



Soldiers of Christ

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

November 2021

Sandy Baden, TOF, Editor

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As I pondered what to write in this November issue of the “Soldiers of Christ Newsletter” it seemed I was at a loss. I thought about Judith Ingelsby's, TOF, talk on suffering during our last Isolated Tertiaries zoom gathering, which brought to mind “All Saints Day,” and how these saints seemed to unite themselves to Jesus through their sufferings.

I received, in the mail, an issue of the “IPRINT” magazine from the Sisters Of Life, located at the Annunciation Motherhouse in Suffern, New York as I know one of the Sisters who lives there, Sr. Joseph Marie DeMaggio. In my own meditation of the sufferings of Christ I have contemplated Simon, who carried Christ's cross and how he must have felt when he lifted Christ's cross to his shoulder. A man who truly carried Christ's cross. I would like to share this article with you, which is titled Meditation:

SIMON & JESUS

“..Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me” (Mt 25:40).

“This is not my business! He's the criminal, not me! This is unjust!” I shouted in disgust. My words were swallowed up by the cacophony around me. Something, however, compelled me to look at Him again. When I did, I could not move. His bloodied, swollen eyes met mine with a love that cannot be expressed in words. There was a longing, a pleading there. As He quietly moaned, it was as if His heart spoke to mine, and somehow I knew what His voice could not utter. “Console Me, Simon,” He seemed to be pleading. “Help Me to carry My cross. I am alone.” Instantly, my heart bled for Him. It was a gentle invitation and I spontaneously reached out my hand to this unknown man. With at one

small act of kindness, I felt a surge go through my body. Something left me—a strange heaviness that had been with me for too many years. My world expanded, and I could see and feel beyond myself. I had love and compassion for this man, and for every soul that suffers. My life had meaning. My wife and children mattered. Every person mattered. Strangely, I felt cherished and chosen in what minutes before seemed only a cruel injustice done to me. A new energy filled my being and my only desire was to bring relief to this poor, humble soul without a name. I quickly intertwined by arms through His and pulled the beam up for the two of us. And together we dragged the wood forward.

-An excerpt from the book *Epiphanies*, by the Sisters of Life-

When you unite yourself to Jesus in your suffering or help others carry their crosses, **YOU ARE ANOTHER SIMON**. (IMPRINT Publication, Fall Issue 20

Getting to know our Isolated Tertiaries



Each month, except for Issue 2, I have included an introduction to an Isolated Tertiary in the order they have been received, Fr. Dozier, TOF, Ericka Whitover, TOF, and Linda Menser, TOF. I find now that I am next, so this one is about me, Sandra T. Baden, TOF (Sandy).

I was born in San Francisco at St. Francis Hospital where Franciscan nuns were in residence. I heard a Priest, at a Marian conference once say, he was born in San Francisco at St. Francis Hospital in April of 1947, and is a Catholic and a Priest today because of the prayers of those Franciscan nuns. Well, I could say the same as I was born in April of 1947 also. I always wondered if we were there at the same exact time in April?

I converted from the Lutheran faith at age 24, 50 years ago, Oct. 2, 1971, into the Roman Catholic Church after reading a biography of St. Francis of Assisi and was brought into the Catholic Church by Fr. Oliver Lynch, OFM in Oakland, Ca. at St. Elizabeth's Parish. I have always felt St. Francis of Assisi was following me throughout my life.

My hobbies or Talents consist of: Reading, writing articles and poetry, needlework, sewing, crochet, oil painting, Rosary making, RV Camping and playing billiards with my Husband, Ted.

I started working at Bank of America World Headquarters in San Francisco, which the building is now owned by “President Trump,” in 1968 and worked my way up the ladder from a receptionist in the Economics Dept. to an Executive Secretary to Walter E. Hoadley, Executive Vice President and Chief Economist. I was transferred to the Sacramento Regional Office and became an Account Signing Officer. In 1988, I started working for Blue Shield of California as a Customer Service Representative and was promoted and retired as a Senior Clinical Support Coordinator in the Medical Management Department by 2007.

During the years working for Blue Shield of California I was active in my Parish in Placerville, Calif. at St. Patrick’s Church. I was Director of RCIA for nine years until my first husband passed away in 2005, the same week as St. Pope John Paul II. Ted and I were Married in 2007 and moved to So. California. I was Professed as an SFO with San Luis Rey Fraternity in Oceanside, on Feb. 6, 2011. I was Director of Formation for seven years and Vice Minister for two years, which I had resigned to become a TOF (Isolated Tertiary) in April 2021. I feel so blessed to be where I am today and thank all of you in welcoming me into the Franciscan Tertiaries of the of Province of the Immaculate Conception.

Isolated Tertiaries News

Luis Guzman, TOF celebrated his Investiture on Oct. 4, 2021. The Paster was Fr. Andrew Sarki at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, San Diego, Ca.

Brenda Dunkelman, TOF celebrated her Investiture on Oct. 3, 2021 at The St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Chino Hills, Ca. with Fr. Mike Fredericks



Jim Dunkelman, Brenda Dunkelman, TOF and Fr. Mike Frederick

HOW TO REMAIN FRANCISCAN IN A Grrrrrrrrr WORLD

Fourth Tip: Holy speech, Ephesians 4:29, "Let no unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building up others according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

Grrrr.....How hard is this one is! 'He's lazy, no wonder he's overweight.' 'She's not smart enough to make better decisions so she'll always suffer from choosing men like that.' 'He'll never get anywhere in life, he has not ambition.' 'Why do people keep making the same mistakes over and over? Well, they deserve what they got!' The words just slip out of our mouths. We encounter someone caught in a situation that seems hopeless to them, and instead of looking at them with compassion and offering words of encouragement and help, we pass a vocal judgement on them and move on. Let us try to remember the old saying. "If you can't say anything nice, then don't say anything at all." The Lord hears all our words and we will be accountable to every one of them at the end of time. Let us be different than the world and surprise someone who is used to words of condemnation, by offering a word of praise or encouragement. It can be as simple as telling the person their hair looks nice that day, or they have a beautiful smile, or wishing them a Blessed day! Let us be Christ to them. It could be a door opened to tell them the Good News of the Gospel.

"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"

Fifth Tip by Ericka C. Witover, TOF, will be in the next issue of the Soldiers of Christ Newsletter.

November 17th: Memorial of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Patron Saint of the Third Order of St. Francis of Assisi

A SHORT SUMMARY OF ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY



St. Elizabeth of Hungary is venerated in the Catholic Church and was an early member of the Third Order of St. Francis, which we celebrate her feast day on November 17th. She was the daughter of King Andrew II of Hungary, and was known as the Princess of the Kingdom of Hungary.

St. Elizabeth was canonized on May 24, 1235 and had lived only to the age of 24 years, (July 7, 1207-1231). So young, but so much did she accomplish in her life to bring her to sainthood. She was married at age 14 to Ludwig IV of Thuringia and widowed at age 20.

One miracle St. Elizabeth is well known for was the “Miracle of the Roses,” which she had stole bread to feed the poor and hid the bread in her cloak. When she was discovered at stealing treasure from the castle, in that moment, her cloak fell open and revealed a vision of white and red roses.

In 1228, St. Elizabeth of Hungary cared for the poor in a hospital which she founded in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. Elizabeth’s health declined and she died before her birthday in 1231.

Many miracles, even after her death, had happened at her grave, especially those of healing. Elizabeth had the ceremony of consecration and adopted a Franciscan religious habit in her new way of life. St. Francis of Assisi had sent her a personal message of blessing shortly before his death in 1226. Upon her canonization she was declared the Patron Saint of the Third Order of St. Francis of Assisi.

So much more could be said that one should find a biography and read the beautiful story of St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

Sandy Baden, TOF

Upcoming Events



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

At the Day of Recollection, three Postulants from the SS. Francis and Clare Fraternity will celebrate the Ceremony of Reception into the Novitiate. Also during this event, the ministers of the local fraternities will receive the certificate of Canonical Establishment of their fraternities. We are planning to record Fr. Vit's presentations and have them available to view in the community's YouTube channel. More information to follow.

Initial Formation:

Erica Witover, TOF and Debbie Ventosa, TOF continue to work on a curriculum of Initial Formation. We are forming a team which under Erick's leadership will assist her in this essential ministry of forming new members in the Franciscan way of life. Luis Guzman, TOF (Isolated Tertiary) and Virgil Daniel, TOF (from the SS. Francis & Clare Fraternity) have gracefully accepted to help with this team. We thank both of them. Eventually as the Isolated Tertiary community grows, this ministry will be in the hands of the Isolated Tertiaries. In the meantime, we appreciated the assistance of those TOF members from a local fraternity. The new Initial Formation group is starting on November 18th, so please keep these inquirers in your prayers.

Virtual Gathering:

The next upcoming virtual IT gathering will be November 4th at 7:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada). We need volunteers to teach ongoing formation at these IT gatherings. Please contact Linda Menser, TOF for more information. Linda has indicated that we are covered for 2021, but we need volunteers for 2022 when the new topics for each month are chosen, Linda will let you know.



“What wonderful majesty! What stupendous
condescension! O sublime humility! That
the Lord of the whole universe, God and the
Son of God, should humble Himself like this
under the form of a little bread, for our
salvation.”

St. Francis of Assisi

MONDAY: JUDITH INGLESBY, TOF

TUESDAY: LINDA MENSER, TOF

WEDNESDAY: LUIS GUZMAN, TOF
JUDITH INGLESBY, TOF

THURSDAY: PAUL AND MARY TAG, TOF
SANDY BADEN, TOF

FRIDAY: LINDA MENSER, TOF

SATURDAY: ERICKA WITOVER, TOF

SUNDAY: LINDA MENSER, TO

ADMONITIONS OF ST FRANCIS CHAPTER II (The Evil of Self-Will)

Perfect Obedience clearly comes to mind in studying this Admonition and wondering how Obedient have we been in our lives as a Franciscan. I have another poem I wrote which describes my feelings in reading "The Evil of Self-Will and Lothar Hardick's insights to this Admonition.

FAITH AND OBEDIENCE

You gave me the gift of Faith, and what do I
with it? Give me the grace to follow Your will
and may I be Obedient to You. If I fall, I know
You are there for me as I see through my tears.
Oh Lord, how Obedient have I been?

You give me grace to bring love though the Holy
Eucharist. How Obedient have I been? Did I see
you in the homeless and the outcast? You were
there amongst them! Oh Lord, how Obedient
have I been?

You were there when I needed You, and You always
love me. How Obedient have I been? Did I turn
away when You did not? Oh Lord, where was my
Obedience then?

You give me grace and love and I pray for it all.
How Obedient have I been? In sickness and in
health You strengthened me. How Obedient
have I been?

I ask you Lord, how Obedient have I been?
You give me Your love and I pray I see,
Obedience to guide me, and prayer to show
me the way. Your love is enough, Oh Lord,
and in Your Obedience, You give me mine.

Sandy Baden, TOF

That they may more easily practice love of God and charity towards their neighbor, members shall follow the example of Christ who said of himself: "The Son of Man did not come to have service done him; he came to serve others, and to give his life as a ransom for the lives of many" (Matthew, 20:28). Further, with the Seraphic Francis as their model, they shall, instead of living merely for themselves, make every effort to be of service to others, and to spread Christ's kingdom by word and work. They shall strive to settle disagreements and discord wherever they may come upon these, and make the greatest endeavor to restore and promote the spirit of charity and peace.

Constitutions Article 43



Save the Date

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| November 4: | Virtual Monthly Gathering |
| November 11 | Initial Formation (Group 1) |
| November 13: | Day of Recollection |
| November 17: | St. Elizabeth, Patron of the Franciscan Third Order |
| November 18: | Initial Formation (Group 2) |