

Summer, 2022

Volume 3, Issue 2

The Troubadour

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



Keeping the Faith

Being a confirmed, baptized Catholic is a big responsibility – especially for a Franciscan. We are asked to do the minimum – to attend Mass on Sundays or the vigil and on Holy Days of Obligation, to abide by the Ten Commandments, and to follow the teaching of the Church.

But there is far more we must accomplish to truly call ourselves faithful Catholics. We must **live** our Faith. That means making a conscious effort to get educated in the teaching of the Church and



to understand its wisdom and logic. And to fearlessly, joyfully, face the world with the confidence and conviction of that knowledge, understanding we can face everything with our Catholic Faith and the presence of Jesus by our side. Being “soldiers of Christ”, as we were called at Confirmation, means we have the strength and defense of our Faith to loyally stand up for Jesus and the Church. As a soldier would, we should not hesitate to use the “ammunition” of Catholic apologetics to convince unbelievers of the truth of the Church.

And that opens us up to all the extra luxuries of being a Catholic – daily Mass, frequent Confession, and personal devotions. Along with enjoying the pleasure of the companionship of like-minded fellow Catholics as well as those who do not view life as we do, and the ability to discuss our beliefs with conviction. And to do it with joy, as our good St. Francis would wish of us!

Spiritual Director

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



Editor

Susan Kramer, TOF

Franciscan Quote for Summer, 2022

“The only thing ever achieved in life without effort is failure.”



St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)
Founder of the Franciscan Order, Deacon, Preacher, Servant of God and of the Poor

Newly Canonized Saints (reprinted from the Catholic News Service)

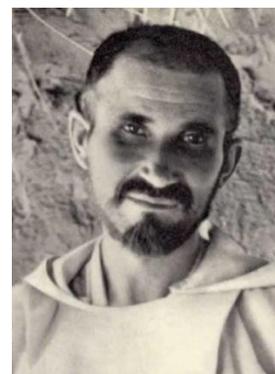
Pope Francis on Sunday, May 15, 2022, recognized 10 new saints of the Catholic Church during a canonization Mass in St. Peter's Square.

It was the Church's first canonization since that of St. John Henry Newman and four others in October 2019. **St. Charles de Foucauld →**

Religious men and women, priests, and a lay man are among the 10 people who are recognized to be in heaven after living lives of exemplary holiness on earth.

"Holiness does not consist of a few heroic gestures, but of many small acts of daily love," Pope Francis said during his homily on May 15, a sunny, warm day in Rome.

Pope Francis, who has been suffering from knee pain and has used a wheelchair to avoid walking in recent days, was able to stand for a short time and walk short distances during the Mass. He had assistance and walked visibly slower than in the recent past.



The Mass began with the rite of canonization, which included the reading of short biographies of each blessed, read by Cardinal Marcello Semeraro, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

A litany of saints was sung before Pope Francis recited the formula of canonization.

←St. Titus Brandsma

He declared: "For the honor of the Blessed Trinity, the exaltation of the Catholic faith and the increase of the Christian life, by the authority of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and our own, after due deliberation and frequent prayer for divine assistance, and having sought the counsel of many of our brother bishops, we declare and define Blessed Titus Brandsma, Lazarus known as Devasahayam, César de Bus, Luigi Maria Palazzolo, Giustino Maria Russolillo, Charles de Foucauld, Marie Rivier, Maria Francesca di Gesu Rubatto, Maria di Gesù Santocanale, and Maria Domenica Mantovani to be saints and we enroll them among the saints, decreeing that they are to be venerated as such by the whole Church. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

"To serve the Gospel and our brothers and sisters, to offer our lives without expecting anything in return, or any worldly glory: this is our calling. That was how our fellow travelers canonized today lived their holiness," Pope Francis said.

St. Luigi Maria Palazzolo →

"By embracing with enthusiasm their vocation — some as a priest, others as a consecrated woman, as a lay person — they devoted their lives to the Gospel," he said. "They discovered an incomparable joy and they became brilliant reflections of the Lord of history. For that is what a saint is: a luminous reflection of the Lord of history."



"May we strive to do the same — the path of holiness is not barred; it is universal and it begins with baptism. It is not barred. May we strive to follow it, for each of us is called to holiness, to a form of holiness all our own," he added.

The new saints are:

-**Charles de Foucauld**: A French soldier and explorer who became a Trappist monk and Catholic missionary to Muslims in Algeria. Known as **Brother Charles of Jesus**, he was killed in 1916 at the age of 58.

-**Titus Brandsma**: A Dutch priest, professor, and journalist who opposed Nazi propaganda in Catholic newspapers. **He was killed** by lethal injection in Dachau in 1942.

-**Devasahayam Pillai**: **A layman from India** who was tortured and martyred after converting from

Hinduism to Catholicism in the 18th century.

-Marie Rivier: The founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Presentation. The Frenchwoman founded the order in 1796, **at the age of 28**, during the Reign of Terror.

-Maria Francesca of Jesus: A 19th-century missionary founder who crossed the Atlantic Ocean seven times by boat to establish an order of Capuchin sisters in Uruguay, Argentina, and Brazil.

-Maria Domenica Mantovani: The first general superior of the Institute of the Little Sisters of the Holy Family, which **she co-founded** to serve the poor, orphaned, and the sick in Italy in 1892.



-Maria of Jesus Santocanale: The founder of the Capuchin Sisters of Immaculate Mary of Lourdes in Sicily in 1910. She spent most of her free moments, day or night, in front of the tabernacle.

←**St. Maria of Jesus Santocanale**

-César de Bus: A French Catholic priest who founded two religious congregations in the 16th century. He was a zealous preacher and catechist, who performed many works of charity.

-Luigi Maria Palazzolo: An Italian priest who is known for having established the Sisters of the Poor, opened an orphanage, and worked for the poor.

-Giustino Maria Russolillo: The founder of the religious congregations of the Vocationist Fathers, the Vocationist Sisters and of the Secular Institute of the Apostles of Universal Sanctification in Italy. The priest was devoted to educating young people and cultivating their vocations.

The canonization Mass was attended by an estimated 45,000 people, many of whom traveled from outside Italy.

In remarks at the conclusion of Mass before the Regina Caeli prayers, the pope greeted the official delegations from several countries which had attended the canonizations. He also greeted all the faithful from all around the world who had attended the Mass.

Pope Francis encouraged Catholic Christians to imitate the example of the saints.

“It is good to see that, with their evangelical witness, these Saints have fostered the spiritual and social growth of their respective nations and also of the entire human family,” the pope said. “While sadly in the world distances grow, and tensions and wars increase, may the new saints inspire solutions of togetherness and ways of dialogue, especially in the hearts and minds of those who hold positions of great responsibility and are called upon to be agents of peace, not war.”

“And now, let us turn to the Virgin Mary, so that she may help us joyfully imitate the example of the new saints,” said Pope Francis.

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

The Ss. Francis and Clare Fraternity will be having a Come and See soon. If you know of anyone in the Akron/Canton area who is interested in the Third Order Franciscans, please contact Debbie Ventosa, TOF.

Our two novices, Jesse Kuhn and Denise Williams, will be celebrating their Profession in the Fall. They will be having a pre-Profession retreat on September 17, 2022 at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted in Youngstown. Please pray for them!



Our annual picnic will be held August 21, 2022, at Queen of Heaven Parish in Green, starting at 1:30. Everyone in our three fraternities and any Isolated Tertiaries are very welcome to enjoy a pleasant day with us. Please see the notice in this edition for further information! We look forward to seeing you!

Our Lady of America Fraternity News – by Margaret Sartor, TOF

Our Lady of the Americas Franciscan Formation began last June 24, 2021. Our three candidates have completed the Inquiry Phase and have entered Postulancy. They are all active at Fraternity meetings when their schedules permit. We are moving at a slightly slower pace, but their young families are their first vocation and Fr. Vit talks about the importance of small steps. They are all such a gift to me and my continued Formation.



Mathew Wojciechowski is married with children. He was exposed to Third Order Franciscans through his father-in-law, Paul Fedele, TOF, and decided to explore Franciscan Formation. He is very active, forwarding stories of saints, scripture verses etc. to help us grow closer to God. He has an amazing knowledge of Church History.

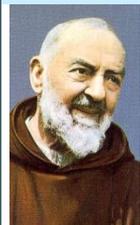
Aaron Fedele is married with 4 children including 2 foster children. He was surrounded by Franciscan Tertiaries since childhood, began serving the Latin Mass at 10 and even discerned joining the Capuchins in Philadelphia. Then God called him to a vocation of marriage. He realized he is still meant to be one of St. Francis's brothers. He is looking for a way to grow in holiness and to evangelize like St. Francis. His solid faith and life of service are an inspiration.

Shari Jamieson is married, with six adult children and a few grandchildren. She has been thinking about becoming a Franciscan for quite a while and was looking for the right group. She found our website and started attending Fraternity Meetings. She asks important questions and has a love for the poor and a deep desire to follow Jesus and to grow spiritually. Shari is drawn to St. Francis love for the poor.

Thus far we have reviewed the catechism, Franciscan symbols, and observances, Lectio Divina, and have begun to pray Liturgy of the Hours. We have learned about St Francis and his founding of and meaning of the Third Order and Conditions for Admission. Resources have included [Face to the World](#) and [Call to Commitment](#).

The Postulants will probably be ready to enter the Novitiate in September 2022.

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



No news from St. Padre Pio Fraternity in Youngstown, but best wishes to everyone for a safe and blessed summer!

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

Four of our Inquirers entered the Novitiate recently! As per the Constitution, there is no postulancy period for the Isolated Tertiaries. There is a Formation Team that meets once per month for Initial Formation of Inquirers/Novices via Zoom meeting.

Members of the Isolated Tertiary community have a monthly gathering once per month via Zoom. These Gatherings have a similar format as Fraternity Gatherings, with time for prayer, Ongoing Formation, and news and updates.

The community of Tertiaries, in imitation of St. Francis' love for the Eucharist, commits as a group to daily Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. We have isolated brother and sister Tertiaries in Florida, Texas, California, Michigan, Washington, and Australia. If you would like to meet them and experience one of their monthly Gatherings via Zoom, please contact Pepe Ventosa, TOF.

Annual Franciscan Hike - 2022

Come and join your fellow Franciscans for a morning of hiking, prayer, ongoing formation, food and fellowship!

When: Monday September 5, 2022

Where: Ledges Trailhead at Cuyahoga Valley National Park
405 Kendall Park Rd, Peninsula, OH

Itinerary:

9:00 am: meet at the parking lot

9:15 am: hiking starts

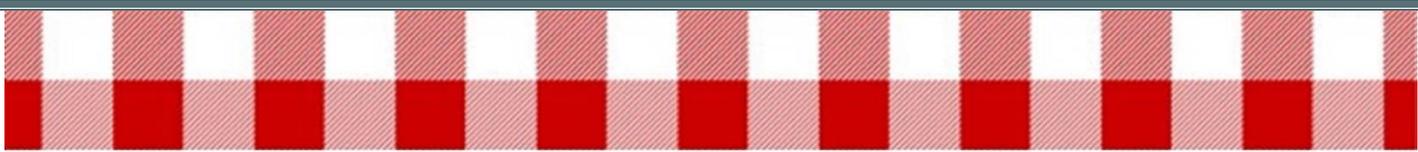
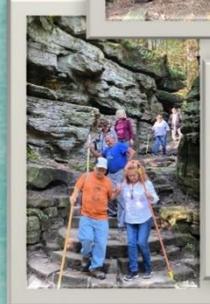
11:30 am: lunch

What to bring: water bottle, sturdy shoes for hiking, bug spray. Hiking stick optional but helpful. Also optional, small mat to sit on the ground.

Note: The trail is 1.8 miles long with some steep areas. We will only hike a shorter and easier section of the trail. There are some areas with tree roots exposed and steps. It is considered an "easy" hike.

Directions: take 8 north. Take exit #10 and make a left on Seasons Rd. Go ¾ of a mile and turn right Wyoga Lake Rd and then a quick right on State Rd (Akron Cleveland Rd) and then a quick right on State Rd (Akron Cleveland Rd). At the next light make a left on Kendall Park Rd (1.2 miles). Entrance to the Ledges is about 1 mile on the right side.

*****Important***** Please RSVP to Pepe



We are having a picnic and want you to come!

SS. Francis and Clare
Fraternity

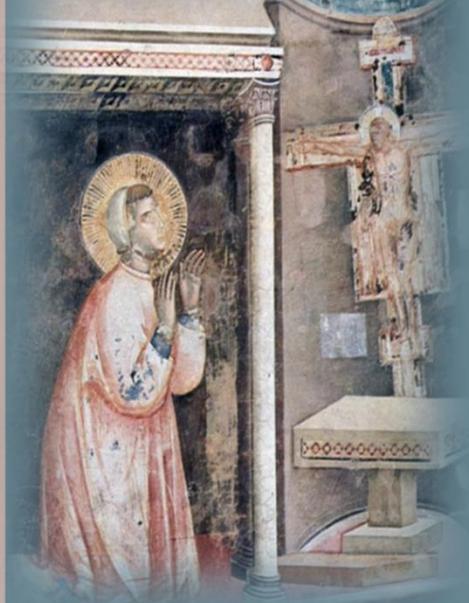
3rd Annual



Date: Sunday August 21, 2022
Place: Queen of Heaven Parish
1800 Steese Road,
Uniontown, OH
Time: 1:30pm



Franciscan Tertiaries Retreat



Come and join other communities of lay Franciscans at the annual retreat of the Confraternity of Penitents

Speakers: Fr. Joseph Tuscan, OFM Cap, Fr. Daniel Dozier, TOF, Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM and lay Franciscans, including members of our community

Date: October 26-30, 2022

Place: St. Felix Catholic Center, Huntington, IN

Cost- 2 options:

- \$225 per person or,

- \$200 plus \$25 worth of food and/or paper goods

\$50 deposit required to hold your place. Please RSVP soon.

Only 60 rooms (single rooms) available.

For RSVP and to pay deposit please go to:

www.franciscanthirdorderpenitents.com/retreats



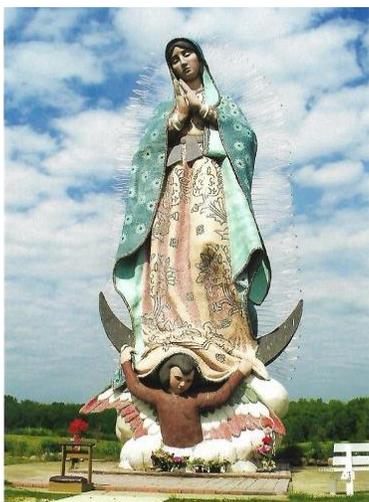
Coming up soon!!!
"Mat Posts"



Monthly posts from our Community of Franciscan Tertiaries.
Watch your email for these...!



Submitted by Pepe Ventosa, TOF



1st Annual Pilgrimage

Franciscan Tertiaries
of the
Immaculate Conception
Province

Servants of Mary Center for Peace Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

We had an excellent turn out for the pilgrimage in May! Please enjoy these photos, courtesy of Roberto Meza, TOF and Virgil Daniel, TOF, both of Ss. Francis and Clare Fraternity.



Leadership Meeting with the Confraternity of Penitents - Julie Pertz, 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**

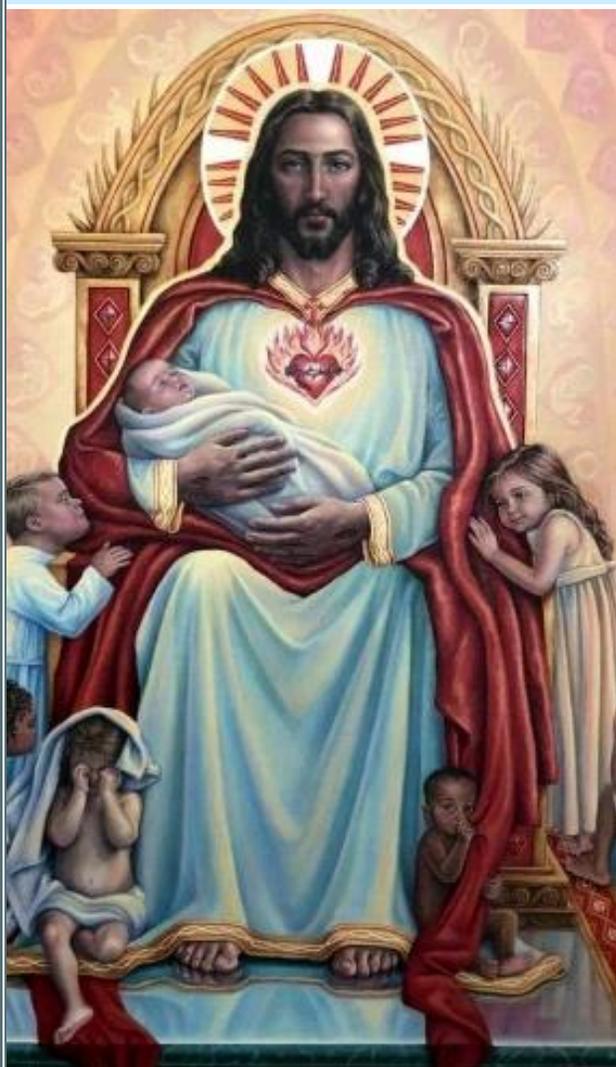
Summer Franciscan Feasts

7/15	St. Bonaventure, OFM
7/16	Canonization of St. Francis of Assisi
8/2	Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula <i>(Plenary Indulgence for Tertiaries)</i>
8/8	St. John Vianney
8/11	St. Clare
8/14	St. Maximilian Kolbe, OFM
8/25	St. Louis IX <i>(Plenary Indulgence for Tertiaries)</i>
8/28	St. Junipero Serra, OFM

Save the Dates!

8/15	Assumption of Our Lady <i>(Holy Day of Obligation)</i>
8/21	Ss. Francis and Clare Fraternity Annual Picnic <i>(see notice above for details!)</i>
9/5	Annual Franciscan Hike <i>(see notice above for details!)</i>
11/12	Day of Recollection <i>(Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted, Youngstown – details TBA)</i>

Roe v. Wade Overturned!



Friday, June 24, 2022 the United States Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, which permitted abortion nationwide since 1973, over 49 years. **God is good, and His timing is always perfect!!!**

It is significant that June 24 this year was the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Latin Rite calendar. It is normally the Feast of St. John the Baptist, which was celebrated on June 23 this year. St. John the Baptist was the first person after Our Lady to joyfully recognize Jesus as His Lord – while both were in the womb! The always merciful Sacred Heart of Jesus heard the prayers so many in the pro-life movement have been placing at His feet, and on His feast, He acted!

Our faithful local parish priests and bishops rejoice with us in this unexpected, joyful news. But we are cautioned to carry ourselves with Christian kindness and dignity as befits Catholics, and not to act as if it is a competition we have won.

There have been acts of revenge against pro-life organizations, and against Catholics and Catholic churches. We will never bring others to believe as we do – that life begins at conception, and that an unborn child has an immortal soul and feels pain, and that we must protect and dignify **all** life, womb to tomb – if we respond in an antagonistic, bullying, triumphant manner. We are called to rise above this in our demeanor and actions.

We must remember to imitate the flawless example of Jesus and our good St. Francis. If we are approached in anger, we must respond with courtesy, humility, and patience. We must speak and live the teaching of the Church with

calmness, dignity, and reason. Truly, the battle is won, but the war continues.



“You ask me whether I am in good spirits. How could I not be, so long as my trust in God gives me strength. We must always be cheerful. Sadness should be banished from all Christian souls. For suffering is a far different thing from sadness, which is the worst disease of all. It is almost always caused by lack of Faith. But the purpose for which we have been created shows us the path along which we should go, perhaps strewn with many thorns, but not a sad path. Even in the midst of intense suffering it is one of joy.”

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, TOSD (1901-1924) – Feast Day July 4
Dominican Tertiary, member of Catholic Action and
the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Athlete, Mountaineer,
“Man of the Beatitudes” per St. Pope John Paul II