

Autumn, 2021

Volume 2, Issue 3

The Troubadour

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



Living the Gospel, & Bringing the Gospel to Life

As this edition of The Troubadour is being written, there are a number of catastrophes afflicting our world. There has been a deadly earthquake in Haiti, whose population is largely Catholic and impoverished. Cubans are suffering further oppression after protesting for a more open and free democracy rather than the evil Communist dictatorship they have endured for 60+ years, which has also attempted to obliterate their Catholic Faith. American forces have evacuated and pulled out of Afghanistan with no warning, endangering thousands of defenseless men, women, and children and leaving them to their cruel fate at the hands of Islamic terrorists. And in the USA, our Gulf Coast and Atlantic Coast states face another deadly hurricane season, while seemingly unquenchable wildfires ravage the western states.

Even to faithful, believing Catholics, this is a lot to absorb. We are liable to wonder where God is amid all this misery, and what is His plan? Moreover, what is our mission in this scenario – how do we serve God and assist the innocents who suffer?

When the answer is not readily evident to us, what we Franciscans do first is to pray for those who suffer, for their spiritual and physical health and protection. And we keep on praying, even after God has given us something more concrete to do for our brothers and sisters who are in desperate situations.

We focus this quarter on Venerable Placido Cortese, OFM Cap., who endured unspeakable torture in order to protect the defenseless.

Good Jesus, in Your endless mercy, please relieve the suffering of the people of Haiti, Cuba, the USA, and Afghanistan. If it is Your will, remove the danger, fear, and misery in their lives. In the meantime, help them to suffer well for Your sake. Give them Your comfort, Your protection, and Your peace. We ask this in Your Most Holy Name. Amen.

Spiritual Director

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



Editor

Susan Kramer, TOF

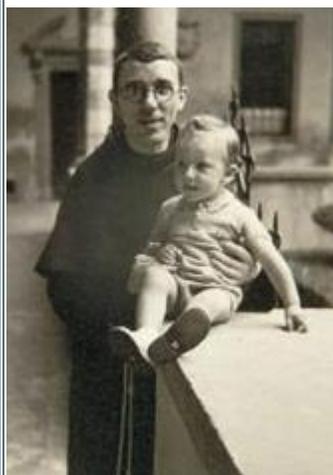
Franciscan Quote for Autumn, 2021

“Evil preaches tolerance until it is dominant. Then it seeks to silence good.”



**His Eminence Charles Chaput, OFM Cap.,
Retired Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia**

Pope Francis Advances Sainthood Cause of Franciscan Priest by Courtney Mares, Catholic News Agency



Pope Francis has advanced the sainthood cause of a Franciscan friar who helped to rescue Jews during the Holocaust.

Fr. Placido Cortese is remembered for using his confessional in the Basilica of St. Anthony in Padua to clandestinely communicate with an underground network that helped Jewish people and British prisoners of war escape the Nazi occupation of Italy.

Known locally as “the Italian Fr. Kolbe,” the priest is now considered “venerable” by the Catholic Church after the pope recognized him for living a life that was “heroic in virtue” on Aug. 30.

Like St. Maximilian Kolbe, Cortese was a Franciscan friar who directed a Catholic publication and was tortured and killed by the Nazis.

He was born Nicolò Cortese in 1907 on the island of Cres, which is now part of Croatia. At the age of 13, he entered minor seminary with the Order of Friars Minor Conventual and took the name Placido after taking his vows in 1924.

Cortese studied theology at the St. Bonaventure Theological College in Rome and was ordained a priest in 1930 at the age of 23. He offered his first Mass in the Basilica of St. Mary Major.

He spent several years serving at the Basilica of St. Anthony in Padua, where he was asked to be the director of the Italian Catholic magazine *Il Messaggero di Sant’Antonio* (*The Messenger of Saint Anthony*, whose readership grew by 500,000 under his leadership).

After the German occupation of Padua, Fr. Cortese was part of an underground group linked to the Resistance, using his printing press to make false documents to help Jewish people and Allied soldiers reach safety in Switzerland.

In October 1944, two German SS officers tricked Cortese into leaving the walls of his monastery in Padua, which was protected as an extraterritorial territory of the Holy See, on the false pretext of someone needing his help.

Cortese was immediately arrested and taken to a Gestapo bunker in Trieste, where he was brutally tortured. But he did not give away the names of any of his associates, according to Fr. Giorgio Laggioni, his vice-postulator.

After weeks of torture, he died in Gestapo custody in November 1944 at the age of 37. His confessional in the Basilica of St. Anthony of Padua continues to be a place of prayer today.

In one of his letters to his family, Cortese wrote: “Religion is a burden that one never tires of carrying, but which more and more enamors the soul toward greater sacrifices, even to the point of giving one’s life for the defense of the faith and the Christian religion, even to the point of dying amid torments like the martyrs of Christianity in distant and foreign lands.”

Venerable Father Placido Cortese, pray for us, and for all who suffer oppression and danger!

Update on the Isolated Tertiaries Community by Pepe Ventosa, TOF

Fr. Vit established four more Isolated Tertiaries recently. Mary and Paul Tag, TOF were Invested in April, 2021, and Brenda Dunkelman, TOF and Luis Guzman, TOF, both from California, in July. Paul and Mary were members of the St. Frances X. Cabrini (OFS) Fraternity before their move to Florida. We are blessed, indeed!

Under the leadership of Ericka Witover, TOF, of Texas, we have done some new work on the Initial Formation curriculum. We hope to start a new session of instructions in September or early October. If you have a friend who you think may have a vocation to the TOF as an Isolated Tertiary, please contact Pepe Ventosa, TOF for further information.

As a reminder: we now have an Isolated Tertiaries newsletter, Soldiers of Christ. It is found on our website under the "From the Province" tab. Sandy Baden, TOF, of California is the editor.



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

We thank God that the Holy Spirit and our good St. Francis led these sisters, and all our beloved Isolated Tertiaries, to the Third Order Franciscans of the Province of the Immaculate Conception. Together, by the grace of God, may we all work together to serve the Church and bring others to it.

←(Judith Inglesby, TOF; Fr. Oscar Mendez, OFM; Sandy Baden, TOF; and Linda Menser, TOF at San Luis Rey Mission, Serra Parish Chapel)

Sandy and Ted's Excellent Adventure

Saturday, August 14 the Padre Pio Fraternity from Youngstown held their annual picnic, and Sunday, August 15 the SS. Francis and Clare held their fraternity picnic. Both were honored and pleased to greet Ted and Sandy Baden, TOF, who were visiting all the way from California!

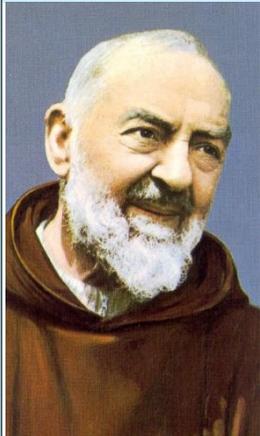
We were all so happy to meet Sandy and Ted in person, and to have a meal and prayer with them! Sandy is the editor of the Isolated Tertiaries newsletter, Soldiers of Christ. And Ted is a Knight of Columbus, whose Order serves the Church and brings Jesus to everyone they meet, which is a perfect match to our mission as Third Order Franciscans.

By the end of our time together, we felt as if we had known them for years! God bless Sandy and Ted, and may we meet again someday!

Pepe Ventosa, TOF; Debbie Ventosa, TOF; Fr. Vit, OFM; Ted and Sandy Baden, TOF →



St. Padre Pio Fraternity, Youngstown News



Please remember in prayer the soul of Fr. Alexis Ananias, a beloved friar at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted who passed into eternal life in late July. A memorial Mass was held for him at the shrine on August 6.

On Monday, August 30, a Day of Prayer and Fasting for our military, the Americans left in Afghanistan, and the people of that country was held at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted in Youngstown. The shrine was open for prayer from 7AM until 7PM with Mass at 7AM and noon.

Members of the St. Padre Pio Fraternity were among the Pro-Life advocates who staffed the Right to Life booth at the Canfield Fair which took place September 1 through September 6 and enabled the Pro-Life message to reach thousands of people in just those few days.

The Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi will be celebrated at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted on Sunday, October 3, at 6:00PM in the evening. Light refreshments will be served following the Service. All are invited and most welcome to this solemn occasion.

Our Lady of America Fraternity, Ashtabula News – by Margaret Sartor, TOF

Our Lady of America Fraternity held a Franciscan Come and See information event on June 24, 2021 at St. Joseph Calasanz Church in Jefferson. Five professed members, three Inquirers, and Father Vit were in attendance.

Father discussed the Franciscan Family Tree, the early days of the Third Order, stages of spiritual growth, and various types of prayer in those stages. We discussed an overview of the Formation process, and the Professed shared what being a Third Order Franciscan means to them.

It was truly a spiritually-edifying evening, and Our Lady of America Fraternity looks forward to beginning the Formation process with the three individuals who have expressed interest – and anyone else the Holy Spirit sends! We will be grateful if you would keep all involved in your prayers.



Ss. Francis & Clare Fraternity, Barberton News

The seminarian who Ss. Francis & Clare Fraternity has sponsored for the last few years was Ordained for the Diocese of Moshi, Tanzania in August. Fr. Gastor Temu Bahati has been assigned to be the secretary to his Bishop, which is an honor. We pray God will spiritually and physically protect Fr. Gastor for the rest of his life, which he has given to the Church!



We were honored to participate at the Right to Life booth at the Stark County Fair on September 4. Members of our fraternity worked with two members of the OFS Eucharistic Fraternity of Canton. Betty DeMarco, TOF and Roberto Meza, TOF covered 10 AM to 2 PM. Then Bob Burtscher, TOF, Nancy Nicholas, OFS and Mary Joseph, OFS were present from 2 PM until 6 PM. Finally, Roberto and Maria Elena Meza, TOF served from 6 PM to 9:30 PM. The coordinators from Right to Life, Jim and Sandy Griffin, expressed their appreciation for our help. It was wonderful to work with our OFS family for such a vital cause!

Our annual Franciscan Tertiaries hike took place on Monday, September 6 at the Ledges Trail in Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

We had 16 participants, with members from Our Lady of America and Ss. Francis and Clare Fraternities, as well as some of the McCausland children. We were blessed with a sunny day with temperatures in the low 70s, perfect hiking weather. Halfway through the hike, we stopped in a secluded area of the trail surrounded by huge rock walls, where we prayed and had ongoing formation. We studied the encyclical *Rite Expiatis*, written in 1926 by Pope Pius XI, on St. Francis of Assisi. We focused on different aspects of Franciscan spirituality mentioned in the encyclical, such as *life according to the Gospel, the role of Divine grace, humility, the apostolate of St. Francis' love of creation*, followed by questions and group discussion. We concluded by praying the Cantic "Let all creatures praise the Lord" (Daniel 3). After the hike we met for lunch at Fisher's in Peninsula.

We enjoyed wonderful Franciscan fellowship while enjoying God's gifts, and hope to repeat the outing in 2022!



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:

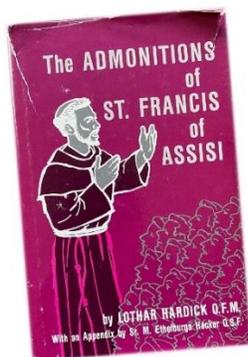
1. August 2, the Feast of Mary, the Queen of Angels;
2. August 12, the Feast of St. Clare; and
3. October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

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

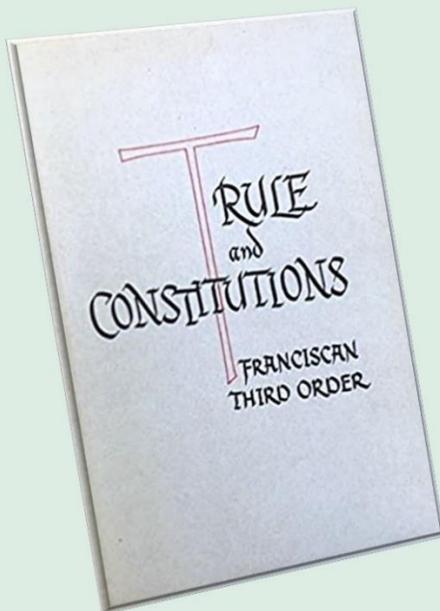
Spiritual classics are those rare treasures that once found, one can continue to learn something new each time we revisit the book.

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.

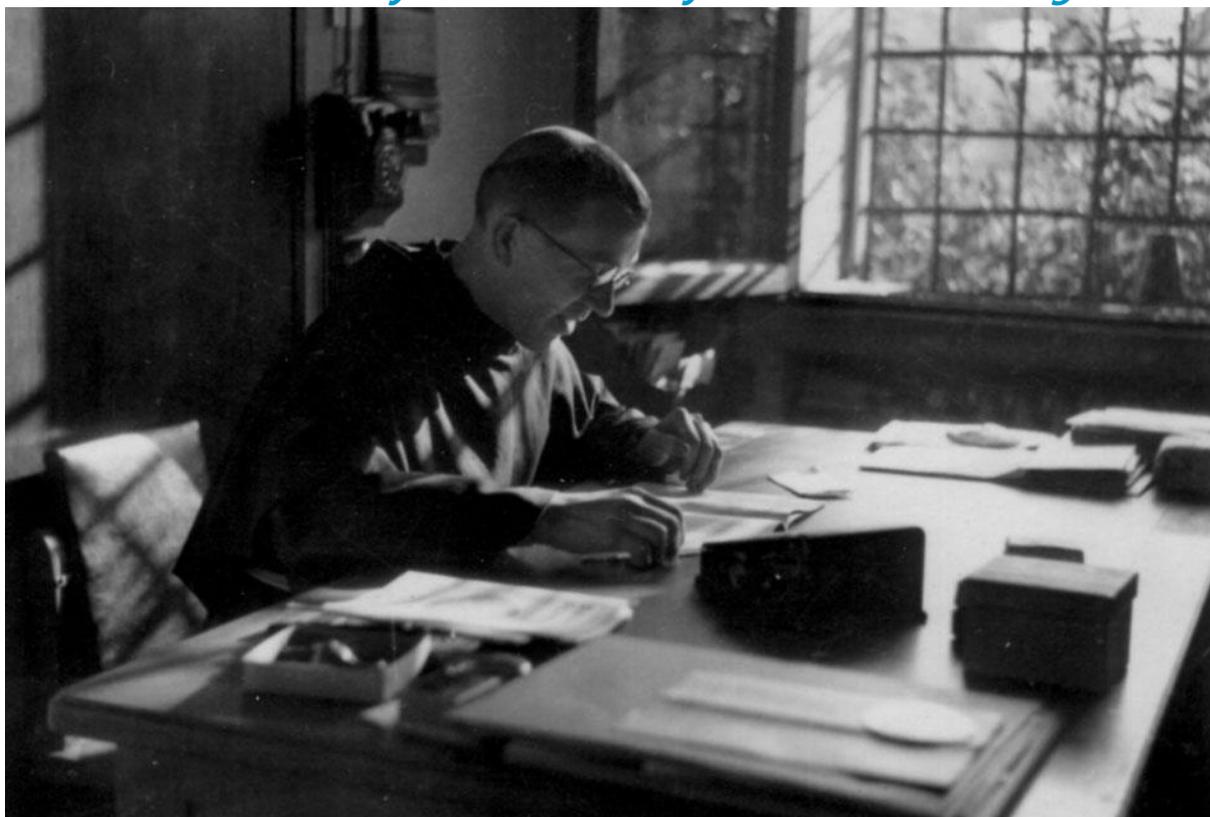
If you are this person, please contact Pepe Ventosa, TOF.



Save the Dates!

10/3	Transitus, Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted, 6 PM
10/4	Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
11/13	Day of Recollection, Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted

“Religion is a burden that one never tires of carrying, but which more and more enamors the soul toward greater sacrifices, even to the point of giving one’s life for the defense of the Faith and the Christian religion, even to the point of dying amid torments like the martyrs of Christianity in distant and foreign lands.”



**Venerable Placido Cortese, OFM, Cap. (1907-1944)
Priest, Publisher, Writer, Teacher, Prisoner, Martyr,
Servant of God**