

February, 2022

Volume 3, Issue 2

Il Poverello

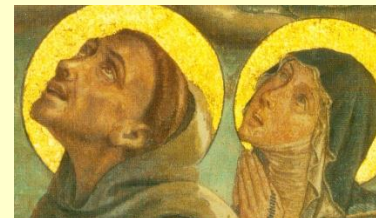
The newsletter of the SS Francis and Clare Fraternity
of the Third Order of St. Francis

*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 (by Hilaire Belloc)

What is the antidote to this tyranny of the present? Knowledge of the Church history, which gives us a long-term perspective on God's divine plan. Learning from the past is predicated on knowing the past. Shaping the future is rooted in a correct interpretation and perspective on modern events. Thus, the anxiety produced living in the tyranny of the present can be overcome with knowledge that previous generations of Catholics lived through similar situations and prevailed.

Learning from Church history requires acknowledgment that the Church is holy, but its members are fallen creatures. The actions of individual Catholics impact the Church both positively and negatively, but the negative actions—even of popes and bishops—never invalidate the mission and holiness of the Church.

Ultimately, knowing Church history should lead to a greater devotion to the Holy Spirit who has guided, guarded, and animated the Church since Pentecost. “When one remembers how the Catholic Church has been governed, and by whom” Belloc aptly put it, “one realizes that it must be divinely inspired to have survived at all.

(A Catholic author, historian and politician Hilaire Belloc (1870-1953) in his work *Survival and New Arrivals* (1929) – Submitted by Joanne Angeletti, TOF)

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 –

EMBRACE Baby Shower!

Sunday, February 20 @ 1:30 PM

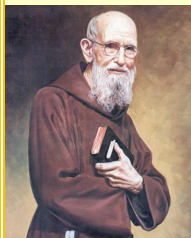
St. Nicholas Byzantine Church

1051 Robinson Ave.

Barberton, OH 44203

Franciscan Quote of the Month

*"We should ever be grateful for and love the vocation to which God has called us.
This applies to every vocation because, after all, what a privilege it is to serve God,
even in the least capacity!"*



Blessed Solanus Casey, OFM Cap. (1870-1957)
Porter, Violinist, Mystic, Healer

Eucharistic Adoration



Sunday
Betty DeMarco, TOF

Monday
Rose Akins, TOF
Louise Daniel, TOF
Virgil Daniel, TOF
Judith Hoyt, 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
Maria Elena Meza, TOF
Roberto Meza, TOF
Carol Perrine, TOF
Cindy Russo, TOF

Wednesday
Mary Dye, TOF
Bill Marshall, TOF
Jim Miller, TOF

Thursday
Joanne Angeletti, TOF

Friday
Robert Burtscher, 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 25 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.*

February Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

None this month!



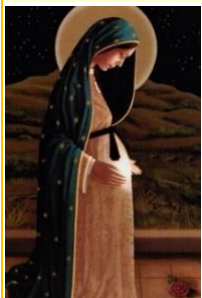
Birthdays

Mike Butts, TOF – 2/1
Louise Daniel – 2/6
Mary Cate Roberts – 2/29

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.

Stand for Life



We have no one scheduled for the Stand for Life in February, 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 February 20. If you would like to assist, please contact one of these members to see what is needed.



Therese Harper, TOF will prepare the February Little Portion, and Denise Williams, who is in Formation, will deliver it. Thank you, sisters, for your kindness!

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

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.

Franciscan Practice of Penance – by Debbie Ventosa, TOF

As we look ahead to the liturgical season of Lent, we can prayerfully consider how to better practice penance as our Franciscan Spirituality calls us to. As Brothers and Sisters of Penance we can look to The Constitutions for guidelines and suggestions to prayerfully consider adding to our current practice of religion. Chapter 2 section 2 "Exercises of Religion" include many suggestions for example:

Article 62. Daily, if possible but especially on Sundays and holy-days, tertiaries shall devote some time to mental prayer or spiritual reading. They shall make frequent use of the Sacred Scriptures, particularly of the holy Gospel, and also of the life of our holy Father Francis and of the other saints of the Seraphic Order. Likewise, by means of the pious exercise of the Way of the Cross, they shall reflect, especially during Lent and on Fridays, on the last sufferings of Christ.

This article is packed with several suggestions, and there are other sources with helpful guidance on penance. They include mental prayer, spiritual reading, frequent use of scriptures, reflection on the Gospel, and perhaps the Passion narrative are ideas to draw us closer to the Lord. The Way of the Cross is a Franciscan tradition and reflecting on Our Lord's cross is the Gospel our Seraphic father Francis preached.

This article, as well as others in section 2 of our Constitution, may give us inspiration to Our Lord during this Lenten season. Pray and ask Our Lord what He may be asking you to do to love Him more this Lent.

Request and Reminder from Council

Please check the Fraternity roster, which was distributed at the December Gathering. Be sure that Council has your correct contact and personal information. There will need to be revisions made shortly, and Council wants to be sure the roster is perfectly accurate.

Also, please take the time to check on your group email lists. A yearly update is recommended, since our membership is fluid. Messages on email concerning our fraternity should **only** be sent to our current fraternity members.

If you have prayer requests that you wish to share with our fraternity, please contact Rick Dunlap, TOF with the request, and he will send out a blanket email to our fraternity.

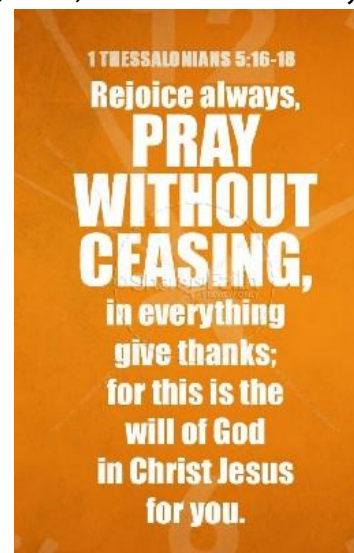
Council very much appreciates your cooperation and assistance with keeping our contact information updated, and with following the guidelines for blanket emails to our fraternity!

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**, a 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 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. Our fraternity has spiritually adopted 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**).

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: rescheduled for our February 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.

A Message from Fr. Gastor Bahati, Diocese of Moshi, Tanzania

From his seminary years to present, our fraternity has spiritually supported Fr. Gastor Bahati, who was joyfully Ordained last year. We continue to offer prayers for him and his vocation daily. This is a message from Father, received by Susan Kramer, TOF:



Dear Mama Susan and all Franciscan friends,

Cordial greetings from the bottom of my heart.

My apologies for not been heard for a while, but everything is well with me.

I believe you both had a wonderful celebration of Christmas and above all happiest and successful new year 2022. may the almighty God grant you the desires of your heard which are according to His Plan.

I thank God that I completed well my short secretarial course in Nairobi Kenya and now I am in the office, although is not an easy work. I thank you for your unceasing prayers and encouragement. I assure you of my constant prayers especially in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Wishing you God's Choicest Blessings, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr. Gastor Bahati

Litany of St. Joseph – from the USCCB website

In the Litany of Saint Joseph, the Church invokes the most chaste Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the foster father and Guardian of the Redeemer, and patron saint of the Universal Church. In May 2021, in honor of the Year of Saint Joseph, Pope Francis added seven new invocations to the litany.

The Committee on Divine Worship has slightly adapted and approved this translation (originally published in 1909), which also incorporates the new invocations and alternate introduction and conclusion indicated by the Holy See. It may be freely published, and other English translations may also be used. This litany is enriched with a partial indulgence (*Manual of Indulgences*, conc. 22).

Litany of Saint Joseph

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Let us pray. O God, who in your inexpressible providence were pleased to choose Saint Joseph as spouse of your most holy Mother, grant, we pray, that we, who revere him as our protector on earth, may be worthy of his heavenly intercession.

Who live and reign for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Lord, It Is Good for Us to Be Together!

The January Gathering was cancelled in view of the fact that many of our members have contracted and are recovering from COVID, and the concerns of many who are rightly cautious about being exposed. Out of consideration for the safety of all our members, the Gathering was cancelled.

At the January Fraternity Council meeting, Council discussed and came to a clear understanding on what are good reasons to stay home from the Gathering:

1. If you or anyone in your household has been exposed to COVID or experience coughing, sneezing, or nausea – or symptoms of any other contagious illness, check current CDC (Center for Disease Control) guidelines. If you have these symptoms and are in doubt, it is best to stay home.
2. If our Bishops mandate we stay home from Mass for **any** reason, we should stay home for the Gathering.

The Omicron variant of COVID has swept through Northeast Ohio and is on a sharp downturn. We are hopeful that we can gather as a community. Kindly follow the above recommendations. If we must cancel the Gathering we will contact you via email, and by phone for those members without computer access.

In the area of Formation, Council is pleased to announce that Rose Akins, TOF will be assisting our Formation Director, Debbie Ventosa, TOF. Rose will be helping with local formation, and we are grateful for her generosity and valuable work toward preparing our Formation students for Profession.

The Embrace presentation, which will preempt our Ongoing Formation, will happen at our February Gathering on February 20. We will also collect articles and monetary donations for Embrace to distribute to the families and children who are helped by Embrace. This includes diapers, formula, baby food, clothing in sizes from infants to toddlers, infant supplies such as Desenex, etc. and of course, monetary donations. Your donations will assist families in dire need who have rejected the evil of abortion, to encourage and strengthen them to raise their children with the basics of life.

Therese Harper, TOF and Rose Akins, TOF are scheduled for the Stand for Life on March 19.

At some point, we will need to collect funds for sponsoring Frater Francis Tomaini, who we have pledged to support both spiritually and monetarily. Roberto will discuss the details at the Gathering.

Please do not forget to pray for all those for whom we have promised to pray, including the spiritual health and protection of our fraternity members, Fr. Vit, Fr. Dennis, and all the Friars of the Immaculate Conception Province of the OFM, our Bishops (Bishop Bonnar of Youngstown, Bishop Lach, SJ of the Eparchy of Parma, and Bishop Malesic, JCL of Cleveland), all our beloved parish priests (including our host, Fr. Miron Kerul-Kmec and Fr. Daniel Dozier, TOF), all seminarians, especially Frater Francis Tomaini of the Diocese of Moshi, and Arthur Bodenschatz and Joseph Rohan of Borromeo Seminary, and Pope Francis and his intentions. Even if you are not on the Eucharistic Adoration list, all of us should try to make time for this, whether we are confined to home or not. The persistence of every Catholic's individual prayers makes a difference in our world for the better!

Our February Gathering is scheduled for Sunday, February 20 at 1:30 PM at St. Nicholas Byzantine

Parish in Barberton, per usual. Please remember to bring a donation for the baby shower for Embrace!

Save the Date (February, the Month of the Holy Family)

February 20	February Gathering (St. Nicholas, 1:30 PM)
March 2	Ash Wednesday (Day of Fast & Abstinence – *All Fridays are Days of Abstinence for our TOF community)
April 15	Good Friday (Day of Fast & Abstinence)
April 17	Easter Sunday
May 21	Annual TOF Community Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in Windsor (Servants of Mary Center) – will take the place of the May Gathering
September 5	Annual Franciscan Hike at Cuyahoga Valley National Park (details upcoming!)



Stay where you are. Find your own Calcutta. Find the sick, the suffering, and the lonely right there where you are – in your own homes and in your own families, in your workplaces and in your schools. You can find Calcutta

all over the world, if you have the eyes to see. Everywhere, wherever you go, you find people who are unwanted, unloved, uncared for, just rejected by society – completely forgotten, completely left alone.

St. Teresa of Calcutta

