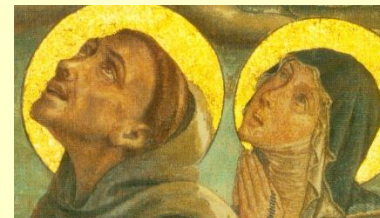


January, 2021

Volume 3, Issue 1

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

Do you make New Year resolutions? A lot of people at least think about it, and this is a fine thing. We should always attempt to improve our personal lives and habits. We don't have to be successful, but we should always try!

We were born imperfect, with original sin. God knows we can't help that. It is just our inheritance from the fallen nature of Adam and Eve. But we can improve on our condition and outlook.

As Franciscans, this is part of our calling. We always try to reform our lives in order to be pleasing to God. Even our good St. Francis, who lived his life in imitation of Jesus as much as possible, never gave up on trying to perfect himself spiritually.

We are given powerful tools in order to pursue spiritual improvement. This includes daily Mass, the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, the Liturgy of the Hours, frequent and regular Confession, retreats, and the reception of Holy Communion.

Good spiritual reading material helps, too. It doesn't always have to be encyclicals or lives of the saints, although these are great resources. Other writers such as G. K. Chesterton, C. S. Lewis, Dr. Scott Hahn, Patrick Madrid, our own Fr. Daniel Dozier, TOF, and many others can help lead us closer to Jesus and keep our minds occupied with wholesome and worthy thoughts.

And don't forget, we can also offer our time and treasure to our parishes. Don't just take up space in a pew at your parish – get busy! Most parishes need more help in many areas, including liturgical assistance (reader at Mass, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, altar servers, ushers, choir, etc.) and in more practical areas (snow plowing, collection counters, gardening, painting, and more). And we can always use more volunteers in our fraternity for the Stand for Life and other activities!

Give it a try! We are God's children, and our attempts to improve might be a small gift to God, just as a child's bouquet of dandelions presented to his or her mother or father touches their hearts. And there is no doubt this will bring joy to our vocations!

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 –
Councillor

Chris Devore, TOF –
Councillor

Pepe Ventosa, TOF –
Councillor

Debbie Ventosa, TOF
– Formation Director
Susan Kramer, TOF
– Newsletter

Next Gathering –

Sunday, January 16 @ 1:30 PM

St. Nicholas Byzantine Church

1051 Robinson Ave.

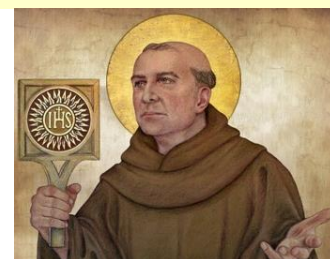
Barberton, OH 44203

Franciscan Quote of the Month

***"Jesus! Glorious name, gracious name, name of love and power!
Through You sins are forgiven, through You enemies are vanquished,
through You the sick are freed from their illness,
through You those suffering in trials are made strong and cheerful!"***

St. Bernardino of Siena, OFM (1380-1444) Feast Day – May 20

Franciscan Priest, Missionary, Economist, Preacher, Arbitrator



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.

January Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

Bill Marshall, TOF – 30 Years



Birthdays

Eileen Dunlap, TOF – 1/7
 Chris Devore, TOF – 1/9
 Kenny Green, TOF – 1/12
 Roberto Meza, TOF – 1/16
 Pepe Ventosa, TOF – 1/20
 Lucy McNutt, TOF – 1/22
 Matthew Poletti, TOF –
 1/23
 Maria Elena Meza, TOF –
 1/25

Stand for Life



We have no one scheduled for the Stand for Life in January, 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 always remain on the sidewalk. 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

Bill Marshall, TOF, Nettie Miller, TOF, and Debbie Ventosa, TOF will provide our luncheon hospitality at our next Gathering on January 16. If you would like to assist, please contact one of these members to see what is needed.



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

If you would like to provide the Little Portion, please let Roberto Meza, TOF know as soon as possible. We would also welcome a volunteer to deliver the Little Portion after the Gathering – again, please let Roberto know if you can help.

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

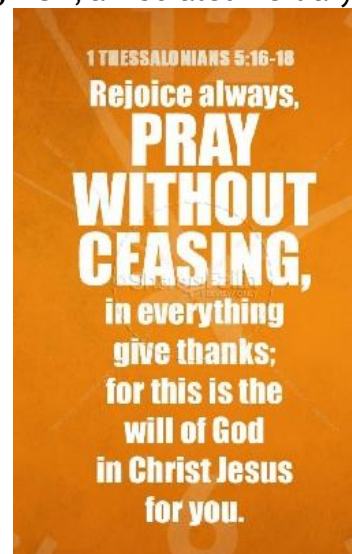
Council continues to work on our fraternity statutes. Anyone interested to see what we have done so far can ask a Council member for a copy of the draft.

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, SJ** 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 Minister.

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!

You are invited to our annual

Annual Baby Shower For Embrace



When: at our January Fraternity Gathering

Embrace provides moral, spiritual, and practical support to pregnant mothers, their children, and the fathers of the children. In place of the food pantry collection, please consider bringing items or monetary donations to support Embrace. This can include baby supplies such as diapers, formula, clothing in sizes from infant to toddler, and anything else of use to a family, including a monetary donation.

Lord, It Is Good for Us to Be Together!

We joyfully assembled for our December Gathering at St. Nicholas Byzantine Church on December 19. We had 25 members in attendance and were delighted to welcome John McGough from St. Paul Parish in Akron.



Roberto Meza, TOF led us in the Initial Prayer, after which we prayed the Liturgy of the Hours, starting by singing “O Come O Come Emmanuel”. The Liturgy of the Hours was led by Kenny Green, TOF, Bill Marshall, TOF, and Debbie Ventosa, TOF.

We then prayed the Lectio Divina, which was the Gospel of the day, Gaudete Sunday, from the Gospel of St. Luke, “Blessed are you who believe!” We discussed the Gospel with our partners and prayed.

← **Betty DeMarco, TOF and Debbie Ventosa, TOF**



Debbie Ventosa, TOF presented certificates honoring those of our fraternity who attained profession milestones in 2021. These included Betty DeMarco, TOF and Rose Akins, TOF (5 years each); Bob Burtscher, TOF (25 years); Mary Cate Roberts, TOF (30 years); and Joanne Angeletti, TOF (35 years). God bless each of these members, and may they have many more years in service to God and the Third Order Franciscans of the Immaculate Conception!

← **Bob Burtscher, TOF and Debbie Ventosa, TOF**

Lunch was next on the agenda, and we had a real Christmas feast of chicken provided by the fraternity, and various delicious sides and desserts generously shared by our members. Needless to say, no one went hungry and we all ate very well! **Joanne Angeletti, TOF and Debbie Ventosa, TOF** →



After enjoying our Christmas meal, Kenny Green, TOF led us in ongoing formation. He presented his annual story of St. Francis and his recreation of the Nativity assisted by Bill Marshall, TOF. We joyfully sang a few Christmas carols in honor our Jesus’s birth, including “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”, “Creator of the Stars of Night”, and “O Come O Come Emmanuel”.

← **Rose Akins, TOF and Debbie Ventosa, TOF**

Bob Burtscher, TOF, Mike Butts, TOF, Bill Marshall, TOF, and Kenny Green, TOF →



Maria Elena Meza, TOF updated us with the Infirmarian Report:

1. Pat and Deanna Hurley, OFS are doing okay. Rosie Zaratsian, TOF has been in contact with them, and they appreciate our continuing prayers.
2. Debbie Ventosa, TOF spoke to our sister, Sandy Pollino, OFS. Sandy is still enduring ongoing health problems but hopes to rejoin us as soon as she overcomes some obstacles.
3. Eileen and Rick Dunlap, TOF, and their daughter Makenna are suffering from COVID, as is Father Vit. They hope to be out of isolation soon and appreciate any prayer support we can offer.
4. Virgil and Louise Daniel, TOF are recovering from COVID and are now at home after being hospitalized.

5. Mary Dye, TOF and Chris and Leanne Devore, TOF are feeling unwell and are taking precautions since they suspect they may have COVID.
6. Elizabeth Francis, TOF continues to volunteer at Robinson Memorial Hospital, goes to Mass, and gets groceries but is not yet comfortable attending the Gathering yet.

Debbie Ventosa, TOF gave the Formation report next. She said the Formation class meets twice monthly at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays. Any professed member who would like to take part in Formation classes should contact Debbie to get information on the next class.

Debbie Ventosa, TOF and Mary Cate Roberts, TOF →



Pepe Ventosa, TOF announced the highlights of the Day of Recollection, including Fr. Vit's talks and Fr. Furlong's homily and more, have been videotaped and are available on the fraternity YouTube channel.

Debbie Ventosa, TOF, Bill Marshall, TOF, and Nettie Miller, TOF will offer hospitality for the January Gathering.

Minister Roberto Meza, TOF, Bob Burtscher, TOF, Rose Akins, TOF, Betty DeMarco, TOF, Joanne Angeletti, TOF, Mary Cate Roberts, TOF, and Vice Minister Jim Miller, TOF ↓



In place of the May Gathering, we will be organizing the first annual pilgrimage for members of the Third Order Franciscans. This will take place on the third Saturday of May. If anyone has any suggestions for a destination, please contact a Council member. Our fraternity will determine the pilgrimage destination this year, and we will rotate yearly with the other fraternities in turn.



We have no one scheduled for the Stand for Life in January due to bitter weather conditions. If you plan to pray in front of the clinic in Cuyahoga Falls, please let Roberto know. Also, please remember the guidelines we follow, which are posted in every newsletter. These are for our safety and that of others.

← **Whose socks *are* these?! (Look for answer at the end of the article!)**

The St. Maximilian Kolbe Ministry to the Incarcerated purchased 60 New Testaments. Pepe Ventosa, TOF will present these to the chaplain of one of the State prisons in Ohio. Betty DeMarco, TOF is generously facilitating the purchase of the New Testaments from St. Raphael Bookstore in Canton. Ten copies will be in Spanish, and the rest in English.

We then prayed for the following intentions:

1. Healing in our own families and in the Franciscan family.
2. Our members who are ill and their families, including Fr. Vit, the Dunlaps, the Daniels, Sandy Pollino, OFS, and our dear Teresa Ventosa.
3. For the intentions and spiritual and physical well-being of Pope Francis, Bishop David Bonnar of Youngstown, Bishop Milan Lach, SJ of the Eparchy of Parma, and Bishop Edward Malesic, JCL of Cleveland.
4. Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM, Fr. Dennis Arambasick, OFM, Fr. Robert Campagna, OFM, and the Friars of the Immaculate Conception Province of the OFM.
5. Our beloved parish priests, including our host, Fr. Miron Kerul-Kmec of St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish, Fr. Daniel Dozier, TOF of St. George Byzantine Parish in Olympia, WA, and Fr. Gastor Bahati of the Office of the Bishop of Moshi, Tanzania.
6. The seminarians of the Cleveland, Youngstown, and Moshi Dioceses, particularly Frater Francis Tumaini of the Moshi Seminary, and Mr. Arthur Bodenschatz of Canton and Mr. Joseph Rohan of Cuyahoga Falls, both of Borromeo Seminary in Cleveland.

We then prayed the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, devoting our entire fraternity and those we love to Our Lady's merciful care.

Our Good St. Francis, Brother Max, DOG and Carol Perrine, TOF →



We concluded our Advent Gathering with the Ritual Prayer, and the reminder that our January Gathering will be at the same place, same time on January 16, 2022.

Whose socks were those? Betty DeMarco's!

A Holy New Year to All!

Save the Date (January, the Month of the Most Holy Name of Jesus)

January 16	January Gathering, St. Nicholas Byzantine Church, 1:30 PM (Embrace Baby Shower)
February 2	Ash Wednesday (Day of Fast & Abstinence – *All Fridays in Lent are Days of Abstinence)
April 15	Good Friday (Day of Fast & Abstinence)
April 17	Easter Sunday

Five Helps for the New Year

by Bishop Michael Ramsey, English Anglican Bishop (1904-1988), to His Clergy

1. Thank God. Often and always. Thank Him carefully and wonderingly for your continuing privileges and for every experience of His goodness. Thankfulness is a soil in which pride does not easily grow.
2. Take care about Confession of your sins. As time passes, the habit of being critical about people and things grows more than each of us realize. (Bishop Ramsey then gently commends the practice of Sacramental Confession).
3. Be ready to accept humiliations. They can hurt terribly, but they can help to keep you humble. Whether trivial or major, accept them all. All these can be so many chances to be a little nearer to Our Lord. There is nothing to fear, if you are near to the Lord and in His hands.
4. Do not worry about status. There is only one status that Our Lord bids us be concerned with, and that is our proximity to Him. “If a man serve me, let him follow me, and where I am there also shall my servant be,” (John 12:26). That is our status; to be near Our Lord wherever He may ask us to go with Him.
5. Use your sense of humor. Laugh at things, laugh at the absurdities of life, laugh at yourself.



Through the year people will thank God for you. And let the reason for their thankfulness be not just that you were a person whom they liked or loved, but because you made God real to them.

