



Soldiers of Christ

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

January 2022

Sandy Baden, TOF, Editor

Vol 2, Issue 1

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

St. Gabriel comes from heaven and announces to Mary, "Hail Mary, full of Grace the Lord is with thee." Mary's solemnity means we celebrate and honor her as the "Mother of God," while we adore our Lord Jesus Christ. Her "Yes" to the Annunciation shows us how unique the "Mother of God" is, as a person who is without sin, as St. Gabriel announces. The visit to Elizabeth, Mary's cousin, who is pregnant with John the Baptist, as Elizabeth also proclaims, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed the fruit of your womb." "How have I deserved that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" At the same moment John the Baptist is sanctified in his mother's womb as John leaped for Joy. Then "The Holy Mother of God, says the Magnificat. This is what we believe as Catholics and know in our hearts as we recite the Holy Rosary and read in the Gospels.

There was a time in my own life, at age fifteen, I came to realize the person of Mary as the "Mother of God." As a Lutheran we did not look to Mary as any one special other than being the Mother of Jesus. What a dilemma that last sentence implies. Meaning, we were taught to believe, Mary, was just like any one of us. Those of us who had just completed Confirmation, which was a two year process, were asked to present a play on Christmas Eve before the people in the Church.

I was jealous of the young girl who was chosen to play Mary because I had a crush on Glen, who was to be Joseph. At the last rehearsal it was announced the young girl, who was to be Mary, had taken ill and could not play the part. In a room of about twenty young girls, we were asked who would like to be Mary? I remember being amazed that no one raised their hand. We were asked again and told, 'if no one volunteered one of us would be chosen.' With butterflies in my stomach I raised my hand from the back of the room. I was to play Mary! I was so excited that I would be in the play with Glen, who looked like "Ricky Nelson," my teenage idol.

The night of the play, as I walked toward the front of the Church where baby Jesus lay and Glen at my side, I was filled with excitement. I knelt down with baby Jesus in the manger filled with hay. Suddenly, I heard nothing and saw only Jesus, and the thought which took me by surprise, "What is wrong with Mary, she is "The Mother of God." I asked myself where did that thought come from and I had lost interest in Glen. I think that was the beginning of my conversion to Catholicism which happened later in my early twenties. So, by faith from a gift from God, we know "The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God."

Sandy Baden, TOF

1

PRAISE AND BLESSINGS: PSALM 103

“Bless Yahweh, my soul, bless His holy name, all that is in me! Bless Yahweh, my soul, and remember all His kindness: In forgiving all your offenses, in curing all your diseases, in redeeming your life from the Pit, in crowning you with love and tenderness, in filling your ways with prosperity, in renewing your youth like an eagles.”

It seems like we have all come off a rollercoaster these past two years with the pandemic, lockdowns, shortages, political unrest, mandates, threats of loss of employment and our very lives. We've been under strife with the divisiveness within our own families, our Church community, and all the worldly places we deal with. I think more than once we have wanted to pull our hair out and scream, “Why God? Why?” Grrrrrr.....But despite all this we have to remember we are not of this world. We have chosen to trust in our Abba, believing in the blood of the lamb and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. So we turn to the weapons of our warfare that are not of this world, and one of the strongest ones is “Praise.” Having a challenging day at work? “Praise the Lord!” Had a misunderstanding with a loved one? “Praise the Lord!” Feeling depressed? “Praise the Lord!”

Praise dispels the enemy of our souls quickly, lowers our blood pressure, raises our soul to God, and proves our dependence on Him in every situation. No matter what happens we know we are loved and all things are fleeting. So if the power grid happens to go down in 2022, you be the light of the world! Let's start this new year with trying to praise and bless the Lord every day.

“More over, he taught them to praise God in all things and through all His creatures.” Bonaventure, The Life of St. Francis 4: 3

Litany of Praise: Read aloud the Litany of praise and allow it to open your spirit and draw you into the realm of the miraculous. Concentrate on God.

tucsonccr.org/miricale-hour-prayer.pdf

“THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD:” FEAST DAY JANUARY 9, 2022

“THE GLORY OF BAPTISM”

As John the Baptist looks up from the Jordon river, only to see our Lord as He approaches, what did he really see? A man looking to John to reveal the Glory of God.

(He must increase, I must decrease)

John welcomes Him from the river, while knowing the blessing from Jesus is greater than he. Our Lord gave us Baptism to forgive us our sins, and bring us closer to Him.

Remember John the Baptist, in the Jordon river, and how he must have felt when he knew who was before him. His heart must have ‘Leaped for Joy,’ as he had in his mother’s womb.



Jn: 3:30

John baptizes with water, while hearing the voice of the Father and dunking Jesus, The Son, in the river, then appearing in the sky a Dove, representing the Holy Spirit.

Thank you Lord for giving us Baptism and revealing it through John the Baptist. How could anyone deny the “Glory of Baptism,” which was given by the Holy Spirit, and thus, making known to us “The Holy Trinity.’



Judith Inglesby's homeland was in the Philippines and was raised as a cradle Catholic. She brought her three children, after her first marriage, to the United States and indicated she had become Westernized to our culture after a few years.

Judith met Tom Inglesby and they have been married for 38 years. She feels very fortunate for Tom's love, caring kindness to her children, and a good provider. Tom has always been supportive and understanding with all of her achievements. They lived in Scottsdale, Arizona for a time and relocated to Oceanside, California. They are active at San Luis Rey Mission, Serra Parish, in Oceanside.

Judith has been retired for three years after having a Masters Degree in Nursing. She worked in many field areas in nursing as an ER nurse, Intensive care nurse, with an open heart post surgery unit, an instructor in LVN courses in Maric College as a Director of Nursing with a Home Health Agency. She also worked as a Forensic Nurse with the responsibility of examining sexual assault victims and providing as an expert witness in court trials in the San Diego Court house.

Church activities for Judith is her love of being a catechist helper since 1997, which she had her own 3rd grade class. She enjoys teaching young children and showing them how to pray the Rosary as she initiated the "Children's Rosary" since 2016. She also is a Eucharist Minister, a Lector, a Bereavement Minister, and sings in the Choir as a soprano.

Judith was Professed as an SFO on May 5, 2019 at San Luis Rey Fraternity in Oceanside, California. She became interested in the Franciscan way of life after spending time at San Luis Rey Mission and the Serra Mission Parish. A good friend of hers kept nudging her to check out the Secular Franciscans located at San Luis Rey Mission. She followed the whisper of her guardian Angel and with the Holy Spirit decided to join. She states this is her second vocation in life which will lead her to Divine Providence. Judith has now become an Isolated Tertiary as of May, 2021.



“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
THURSDAY:	PAUL AND MARY TAG, TOF SANDY BADEN, TOF
FRIDAY:	LINDA MANSER, TOF
SATURDAY:	ERICKA WITOVER, TOF
SUNDAY:	LINDA MENSER, TOF

Please include prayer for the intentions of our Pope, Bishops and Priests. Also pray for the Community of Friars of the Immaculate Conception Province for an increase in religious vocations in their Community, and all the intentions of the members of the Isolated Tertiaries Community.

(Contact Pepe Ventosa, TOF, if you would like to participate in Eucharistic Adoration.)

Isolated Tertiaries News

We have two groups currently in Initial Formation for Isolated Tertiaries at this time. In Group I we have a couple, George and Nadia and will be received into the Novitiate soon.

Group 2 met for the first time in November 2021. There are currently seven Inquirers at this time: Wanda from Texas, Clarissa from Illinois, Eric from Texas, Michael from California, Eugene from Missouri, Michael from Louisiana, and Gordon from Australia.

For Initial Formation the assisting participants are Ericka Witover, TOF, Formation Coordinator. The Initial Formation Team is Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM, Fr. Daniel Dozier, TOF, TOF, Luis Guzman, TOF, Virgil Daniel, TOF, Pepe Ventosa, and Debbie Ventosa, TOF.

YouTube channel is up and running. Fr. Vit's presentation from the Day of Recollection and the beautiful homily on prayer by Fr. Ryan Furlong, TOF. The channel name is "Franciscan Tertiaries Province of the Immaculate Conception. When you google that add "youtube channel."

upcoming Days of Observance

January 1: Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

January 2: The Epiphany of the Lord

January 9: The Baptism of the Lord

Save the Date

January 6: Isolated Tertiary (Zoom) Gathering 6:45 PM (Eastern Time)
Topic for this meeting will be on Epiphany with Brenda Dunkelman
as facilitator.

1. What does Epiphany mean to you?

POPE BENEDICT XVI

Marian Thoughts Epiphany of the Lord

“How can this come about?” we also ask ourselves with the words the Virgin addresses to the Archangel Gabriel. And she herself, the Mother of Christ and of the Church, gives us the answer: with her example of total availability to God’s will— “*Let it be done to me according to your word.*” (Lk 1:38)—she teaches us to be “manifestation” of the Lord, opening our hearts to the power of grace and faithfully abiding by the words of her Son, light of the world and the ultimate end of history.

Homily, January 6 2006

ADMONITION IV The Office of Superior

"I did not come to be served, but to be serve (Mt. 20:28)," our Lord tells us. Those who are put in charge of others should be no prouder of their office than if they had been appointed to wash the feet of their brothers. They should be no more upset at the loss of their authority than they would be if they were deprived of the task of washing feet. The more they are upset, the greater the risk they incur to their souls.

In consideration of the explanation from Lothar Hardick, OFM, he presents questions which we should answer as Third Order Franciscans in living our lives in the world that we are experiencing today. We should always be striving to serve others no matter what position we have or do not have. We should not take possession of a position as if we own it and not feel deprived if it is taken away as Lothar Hardick, OFM explains. Our response should be one of joy that someone else was chosen and we were not. If we are assigned to a position that is not what we would preferred to consider, be assured we might be just the right person for that particular position.

As an Isolated Tertiary some of us have our assignments for various positions to help with Formation or as myself Editor of this Newsletter. With joy we should accept our assignments and do the best we can in fulfilling them. It would seem this is also what "Obedience" refers to in the previous studies I-III Admonitions.

Sometimes there are those who we think are not talented enough or have no talents at all. We may even have gifts we have not discovered yet. Prayer may be the answer to solve some of those questions. Pray and ask God how we can be enlightened, with the grace of His love, to be Obedient to His will. It has been said that God edifies those that He calls. This is most important in our goal to reach perfection as a Third Order Franciscan.

I remember when I was first assigned the position of Formation Director of San Luis Rey Fraternity after the previous Director had resigned. I had said to the Council, when I had been invited to attend the meeting and did not know why, “How could I replace the previous Director of Formation when she did the job so well?” One of the Council members said, “Well, remember you will be adding a new flavor to the position.” This was an interesting thought, as I knew there were several reasons why they should not have appointed me. First, I was only Professed for a year, and I did not want the position. However, the Holy Spirit was in charge. After seven years as Director of Formation I moved on with joy and realized how rewarding the position had been.

Whatever we are chosen to do, difficult or not so difficult, should be accepted with love only to glorify God and our Third Order Franciscans. If we are offering prayer through Adoration of the Holy Eucharist for our Community be thankful and glorify God. Prayer is the most powerful way to bring our souls to God and giving our Community the strength for our leaders to serve in helping us reach perfection in Our Lord Jesus Christ. Be obedient to the truth of our convictions within our Church and ourselves.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

1. Do you see yourself as a servant leader?
2. Do you feel Admonition IV applies to you or why not?
3. How difficult is it to remain humble in spirit when in a position of authority?
4. Do you have a better understanding of Obedience or Poverty of Spirit in your life?

(These are questions to think about and maybe meditate. God Bless.)

