

April, 2022

Volume 3, Issue 4

# 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](http://www.thirdorderfranciscans.com)



## Something to Consider



We are nearing the end of Lent and prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord. After the dreadful torture, suffering, and eventual murder of the innocent, loving, and Divine Jesus, He ultimately was raised from the dead in the most earth-shattering incident in the history of humanity. In His great love, He left us a priceless inheritance – His precious Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist, and the Holy Spirit, on Whom we can rely to guide and lead us as we cooperate with God's mission for us on earth.

In a different way, we can also experience our own resurrection from bondage to sin by taking advantage of the holy Sacrament of Confession. God gives us every opportunity to redeem ourselves by seeking absolution for our sins. As we all have experienced, the great relief and joy that comes from absolution and relieving ourselves of the burden of sin is unmatched.

Sister Lucia dos Santos, who was one of the children of Fatima and the only child who survived to a ripe old age, explained that Our Lady not only asked for the Papal Consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart, but that she also asked that we fulfill her other requests, which are referred to as the First Saturday devotions. Our Lady asks that we attend Mass, go to Confession, and pray for the conversion of Russia on the First Saturdays of five consecutive months.

In these days of war, torture, rape, pillaging, and distress in Ukraine and other parts of the world, it is a very small thing to ask of us to intercede for our suffering brothers and sisters.

## 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

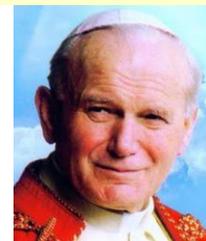
Debbie Ventosa, TOF  
– Formation Director  
Susan Kramer, TOF  
– Newsletter

**Next Gathering –  
Sunday, April 10 @ 1:30 PM  
St. Nicholas Byzantine Church  
1051 Robinson Ave.  
Barberton, OH 44203**

## Catholic Quote of the Month

***"Do not abandon yourself to despair.  
We are an Easter people, and Hallelujah is our song."***

**St. John Paul II (1920-2005) – Feast Day October 22  
Pope, Teacher, Writer, Philosopher,  
Defender of the Church against Communism**



## 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.*

## April Anniversaries and Birthdays

### Profession Anniversaries

None this month!



### Birthdays

Bill Marshall, TOF – 4/7  
Betty DeMarco, TOF – 4/17  
Nettie Miller, TOF – 4/30

## Ukrainian Relief Collection

We will be collecting donations for Ukrainian Relief at the April Gathering. These funds will be offered to Fr. Miron Kerul-Kmec, pastor of St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish, who will forward them to the proper agency for distribution. Ukrainian families have been devastated and uprooted, and their homes, churches, schools, hospitals, and infrastructure destroyed. Every penny will go to the comfort of our brothers and sisters in Ukraine, and to rebuild their country when they ultimately emerge from this horror. Please be generous if you can.



## Stand for Life



Joanne Angeletti, TOF and Bill Marshall, TOF are scheduled for the Stand for Life on April 16. 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

Mary Cate Roberts, TOF will provide our luncheon hospitality at our next Gathering on April 10. If you would like to assist, please contact Mary Cate to see what is needed.

Mary Dye, TOF will prepare the April Little Portion, and Bill Marshall, TOF, will deliver it. Thank you for your kindness!

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. Tube socks are always very useful. Or you may want to deliver the offering. If you are interested, please see Mary Dye, TOF.



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

## 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 members.

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!



## April 16<sup>th</sup> An Opportunity for Renewal

Submitted by Pepe Ventosa, TOF

Have you ever made a renewal of your Profession? If so, how long has it been since you made one? Have you given some thought about developing the habit of making a renewal on a regular basis, for example, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month, or after attending a gathering? Is there any benefit to that?

Our Constitution, in Article 29 urges us “to make a frequent renewal of Profession with devotion”. Notice the adjective *frequent*. Why frequent? Because it finds in this renewal a means to strengthen us in our resolution to embrace the Franciscan way of life while living in the world. It encourages us to make this renewal at least privately, but also publicly (for those living in fraternity), especially on the anniversary of Profession of St. Francis (April 16<sup>th</sup>) and each time we make a retreat.

To find the Renewal of Profession, please visit [thirdorderfranciscans.com](http://thirdorderfranciscans.com) and click “Ritual Prayers”.

### ***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

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

Rejoice always,

**PRAY  
WITHOUT  
CEASING,**

in everything  
give thanks;  
for this is the  
will of God  
in Christ Jesus  
for you.

in Cuyahoga Falls), and from Capuchin Formation (**Christopher Klobuchir**).

10. Finally, you may want to add prayers for the safety and protection of our Ukrainian brothers and sisters, and for the conversion of Russia as Pope Francis has done in his Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on March 25.

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 and anyone in distress and danger. 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 the March 20 Gathering at St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish. We had 18 in attendance, with 18 excused, and were blessed to welcome Fred Kramer and Annie Butts.

Roberto Meza, TOF started us off with the Ritual Prayer, and then we continued with the Liturgy of the Hours, led by Kenny Green, TOF and Carol Perrine, TOF.

Next was Lectio Divina, in which Virgil Daniel, TOF read the Gospel of the day from St. John, the story of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well. We paired up and discussed how God spoke to us in this reading and prayed together.

Fred and Susan Kramer, TOF and Cindy Russo, TOF provided the lunch, which consisted of pulled pork sandwiches, creamed corn with jalapeños and bacon, a nourishing salad, and dessert.

Roberto Meza, TOF updated us on the upcoming pilgrimage with our TOF brothers and sisters from Our Lady of America (Ashtabula) and St. Padre Pio (Youngstown). The pilgrimage will take place on Saturday, May 21, and **will not** take the place of our May Gathering on May 15. Carpooling will be available. For more details, please see the flyer on the last page of this newsletter.

Carol Perrine, TOF led us in Ongoing Formation. Her subject was Articles 39, 40 and 41 of the Constitution – Christian Perfection According to the Franciscan Spirit.

Article 39 reads, “Although the Third Order is not a body of persons who are already perfect, it is principally a school of integral Christian Perfection, imbued with the genuine Franciscan spirit.” And Article 40: “Tertiaries shall meditate on an put into practice before all else that well-known two-fold commandment of Christ: ‘Thou shall love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart and thy whole soul and thy whole mind.’” And “Love thy neighbor as thyself.”, both Scripture quotes from the Gospel of Matthew.

Carol reminds us that we must ultimately keep our minds focused on Christ. As Jesus warned, “Beware that your hearts do not become anxious and catch you like a trap.” Loving our neighbor as ourselves is also part of this and is so important it is mentioned in the three synoptic Gospels. Keeping our peace and caring for others leaves us open to the Will of God.

Agape love is unconditional and is the love the God has for His creation. God gave us the capacity to love Him very deeply when He made us in His image. We are to love Him above all other creatures on Earth, even more than ourselves.

We must fight distractions that keep us from giving our love to God. We may say all the right words, but if we do not have God in our hearts always, it will be remembered by God.

Carol pointed out the examples of the martyrs in loving God with our whole souls. Even when faced with torture and a certain death, they remained faithful and trusted in the mercy of God.

As to loving God with our whole minds, Carol suggested reading Scripture to reveal God to ourselves. We cannot know Him or His Will for us if we do not get to know Him in Scripture. Since we do not live in the days when Jesus lived on earth, we rely on Scripture and Jesus's teaching to know Him more deeply.

In loving our neighbor as ourselves, we need only to follow the example of Jesus and His teaching to illustrate how to do this in a way that is pleasing to God. Even when we are faced with persecution, we are asked to forgive our enemies and to pray for them, and to place the example of God as our guide. "Be merciful just as your Father is merciful."

In Article 41, tertiaries "should have the deep conviction that, by reason of their Baptism and Holy Profession, they must become like Christ crucified, and must follow His Gospel as their rule of life." God gave us His only Son to not only save our souls, but to offer an example of a life well-lived and pleasing to Him.

Even in our darkest and most painful times, we must remember Who we serve and what He expects of us. God is in charge, and God will prevail!

Roberto Meza, TOF stood in for Maria Elena Meza, TOF and delivered the Infirmarian Report. Betty DeMarco, TOF and Jennifer Kerns, TOF are facing health challenges and ask for our prayers. Bob Burtscher, TOF informed us that he was in contact with Elizabeth Francis, TOF, who is pleased to have her brother living with her, which has an added plus in that he is returning to his Faith at this time. She is attending Mass at her home parish and is volunteering at Robinson Memorial Hospital. Roberto had no news from Sandy Pollino, OFS and Pat and Deanna Hurley, OFS, so we will continue to pray that God bless them with His mercy and return them to good health.

The funeral of Richard Russelo, TOF will be Wednesday, April 27 at Noon in Steubenville. Please contact Mary Dye, TOF **ASAP** to confirm if you are attending so that she can arrange for carpools for the Wake Service, Rosary, and Mass. The carpools are expected to leave at 9 AM in order to arrive in time and will probably return to the Akron/Canton area in the late afternoon.

Rose Akins, TOF and Therese Harper, TOF represented our fraternity for the Stand for Life in March. They reported poor weather but a good turnout of pro-life representation. As usual, the clinic representatives were antagonistic, but the pro-life contingent responded with prayer and charity, which spoke far louder than the harsh words shouted at them.

Joanne Angeletti, TOF prepared the Little Portion, and Chris and LeeAnn Devore, TOF delivered it. Thank you both for your generosity and time.

The relics of St. Angela Merici and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini remain with their custodians for the time being. The relics of St. Clare are with Carol Perrine, TOF, and the image of Blessed Lucchesio and Buonadonna was returned by Virgil Daniel, TOF. If you wish to honor your home with these relics, they will be offered on loan at the April Gathering.

St. Barnabas in Northfield was selected as the recipient of the food pantry offering, and Cindy Russo, TOF will deliver it to the parish.

Roberto Meza, TOF led us in the Consecration to St. Joseph, followed by the shortened version of the Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. His Holiness subsequently officially consecrated Russia and Ukraine on March 25, the Friday following the March Gathering.

We then prayed for our ongoing fraternity intentions, adding our prayers for the health of Jennifer Kerns, TOF, Sandy Pollino, OFS, and Dorothy Takacs, OFS in addition to others in our fraternity and families. We expressed our repentance for our country's sins against God and asked that God bless our fraternity with the gift of the Holy Spirit. We prayed for Pope Francis and the Magisterium, that they remain true to the teaching of the Church. And of course, we remembered Fr. Vit, OFM, Fr. Dennis, OFM, Fr. Campagna, OFM, Fr. Daniel Dozier, TOF, Fr. Gastor Temu Bahati, Fr. Miron Kerul-Kmec, Fr. Ryan Furlong, TOF, and all our beloved parish priests. We then prayed for Bishop David Bonnar of Youngstown, Bishop Milan Lach, SJ of the Eparchy of Parma, and Bishop Edward Malesic, JD of Cleveland, for their personal intentions. And finally, we remembered all seminarians all over the world, especially Frater Francis Tumaini of the Diocese of Moshi, Tanzania, and Arthur Bodenschatz (Christ the Servant Parish, Canton) and Joseph Rohan (St. Joseph Parish, Cuyahoga Falls) and Christopher Klobuchir (Capuchin Formation) who are studying at Borromeo Seminary in Wickliffe.

We recited the St. Michael prayer for the protection of all these people, our fraternity, and the suffering people of Ukraine.

Finally, Roberto Meza, TOF led us in the Ritual Prayer to conclude the Gathering.

**\*Roberto reminds us that the April Gathering will be one week early, on Palm Sunday, April 10 because of Easter falling on the third Sunday of April. We will meet at 1:30 PM at St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish. God bless and protect us all!**

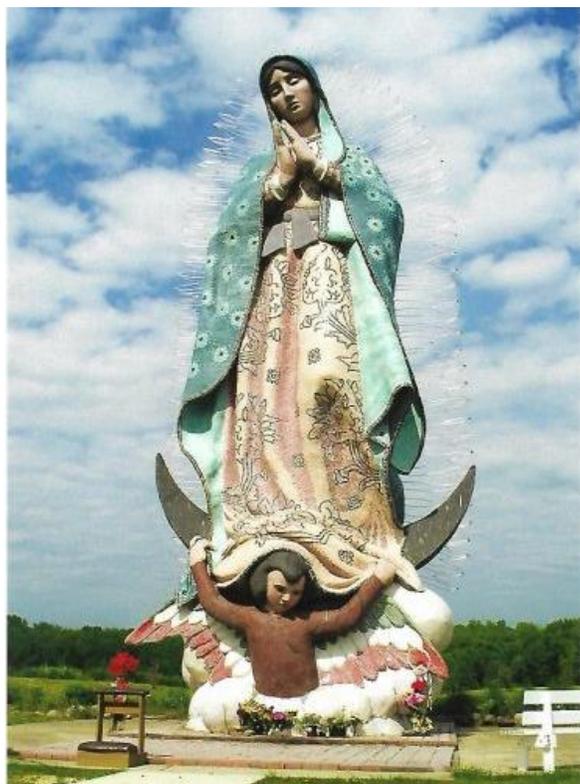
### Save the Date (April, the Month of the Eucharist and the Holy Spirit)

April 10	April Gathering, (St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish, 1:30 PM)
April 15	Good Friday ( <b>Day of Fast and Abstinence</b> )
April 16	Profession of St. Francis of Assisi
April 17	Easter Sunday
April 24	Divine Mercy Sunday
May 15	May Gathering (St. Nicholas Byzantine Church, 1:30 PM)
May 21	Annual TOF Community Pilgrimage: Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in Windsor (Servants of Mary Center)
September 5	Annual Franciscan Hike at Cuyahoga Valley National Park ( <i>details upcoming!</i> )

ST MICHAEL  
THE ARCHANGEL  
DEFEND US  
IN BATTLE BE OUR DEFENCE  
AGAINST THE SNARES AND WICKEDNESS  
OF THE EVIL GOD  
ONE MAY  
REBUKE HIM WE HUMBLY PRAY  
AND DO THOU O PRINCE OF THE  
HEAVENLY HOST BY THE  
POWER OF GOD  
CAST INTO HELL  
SATAN AND ALL THE EVIL SPIRITS  
WHO PROWL THE WORLD  
SEEKING THE RUIN OF SOULS  
AMEN



*The Prayer to St. Michael was authored & promoted by Pope Leo XIII (1810-1903), a Third Order Franciscan.*



# 1<sup>st</sup> 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.