

August, 2021

Volume 2, Issue 8

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

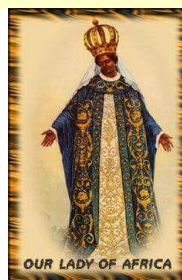
We have recently heard from Deacon Gastor Temu, whom we have been prayerfully supporting for the last few years. Deacon Gastor will be ordained this month, along with his brother seminarians, for the Diocese of Moshi, Tanzania, on the east coast of Africa.

Deacon Gastor is not a faceless recipient of our continuing prayers in this time. He has become a friend – a humble student who put his whole heart and soul into learning how to be a holy priest. He kept us informed of his progress in his studies, as well as introducing us to his dear mother, who is sadly widowed but carries on with the family's farm in the Tanzanian countryside. Deacon Gastor has worked very hard and sacrificed in order to be a priest for the Church and to serve His people.

Over the last year or so, Deacon Gastor has had the privilege of assisting on the staff of his Bishop. He did not say so, but one can only assume that the Diocese realized that Deacon Gastor is a very special seminarian to have been given this assignment.

Through all his ups and downs, Deacon Gastor has never lost his deep Faith and remembered he is a servant of God and His Church, and surrendered himself wholeheartedly to whatever mission God has in mind for him.

Deacon Gastor will receive Holy Orders on August 12. God heard our prayers! Deacon (soon to be Father!) Gastor promises to remember us and to pray for us. May God bless his ministry abundantly, and bless and protect him in his holy vocation!



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, TOF
– Council Helper
Susan Kramer, TOF
– Newsletter

Next Gathering (Picnic!) –

Sunday, August 15

1:30 PM

Queen of Heaven

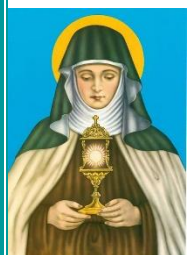
Parish Pavilion

1800 Steese Rd.

Uniontown, OH 44685

Franciscan Quote of the Month

***“We become what we love, and
Who we love shapes what we become.”***



St. Clare of Assisi (1194-1253) Feast Day – August 11
Founder of the Franciscan Order of Poor Ladies (later, Order of
Saint Clare), Religious Sister, Defender of the Eucharist

Eucharistic Adoration



Sunday

Betty DeMarco, TOF

Monday

Rose Akins, TOF
Louise Daniel, TOF
Virgil Daniel, TOF
Judith Hoyt, TOF
Judith Inglesby, TOF

Tuesday

Michael Butts, TOF
Chris Devore, TOF
LeeAnn Devore, TOF
Eileen Dunlap, TOF
Rick Dunlap, TOF
Therese Harper, TOF
Larry McNutt, TOF
Lucy McNutt, TOF
Linda Menser, TOF
Maria Elena Meza, TOF
Roberto Meza, TOF
Carol Perrine, TOF
Cindy Russo, TOF

Wednesday

Judith Inglesby, TOF
Bill Marshall, TOF
Jim Miller, TOF

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.*

August Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

Robert Burtscher, TOF – 25 Years
Carol Perrine, TOF – 24 Years



Birthdays

Debbie Ventosa, TOF – 8/6
Jim Miller, TOF – 8/15

Rest in Peace

We recently learned that Angie Pollino, the mother of our dear Franciscan sister, Sandy Pollino, OFS, died recently at the age of 96. Sandy had lovingly cared for her for many years, while enduring her own health challenges. May Angie be accompanied by the angels into the loving arms of Jesus!

Stand for Life



Rose Akins, TOF and Gib Adolph will represent the fraternity August 21 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.**

Little Portion

The August Little Portion will be prepared by Franciscan Affiliate, Annie Butts. ****We need someone to deliver the Little Portion, which will include part of our meal that we share. This person should also bring containers – sandwich bags, etc. – to package the Little Portion.***



The Little Portion Apostolate ministers to the homeless and street people of Canton and Akron by providing a simple meal of sandwiches, fruit, and anything individually wrapped for our brothers and sisters in Christ – usually at least 2 meals. You may also add small sized toiletries such as Purell, liquid soap, religious articles, etc. Or you may want to deliver the offering. If you are interested, please see Roberto Meza, TOF.

As often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.

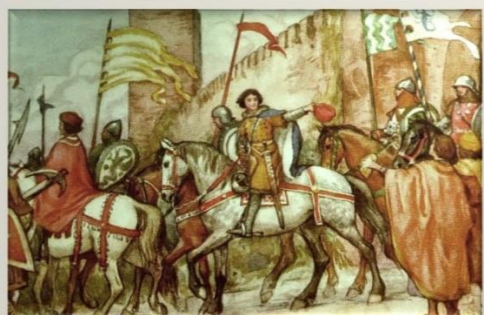
Inquirers to Postulants!

Four Inquirers will enter the Postulancy period of Formation: Gib Adolph, Jesse Kuhn, Cathy McCausland, and Denise Williams. The ceremony will take place on August 15 at our picnic Gathering at Queen of Heaven Parish in Uniontown. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue to discern and plan to be there for them if you can.

As Pope Pius XII stated in his Address to Tertiaries in July, 1956, "The Third Order of St. Francis was born to satisfy this thirst for heroism among those who, though having to remain in the world, did not wish to be of the world. The Third Order, then, seeks souls who long for perfection in their own state."

Soldiers of Christ

Our Isolated Tertiaries now have a newsletter, entitled Soldiers of Christ. Please take a look at it on our website (www.thirdorderfranciscans.com) under the "From the Province" tab in the menu bar.



Soldiers of Christ

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

Ordination of Deacon Gastor Bahati



A few years ago, our fraternity spiritually adopted a Tanzanian seminarian of the Diocese of Moshi, Gastor Bahati. In that time, we have prayed daily for his physical and spiritual protection, and the success of his seminary studies. We have not only been honored to pray for him, but have become friends because of his kind and charming messages to us. He is a fine and faithful young Catholic man, indeed!

We now are delighted to know that Deacon Gastor has concluded his seminary studies and will be Ordained on August 12! Thank you for your heartfelt prayers and sacrifices – God has heard us!

Please especially remember to pray for our dear Deacon Gastor on August 12, the holiest day of his life. May he always serve God well and joyfully, and may he be protected from any physical or spiritual danger! ***(The chalice pictured is a gift from the fraternity to Deacon Gastor, donated by the Padre Pio Prayer Group of Cleveland, led by Cindy Russo, TOF)***

Website Updates – by Pepe Ventosa, TOF

We have a few new documents on our website (www.thirdorderfranciscans.com). You can find these in the “From the Province” tab on the menu bar. These are:

- Letter from the Most Reverend David J. Bonnar, Bishop of the Diocese of Youngstown
- Letter from the Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic, JCL, Bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland
- The first edition of the monthly newsletter of the Isolated Tertiaries

We invite you to visit our website on a regular basis for updates and as a tool for Ongoing Formation.

Special Feast Days for Third Order Franciscans – Pepe Ventosa, TOF

Article 3.9 from the Community of Tertiaries Statutes (found on the website under “From the Province” heading), Chapter 3, has a list of special feast days we should observe. Some of these are coming up from now until the end of the year. This month includes the Feast of Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula (August 2), the Feast of St. Clare of Assisi (August 11), and the Feast of St. Louis IX (August 25). There are many ways to do that – extra prayer, lighting a candle with St. Francis’s image, attending Mass, or even creating a home shrine, etc. Please check under “Save the Date” of this newsletter to refer to these Franciscan feast days throughout the year!

Surprise Picnic Guests

Isolated Tertiaries Sandy Baden, TOF and her husband Ted, and Judith Inglesby, TOF will be joining us at our fraternity picnic (as well as the Youngstown fraternity picnic)! Sandy, Ted, and Judith will be coming all the way from California. They will be on an extended vacation and pilgrimage, and have kindly made arrangements to be with us! We look forward to extending a warm Franciscan welcome to them!

Canonization of St. Francis of Assisi July 16th

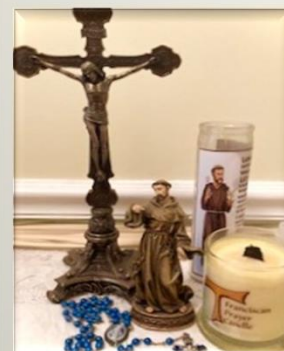


Chris and LeeAnn Devore, TOF

Remembrance of this
joyful occasion by our
Fraternity members



Pepe and Debbie Ventosa, TOF



Jennifer Kerns, TOF

August Exercise Challenge

Submitted by Pepe Ventosa, TOF

Article 40 of the Constitutions reads, "*Tertiaries shall meditate on and put into practice before all else that well-known two-fold commandment of Christ: 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart and thy whole soul and thy whole mind.' This is the greatest of the commandments, and the first. And the second, like it, is this, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself'.*"

In his encyclical *Sacra Propediem*, Pope Benedict XV writes that St. Francis was "powerless to contain in the recesses of his heart the seraphic love which consumed him for God and his brothers; he was compelled to permit it to overflow on all the souls which he could reach."

Last month we focused on the first part of the two-fold commandment of Christ, to love God with our whole heart, soul and mind. Would you take the August Exercise of Religion Challenge and work this month on the 2nd part of this commandment, to love your neighbor as yourself?



It's Time for Our Annual Picnic!

August is quickly approaching, which means it is almost time for our yearly picnic! As usual, we are grateful to accept the hospitality of Fr. Dave Durkee and Queen of Heaven Parish, where we will meet at the parish pavilion on Sunday, August 15 at 1:30 PM. The parish is located at 1800 Steese Road, Uniontown, OH 44685. Also, if you want to deliver the Little Portion, bring containers for the picnic meal (sandwich bags, etc., and grocery bags to carry it all). ***Please bring your family!!!***

Food assignments are as follows, by last name initial:

A-L - Salads/Sides

M-Z - Desserts/Fruit

Council will provide chicken, drinks, and table settings. If you plan to bring something, please let Council know at the next Gathering in July. If you want to bring anything out of the assigned category, please check with Council as well (we don't want too much of a good thing – after all, we are Franciscans!)

****If you plan to attend, please send an RSVP to Roberto Meza, TOF, so that we can have a headcount. Bill Marshall, TOF will be providing chicken, and he needs to know how much to order!***

(Note: Our brothers and sisters from Padre Pio Fraternity have graciously invited us to their picnic at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted in Youngstown on August 14, starting with Mass at Noon.)

Fall Franciscan 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 $\frac{3}{4}$ 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



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

Lord, It Is Good for Us to Be Together!

The Gathering of July 18 included 29 in attendance. We were delighted to see Betty DeMarco, TOF, Bob Burtscher, TOF, and Elizabeth Francis, TOF, in addition to Affiliates Annie Butts and Fred Kramer.

The Liturgy of the Hours was led by Kenny Green, TOF and Bill Marshall, TOF.

We then progressed to Lectio Divina, which was focused on St. Mark's Gospel of the day.

Bill Marshall, TOF led us in Ongoing Formation. His subject was Article Eleven, Section 2 of the Constitution. Bill opened with the Prayer to the Holy Spirit. He then discussed the Article, which details eligibility and expectations of those enrolled in the Order, and the definition of the Third Order and Tertiaries.

1. It is more important that the Order grow in holiness than in numbers. Not everyone is qualified for this way of life.
2. Disqualifications include: being younger than 14 years of age, etc.
3. We must pray for growth and holiness in the Church, and hold ourselves to God's law and service. We are His servants and follow His Will. It is not about us.
4. Every human deserves dignity and respect.
5. We are part of, and stewards of, all Creation.
6. A good Franciscan equals a good Catholic!

Our group discussion and social break followed, along with a review of our discussion of the Ongoing Formation.

Roberto reminded us of the fraternity picnic in August, as well as the kind and hospitable invitation to the St. Padre Pio Fraternity's picnic in Youngstown. Please check for your food assignment (see picnic article in this newsletter).

Fr. Vit then talked to us about holiness and Good Shepherd Sunday. The way to be holy is first to want it for ourselves. In order to survive, we must eat, drink, breathe, work, pray, and enjoy recreation. Sin comes to us in images and thoughts, whether we welcome it or not. Thoughts become sin when we act on them. Temptation is not sin until we act on it. There is no salvation without temptation. We are connected to God by Faith even without evidence of His presence. We must design a spiritual path to attain holiness, and constantly remember

God and focus on Him. If we pray about our past, our present will be peaceful. Avoid idle time – plan your activities and do not permit occasions of sin (i.e., inappropriate Internet websites, etc.) Remembrance evokes emotions, so pray to be able to forgive those who hurt us.

The Food Pantry collection for July went to our host parish, St. Nicholas Byzantine Church. Joanne Angeletti and Virgil and Louise Daniel ensured it will be delivered.

The July Little Portion was provided by the Millers and delivered by the Devores, and Annie Butts will prepare the August Little Portion, which will include items from our picnic meal. We are still in need of someone to deliver the August offering.

Mike Butts, TOF and Bill Marshall, TOF represented the fraternity for the July Stand for Life, and Rose Akins, TOF and Gib Adolph will represent us for August.

Maria Elena Meza, TOF gave the Infirmarian Report. Bob Burtscher, TOF has been unable to contact Pat and Deanna Hurley, OFS. Judith Hoyt, TOF reported that Sandy Pollino, OFS's situation is unchanged and she is in urgent need of prayer. (We learned later in the month that Sandy's mother, Angie, died).

Debbie Ventosa, TOF reported that those in Initial Formation are reviewing the Catechism of the Catholic Church. We are blessed to have six individuals in Formation at this point.

Pepe Ventosa, TOF informed us that the Isolated Tertiaries are growing in number. We currently have members from California, Florida, Texas, and Washington, and an Australian has expressed interest as well. Ericka Witover, TOF and Fr. Dennis Arambasick, OFM continue to lead Initial Formation of the Isolated Tertiaries. They are in the process of updating a curriculum for Initial Formation.

Roberto Meza, TOF was delighted to report that Bishop Bonnar of Youngstown has given his approval of the Third Order Franciscans in his Diocese! The approval was a bit delayed because of the death of Bishop Murry, SJ and the time waiting for his replacement. We had previously received official approval from Bishop Malesic of Cleveland, as well as his support and ongoing prayers. We are indeed blessed!

Roberto also reminded us to sign up for our fraternity apostolates. Please contact him if you feel called to service in a particular area.

Check the Padre Pio Prayer Group website if you are interested in being part of their pilgrimage.

Roberto informed us that there are openings for our fraternity members to staff the Stark County Right to Life table at the Stark County Fair on Labor Day weekend. We need to fill three 4-hour shifts and need volunteers for the 10 AM-2 PM and the 6 PM-10 PM shifts. Please contact Roberto if you are able to assist.

We are reminded, if we wish to distribute anything at Gatherings, Formation meetings, or on any other fraternity occasion, to get clearance first from our Minister!

Our annual Franciscan hike will be on Labor Day Monday, September 6 at the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Please contact Pepe Ventosa, TOF if you plan on attending.

Fraternity elections will be held at the Gathering on September 19. If you are interested on serving on fraternity council, please contact Joanne Angeletti, TOF.

Mary Dye, TOF, Rosie Zaratsian, TOF and Betty DeMarco, TOF will generously provide hospitality for September. Bob Burtscher, TOF has offered to help in October, but will need assistance. Please contact Roberto or Bob if you are willing to help!

We concluded our Gathering with personal prayers. Those we remembered included Deacon Gastor Temu and all seminarians at Borromeo and St. Mary Seminaries in Cleveland, members of our families, Fr. Miron Kemul-Kmec (pastor of St. Nicholas, who was hospitalized with health concerns), Patrick Palazzo, victims of abortion,

those in discernment, public officials, OFM Friars of the Immaculate Conception Province, Pope Francis, and Bishop Lach of Parma, Bishop Bonnar of Youngstown, and Bishop Malesic of Cleveland.

Our next Gathering will be our picnic on August 15 at Queen of Heaven Parish in Green/Uniontown.

Save the Date (August, the Month of the Blessed Sacrament)

August 2	Feast of Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula
August 11	Feast of St. Clare of Assisi
August 14	Picnic at the Shrine in Youngstown (hosted by Padre Pio Fraternity)
August 15	Picnic at Queen of Heaven (Uniontown) Pavilion *RSVP to Roberto!
August 25	Feast of St. Louis IX
September 6	Franciscan Hike *RSVP to Pepe!
October 13-17	Retreat with Confraternity of Penitents (Huntington, Indiana)
November 1	Feast of All Saints (Holy Day of Obligation)
November 13	Day of Recollection

