

May, 2022

Volume 3, Issue 5

Il Poverello

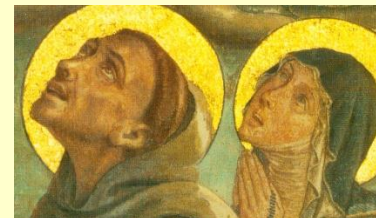
The newsletter of the SS Francis and Clare Fraternity
of the Third Order of St. Francis

*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



In his love and imitation of Christ, Francis never for a moment separated him from his Blessed Mother. He has left some exquisite prayers to Our Lady, and he would, according to Celano, devote entire nights to praising God and the glorious Virgin Mother of God.

In his ascent toward God, St. Francis had a tender devotion to Our Lady.

We can learn from St. Francis about the eminent dignity of the Mother of God.

Before asking anything of Our Lady, he was unable to find words to express his admiration for her but praised God for her divine Motherhood. Her divine Motherhood is one of the first things he emphasizes in the Letter to All the Faithful and also his love for Christmas.

(Taken from Call to Commitment, on St. Francis and his love of Our Lady.)

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

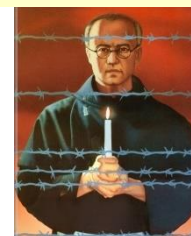
Susan Kramer, TOF
– Newsletter

**Next Gathering –
Sunday, May 15 @ 1:30 PM
St. Nicholas Byzantine Church
1051 Robinson Ave.
Barberton, OH 44203**

Franciscan Quote of the Month

***"Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much.
You can never love her more than Jesus did."***

**St. Maximilian Kolbe, OFM (1894-1941) – Feast Day August 14
Franciscan Priest, Teacher, Newspaper Publisher,
Radio Broadcaster, Protector of the Oppressed, Prisoner, Martyr**



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.*

May Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

Kenny Green, TOF; Pepe Ventosa, TOF;
Rose Zaratsian, TOF – 24 Years

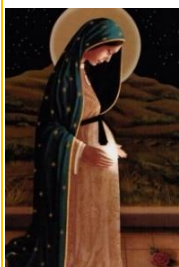
Eileen Dunlap, TOF; Rick Dunlap, TOF;
Susan Kramer, TOF; Larry McNutt, TOF;
Lucy McNutt, TOF – 7 Years



Birthdays

Mary Dye, TOF – 5/23

Stand for Life



The Fraternity Council decided to postpone the May Stand for Life since the Pilgrimage will be held on May 21, which is the day we would normally have a fraternity presence at the abortion clinic. We will resume on the third Saturday of June.

It is always a loving gesture to remember in our prayers the innocent souls who suffer and are murdered by abortion. And do not forget to remember to pray for the mothers of these children and the staff of the abortion clinics, that they may have a change of heart.

Treasurer's Report – Therese Harper, TOF

Checks can be made payable to Ss. Francis & Clare Fraternity TOF. Beginning with the March Gathering, a colored money pouch for each fund will be used to circulate at our gathering to help our members donate to each fund:

Blue pouch: Common Fund (Used for Fraternity expenses)

Red pouch: St. Maximilian Kolbe Ministry (Used for Prison Bibles)

Black pouch: Seminarian Donations (We are currently supporting Fr. Francis Tumaini-Diocese of Moshi)

All money/check pouches will be labeled with the fund name and how the funds are used. If a member wants to write one check but distribute between the different funds, they can write one check and attach to their check a “post a note” located in each pouch of how much they want to contribute for each fund. All funds go into one account, but a spreadsheet will be maintained for each fund according to the member’s desired donation. The spreadsheet listing all funds will be circulated with the money pouches at each gathering. Any questions can be directed to our Treasurer, Therese Harper TOF.

Hospitality and Little Portion

Roberto and Maria Elena Meza, TOF will provide our luncheon hospitality at our next Gathering on May 22. If you would like to assist, please contact Maria Elena to see what is needed.

Denise Williams, who is in Formation, will prepare the May Little Portion, and Bob Burtscher, 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.

The Annual Pilgrimage is Approaching!

Don't forget our Annual Third Order Franciscan Community Pilgrimage will take place on Saturday, May 21. We plan to join our brother and sister tertiaries from the Our Lady of America Fraternity and St. Padre Pio Fraternity at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Windsor, Ohio. We will enjoy the grounds of this beautiful shrine, pray the Rosary together, participate in Mass led by Fr. Ryan Furlong, TOF of the St. Padre Pio Fraternity and our own Fr. Vit. Later, we will share lunch at Mary Yoder's Restaurant. If you are interested in attending, please contact Roberto Meza to RSVP. Carpools are also being formed, starting from either St. Nicholas (contact Virgil Daniel) or Hartville Kitchen (contact Jim Miller). Hope to see you there!



Leadership Meeting with the Confraternity of Penitents – Julie Pertz, TOF, Our Lady of America Fraternity

On March 29, 2022 a meeting took place at the Poor Clare Sancta Clara Monastery in Canton. Present were: Fr. Joseph Tuscan, OFM Cap., Spiritual Guardian of the Confraternity of Penitents (CFP) and retreat master; Fr. Daniel Dozier, TOF, Byzantine priest and pastor of St. George Byzantine Parish in Olympia, Washington, professor at Ss. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Seminary, and Isolated Tertiary, who joined us via Zoom; Madeline and Jim Nugent of CFP from Fort Wayne, Indiana; Pat Cuttica, TOF, Minister of St. Padre Pio Fraternity of Youngstown, Ohio; Jim Miller, TOF, Vice Minister of Ss. Francis and Clare Fraternity of Barberton, Ohio; Julie Pertz, TOF, Treasurer of Our Lady of America Fraternity of Ashtabula, Ohio; and Pepe Ventosa, TOF, Councilor of Ss. Francis and Clare Fraternity of Barberton, Ohio and assistant to the Isolated Tertiary Community.

After introducing ourselves and getting to know a little about each other, we discussed working together on the Confraternity's annual Retreat/Reunion/Conference, which will take place October 26-30, 2022 at the St. Felix Catholic Center. The Center is a Franciscan friary located at 1280 Hitzfield St., Huntington, Indiana, 46750, about 35 miles from Fort Wayne. Venerable Solanus Casey spent his last years there.

We brainstormed about a title, theme, and content for the retreat. Talks will be given by our priests and two Third Order members, with prayer services and daily Masses that hopefully will include a solemn Latin liturgy, Novus Ordo, and a Byzantine Akathist, a profound devotional poem to St. Francis. The agenda is meant to support us on our journey to holiness. In addition to speakers, a member of each fraternity (preferably the Minister) will be part of a panel in which they explain the origin and evolution of their respective fraternities.

The entire cost for staying four nights is \$200, plus \$25 toward food and beverages. A few members will cook our meals, which will allow abstinences and the schedule will be tailored to our needs. Overall we will gather October 26-30. We will end on Sunday morning Mass to allow attendees to return home without missing Monday work.

The retreat is open to Franciscan Tertiaries and any other member of the Third Order of St. Francis. Those in Formation are especially encouraged to come. We hope you can join us for a Retreat Reunion Conference this Fall! If you have any questions, please contact your Minister. Pax et Bonum!



**Sitting, left to right: Pat Cuttica, TOF, Julie Pertz, TOF, Fr. Joe Tuscan, OFM Cap, Jim Nugent, CFP
Standing, left to right: Pepe Ventosa, TOF, Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM, Jim Miller, TOF and Madeline Nugent, CFP**

Pictured on computer screen: Fr. Daniel Dozier, TOF



A Message from Fr. Gastor Bahati, Diocese of Moshi

Father Gastor Bahati, who serves on the staff of the Bishop of the Diocese of Moshi, has sent us an Easter message. Our fraternity has spiritually supported Fr. Bahati since his seminary years, and he is a faithful friend of our fraternity:

Dear and beloved Mama Susan Kramer, TOF and all Franciscan Friends,

The Lord Has Risen Alleluia, Alleluia. Hopeful you had a wonderful and joyous celebration of Easter with your family and friends and you still enjoy the fruits of the Risen Lord. I thank God that I had a nice celebration of Easter, although it was very busy on my side, however wonderful and graciously. On my side I did not have that chance of celebrating with my family, yet it was nice and I thank God. I still pray that the Risen Lord may grant you peace always.

Nevertheless, I believe you are well health wise and in other spheres of Life, and above all I continue wishing you God's Choicest Blessings.

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad, alleluia. May your Easter basket be filled with joy, happiness, and peace this season and always.

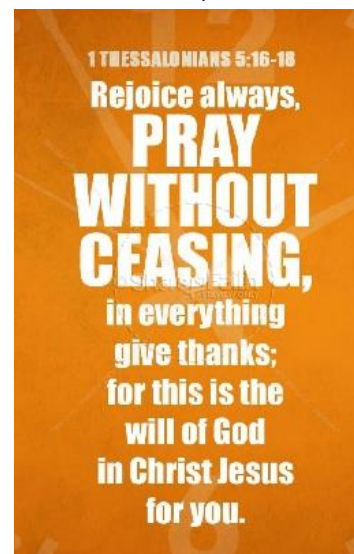
Fraternal yours in the Risen Lord
Fr. Gastor Bahati.

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. And for **Fr. Ryan Furlong, TOF** of the Diocese of Youngstown, who is a member of the St. Padre Pio Fraternity.
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**).
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 our April 10, Palm Sunday Gathering at St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish. We had 26 in attendance and were blessed to welcome Fred Kramer and Annie Butts and Fr. Vit.

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, Debbie Ventosa, TOF, and Bill Marshall, TOF.

Next was Lectio Divina, in which Virgil Daniel, TOF read the Gospel of Palm Sunday from St. Luke, which was the story of the death and burial of Jesus. We paired up and discussed how God spoke to us in this reading and prayed together.

After Roberto led us in Grace, we enjoyed a delicious lunch from Mary Cate Roberts, TOF.

Therese Harper, TOF spoke to us about the collection for Ukrainian relief. The funds we raise will be entrusted to Fr. Miron Kerul-Kmec, pastor of St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish, who will make sure they are directed to the proper agency.

Roberto Meza, TOF asked us to RSVP as soon as possible for our 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. Carpools are being formed by Virgil Daniel, TOF at St. Nicholas and by Jim Miller, TOF at Hartville Kitchen.

Bill Marshall, TOF led us in Ongoing Formation. Her subject was Article 42 of the Constitution – Franciscan Spirit, Simplicity of Life, Joy, and Charity to Others.

Charity unites not only God to man, but man with one another. Treat one another with kindness and courtesy. Do nothing to sadden the Holy Spirit.

Betty DeMarco, TOF thoughtfully brought EWTN schedules and pointed out upcoming programming for Holy Week and the Easter Season.

Roberto Meza, TOF stood in for Maria Elena Meza, TOF and delivered the Infirmarian Report. Our dear Betty DeMarco, TOF returned to the Gathering, and we are so glad to see her beautiful face! Bob Burtscher reported that all is well with Elizabeth Francis, TOF. She is very happy her brother is with her and that he has returned to Mass. Bob also asked us to continue to pray for Pat and Deanna Hurley, OFS for health reasons and the repose of their niece. Rose Zaratsian, TOF asks for prayers of thanksgiving for her recovery from illness and her return to the fraternity, thanks be to God! Jennifer Kerns, TOF for her health and return to the community.

Roberto asked for more volunteers for the St. Elizabeth of Hungary ministry, which endeavors to keep our homebound connected to the fraternity. Please contact Roberto or Maria Elena if you can help!

Father Vit then spoke to us on the subject of unreasonable fear. It is important to be informed about events in our world, but not to be frightened. We should be aware of local problems but not permit these problems to distract us. Do not be manipulated by the secular culture, but keep our minds and hearts focused on God.

Father spoke of the importance of eating healthy, taking care of our health, and the benefits of fasting. If we take good care of our health we can be more productive as we age and will be able to do God's work. We should order our lives and it's essential begin to meditate on the last things, in particular, death. As we develop a deeper, more infinite friendship with Jesus through prayer, then that assists us transitioning from this life to the next. Sickness is not always a bad thing, because it helps us to remember Sister Death. Even if one is in a potentially deadly condition, it is a blessing to be able to prepare for death – for instance, to put our affairs in order and to be sure to receive the Sacrament of Confession.

Divine Providence is for all of us. Take care of your health, but don't forget to leave room for God. Christians do not die but go on to another life. It is vitally important to be prepared for the next life.

The most important part of our lives is friendship with Jesus.

Following this, Roberto led us in intercessory prayer and then in our closing prayers. Fr. Vit gave us his blessing, and Roberto reminded us of our pilgrimage on May 21 and of the next Gathering, which will be Sunday, May 22 – same time, same place!

Save the Date (May, the Month of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

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>)



**Hail, holy Lady, Most holy Queen, Mary,
Mother of God, ever Virgin;**

**Chosen by the most holy Father in heaven,
consecrated by Him,**

**With his most holy beloved Son and the
Holy Spirit, the Comforter,**

**On you descended and in you still remains
all the fullness of grace and every good.**

Hail, His Palace. Hail, His Tabernacle.

Hail, His Robe. Hail, His Handmaid. Hail,

His Mother. (*The Salutation of the Blessed*

***Virgin – St. Francis of Assisi*)**