

December, 2021

Volume 2, Issue 12

Il Poverello

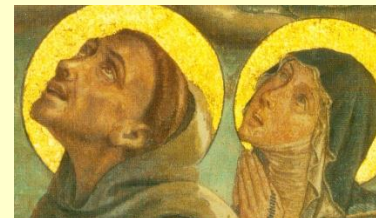
The newsletter of the SS Francis and Clare Fraternity
of the Third Order of St. Francis

*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

In this month of December, during the seasons of Advent and Christmas, we are drawn to the Church's unchanging teachings on God's gift of human life as we anticipate and rejoice in the birth of Jesus.

After Our Lady herself, the first human who recognized Jesus was St. John the Baptist, who leapt in St. Elizabeth's womb before Mary even announced she was with child. Think of that – an unborn child recognized another unborn child as his Lord and God!

In 1531, a few short years after Martin Luther inflicted the Reformation on Catholic Europe, resulting in over 5 million souls rejecting Catholicism, the visit of Our Lady of Guadalupe caused over twice as many conversions over a ten-year period in Mexico, and ended the horrific human sacrifices to pagan gods by native people. The Holy Mother of God appeared as a beautiful, regal, pregnant teenaged girl to St. Juan Diego, and spoke his language with motherly tenderness.

Today, humanity is afflicted with the evil of abortion worldwide – even in the most Catholic countries of Ireland and Mexico. At this writing, the Supreme Court is considering rejecting Roe v. Wade, or at least somewhat curbing the endless slaughter of American children.

We must **never** become discouraged or abandon our defense of all human life. Just because it seems the majority legislates evil does not make it moral or justified. **Viva La Virgen de Guadalupe!**

Fraternity Council

Roberto Meza, TOF
– Minister

Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM
– Spiritual Director

James Miller, TOF –
Vice-Minister

Mary Dye, TOF – Secretary
Therese Harper, TOF –
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, December 19 @ 1:30 PM

St. Nicholas Byzantine Church

1051 Robinson Ave.

Barberton, OH 44203

Franciscan Quote of the Month



"Rejoice and be glad that so great and good a Lord, on coming into the Virgin's womb, willed to appear despised, needy, and poor in this world, so that men who were in dire poverty and suffering great need of heavenly food might be made rich in Him."

St. Clare of Assisi (1194-1253)

Founder of the Second Order of the Franciscans, the Poor Clares; Defender of the Blessed Sacrament; Patroness of Television and Radio

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.*

December Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

Joanne Angeletti, TOF – 35 Years
Julia Tarulli, TOF – 23 Years

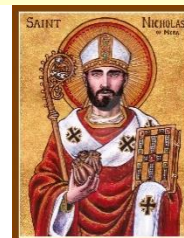


Birthdays

Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM – 12/16

St. Nicholas Day of Appreciation

St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Parish, our fraternity home for many years, celebrated a Day of Appreciation for Fr. Miron Kerul-Kmec, their beloved pastor. Fr. Miron and the parish have been very welcoming to our fraternity, and Father takes a pastoral interest in our activities. Our fraternity includes 3 of his parishioners – Joanne Angeletti, TOF, and Virgil and Louise Daniel, TOF. We presented Father with a card and gift on behalf of the fraternity to thank him for his support and kindness. God bless Fr. Kerul-Kmec!



Stand for Life



We have no one scheduled for the Stand for Life in November and December, since the weather is usually cold and bitter. If you feel called to represent the fraternity the 3rd Saturday of the month, please contact Roberto Meza. 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

Since our December Gathering will consist of our Christmas party on December 19, the usual arrangements will apply. Council will provide chicken, soft drinks, and paper products. Those whose last names begin with A through L are assigned to bring salads or side dishes. Those whose last names begin with M through Z are asked to bring fruit or a dessert.



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

We will provide the Little Portion from our Christmas feast. If anyone feels called to deliver this to either Akron or Canton, please see Roberto to let him know.

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.

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.

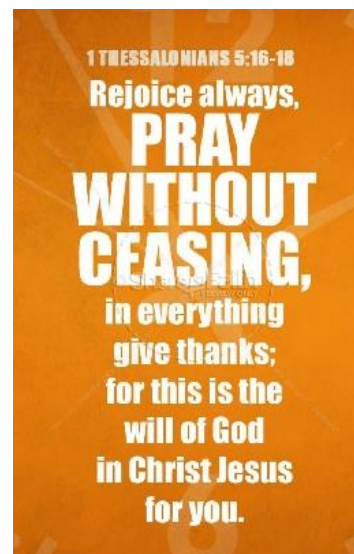
Eucharistic Adoration and Daily Prayer

Council asks those of us who participate in Eucharistic Adoration – and the rest of our fraternity - to remember the following intentions every day when you pray:

1. The spiritual protection of our fraternity and of all our members.
2. Those in our fraternity who are sick, and their families.
3. **Pope Francis** and his intentions.
4. Our bishops: **Bishop David Bonnar** of the Diocese of Youngstown, **Bishop Milan Lach** of the Eparchy of Parma, and **Bishop Edward Malesic, JCL** of the Diocese of Cleveland.
5. The Friars of the Immaculate Conception Province of the OFM, particularly **Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM**, **Fr. Dennis Arambasick, OFM**, and **Fr. Robert Campagna, OFM**, who is the Provincial Friar.
6. Our beloved pastors and parish priests, and our parishes, including **Fr. Miron Kerul-Kmec**, who hosts our fraternity every month. We also pray for **Fr. Daniel Dozier, TOF**, an Isolated Tertiary

who is the pastor of St. George Byzantine Parish in Olympia, Washington, as well as a professor at SS. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Seminary.

7. **Fr. Gastor Temu Bahati**, the newly-ordained priest of the Diocese of Moshi, whom we have spiritually supported for several years.
8. **Frater Francis Tumaini** of the Diocese of Moshi, who is the new seminarian we have adopted.
9. All the seminarians of St. Mary Seminary and Borromeo Seminary in Cleveland, which serves the Youngstown and Cleveland Dioceses, as well as the seminarians of SS. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Seminary, which serves the Eparchy of Parma. Council has also decided to spiritually adopt a seminarian from Stark County (**Arthur Bodenschatz**, Christ the Servant Parish in Canton), from Summit County (**Joseph Rohan**, St. Joseph Parish in Cuyahoga Falls), and from Capuchin Formation (**Christopher Klobuchir**). Many thanks to Chris Devore, TOF; Judith Hoyt, TOF; and Fr. Michael McCandless from the Cleveland Diocese Vocations Office for seminarian nominations!



That's a lot! But it is part of our holy Franciscan vocation to prayerfully support our fellow Franciscans, the Pope, our bishops, our priests, and seminarians. We have no Order without faithful Franciscans, no priests without our seminarians, no Eucharist without our priests, and no Church without the Eucharist. All these individuals on the list sacrifice daily for us, and the very least we can do is to pray for them!

Lord, It Is Good for Us to Be Together!

We met for our Gathering on November 13 at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted in Youngstown for our annual Day of Recollection. Our gracious hosts were the St. Padre Pio Fraternity of Youngstown, who provided for our every comfort. We had many of our fellow Third Order brothers and sisters from Our Lady of America Fraternity in Ashtabula and St. Padre Pio Fraternity in Youngstown in attendance, in addition to 29 of our own fraternity members. We were also joined by David Dzurillo of Walsh University, who recorded the Day of Recollection, which will be available on our You Tube channel for viewing.

Pat Cuttica, TOF, St. Padre Pio Fraternity Minister, warmly greeted us and led the opening prayer, as well as Grace before breakfast. She and her fraternity made us feel right at home with morning refreshments and beautiful Franciscan hospitality.

Fr. Vit spoke to us on the subject of "The Monk: Monasticism as a Way to Perfection." The spirituality of this is to love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength. We witness to the love of Christ.

These witnesses are as follows:

1. Martyrdom/Persecution of the Church: We must remain loyal to the teaching of the Church, even in the face of personal danger and ruin.
2. Ascetic Life of Monastics and the Institution of the Christian State: The desert monks and the

conventual monks led lives that inspired others by their holiness and orderliness. Lay people admired and respected their lifestyle, which centered on prayer and work for the Glory of God. The monks also served the secular community, and were a model for law and order in the outside world. Thus, the white martyrdom of the ascetic monks who made repentance for the sins of the world. They lived a schedule of life, work and prayer every day. St. Anthony of the Desert is an example, as is the newly beatified Blessed Charles de Foucauld.

The ascetic monks lived in isolation in the desert, in the following way:

- a. Loved God – heart, mind, soul, and strength.
- b. Attracted demons to themselves to fight them.
- c. Perfected their love for God.
- d. Sometimes lived in monasteries with other monks.

For monks, theology was simple. Hermits seek interior life and solitude. Many became mystics, and people looked on them as living icons.

3. Third Orders: Humans were created good, but human nature is corrupted by sin. God restores human nature. We have an interior desire for goodness and can change, by the grace of God.

The Third Orders (Dominican, Benedictine, Franciscan, Carmelite, Augustinian, etc.) opened monastic prayer seven times daily to the laity, as well as some other disciplines that are pleasing to God.



Married life is a vocation to the Church. With the institution of the Third Orders, single and married people without the vocation of Holy Orders could live in service to the Church, in community.

The Holy Spirit designed a new way for us to serve the Church. The corruption never left the Church from the beginning. Thus, the white martyrdom of the ascetic monks who made repentance for the sins of the world.

When we are ready, God will transform us. In order to prepare ourselves, we must do the following:

1. Interior change. Faith, prayer, fasting, and repentance will metamorphosize us into more perfect and purified disciples.
2. A Christian state is incapable of legislating Faith, leading to failure. It is up to us to live our Faith well, which will influence others.
3. Pray without ceasing: Lord Jesus, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner. Prayer gives birth to virtue. Prayer must come before anything else.

At this point, we moved to the church. Father Vit led the Ceremony of Canonical Establishment of Local Fraternities and the distribution of certificates to the fraternity ministers – Pat Cuttica, TOF, Minister of St. Padre Pio Fraternity in Youngstown; Paul Fedele, TOF, Minister of Our Lady of America

Fraternity in Ashtabula; and Roberto Meza, TOF, Minister of SS. Francis and Clare Fraternity in Barberton.

Fr. Vit with Fraternity Ministers Roberto Meza, TOF; Pat Cuttica, TOF; and Paul Fedele, TOF →



Following this, Father exposed the Blessed Sacrament for Adoration, and then, along with Fr. Ryan Furlong, TOF of the St. Padre Pio Fraternity, gave us the opportunity of Confession, followed by the Prayer for the Dead and Benediction.

At Noon, Fr. Vit and Fr. Furlong concelebrated Mass to a full church, which was a great blessing.

We then headed back to the hall for lunch. As always, our brothers and sisters of St. Padre Pio Fraternity fed us very well! It was wonderful to talk to our extended Franciscan family and get caught up, and to get to know each other. With good food and even better company, it was a terrific lunch!

After we finished lunch, it was time for Fr. Vit's afternoon talk. This was entitled, "The Franciscan Tertiary: Interior Monasticism as a Way to Perfection".



Father told us the story of Michelangelo painting his masterpiece, "The Last Supper". Michelangelo liked to model the figures in his paintings from everyday people. He looked to the people he encountered in his home town. In time, he found the perfect models for each of the apostles, and a model for Jesus. He discovered an innocent, beautiful eight-year-old boy and painted him in.

← New Novices Jesse Kuhn, Denise Williams, and Cathy McCausland with Fr. Vit

Years later, he found the model for Judas in a prison. The man he selected was very hardened. When Michelangelo approached him, the man told him they had met in the past. You guessed it – in his youth, this man was the model for Jesus.

In order to live, we must eat, drink, pray, work, recreate, make time for hygiene and self-care, and deal with the problems we face. We need to process the negativity we meet every day. We must organize our lives, and orient it to the good. Live in the present moment, focus on each task, and enjoy it – including prayer. Do it consciously for the Glory of God.

Be watchful in all things. Beware of idle thoughts – especially when they are violent, angry, sexual, etc. Idleness is the biggest danger to spiritual life. Don't make big changes at the same time. Space it out and do it well. Gradually expand your prayer time.

Don't bring stress home from work. Stop and take a walk first if that helps. Unwind, so when you come home, you do not bring the problems with you.

Monasticism is the school of humanity. Discernment is important. It can save time in your spiritual life.

A good diet will not only keep you healthy, but will enhance the religious experience, because we can think more clearly.



Emotions in prayer can be a distraction. Even out the highs and lows. These extremes can give us false assurances. We do not seek the gifts of God – we seek the Giver.

Prayer is a form of transformation into the image of God. We are set apart for the Gospel in this world. Do not desecrate yourself.

Process through life. Purify your intentions. When something bad happens, make it a reflex to use ejaculatory prayer – for instance, “Jesus, help me!”, or “Jesus, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner!”

← *Fr. Vit blessing scapulars and cinctures*

Improve slowly, by prayer and sacrifice.

This talk was followed by the Ceremony of Reception into the Novitiate. Fr. Vit performed this as we welcomed Jesse Kuhn, Cathy McCausland, and Denise Williams as our new novices.

← *Fr. Vit presenting the scapular to Jesse Kuhn* →



Then we recited the Renewal of Profession, and dedicated ourselves to living as Third Order Franciscans.

← *Fr. Vit presenting the cincture to Denise Williams*

The closing prayer was led by Paul Fedele, TOF, Minister of Our Lady of America of Ashtabula, followed by Fr. Vit's blessing.



We thank Our Lady of America for their welcoming hospitality. They did a wonderful job of presenting us with a delicious breakfast and lunch, and preparing their beautiful hall for us. We truly are a Franciscan family!

← *Fr. Vit presenting the cincture to Cathy McCausland* →

Our December Gathering will be Sunday, December 19 at 1:30 PM at St. Nicholas Byzantine Church in Barberton. Council will provide chicken, soft drinks, and paper products. Those whose last names begin with A through L are assigned to bring salads or side dishes. Those whose last names begin with M through Z are asked to bring fruit or a dessert.

Hope to see you December 19 at St. Nicholas! Happy Advent!

Save the Date (December, the Month of Advent and the Birth of Jesus)

December 7	Fasting for the Vigil of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary
December 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, Patroness of the United States
December 8	Second Anniversary of the Establishment of the Community of Franciscan Tertiaries
December 12	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of North and South America, and Mexico
December 19	December Gathering, St. Nicholas Byzantine Church, 1:30 PM
December 25	Christmas Day (Holy Day of Obligation)
January 1	Feast of Mary, Mother of God



*We have been called to heal wounds,
to unite what has fallen apart,
and to bring home those who have lost their way.*