



Soldiers of Christ

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

August 2021

Sandy Baden, TOF, Editor

Vol 1, Issue 1

This is our first edition of the “Soldiers of Christ” Newsletter for Isolated Tertiaries each month. We would like to keep you informed with current information to let you know where we are going and where we have been. There will be various articles and updates with our connection to the Order of Friars Minor Province of the Immaculate Conception.

There will be a study of the book by, Lothar Hardick, OFM, “The Admonitions of St. Francis of Assisi.” This virtual study will begin August 17, 2021, Tuesday evening at 4:30 PM, Pacific time, for those who have requested to attend. In each Newsletter there will be questions to aid in our discussion of each chapter. The first chapter has been sent by regular mail service, but for future copies it will be via Email.

This is exciting as we begin to unite ourselves to each other as Isolated Tertiaries. There is a virtual Isolated Tertiary gathering which is being coordinated by Linda Menser, TOF, on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM Eastern time. This next gathering will be on August 5th for ongoing Formation on the Constitutions of the Franciscan Third Order. Thank you Linda in your efforts to coordinate this gathering for Isolated Tertiaries.

Fr. Daniel Dozer, TOF

Fr. Daniel Dozer, TOF is the first Isolated Tertiary established by Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM on July 23, 2020. Prior to becoming a TOF, Fr. Daniel was a Secular Franciscan for several years. Fr. Daniel has remained alone as an Isolated Tertiary until February 2021 and is still connected to the Province of the Immaculate Conception. We now have nine Isolated Tertiaries in the US, which means Fr. Daniel is no longer isolated or alone. We are blessed to be united with Fr. Daniel as Isolated Tertiaries in 2021.

Name	State	Date as Isolated Tertiary
Fr. Daniel Dozier, TOF	WA	07/2020
Ericka Witover, TOF	TX	02/2021
Linda Menser, TOF	CA	02/2021
Mary Tag, TOF	FL	04/2021
Paul Tab, TOF	FL	04/2021
Sandra T. Baden, TOF	CA	04/2021
Judith Inglesby, TOF	CA	05/2021
Brenda Dunkelman, TOF	CA	07/2021
Luis Guzman, TOF	CA	07/2021

There are two people who are currently in an inquiry period for the novitiate living in Florida. Thank our Lord Jesus Christ for this amazing growth, within a few months, and pray this continues throughout the rest of the year.

We should observe together the Franciscan Feast days of August:

- August 2: Feast of Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula
- August 11: Feast of St. Clare of Assisi
- August 25: Feast of St. Louis IX

ST. CLARE'S FLIGHT FROM HOME

A planning of all nights, the moon and the stars are shining, and the stillness of the darkness is so frightening. Oh, how a soul must trust in our Lord.

Escape is determination for the love of our Lord, and trying not to be seen as the door is opening to what awaits the other side. Oh, how a soul must trust in our Lord.

Quietly the door is closed and the escape into the night is terrifying, and to be caught would end it all. Was there a second thought? Oh, how a soul must trust in our Lord.

The run to the outer gate of the city is opened. In the dead of night the escape moves on and St. Clare feels joy and fear at the same time. Oh, how a soul must trust in our Lord.

What a cross to bear while pushing forward, and dare not to look back at the city of Assisi where St. Clare had grown up. Oh, how a soul must trust in our Lord.

Seeing St. Francis is such a relief as if the struggle is over. Changing her beautiful garment for one of the poor and cutting her beautiful hair that is always a woman's pride. Oh, how a soul must trust in our Lord.

Into the Monastery she enters. Is the escape at an end or just beginning? The joy and the fear have now become one. St. Clare's love of God shows to the world the "Will of God" is complete. Oh, how a soul must trust in our Lord.



Sandy Baden, TOF

ISOLATED TERTIARIES

An Integral Part of the Community of Franciscan Tertiaries

Submitted by: Pepe Ventosa, TOF
Assistant to Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM

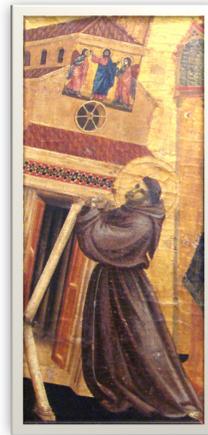
Some may ask: What is the role of the Isolated Tertiaries and how are we to live this calling?

According to Papal documents, purpose of the Third Order of St. Francis is:

- Individual conversion by providing for its members the means to reach Christian perfection in their secular state,
- affect family life of its members leading to the practice of Christian virtues within the family,
- reawaken in society Christian wisdom, restoring all things in Christ.

In his encyclical *Auspicato Concessum*, Pope Leo XIII describes the Third Order as an “opportune and extremely efficacious remedy” to fight the evils of the present time. He had such a strong belief in this Order that it was his desire to make this Order available and extended to many.

The option of “Isolated Tertiary” opens up the Order to those who can’t join a fraternity due to a lack of a fraternity within close proximity. It gives those who strive for Christian perfection the opportunity to be part of the “peaceful army of lay people... arrayed in the field for the defense and the spread of the kingdom of Christ in the world” (Pope Pius XII). It extends the Order to many to fight the evils of our times—the killing of innocent human life by abortion or by supporting those who promote this most evil act, euthanasia, the attack on the institution of marriage, attack on the family and many others. It gives those called to “rebuild” by following the



St Francis of Assisi

“The defender whom God in such trouble times reserved for the Church”

Pope Benedict XV
Sacra Propediem

example of St. Francis the means for metanoia and, through conversion, the opportunity to introduce the Spirit of Jesus Christ in their environments.

Even though referred to as “Isolated Tertiaries,” you are integral members of the entire Community of Franciscan Tertiaries of the OFM province of the Immaculate Conception. Nowadays, assisted by technology you are able to gather in a way that in centuries past was unavailable—email, virtual gatherings and other modes of communication. Thank you for your “yes” to be a part in the mission of the Franciscan Family.

Canonization of
St. Francis of Assisi
July 16th

Remembrance of this
joyful occasion by our
Isolated Tertiaries



Linda Menser, TOF



Judith
Inglesby, TOF



Sandy Baden, TOF

ISOLATED TERTIARIES

Submitted by: Fr. Dennis Arambasic, OFM

You probably heard of this anecdote in the past, but I'll repeat it; "It has been said, there are two things God doesn't know. One, He doesn't know what is on the minds of the Jesuits, and two, He doesn't know how many groups of Franciscans there are." Of course, God is all knowing and knows all things.

St. Francis founded three orders, First Order, Friars Minor, Second Order, Poor Clairs' and Third Order for the laity. By the end of the 1500's the First Order was fractured into three major Orders, Observants, Conventuals, and Capuchins. And then, there have been many more reforms. Most recently, in my mind, there are Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (CFR), founded by a former capuchin Friar, Fr. Benedict Groeschel, and there are various other groups male and female, following the Franciscan Rule or modified version.

In 1990, Fr. Groeschel wrote a book entitled "Reform of the Renewal," saying that religious life at that time was a "real mess." No doubt there are some who would deny it. But anyone aware of the situation in the Church today, could say the same thing, and the so called mess extends far beyond religious orders. If the religious orders have been affected or infected by our secular culture, so has the third orders, and is that not why you are Isolated Tertiaries? You search for stability in an ever-changing world, and do not want to compromise the faith.

I'll paraphrase what Cardinal Sean O'Malley, said in a homily in 2004: "That our challenge today is simple: to resist the temptation to conform to the culture of death, consumerism, hedonism and radical individualism.

The United States is a hostile environment for serious Christians, especially, Catholics, and that we are like exiles, in the midst of Babylon and we find ourselves in a hostile alien environment where the overriding

temptation is to assimilate; the cultural pull is to conform to the dominant cultural influence that is incongruous with our faith and destiny...and even though many Catholics are spiritually starved they do not readily accept Church teaching, (e.g., contraception, sexual morality, mortal sin, eternal damnation, etc., etc. Some even believe abortion can be permitted. Absolute morals are out and the “Dictatorship of Relativism” reigns). Many people are addicted to entertainment, even the news is entertaining. Sadly, some people are shaped by the media that teaches modern myths, and yet they hunger for God, for answers.”

I see the Isolated Tertiaries heeding St. Paul’s admonition, “. . . through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice holy and acceptable to God, your spiritual worship, **Do not conform yourselves to this age**, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you judge what is God’s will, what is good, pleasing and perfect,” (Romans 12:1-2).

My brothers and sisters in Christ, peace and all good.

HOW TO REMAIN FRANCISCAN IN A GRRRRRRR WORLD

Written by Ericka C. Witover, T.O.F.

Do you ever stop once in a while to do a spiritual checkup on yourself? We all have those GRRRRRRR moments throughout each day. Here is one of five hopefully helpful tips you may not have thought of to get us through.

1. Blessings others: Luke 6:28- “Bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly.” You’re peacefully cruising along in your vehicle on the highway when you come upon someone who decides the speed limit is still 55. So you pull into the passing lane to safely move around them. Suddenly another vehicle almost wipes out that slower vehicle from behind them, then swerves in front of you missing you by hairs. Quickly they swerve back in front of that slower vehicle. You slam on your brakes and all your groceries in the back seat get

propelled into the front. You have one extra white hair now and you know your eggs are scrambled with the bacon. Grrrrrrr.....First reaction? Scream “jerk” into the air and curse the driver? Or we take a deep breath, thank our Guardian Angel for keeping us alert and ask the Lord to bless that driver with more care and concern for his fellow human beings. If we have riders in the vehicle, our reactions can proclaim who we follow.

“What is it that stands higher than words? Action. What is it that stands higher than action? Silence.” - St. Francis.

Happy August to all, and the next tip will show up in the September issue.



THE ADMONITIONS OF ST. FRANCIS

By: Lothar Hardick, OFM

In the Chapters of this amazing book, “The Admonitions of St. Francis of Assisi,” the words again and again seem to stand out as the author, Lothar Hardick, OFM explains what each Admonition of St. Francis is trying to teach to his Friars and various communities within our Franciscan family.

In thinking about the words, again and again, these words have meaning, because we confess our sins again and again, we repeat the Hail Mary, again and again, as we pray the Rosary, and again and again we will see the beauty of the Admonitions of St. Francis within this study. It will enrich our souls to the love of St. Francis and our Lord Jesus Christ. The author, Lothar Hardick, OFM seems to take on the mind of St. Francis and gives us a complete understanding of the twenty-eight Admonitions of St. Francis.

This also will help us to grow spiritually within our souls during this journey as we try to reach perfection as an Isolated Tertiary, and join our hearts and minds together in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sandy Baden, TOF

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT ??????

Below are some questions related to the first Chapter of the Admonitions of St. Francis of Assisi, by Lothar Hardick, OFM. Pick out a few that you might want to comment on during our study on August 17th at 4:30 Pacific time.

1. How can you comprehend God if he is not accessible to our eyes, to our sensual perception in anyway?

(He is incomprehensible—we can neither grasp nor understand Him—God is spirit—therefore we do not see God)

2. Does your image of God change because He is spirit & inaccessible to us?
3. In your prayer do you struggle because you cannot see God or experience and feel the Lord?
4. Do you struggle not knowing if your prayer is heard? (I sought him and found him not...he gave no answer).
5. What is authentic love for God to you?
6. How do you know you are doing God's will? Do you struggle with this?
7. Do you have expectations when you pray?
8. What do you expect to happen in your prayer?
9. How do you see God in every day life?
10. What did you think after reading the Forward and Chapter 1, Part 1

INVESTITURE OF ISOLATED TERTIARIES IN CALIFORNIA

On July 10, 2021, Judith Inglesby, TOF, Sandy Baden, TOF and Linda Menser, TOF celebrated their Investiture as Isolated Tertiaries at San Luis Rey Mission, Serra Parish Chapel, with Fr. Oscar Mendez, OFM.



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Save the Date

.... August 5, Virtual Gathering for Isolated Tertiaries, 7:00 PM Eastern Time.
(4:00 PM Pacific Time)

.... August 17, Virtual Admonitions study, 7:30 PM Eastern Time.
(4:30 PM Pacific Time)

