

October, 2021

Volume 2, Issue 10

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

This month, we celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, our beloved patron saint and founder of the Franciscan Order.

Our good St. Francis was brought up in a comfortable upper-class household. His mother, Pica, a devout and charitable Catholic, taught Francis to remember the poor and his duties in the Faith. His father, Pietro, was a hard-working, successful cloth merchant. Francis was a loved child, and benefitted from the example of both parents. He was outgoing, joyful, charming, and the kind of person who brought the sunshine with him when he walked into a room. He enjoyed singing, laughing, and eating well with his many friends. He loved people, and he was a natural salesman in his father's shop.

He hoped to be a knight, which involved being a soldier willing to defend Assisi, and to be a husband and father. When he came of age, his father was happy to give him a start and provided him with an expensive suit of armor and a horse. Francis went off to war against Perugia, and was captured by their forces, who imprisoned him. It took his father a year to raise the funds to pay his ransom.

Being imprisoned was unpleasant, but Francis used his time to pray, examine his life, and dream. When he returned to Assisi, he had a very different outlook, and found his former lifestyle unsatisfying. He discovered his true life's work.

Sometimes we face a fork in the road, or an unexpected challenge that changes the plans we made, or our view of the world. Perhaps we can understand this when we remember how we were inspired to become Franciscans, and to serve Jesus and the Church as St. Francis did. Change is not always welcome, and sometimes we fight it. But often, after a period of time, we can look back with gratitude to God for yanking us out of what was perhaps a potentially dangerous situation, and for giving us the gift of a vocation.

St. Francis of Assisi, pray for us!

Fraternity Council

Roberto Meza, TOF
– Minister

Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM
– Spiritual Director

James Miller, TOF –
Vice-Minister

Mary Dye, TOF – Secretary
Therese Harper – Treasurer

Virgil Daniel, TOF –
Councilor

Chris Devore, TOF –
Councilor

Pepe Ventosa, TOF –
Councilor

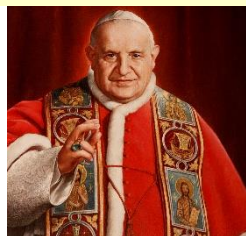
Debbie Ventosa, TOF
– Formation Director

Susan Kramer, TOF
– Newsletter

Next Gathering –

Sunday, Oct. 17 @ 1:30 PM
St. Nicholas Byzantine Church
1051 Robinson Ave.
Barberton, OH 44203

Franciscan Quote of the Month



"Before everything else, fidelity to the Church: One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic. Jesus did not found several churches, but one single Church."

St. Pope John XXIII (1881-1963) Feast Day – October 11
Soldier, Priest, Bishop, Head of the Propagation of the Faith, Vatican Diplomat,
Defender of Holocaust Victims, Papal Nuncio, Pope, Third Order Franciscan

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

Mary Dye, TOF
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 27 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.*

October Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

Elizabeth Francis, TOF – 31 Years
Roberto & Maria Elena Meza, TOF –
8 Years
Rose Akins, TOF & Betty DeMarco, TOF –
5 Years
Chris & LeeAnn Devore, TOF;
Cindy Russo, TOF – 3 Years



Birthdays

Rick Dunlap, TOF – 10/2
Rose Akins, TOF – 10/3
Bob Burtscher, TOF – 10/13

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 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.

Stand for Life



Bob Burtscher, TOF and Debbie Ventosa, TOF will represent the fraternity October 16 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.**

Hospitality and Little Portion

Our October Hospitality will be provided by Bob Burtscher, TOF. Anyone who would like to assist should give Bob a call to coordinate the food.



The October Little Portion will be prepared by Therese Harper, TOF. ***We need someone to deliver 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, disposable razors, etc. As the weather cools, tube socks are very useful. 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.

Fraternity Statutes

Council continues to work on our fraternity statutes. Anyone interested to see what we have done so far can ask a Council member for a copy of the draft.

Rest in Peace

Bishop Anthony Pilla of Cleveland recently died at the age of 88. Bishop Pilla led the Cleveland Diocese for over 26 years, and was the only native of Cleveland (Little Italy on the east side) to serve as Bishop in its history.

His Excellency started out as an instructor at Borromeo Seminary, and never forgot his scholarly roots. He continued to encourage the parish priests of the Diocese, his former students.

He was named Bishop by St. Pope John Paul II in 1980 to replace Bishop Hickey, who was named Cardinal of the Diocese of Washington, DC. During his time as Bishop, His Excellency served as President of the US Council of Catholic Bishops.

Bishop Pilla retired early, at the age of 73, because of health concerns. He was followed by Bishop Richard Lennon (deceased), who was named Bishop of Cleveland in 2006. God bless Bishop Pilla, and may he see the face of Jesus.



Fraternity Elections

Joanne Angeletti, TOF organized and presented the slate of candidates for our fraternity elections at the September Gathering. Pat Cuttica, TOF, Minister of the Padre Pio Fraternity of Youngstown, generously oversaw the proceedings and we were delighted to welcome her. Pat was assisted by Fr. Vit and Fred Kramer. The following members were elected for a term of three years:

Minister: Roberto Meza, TOF was elected.

Vice-Minister: Jim Miller, TOF was elected.

Secretary: Mary Dye, TOF was elected.

Treasurer: Therese Harper, TOF was elected.

Councillors (3 positions): Virgil Daniel, TOF; Chris Devore, TOF; and Pepe Ventosa, TOF were elected.

The new Council will appoint the Formation Director at an upcoming Council meeting. Anyone who wants to nominate or recommend anyone, or if you feel called to this position, please contact Roberto or any member of Council.

Congratulations and best blessings to all candidates and elected members, who are willing to work hard and sacrifice their time for us!

Many thanks to our previous Council: Bob Burtscher, TOF served as our Minister for most of the last term and faithfully helped lead us as we established ourselves as TOF; Roberto Meza, TOF, served as our Vice-Minister and generously took over leadership as our Acting Minister for the last few months; Larry McNutt, TOF was our Secretary and conscientiously fulfilled his duties beautifully; and Pepe Ventosa, TOF was our Councilor and assistant to Fr. Vit as we reestablished ourselves and welcomed new Formation students and Isolated Tertiaries. Special thanks to Mary Dye, TOF, who assisted Council with many details and duties that came with our reorganization. Well done, brothers and Mary! Additionally, Council is very grateful for the hard work and thorough preparation of our Formation Director, Debbie Ventosa, TOF. We are grateful for all your selfless work in service to God and our fraternity!



(Incoming Fraternity Council: Virgil Daniel, TOF; Mary Dye, TOF; Chris Devore, TOF; Therese Harper, TOF; Jim Miller, TOF; Roberto Meza, TOF and Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM. Missing – Pepe Ventosa, TOF, Councilor. Photo Credit, Cindy Russo, TOF)

Transitus



The Padre Pio Fraternity of Youngstown has graciously invited us to the Transitus, which will be celebrated on October 3 at 6 PM at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted.

This service commemorates the holy death of St. Francis of Assisi in a moving and reverent way. Our brothers and sisters of the Padre Pio Fraternity also invites us to a light reception to follow.

If you are interested in carpooling, please notify a Council member and we will try to arrange for a ride.

Day of Recollection

Our annual Day of Recollection is approaching! As always, our day will include lessons from Fr. Vit, the opportunity for Confession, Adoration, Mass, and fellowship with our Franciscan brothers and sisters from Padre Pio and Our Lady of America fraternities.

If you plan to attend, please let Roberto know so we can give a headcount. If you would like to carpool and cannot connect with anyone, please let someone on Council know and we will find a ride for you.



Monastic Principles in the Spiritual Life of the Franciscan Tertiary

Day of Recollection

Franciscan Tertiaries of the Province of the Immaculate Conception

Talk #1: The Monk: *Monasticism as a way to Perfection*

Talk #2: The Franciscan Tertiary: *Interior Monasticism as a way to Perfection*

When: November 13, 2021

Place: Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted
Youngstown, OH

Speaker: Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM

Time: 8:45 AM

Lord, It Is Good for Us to Be Together!

We met for our Gathering on September 19 at St. Nicholas Byzantine Church. We had 26 in attendance, including Formation Students Jesse Kuhn and Denise Williams, as well as Fred Kramer and Fr. Vit. We were also blessed to welcome Pat Cuttica, TOF, Minister of the Padre Pio Fraternity in Youngstown. Nettie Miller, TOF, Larry McNutt, TOF, and Pepe and Debbie Ventosa, TOF were present virtually as well.

Kenny Green, TOF led the Liturgy of the Hours, assisted by Carol Perrine, TOF and Bill Marshall, TOF.

We then moved on to Lectio Divina, which was ably proclaimed by Virgil Daniel, TOF. The Gospel of the day was from St. Mark, Chapter 9. We paired off and discussed what message Jesus spoke to us, and prayed with our partners.

This was followed by lunch, which was beautifully prepared by Betty DeMarco, TOF; Mary Dye, TOF; and Rose Zaratsian, TOF. We used this time to get caught up with one another and enjoy our Franciscan brothers and sisters.

Fraternity elections followed, and were witnessed and overseen by Pat Cuttica, TOF, who acted as election facilitator, with Fred Kramer as her assistant. Fr. Vit also assisted with the process, and the results are recorded separately in this edition of the newsletter. Our virtual members also voted, which is the first time we have used this technology for an election. We are very grateful for everyone who volunteered to run for Council positions, and to our outgoing Council. Our former Council served us well, indeed, and we have great confidence in the incoming Council as we go forward.

Pat Cuttica, Fr. Vit, and Fred tallied the votes and Joanne Angeletti announced the results. Once the election was completed, Fr. Vit blessed the incoming Council, which gets us all off to a good start.



After this, Denise Williams moved from being an Inquirer to becoming a Postulant in the ceremony performed by Fr. Vit, who welcomed Denise with the Blessing of St. Francis. Congratulations, Denise – you are one step closer to becoming a Franciscan!

← **Denise Williams welcomed into the Postulancy by Fr. Vit.**
Photo credit – Cindy Russo, TOF

The food pantry collection went to St. Francis de Sales Parish, with Kenny Green, TOF delivering it.

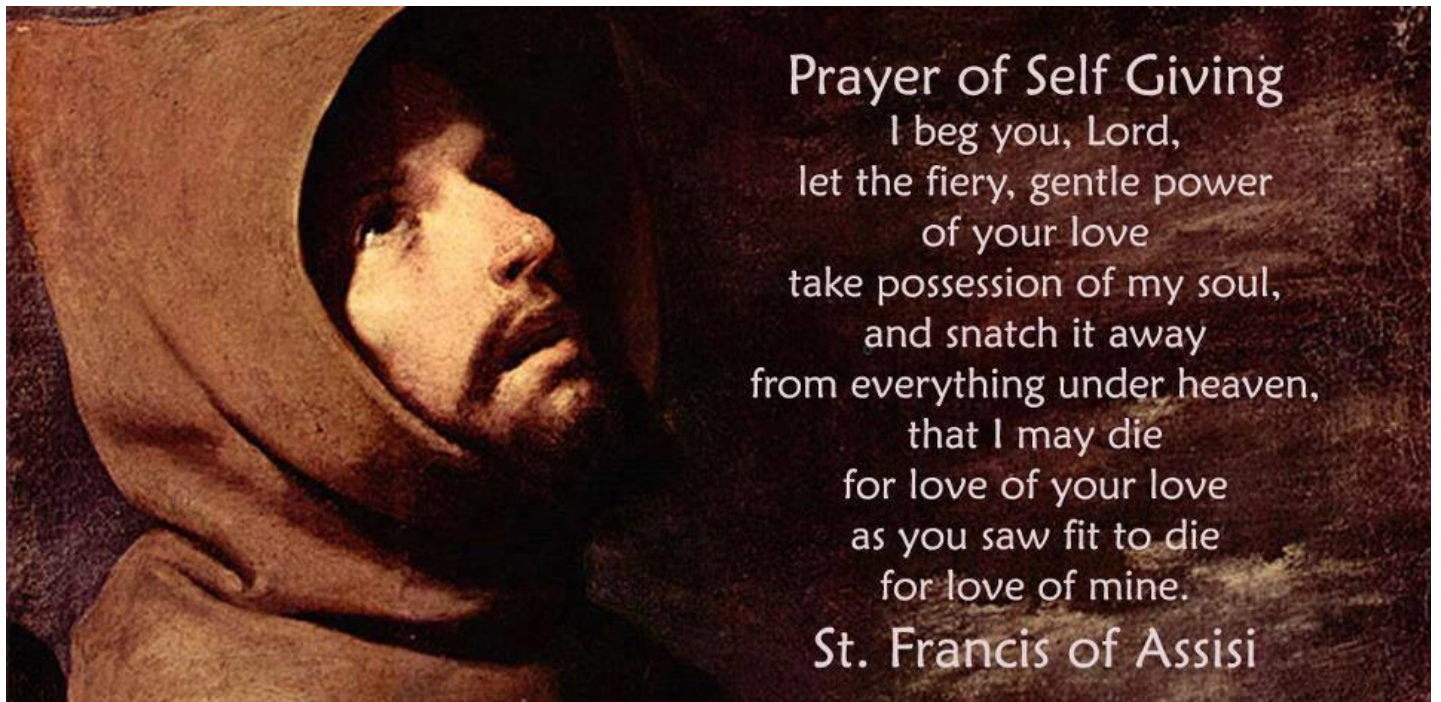
We then prayed as a community. We asked God to bless our country and prayed that it embraces the right to life, born and unborn, womb to tomb. We prayed for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and specifically for our parish priests, the priests of the Immaculate Conception Province of the OFM and their Provincial Minister, Fr Robert Campagna, OFM, Bishop Bonnar of Youngstown, Bishop Malesic of Cleveland, and Bishop Lach of the Eparchy of Parma.

We asked God to heal Fr. Miron Kerul-Kmec, pastor of St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish, who is recovering from illness. To this we added prayers for Father's son, Fr. Miron Kerul-Kmec, Jr. of Pittsburgh, whose two parishes were unsuccessfully attacked by an urban terrorist. Young Fr. Miron recently also became the father of Miron Kerul-Kmec III, and we added prayers for the safety of his little family.

We ended our Gathering with a blessing from Fr. Vit, and the reminder that our next Gathering is Sunday, October 17 – same time, same place.

Save the Date (October, the Month of Holy Rosary)

October 3	Transitus (<i>Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted Shrine, Youngstown, 6 PM</i>)
October 4	Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
October 13-17	Retreat with Confraternity of Penitents (Huntington, Indiana)
October 17	October Gathering (<i>St. Nicholas Byzantine Church, 1:30 PM</i>)
November 1	Feast of All Saints (Holy Day of Obligation)
November 13	Day of Recollection (<i>Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted Shrine, Youngstown, 8:45 AM</i>)



Prayer of Self Giving

I beg you, Lord,
 let the fiery, gentle power
 of your love
 take possession of my soul,
 and snatch it away
 from everything under heaven,
 that I may die
 for love of your love
 as you saw fit to die
 for love of mine.

St. Francis of Assisi