

Spring, 2022

Volume 3, Issue 1

The Troubadour

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



Keeping the Faith

In less than a month, our outlook on the world has changed drastically. Since February 26, our beloved brothers and sisters in Ukraine have endured a violent invasion from Russia. According to the Washington Post, "The United Nations has recorded at least 752 civilian casualties so far across Ukraine, with 227 killed and 525 injured, including scores of children. Those figures, which were calculated up to the end of Monday (March 14), have likely grown significantly as the conflict has escalated in more cities and towns across the nation." This does not include rapes, property damage and looting by the invading forces. Much of Ukraine is in ruins, and innocent lives continue to be in mortal danger.

Pope Francis sent two Cardinals from the Vatican to Ukraine to give their first-hand report on the damages and needs of the suffering Ukrainians. He made an unprecedented visit to the Russian Embassy to beg the Russian nation for mercy on Ukraine, which is strongly Orthodox and Catholic. He also has formally consecrated both Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Friday, March 25, and urged his brother bishops to join him in prayer. Many northeast Ohio parishes, home to Eastern Europeans, did the same.

It is a ghastly, frightful situation. As Franciscans, it is our duty to pray ceaselessly for our extended family in Ukraine and Russia.

Spiritual Director

Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM
Shrine of
Our Lady Comforter
of the Afflicted, Youngstown



Editor

Susan Kramer, TOF

Franciscan Quote for Spring, 2022

"Now, more than ever, our Franciscan charism of bringing peace and goodness is revealed where there is restlessness, darkness, and war."

Fr. Romualdo Zagurskyi, OFM - Konotop, Ukraine
(Quoted in Exaudi Catholic News)



Ukrainian Catholic Holy Men and Women to Call Upon for Those in Danger from War

The Catholic Church has long encouraged her members to pray to patron saints for spiritual assistance in difficulty and times of trouble. St. Michael the Archangel is the patron saint of Ukraine. Here are a few Ukrainian Catholic blessed and saints to turn to for intercession to for those in the midst of war (courtesy of catholicism.com):



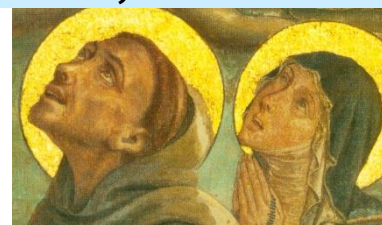
The following are a few examples of the 28 Ukrainians beatified by Pope John Paul II June 27, 2000:

1. **Sister Josaphata Hordashevskia**: She was born in Lviv in 1869. In 1892, she founded what would be the largest female religious community in the Ukrainian Catholic Church, the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate. An example of holiness and charity in performing her labors among the poor, she died of bone cancer in 1919.
2. **Priest and Martyr, Nicholas Konrad**: Born in 1876, he studied for the priesthood in Rome. He was ordained in 1899. He was very active with the Catholic students whom he taught in Lviv, forming an association with them, called Renewal, to enhance their spiritual lives. Returning from a sick call, he was accosted by thugs from the KGB and beaten to death on June 26, 1941.
3. **Martyr Volodymyr, Cantor**: He was martyred together with Father Konrad.
4. **Priest and Martyr, Andrew Ishchak**: Born in Lviv region. After earning his doctorate in theology in 1914, he was ordained a priest. He taught at the Lviv Theological Academy. While doing pastoral work, he was killed for the Faith by soldiers of the retreating Red Army on June 26, 1941. Notice that the first three of the martyrs listed were slain on the same day, June 26, 1941.
5. **Priest and Martyr, Severian Baranyk**: Born in 1889, he joined the Basilian Fathers in 1904. He became prior of a Basilian monastery, where he was known for his habitual joy and his work with the youth and orphans. He was arrested by the KGB and sent to prison and died there of multiple fractures in June 1941.
6. **Priest and Martyr, Joachim Senkivskyi**: Born in 1896, he was ordained a priest in 1921. He earned a doctorate in theology at the University of Innsbruck, afterwards he joined the Basilians. Father Joachim was extremely active doing pastoral work in several villages and, later, he was made abbot of a Basilian monastery. He was arrested during the blitzkrieg KGB sweep of June 26, 1941 and sent to the local prison. Three days later, according to the testimony of other prisoners, he was boiled to death.
7. **Priest and Martyr, Zynovil Kovalyk**: Born in 1903, he entered the Redemptorists in 1926. After studying in Belgium, he returned to Ukraine and was ordained in 1937. In 1940, while preaching a homily he was seized by the Reds and thrown into prison. He was tortured horribly during his incarceration and finally crucified in mockery of His Savior at the end of June 1941.
8. **Priest and Martyr, Emilian Kowcz**: Born in 1884, he went to Rome to study for the priesthood. There, he was ordained in 1911. Father Emilian was a married man prior to ordination. He served as chaplain for a while and worked among the poor and the soldiers during WWII. Arrested by the Gestapo, he died praying for and giving consolation to fellow prisoners in a concentration camp in 1942.

There are many other noble examples of Ukrainian Catholics who suffered martyrdom and persecution on behalf of the Church. No doubt there are more among them among modern-day Ukrainians who continue to suffer for their Faith and their country.

SS. Francis & Clare Fraternity News – by Roberto Meza, TOF

Our fraternity's two novices, Denise Williams and Jesse Kuhn, continue discerning their Profession for this year. They are studying the Catechism of the Third Order, the Admonitions, and the Call to Commitment books.



As part of our St. Maximilian Kolbe Apostolate activities, we purchased 60 New Testaments that Pepe Ventosa, TOF delivered to an Ohio Correctional facility. The Chaplain will distribute them to inmates.

Our Stand for Life Apostolate restarted this month with two fraternity members joining others and praying the Holy Rosary in front of an abortion clinic in Cuyahoga Falls. It is not an easy apostolate, but there is great satisfaction in knowing that Jesus and Our Lady are using us to defend and save lives of innocent souls.

We look forward to the Annual Pilgrimage on May 21 to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe at the Servants of Mary Center for Peace in Windsor, Ohio. We expect to see many of our sisters and brothers of the fraternities of St. Padre Pio and Our Lady of America, and to participate as a family in the Mass that Fr. Ryan Furlong, TOF will celebrate. We will pray the Holy Rosary for the Unborn Children, and later have lunch in Middlefield.

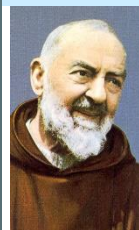
We continue to plan our picnic on August 21. We are requesting a reservation for the pavilion of Queen of Heaven Parish in Green, Ohio. Further details will be announced later, and all members of the TOF community here in Northeast Ohio are heartily welcome to join us!

Our Lady of America Fraternity News – by Paul Fedele, TOF

No news at this time. But see you in Windsor in May!



St. Padre Pio Fraternity News – by Pat Cuttica, TOF



St. Padre Pio Fraternity will be holding its first council elections as TOF on Saturday, April 9.

We are also looking forward to joining with our other Tertiary brothers and sisters on the pilgrimage to the Servants of Mary Center for Peace in May.

Upcoming Annual Pilgrimage – by Pepe Ventosa, TOF

At the Minister's Annual Meeting in October 2021, it was decided to have an annual pilgrimage open to the membership of all the fraternities within our Community of Franciscan Tertiaries. Since we all meet every November for an annual Day of Recollection, it was decided to have these pilgrimages on the third Saturday of May. This gives all of us the opportunity for fellowship every six months.



Each year the pilgrimage will be hosted by a different fraternity. This year the Ss. Francis and Clare Fraternity volunteered to host the pilgrimage.

The pilgrimage will take place on Saturday, May 21, 2022. We will visit the Servants of Mary Center for Peace and the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Windsor, Ohio, which is home to the world's largest statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Father Ryan Furlong, TOF, who is a member of St. Padre Pio Fraternity in Youngstown, will celebrate Mass for us at the shrine chapel.

For more information, please refer to the flyer provided in this newsletter. Hope you can join us!

Updates on the Isolated Tertiaries of the TOF Community – by Pepe Ventosa, TOF

The Isolated Tertiaries continue to have their monthly virtual gathering on the first Thursday of each month. These gatherings consist of prayer, including the practice of Lectio Divina, Ongoing Formation, and news and updates.

In Ongoing Formation, we are discussing articles of the Constitutions and other topics. Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM always finds the time to attend these gatherings and offer us deep reflections for our spiritual growth in the Franciscan way of life.

These virtual gatherings are open to any of our members, both Isolated Tertiaries and those living in fraternity. If you would like to attend any of these, please contact Pepe Ventosa, TOF who will be happy to send you a "Zoom Invite".

Along with the professed Isolated Tertiaries, we have eight Inquirers who will be entering the Novitiate in the next few weeks. They are from California, Texas, Florida and two from Australia. Along with learning about prayer, St. Francis, Franciscan traditions and other related Franciscan subjects, they have been studying two great out of print books for Initial Formation in the TOF. These are *Call to Commitment in the School of St. Francis* and the *New Catechism of the Third Order*, written by Marion Habig, OFM.

George and Nadia Smith, members of this group, had their Ceremony of Entrance into the Novitiate on March 12, 2022. Please see their interview to learn more from them. Please keep the Smiths and all the other inquirers in your prayer as they continue to discern their call to the Third Order of St. Francis.

Meet George and Nadia Smith, TOF – by Debbie Ventosa, TOF

George and Nadia Smith are husband and wife Isolated Tertiary novices residing in Florida. They met working with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in the Bronx. Nadia accepted George's marriage proposal during a Holy Hour where he read the Wedding Feast at Cana in the Scripture. Fourteen years of marriage and blessed with 3 children 12, 10 and 6 years old, they both strive for holiness personally and in everyday family life.

Franciscan spirituality runs in the family as George's great-grandmother lived the St. Leo XIII rule as a TOF and she died at Mass after receiving the Holy Eucharist. George is a member of the Cord Bearers of St. Francis and was searching for a community that lived the rule of Pope Leo XIII. Divine Providence led him to our website where he contacted the TOF and the journey for the two of them began. George brings with him his beautiful bride as well as his education as an actor who holds a Master's in Theology, with a concentration in Bioethics and a Masters of Public Administration. He has shared his gifts with the Church serving in youth ministry, pro-life and chastity education just to name a few. George hopes that the TOF will be a means for holiness as he earnestly seeks to follow the will of God realizing we all struggle but the goal is union with God.

Each person has a unique journey and Nadia was born into a family of a very devout Catholic mother and a Marxist atheist father, who is a doctor. Her father's residency landed him at the VA Hospital in the Bronx, where a Catholic chaplain priest, as well as Nadia's devout mother, stirred his intellectual curiosity and were conduits for his conversion.

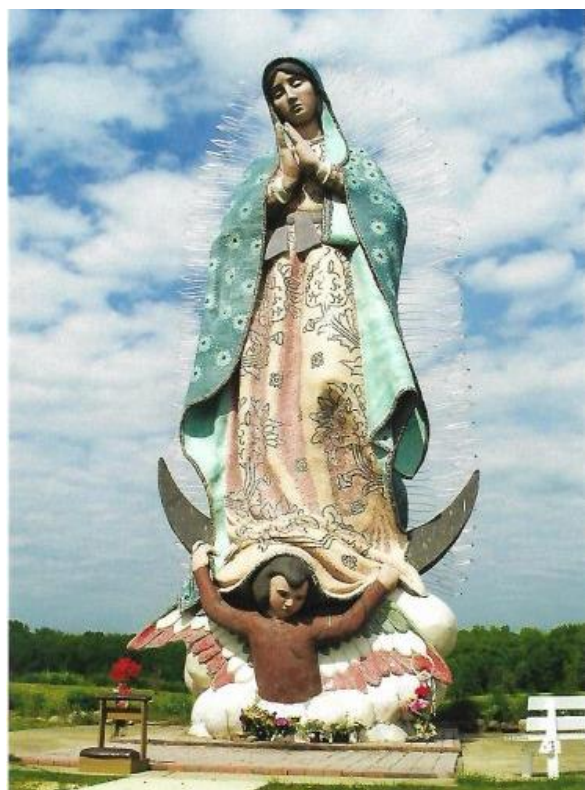
Nadia clearly recalled the radical shift in her home during the junior high years, where the Catholic faith was lived and taught with patience and guidance of her parents. Nadia attended the University of Wisconsin, Madison receiving her B.A. in International Relations with a concentration in Journalism. She has a whirlwind work history including Australia with an NGO, Rome during the Jubilee Year with JP II as a Vatican Radio Journalist (she was already fluent in English and Spanish, and learned Italian and Portuguese at this time), across the U.S. for a marketing company, and New York helping her brother start a business venture. Her reliance on following the will of God landed her a job in Philadelphia with the Catholic Standard & Times, the official Archdiocesan newspaper at the time, where she started a Catholic young professionals group. She currently works as the Editor-in-Chief for The Pulse of Catholic Medicine, a publication of the Catholic Medical Association.

Nadia and George were married in the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia. Cardinal Justin Rigali celebrated their wedding Mass, which was concelebrated by a number of their priest friends. Nadia accepted the invitation of George to look into the TOF and it is a means of holiness and restoration for her in her faith life and additional avenue of growth in the spiritual life for them as a couple. Please welcome George and Nadia Smith, who entered the novitiate March 12, 2022.

Photo – Nadia, Fr. Eric Scanlan, and George at the Ceremony of Entrance into the Novitiate celebrated



at the Incarnation Catholic Church in Sarasota, Florida



1st Annual Pilgrimage

Franciscan Tertiaries
of the
Immaculate Conception
Province

SERVANTS OF MARY CENTER FOR PEACE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Home of the world's largest statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Date: Saturday May 21, 2022

Place: Servants of Mary Center for Peace & Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe
6601 Ireland Rd, Windsor, OH

Time: 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM

Mass Celebrant: Fr. Ryan Furlong, TOF

Lunch: Mary Yoder's Amish Kitchen, Middlefield, OH

Carpooling sites:

- 1- St. Nicholas Byzantine Church, Barberton (1 ½ hrs): departs at 8:30 AM
RSVP: Virgil Daniel, Tel: 440-292-6984
- 2- Hartville Kitchen, Hartville (1 ½ hrs): departs at 8:30am
RSVP: Jim Miller, Tel: 330-353-0579
- 3- Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted (1 hr): departs at 9:00 AM
RSVP: Pat Cuttica, TOF, Tel: 330-720-1546
- 4- St. Joseph Catholic Church, Jefferson, OH (30 mins): departs 9:30 AM
RSVP: Julianne Pertz, TOF, Tel: 219-978-3373

What to bring: a rosary, lunch money (please contact your minister if the cost may be a burden), umbrella if needed, comfortable shoes and your Franciscan joy.

The Eyes of Our Heart Have Not Seen – by an anonymous TOF member

He may come in the dark of the night, or He may come in the light of the day.
He is not seen in black, orange or red, yet He is seen in white cascading from the sky!
He silently comes to us to brighten the long gloomy winter.

He comes by the pitter-patter on the ground or on our face to give the earth life,
To sustain the body, and to freshen the taste buds.
He comes when the rumbling is heard in the sky, or in the flashes behind the clouds, or in the
swiftly moving funnel in the sky.
He may loudly caution us so we are aware this is not our final home.

People may say He doesn't exist but we see Him every day.

Babies cry, giggle, coo and smile, kittens purr, puppies snuggle, giving us thoughts of awe.
These miracles come from the Giver of Life.
Our hearts melt and we feel cozy inside and goosebumps may be going down our spine,
Because we have experienced the Fire of Love.

People may say He doesn't exist but we feel His love every day.

He obeyed His Father and allowed His Body to experience excruciating physical and mental
pain.
He loves me so much even though I have never met him.

People may say He doesn't exist even though He gave His life for me.

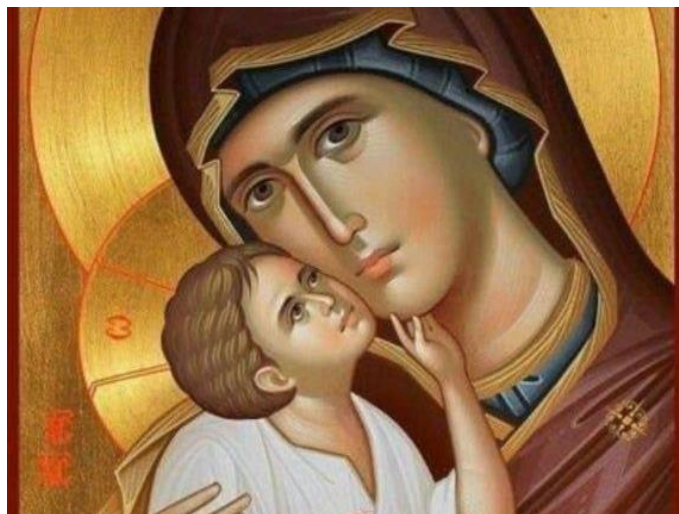
Save the Dates!

5/21	Annual Pilgrimage (Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Windsor, Ohio)
9/5	Annual Franciscan Hike
11/12	Day of Recollection (Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted, Youngstown, Ohio)

Preparatory Novena Prayer for the Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, Holy Mother of God and our most tender Mother, look down upon the distress in which the Church and all humanity finds itself due to the spread of godlessness, materialism and the persecution of the Catholic Faith, errors of which you warned in Fatima.

You are the Mediatrix of all graces. Obtain for us the grace that all the bishops of the world, in union with the Pope, may consecrate Russia and Ukraine to Your Immaculate Heart on March 25, 2022. By this consecration we hope – as you told us in Fatima – that, at a time appointed by God, Russia will be converted, and mankind will be granted



an era of peace. We hope that by this consecration, the triumph of Your Immaculate Heart will soon draw near and the Church will be authentically renewed in the splendor of the purity of the Catholic Faith, the sacredness of the liturgy and the holiness of the Christian life.

O Queen of the Holy Rosary and our most tender Mother, turn Your merciful eyes toward the Pope, the bishops and each of us, and graciously hear our fervent and trusting prayer. Amen.

***Prayer of Consecration Which Pope Francis Prayed
on March 25, 2022 at 12 PM (Eastern Daylight Time)***

Image – Our Lady of Kyiv