

Summer, 2021

Volume 2, Issue 2

The Troubadour

Newsletter of the Franciscan Tertiaries of
the Province of the Immaculate Conception



Our Franciscan Progress

The month of June 2021 marks the culmination of study and dedication of all three fraternities professing Novices, the Investiture of several Isolated Tertiaries and instruction of new Isolated Tertiaries for the Province of the Immaculate Conception.

On June 5th, 13 Novices of the three fraternities Professed into the Order! This followed two and a half years of diligent study, prayer, trust, and hope. The Profession class was understanding as they were instructed with a new curriculum that was developed for the Third Order Franciscan Rule of 1883. The members who professed enjoyed learning the Admonitions and Rule of 1883 as well as the various exercises of religion to help them grow in holiness as they enter this "school of Christian perfection... the TOF." Many thanks to those who helped, taught, encouraged and sponsored our new brothers and sisters along the way.

Inquiries on the website are frequent with individuals seeking information on the TOF. Several Isolated Tertiaries have been Invested and are meeting monthly via Zoom to learn and strengthen each other in this virtual community.

There is also a new initial formation virtual class for the TOF currently in progress with a couple in Florida currently enrolled.

As we move forward into the future we continue to rely on the grace of Our Lord, the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the example of our seraphic Father Francis as we walk along the pathway toward the will of God as a community. May God continue to bless and protect our Spiritual Director, our fraternity leaders, and each member of the TOF.

Spiritual Director

Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM
Shrine of
Our Lady Comforter
of the Afflicted, Youngstown

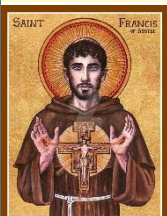


Editor

Susan Kramer, TOF

Franciscan Quote for Summer, 2021

*"We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart,
and to bring home those who have lost their way"*



St. Francis of Assisi – Salesman, Soldier, Deacon, Troubadour,
and Founder of the Franciscan Order

Holy Profession – June 5, 2021 (submitted by Debbie Ventosa, TOF)



Thirteen novices from three fraternities made solemn promises to the Third Order Franciscan way of life. On June 5, 2021 at The Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted a Mass of Profession was celebrated by Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM and concelebrated by Fr. Ryan Furlong, TOF. Those who professed have studied the Rule, Constitutions, and the Franciscan way of life for at least 2 years.

(Fr. Vit Fiala and Rose Kosko, TOF) →



The afternoon began at 1pm with a trial run through of the ceremony, followed by the glorious Sacrifice of the Mass and Ceremony of Profession and Investiture.

(Fr. Ryan Furlong, TOF & Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM) →



←(Rose Akins, TOF, Margaret Sartor, TOF, Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM, & Debbie Ventosa, TOF)

Father Vit shared in his homily several nuggets of wisdom regarding religious life. He said that there are two main elements to religious life. The first one: we may go to church, say our prayers and do good works, but that is not good enough. We must have the second element, the interior life, a spiritual life that deepens our intimacy with God. This spiritual life does not come from us it comes from God. It is a stirring of the Holy Spirit within us and we respond to that inspiration. As a TOF we will have ups as downs on our spiritual journey. It is a long and a lifelong

journey but it deepens our intimate relationship with Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Every Christian is called to live this life, but people who choose religious life in the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd Order make this element the most important element of their life. Everything in day-to-day life is subjected to this. This journey is beautiful, and the essence of this journey is abandonment to the will of God. We profess our love of God and we follow His direction as it comes, so that we may reach union with Him.

(Louise & Virgil Daniel, TOF) →



From the St. Padre Pio Fraternity in Youngstown, professed were Rob and Diane Elko, TOF, Lou and Geri Jaquet TOF, and Fr. Ryan Furlong TOF. From the Our Lady of America Fraternity in Ashtabula, professed was Margaret Sartor TOF, and from SS. Francis and Claire fraternity in Barberton, professed were Matt Poletti TOF, Mary Dye, TOF, Therese Harper, TOF, Nettie and Jim Miller, TOF, and Virgil & Louise Daniel, TOF. (Pictured left, Diane Elko, TOF & Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM)

Along with the Ceremony of Profession, the Ceremony of Investiture was celebrated for four members of the SS. Francis and Clare Fraternity. In this ceremony these members received their new habit of the Third Order of St. Francis: the white cord and the scapular. These members were: Roberto Meza, TOF, Maria Elena Meza, TOF, Jennifer Kerns, TOF, and Julia Tarulli, TOF.

(Newly Invested Members) →





Toward the conclusion of the ceremony all the Franciscan Tertiaries recited the “Renewal of Profession” and consecrated the Order to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

←(Cindy Russo, TOF, Mary Dye, TOF, Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM & Debbie Ventosa, TOF)

A reception followed, hosted by the St. Padre Pio fraternity where sandwiches, fruit, salads and desserts were plentiful! It was a joyful time of sharing and fellowship had by all.

For more pictures and information on this blessed occasion please visit our website at: thirdorderfranciscans.com.

Back Row: Virgil Daniel, TOF, Bob Elko, TOF, Fr. Ryan Furlong, TOF, Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM, Lou Jaquet, TOF. **Front Row:** Matt Poletti, TOF, Louise Daniel, TOF, Nettie Miller, TOF, Jim Miller, TOF, Mary Dye, TOF, Diane Elko, TOF, Geri Jaquet, TOF, Margaret Sartor, TOF, and Therese Harper, TOF. →



Update on the Isolated Tertiaries Community (submitted by Pepe Ventosa, TOF)

Along with local fraternity members, our community is composed of “Isolated Tertiaries”.

Isolated Tertiaries (ITs) are professed members of the TOF who, due to a reasonable cause, are not enrolled in a fraternity. Usually this is due to a lack of a fraternity within driving distance. Pope Leo XIII had a great desire to make the TOF more accessible to people as he viewed the Order as an “extremely efficacious remedy” for the evils of the world. The concept of Isolated Tertiaries opens up the Order to those who can’t join a local fraternity.

(Virtual Gathering of Isolated Tertiaries & Fr. Dennis Arambasick, OFM) →



Currently we have a total of seven IT’s, with several others discerning to join us, with members in WA, CA, TX and FL. As our community of ITs continues to grow, its organization is being developed. Fr. Vit appointed Fr. Dennis Arambasick, OFM, to assist with the spiritual direction of the ITs. Many of us know Fr. Dennis from his time with us as spiritual assistant a few years ago. We are blessed to have him on board. A team for Initial Formation of novices has been formed, with Fr. Dennis, OFM, Ericka Witover, TOF, from TX as Initial Formation coordinator, assisted by Roberto Meza, TOF, Maria Elena Meza, TOF, Debbie Ventosa, TOF and Pepe Ventosa, TOF. The first meeting took place on April, 2021 with a husband/wife from FL in the inquiry period attending this Initial Formation.

In order to provide some kind of “community” to the Isolated Tertiaries, monthly virtual gatherings were launched in May, 2021. The format of these gatherings is similar to local fraternity gatherings, and consists of prayer, Lectio Divina, ongoing formation and announcements. Special thanks to Linda Menser, TOF, from California, who is the gathering coordinator.

Daily Eucharistic adoration will be part of the IT community’s prayer life and is been organized at this time.

CFP Retreat

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 800th 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

Requiescat in Pace

We extend our heartfelt condolences to our sister, Ericka Witover, TOF on the death of her beloved father, Robert Welford Good, in May. Ericka is an isolated tertiary from Texas who has been attending the SS. Francis and Clare Fraternity gatherings virtually for the last several months. She recently was invested into the Third Order, and is very generously acting as Initial Formation Coordinator to the Third Order Franciscan isolated tertiaries under the direction of Fr. Dennis Arambasick, OFM. May Robert see the face of Jesus and rest in His merciful arms.

Hike

Annual Franciscan Hike

Come and join your fellow Franciscans for a morning of hiking, prayer, ongoing formation, food and fellowship!

When: Monday September 6, 2021

Where: The Ledges Trail at Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Itinerary:

9:00 am: meet at the parking lot

9:15 am: hiking starts

11:30 am: lunch

What to bring: water bottle, sturdy shoes for hiking, bug spray. Hiking stick optional but helpful. Also optional, small mat to sit on the ground.

Note: The trail is 1.8 miles long with some steep areas. We will only hike a shorter and easier section of the trail. There are some areas with tree roots exposed and steps. It is considered an "easy" hike.

Directions: take 8 north. Take exit #10 and make a left on Seasons Rd. Go ¾ of a mile and turn right Wyoga Lake Rd and then a quick right on State Rd (Akron Cleveland Rd). At the next light make a left on Truxell Rd (1.2 miles). The entrance to the Ledges is about 1 mile on the right side.

*****Important***** Please RSVP to Pepe



Investiture of Ericka Witover, TOF



On April 25, 2021, just a few weeks after Easter, Ericka Witover celebrated her Investiture at St. Michael and All Angels Catholic Church in Denison, Texas, her home parish.

Deacon Richard (on the left) and Father Randall Fogle (on the right), performed the Investiture with great joy!

Ericka has been an active and very helpful member in our Isolated Tertiaries community. She has volunteered to assist with formation with the incoming members of the Isolated Tertiaries, under the guidance of our good Father Dennis Arambasick, OFM, our beloved former Spiritual Assistant.

God bless and protect you, Ericka! You are a blessing, and we treasure you!

St. Maximilian Kolbe Ministry to the Imprisoned – SS. Francis & Clare Fraternity

SS. Francis and Clare Fraternity in Barberton arranged for Catholic Bibles in English and Spanish to be 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. The Fraternity members donate their spare change to at every gathering specifically for this ministry. They do this in the hope that the Bibles may save souls from despair and inspire hope!



Did You Know? On Plenary Indulgences

(Index of Indulgences & Privileges – The Rule of the Third Order Franciscans)

We Third Order Franciscans have access to certain Plenary Indulgences, which are listed below. In order to receive a Plenary Indulgence, we must receive Confession and receive Communion on the days listed below:

1. August 2, the Feast of Mary, the Queen of Angels;
2. August 12, the Feast of St. Clare; and
3. October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

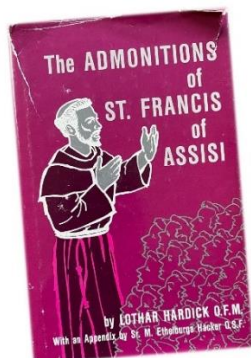
August and October will be here before we know it, and if you can fulfill the conditions, you can gain these Plenary Indulgences every year.

If you check the Rule, which can be found on our website (www.thirdorderfranciscans.com), there are also other ways to attain Plenary Indulgences – check it out!

Admonitions Study

VIRTUAL STUDY

The Admonitions of St. Francis of Assisi



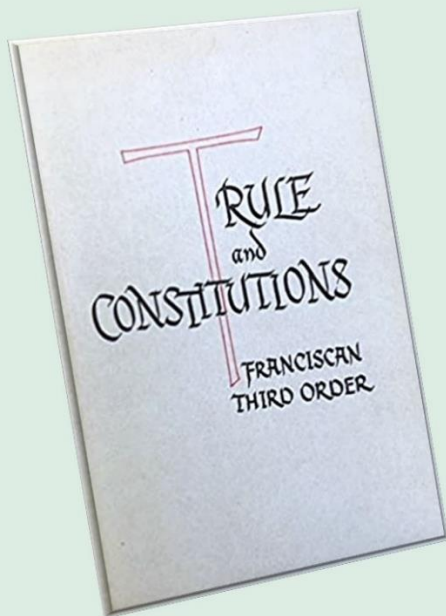
Spiritual classics are those rare treasures that once found, one can continue to learn something new each time we revisit the book.

Perhaps you have had an opportunity during Initial Formation to read Lothar Hardick, OFM "The Admonitions of St. Francis". A book study of this classic will be available to all of our community members through the generous hosting, virtually, by Sandy Baden, TOF, Isolated Tertiary. Sandy will guide us through the book beginning in July, with monthly meetings of 60-90 minutes. There is no need to own a book as Sandy will provide the chapters as needed.

All interested in signing up or for additional information please contact Pepe Ventosa TOF .

Printing

Thoughts for printing???



A limited selection of wonderful classic books on Initial and Ongoing Formation for Franciscan Tertiaries is scantily available online. These include the Ritual book, the Rule/Constitutions, a catechism for the Third Order of St. Francis, and many others. The problem? They are out of print! We have been able to buy a few of these online when they become available. These books are old and fragile, and the pages fall easily apart, so they won't last too much longer.

We are looking to see how we can have these books reprinted to make them available again for Tertiaries. Do you have some thoughts on how we can do this? If so, please contact Pepe Ventosa, TOF. It would be great to bring these small treasures back to life.

Video Volunteer

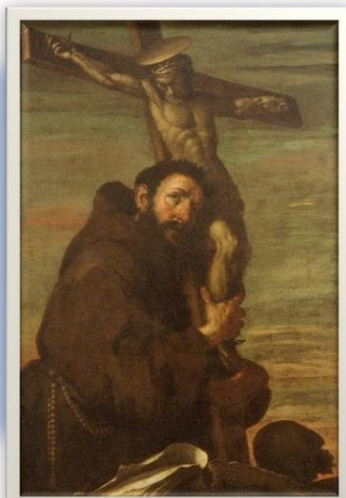
Looking for a volunteer!!!

We are looking for a computer savvy person to video and make available for online viewing community events such as Days of Recollection, Profession and other special events.

If you are this person, please contact Pepe Ventosa, TOF.



Constitution Article 41



"... like Christ crucified ..."

"Since Christ is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6), tertiaries should have the deep conviction that, by reason of their baptism and holy profession, they must become like Christ crucified, and must follow His gospel as their rule of life. For, the observance of that gospel in a perfect way is the reason for the Rule of our holy Father Francis. Thus, the members, 'Although they pass their lives in the midst of the world, should be imbued with the mind and spirit of Christ' (Pope Pius XII, Address to Tertiaries, 20 September 1945)."

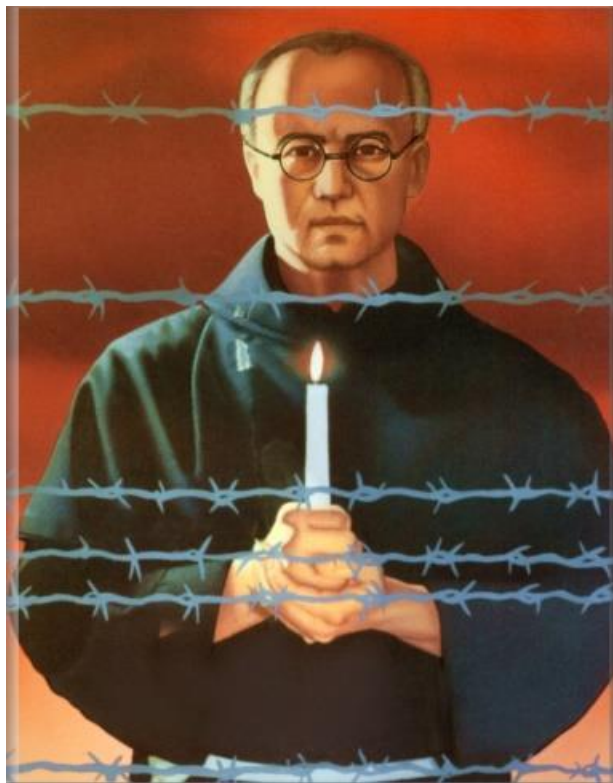
Constitutions Article 41

Save the Dates!

8/14	Padre Pio Fraternity (Youngstown) Picnic at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted
8/15	SS. Francis & Clare Fraternity (Akron) Picnic at Queen of Heaven Parish Pavilion – 1:30 PM (1800 Steese Rd., Uniontown, OH 44685)
9/6	Hike & Lunch – 9 AM (<i>The Ledges Trail, Cuyahoga Valley National Park – see article above</i>)
11/13	Day of Recollection, Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted



“Modern times are dominated by Satan and will be more so in the future. The conflict with hell cannot be engaged by men, even the most clever. The Immaculata alone has from God the promise of victory over Satan. However, assumed into Heaven, the Mother of God now requires our cooperation. She seeks souls who will consecrate themselves entirely to her, who will become in her hands effective instruments for the defeat of Satan and the spreading of God’s kingdom upon earth.”



St. Maximilian Kolbe, OFM (1894-1941)
Priest, Publisher, Broadcaster, Teacher, Prisoner, Martyr
Feast Day – August 14 (*Vigil of the Assumption*)