

July, 2022

Volume 3, Issue 7

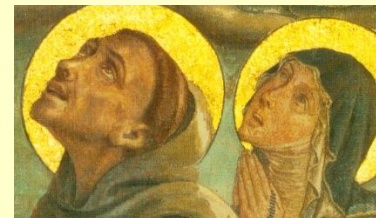
Il Poverello

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



July brings us two Franciscan feasts of note, the Feast of St. Bonaventure on July 15, and the Feast of the Canonization of St. Francis on July 16.

Per our Tertiary Statutes (Article 3.9), "Fraternities should observe together when possible the important Franciscan Feasts throughout the year". These two Feasts are part of that list.

St. Bonaventure was a Franciscan priest, bishop, cardinal, scholastic theologian, and philosopher. He was the seventh Minister General of the OFM, and the Bishop of Albano (Italy). He tirelessly served the Church and the Order. He was canonized in 1482 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1588. He is popularly known as the "Seraphic Doctor".

Our good St. Francis, by virtue of the extraordinarily holy life he led and the sacrifices he made for God and the Church, was canonized in July 1228, less than 2 years after his death on October 3, 1226.



This in itself is a startling testament to the universal and undeniable knowledge of the sanctity and witness with which St. Francis lived his life. It is not unusual – indeed, it is normal – for Vatican investigations into the worthiness of individuals to be first beatified and then canonized to take centuries to complete. On top of this, miracles associated with the intercession of the person being investigated must be verified beyond a doubt. That this was all accomplished in such a very short period, in a time when communication was slow, is astonishing!

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

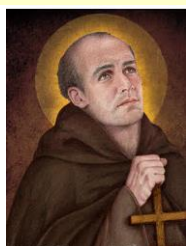
Chris Devore, TOF –
Councilor

Pepe Ventosa, TOF –
Councilor

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

**Next Gathering –
Sunday, July 17 @ 1:30 PM
St. Nicholas Byzantine Church
1051 Robinson Ave.
Barberton, OH 44203**

Franciscan Quote of the Month



"Let us kindle in our souls an ardent affection, considering his great affection towards us, which upon the cross he declared and manifested to the whole world. And the benefit which he bestowed upon us in his passion, because he bought us with the inestimable price of his precious blood, of which only, we reap the benefit and commodity."

St. Peter of Alcantara (1499-1562) Feast Day October 19
Franciscan Friar, Mystic, Preacher

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
Denise Williams

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 26 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.*

July Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

Judith Hoyt, TOF – 22 Years
Debbie Ventosa, TOF – 19 Years



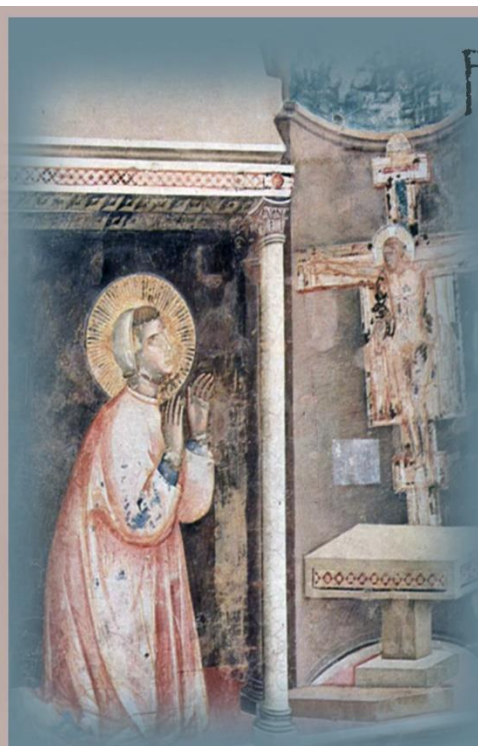
Birthdays

Therese Harper, TOF – 7/20
Cindy Russo, TOF – 7/21
Fred Kramer – 7/6

Stand for Life



Virgil and Louise Daniel, TOF are scheduled for the Stand for Life on July 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.**



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

****If you wish to attend but cannot afford the fee, please contact Therese Harper, TOF or anyone on Council – Council has a fund to assist for this.***

Hospitality and Little Portion

Therese Harper, TOF and Mary Dye, TOF will provide our luncheon hospitality at our next Gathering on July 17. If you would like to assist, please contact them to see what is needed.

Betty DeMarco, TOF will prepare the 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.

A Message from Fr. Gastor Bahati, Diocese of Moshi, Office of the Bishop

Beloved and dearest Susan Kramer and all friends,

Cordial and fraternal greetings. Hopeful everything is well with you. It is just heartfelt greetings to you, first from my Mother, secondly from me, and from the bishop's office. I really love you, treasure you, and always you are in our prayers as you do to us. I have been Blessed with your prayers as I see your strong commitment in your monthly newsletter. I really appreciate and thus praying for you.

Otherwise, I thank God for His Blessings to us all. Here in Tanzania now is winter season and it is somehow cold, especially the areas around Mount Kilimanjaro. All in all we thank God for everything.

Wishing you God's Choicest Blessings, I remain,

Fraternally yours in Christ

Fr. Gastor Bahati.

On Penance – submitted by Debbie Ventosa, TOF, Formation Director

"Our Lord spent His mortal life in the shadow of the cross and ended it on the cross. In order to resemble the Crucified, St. Francis cheerfully took upon himself every kind of suffering. The Stigmata which he bore visibly in his body, his true followers bear in their hearts. Instead of fleeing the cross, they accept it willingly and carry it courageously. The penance for which the Third Order stands, does not consist in extraordinary mortifications, but in curbing the passions, in conscientiously fulfilling one's duties, and in patiently bearing adversities. A penance imposed on most Tertiaries by Providence is the daily grind of work. In this they should not see an annoying burden but a protection against the enemies of salvation, and a means to atone for their sins and to gain merits for life everlasting."



From: Handbook of The Third Order Secular of St. Francis of Assisi, by Basil Gummermann, OFM Cap, 1947

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.

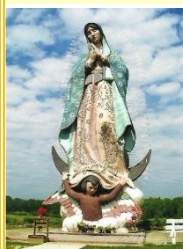
Note: The trail is 1.8 miles long with some steep areas. We will only hike a shorter and easier section of the trail. There are some areas with tree roots exposed and steps. It is considered an "easy" hike.

Directions: take 8 north. Take exit #10 and make a left on Seasons Rd. Go $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile and turn right Wyoga Lake 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



Annual TOF Community Pilgrimage

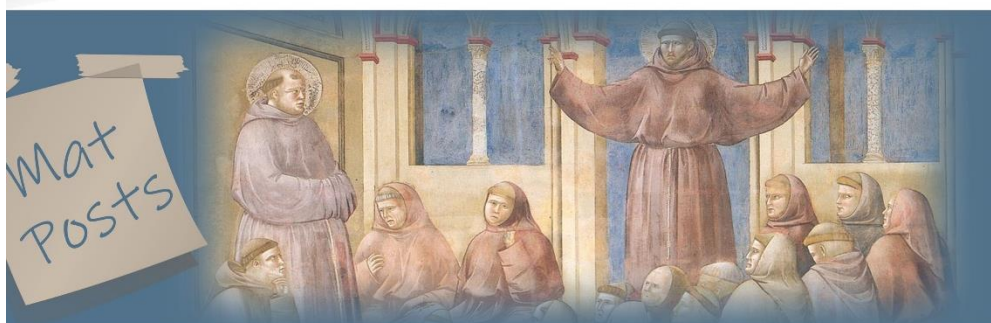


Our first annual TOF Community Pilgrimage, held in May, was a great success! There was a good turnout from our three fraternities, and we all appreciated the spiritual uplift at the Servants of Mary Center for Peace Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Windsor.

Many thanks to all who volunteered to drive, and for those who planned this splendid day for our three fraternities!

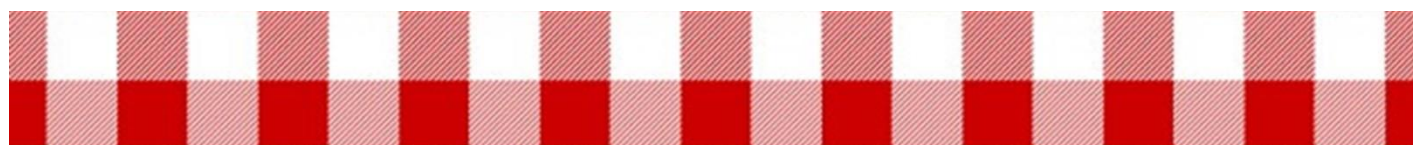


Monthly posts from our Community of Franciscan Tertiaries.
Watch your email for these...!



Submitted by Pepe Ventosa, TOF

***The first post has been sent! The first Friday of every month, these messages will contain Formation reinforcement and interesting information on the Order. If you did not receive your Mat Post in your email the first Friday of July, please contact Pepe Ventosa, TOF to be sure you receive it in future!**



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



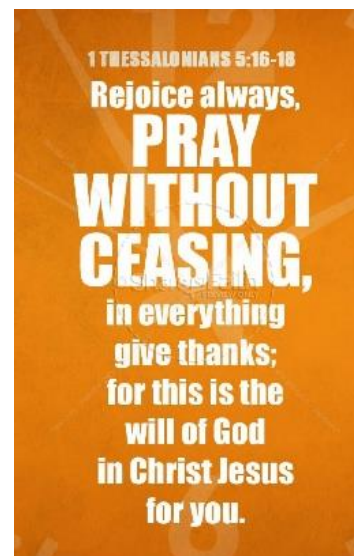
St. Padre Pio (Youngstown) Fraternity Picnic

Pat Cuttica, TOF has graciously invited our fraternity to their annual picnic. It will be held August 13 at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted in Youngstown. The day will begin with Mass at Noon. Please RSVP as soon as possible to Mary Dye, TOF if you plan to attend!

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 **Fr. Ryan Furlong, TOF** of the 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. Our beloved and hard-working parish priests.
11. 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!

Our June Gathering was held Sunday, June 12 (a week early because of Father's Day) at St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish. We had 20 in attendance, including Fred Kramer.

Minister Roberto Meza, TOF led us in the opening ritual prayer, and then we proceeded to the Liturgy of the Hours, which was led by Virgil Daniel, TOF, Debbie Ventosa, TOF, and Bill Marshall, TOF. Pepe Ventosa, TOF led us in Lectio Divina, and read the Gospel of the day from St. John (the Spirit of Truth).

Roberto prayed the Grace, and we enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by Jim and Nettie Miller, TOF, assisted by Debbie Ventosa, TOF and Joanne Angeletti, TOF – thank you!!!

Roberto discussed the retreat to St. Felix Catholic Center in Huntington, Indiana, which will be hosted by the Confraternity of Penitents. It will be good to be with other lay Franciscan groups. The retreat will take place October 26-30. Please check the notice in this newsletter for additional information.

We then recognized the monthly anniversaries and birthdays. The days are sometimes long, but the years fly! St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish in Barberton (our gracious hosts) was selected for the Food Pantry donation. Joanne Angeletti, TOF will deliver the food supplies from the fraternity.

Roberto Meza, TOF gave us the Infirmary Report in the place of Maria Elena Meza, TOF. Bob Burtscher, TOF says Elizabeth Francis, TOF is doing well and volunteers at Robinson Memorial Hospital. Pat Hurley, OFS is undergoing radiation therapy and is weak. Betty DeMarco, TOF, and Lucy and Larry McNutt, TOF have been ill. Jennifer Kerns, TOF is undergoing testing and has various challenges as a result of her illness. Julia Tarulli, TOF has also been ill. Sandy Pollino, OFS has contracted cancer along with other difficulties and asks for our prayers. Dorothy Takacs, OFS is maintaining status quo and is also in need of prayer.

Debbie Ventosa, TOF reported that a **Come and See** is planned in the near future. It will be held at St. Nicholas and more details will be Tuesday, August 23 at 6:30 PM. If you know of anyone who is interested, please invite them. There will also be a retreat for those approaching Profession on September 17 at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted.

Pepe Ventosa, TOF has put together a monthly email notification on Franciscan formation and the Order for the Third Order Franciscans. It will start soon and will come the First Fridays of each month. Click on it for more information. Hopefully it will become available the first Friday of July.

Pepe also unveiled our handsome new free-standing banner! We hope to be able to put it to use at Catholic conferences, parish picnics, etc.

Virgil Daniel, TOF taught Ongoing Formation on Article 44: "Led by the Spirit of Submission, and with hearts full of joyous gratitude, tertiaries shall regard as outstanding gifts of God the benefits of the Creation, of the Incarnation, and of Redemption. But they shall use the goods of this world in fear of the Lord and put themselves under the yoke of service and of loyalty to God by controlling the gratification of corrupt nature, the gratification of the eye, and the empty pomp of living. They shall always bear in mind that, through Baptism and Holy Profession, they have died with Christ, and must lead a new kind of life, living for God in Christ Jesus our Lord."



1. Articles 39-44 are an introduction and summary of Christian perfection according to the Franciscan spirit.
2. "Led by the Spirit of Submission" = humility.
3. "Hearts full of joyous gratitude" is the image we present to others as servants of God.
4. "They shall use the goods of this world in fear of the Lord": Wisdom, reverence, using goods according to God's Will, not ours. Responsible use of the world's goods. Avoid wastefulness in accord with God's values. Be a good example to others. Live with simplicity.
5. "Put themselves under the yoke of service and loyalty to God": This is mentioned in the Admonitions and the Profession ceremony. Keep the Commandments. Don't be politically correct – be loyal to God. Pray devotedly. Be loyal to the teaching of the Church. "God is 1st, others are 2nd, and I am 3rd."
6. "They shall always bear in mind that, through Baptism and Holy Profession, they have died with Christ and must lead a new kind of life, living for God in Christ Jesus our Lord.": God has expectations of us as when we die with Christ and embrace our holy profession. Be in the world, but not of the world. Spread Christ's Kingdom by word and work. Keep our souls innocent. Control greed, unworthy vice and thoughts, and extravagant living. Live with simplicity and wholesomeness for the good of our souls and for the example we give others. Lead others to God. Live the spirit of submission – Jesus, I trust in You!
7. The five knots in our TOF cord are:
 - a. Poverty – Live in one's own station in life, in poverty of spirit, humility, simplicity, and purity of heart.
 - b. Chastity – no sin against our own bodies, which are temples of the Holy Spirit. No covetousness nor jealousy. Maintain purity within our status in life.
 - c. Obedience to God – "Jesus, I trust in You." Jesus died out of obedience to God and for love of us. We must strive for the same.

- d. Penance – Atonement for our sins. Reconciliation (Confession) with God. Be a public example.
- e. Detachment – We are here to please God, not necessarily others. God is first in our lives.

We then prayed for the intercessions of our members:

1. Spiritual and physical healing (see Infirmarian Report); Fr. Furlong's mother; Sheila Burtscher; Christopher (Judith Hoyt's great grandson); Tim Williams; and Gertie O'Kennedy and her caregivers.
2. Intentions in the prayer journal.
3. Our country, that it stays free of sin and immorality, including the end of abortion. In reparation for past and current sins.
4. The blessing of the Holy Spirit on our fraternity and those in discernment.
5. Pope Francis and the magisterium, that they remain faithful to the teaching of the Church.
6. Public officials, that they remember they are servants of the people.
7. Those affected by the Ukraine War.
8. Fr. Robert Campagna, OFM, Bishop Bonnar of Youngstown, Bishop Malesic of Cleveland, Bishop Lach, SJ of the Eparchy of Parma, Fr. Miron Kerul-Kmec, Fr. Daniel Dozier, TOF, Fr. Ryan Furlong, TOF, Fr. Dennis Arambasick, OFM, Fr. Gastor Bahati, and all our pastors and parish priests.
9. Seminarians Frater Francis Tumaini of the Diocese of Moshi, Joseph Rohan of the Diocese of Cleveland, Arthur Bodenschatz of the Diocese of Youngstown, and all the seminarians of Borromeo/St. Mary Seminaries and Ss. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Seminary.
10. We recited the St. Michael Prayer.

Roberto led us in the closing Ritual Prayer. And Roberto reminded us of our next Gathering, which will be July 17, 2022 at St. Nicholas Byzantine Church.

Save the Date (July, the Month of the Precious Blood of Jesus)

July 15	Feast of St. Bonaventure
July 16	Feast of the Canonization of St. Francis of Assisi
July 17	July Gathering (St. Nicholas Byzantine Church, 1:30 PM)
August 21	Annual Fraternity Picnic (See posting above)
August 23	Come and See (St. Nicholas, 6:30 PM)
September 5	Annual Franciscan Hike at Cuyahoga Valley National Park (<i>details upcoming!</i>)
October 26-30	Franciscan Tertiaries Retreat, Huntington, Indiana

