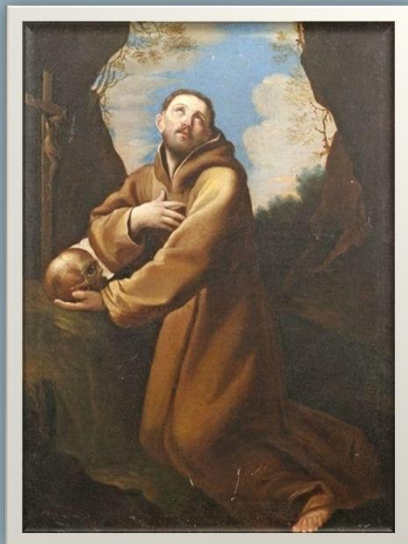
Catholic Bibles were delivered to a Southern Ohio corrections institution in May. The prison chaplain expressed his gratitude to the fraternity, and will distribute the Bibles as soon as possible. This happened because of your generosity in donating your spare change to the St. Maximilian Kolbe Ministry to the Imprisoned – thank you for your charitable offering, which may serve to save souls from despair and inspire hope!

### **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!

## UPCOMING FRANCISCAN RETREAT



Our Community of Franciscan Tertiaries have been invited to the upcoming annual retreat of the Confraternity Of Penitents (CFP).

The CFP is a canonically established private association of the faithful whose members live their Franciscan vocation by following the Rule of 1221, written for the Brothers and Sisters of Penance. They live this by following their constitutions which adapts this early Rule for living in today's society.

This would be a great opportunity to meet other followers of St. Francis called to live by an earlier Rule.

**Topic: Fatima, Penance and the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rule of 1221 for the**

**Laity: *How Living Our Rule Fulfills the Requests of Our Lady of Fatima***

**Retreat Master:** Fr. Joseph Tuscan, OFM Cap

**Date:** October 13-17, 2021

**Place:** St. Felix Retreat Center, Huntington, IN

**Cost:** \$195 plus either an additional \$15 or else \$15 worth of food and/or paper goods. Deposit is \$50

For more information please contact: [franciscanthirdorderpenitents.com](http://franciscanthirdorderpenitents.com)

### ***Exercise of Religion for June***

Article 68: Every year in the month of January or of June, each fraternity will 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. With it being the month of June, our June Exercise of Religion will be to participate in the Consecration at the Profession on June 5. If you are unable to attend the Profession, please privately pray the Consecration.

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

We met for our gathering on Sunday, May 16 at St. Nicholas Byzantine Church, with 30 members present, including Fr. Vit, Annie Butts and Fred Kramer, several Inquirers, 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. And then, on to Lectio Divina, which was the Gospel of the day, which was on the Feast of the Ascension. We shared what spoke to us from the readings with our partners, and then prayed together.

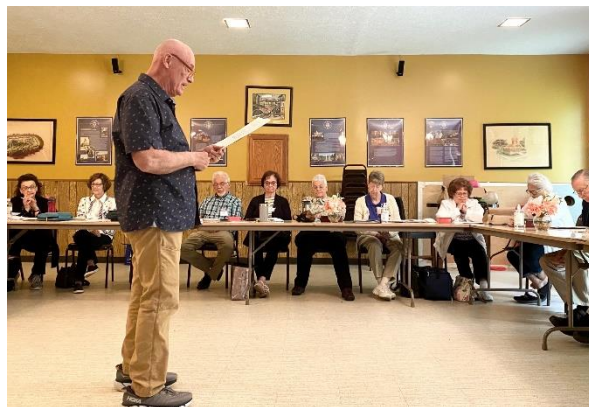
Ongoing Formation was led by Rick Dunlap, TOF, who spoke on Section 1, Article 5 of the Constitution of the Franciscan Third Order – “Therefore, the Tertiaries, instructed and trained in the Gospel life, which is truly apostolic, should imitate in their own daily lives their Seraphic Father, who did not think himself of Christ if he did not devote himself to the souls redeemed by him.”

Rick explained that our goal as Tertiaries is to strive for Christian perfection. Although we are imperfect, we all have a desire for perfection within our own individual stations in life. Our ultimate goal is to perfectly conform our lives to the Gospel.



St. Francis became totally involved physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually in the Word. The Gospel helped Francis move closer in love to Christ. We Franciscans do not presume to know the Gospel completely, nor do we implement it with perfection – but we keep trying,

If we only read the Gospel and never apply it, we become hypocrites with big words and small actions, simply going through the motions. Our Rule of fraternity life is to nudge us to go from Gospel to life and life to Gospel. Being trained in the Gospel, we continue to grow in our knowledge, and most importantly, the implementation, day after day.



To be apostolic means putting our Faith into practice daily, which can be done in many ways, including participation in our own fraternity apostolates of feeding the poor, praying at abortion clinics, participating in prison ministry, and spending time in Adoration and Confession. It also means beginning our day with prayer, Mass, and offering ourselves to God, for Him to use us to further His Kingdom, and to do it willingly.

Rick prepared questions for our group discussions during our snack break, which we discussed afterward.

Roberto Meza, TOF, who is our Acting Minister, kept us up to date with a variety of information:

1. Roberto reminded us he is accepting donations of rosaries for Deacon Gastor Bahati, the seminarian we have been sponsoring in the Diocese of Moshi, Tanzania. It is customary for African priests to offer rosaries to their parishioners during their visitations. Deacon Gastor, with the grace of God, will be ordained in August. At this point, we have collected 880 rosaries. Special thanks to Jennifer Kerns, TOF for making many beautiful rosaries, some in the national colors of Tanzania. Ms. T. O. Bennett will be attending the Ordination and will deliver our gift to him.
2. Mike Butts, TOF generously donated his late father's crucifix for Deacon Gastor's Ordination, which Fr. Vit blessed.
3. A baby shower for Matt and Jessica Poletti took place during our lunch break. They are expecting a daughter, Caroline, who has a July 4 due date.
4. There will be no Little Portion for June, since we will meet in Youngstown for the Profession and Investiture. Jim and Nettie Miller will prepare the Little Portion in July, with Chris Devore, TOF delivering it.
5. Rose Akins, TOF and Matt Poletti will represent the fraternity for the Stand for Life in June. Bill Marshall, TOF will represent in July. A replacement is needed for Debbie Ventosa, TOF, who will be unable to pair with Bill in July due to upcoming surgery. Please contact Debbie if you can help.
6. Bill Marshall, TOF is scheduled to lead us in Ongoing Formation in July.

After the break, Fr. Vit discussed Apostolic Life for the Tertiary. Just as in current times, in the days of the Apostles, there were many political movements. After the Apostles witnessed the Resurrection, the Faith spread. Different ideologies developed alongside Christianity.

Father explained the different loves. Eros is the love of human desire. Agape, which is unselfish love, is spoken of in Scripture and describes God. God's love for us is agape. God comes as a beggar, Who

comes to our hearts and asks us to love Him. God is powerless in His relationship with us. He cannot make us love Him. He wants to freely love Him.

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. Maria Elena reported that there were seven Franciscans who held wake services for Betty Smith.

Roberto recognized Mary Dye for functioning as Council Helper during this very busy and evolving time in our fraternity. Mary has been doing a lot of work behind the scenes, helping to prepare for Profession Day (which will include her!) and being of help in various ways for Council. We are very grateful for her hard work!

Council elections are expected to take place in September or October. Please see Joanne Angeletti, TOF if you are interested in submitting your name for a position or nominate another professed member (be sure the nominee is agreeable to being nominated first, though!)

The St. Angela Merici relic is in the custody of Jim and Nettie Miller. Cathy McCausland remains in possession of the St. Frances Xavier Cabrini relic.

Leslie Ann Magda delivered the food pantry collection to SS. Cosmas and Damian Parish in Twinsburg.

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, and our bishops and their intentions. We also prayed for the Friars of the Immaculate Conception Province of the OFM, their community, Fr. Campagna, OFM (their Provincial Minister) and religious vocations.

We completed our prayers with the annual Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

We ended the May Gathering with our ritual prayer, a blessing from Fr. Vit, and a reminder that our next Gathering will be June 5 at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted in Youngstown for the Profession and Investiture at 2:00 PM.

### ***Save the Date (June, the Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus)***

June 5	Profession at Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted (June Gathering)
July 18	Gathering at St. Nicholas Byzantine Church, 1:30 PM
August 15	Picnic at Queen of Heaven (Uniontown) Pavilion
September 6	Franciscan Hike
October 13-17	Retreat with Confraternity of Penitents (Huntington, Indiana)
November 13	Day of Recollection

# THE 12 PROMISES

## of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

*Our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to St. Margaret Mary between 1673-1675. Among the words spoken to her, she heard Jesus make 12 promises to those who would respond to the pleading of His Heart and make an effort to return His love.*

*St. Margaret Mary once said, "I do not know of any other exercise in the spiritual life that is more calculated to raise a soul in a short amount of time to the height of perfection and to make it taste the true sweetness to be found in the service of Jesus Christ."*



- 1-. I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.
2. I will establish peace in their homes.
3. I will comfort them in all their afflictions.
4. I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all, in death.
5. I will bestow abundant blessings upon all their undertakings.
6. Sinners will find in My Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.
7. Lukewarm souls shall become fervent.
8. Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection.
9. I will bless every place in which an image of My Heart is exposed and honored.
10. I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
11. Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart.
12. I promise you in the excessive mercy of My Heart that My all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Fridays in nine consecutive months the grace of final perseverance; they shall not die in My disgrace, nor without receiving their sacraments. My divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.