



Soldiers of Christ

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

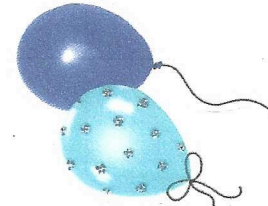
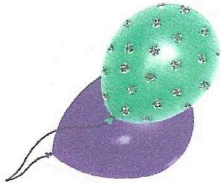


August 2022

Sandy Baden, TOF, Editor

Vol. 2, Issue 8

“HAPPY BIRTHDAY SOLDIERS OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER”



Our Soldiers of Christ Newsletter is a year old this month. This Newsletter had been meant to inform, enlighten and bring together our Isolated Tertiaries. A cause for great celebration and thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ for this endeavor.

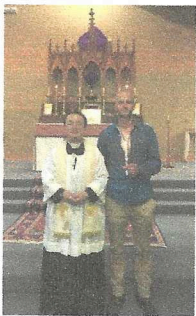
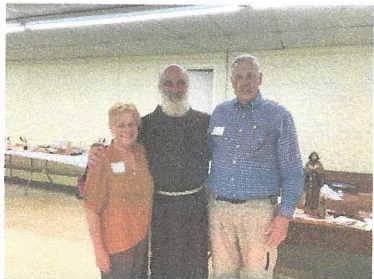
It was Linda Menser, TOF, who came up with our name, “The Soldiers of Christ Newsletter.” May we give Linda a huge thank you that she followed the nudging of the Holy Spirit in coming up with such a perfect name for this Newsletter. Judith Inglesby, TOF, Brenda Dunkelman, TOF, Luis Guzman, TOF and I, here in and California, were baffled and could not think of a name, so thanks to Linda Menser, TOF, here we have it!

The help and the effort of Pepe and Debbie Ventosa, TOF, in creating our format and editing has made the work put into this Newsletter easier. Thank you Pepe and Debbie for all your assistance and support.

All of you, Ericka Whitover, TOF, Luis Guzman, TOF, Brenda Dunkelman, TOF, Fr. Vit Fiala, Fr. Daniel Dozier, TOF, Fr. Dennis Armasick, and Pepe and Debbie Ventosa, TOF, a huge thank you for your articles. To the rest of our Isolated Tertiaries thank you for all your wonderful comments which have been greatly appreciated.

As we move on for another year we hope for more articles and please email me for ideas or articles you would like to contribute. This is your Newsletter and I would love to hear from you as to what you would like to see in our upcoming issues of the Soldiers of Christ Newsletter. I can come up with some ideas, but I would like to hear from you because this is for Isolated Tertiaries to keep us informed and united in Christ our Lord.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Pictures to remember!

CHARITY

“Speak evil of no one, avoid quarreling, be gentle, and show perfect courtesy toward all people.” Titus 3: 2

Recently, I found myself in a situation that hasn't happened for a long time. A somewhat 'friend' of a mutual friend started gossiping to people in my local community about my husband and I. He also was slandering us regarding an incident we had with him four years ago. Of course, I found out about it through the telephone line that gossip always follows, until it reached someone else I knew who called me to make me aware of it. The situation was amusing at best, confusing mostly and tested my way of trying to live a Christian life, especially when threats were made towards us.

When ignoring it didn't work, I had to take action, Grrrrrr...but thankfully we have great grace from the Lord and when we stop and ask, it is there. A short time later, I was able to have a phone conversation with my 'accuser' via a mediator, listened to his complaint and came to an understanding of why he choose his course of action. All very calmly and with the exchange of blessings.

It would not have been possible without putting the situation into the hands of the Lord, and even asking the Lord to bless my 'enemy.' Let us try in these difficult times to go above and beyond what the world advises, not repaying any enemy with the same treatment they give us. Let us even give our enemies to the Lord, that He may also bless them abundantly with His grace. Also, thanks to Wanda for being there as my Franciscan family”

“The vice of slander Francis would shrink from as a serpent's tooth, declaring it to be a hateful plague, as the slanderer feeds on the book of those souls that he has slain by his tongue.”

THE PRAISES TO BE SAID AT ALL THE HOURS

(St. Francis of Assisi) Submitted by: Debbie Ventosa, TOF

There is no doubt about the authenticity of this text. It is found in many of the early manuscripts. St. Francis "arranged and recited it at every Hour of the day and night before the Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary." The prayer that concludes the praises is simply an echo of the prominent image of God Who is "all good, supreme good, wholly good."

Holy, holy Lord God Almighty, Who is and Who was and

Who is to come (cf. Rev 4:8):

Let us praise and glorify Him forever.

O Lord our God, You are worthy to receive praise and glory and honor and blessing (cf. Rev 4:11):

Let us praise and glorify Him forever.

The Lamb Who was slain is worthy to receive power and glory and wisdom and strength, and honor and glory and blessing (Rev. 5:12):

Let us praise and glorify Him forever.

Let us bless the Father and the Son with the Holy Spirit:

Let us praise and glorify Him forever.

Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord (Dan 3:37):

Let us praise and glorify Him forever.

Sing praise to our God, all you His servants and you who fear

God, the small and the great (Rev. 19: 5)

Let us praise and glorify Him forever.

Let heaven and earth praise Him Who is glorious (cf. Ps 68: 35):

Let us praise and glorify Him forever.

And every creature that is in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea and those which are in them (Rev. 5: 11):

Let us praise and glorify Him forever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

Let us praise and glorify Him forever.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

Let us praise and glorify Him for ever.

All-powerful, most holy,
most high, and supreme God:
all good,
supreme good,
You Who alone are good,
may we give You
all praise, all glory,
all thanks, all honor:
all blessing
and all good things.
So be it. So be it. Amen!

Getting to know our Isolated Tertiaries



Wanda Ortiz recently celebrated her Novitiate Ceremony as an Isolated Tertiary. Wanda's call to become a Catholic happened as young girl after attending Mass with a neighborhood friend. After attending Mass she asked her mother if she could become a Catholic. The response was she could not become a Catholic at that time and had to wait until she became of age to make her own choice. Growing up in Beaumont, Texas she was raised primarily as a Southern Baptist.

Wanda spent her teen years attending Catholic charismatic prayer groups and Mass as a non-Catholic. She later was Confirmed into the Catholic Church and her mother had converted to Judaism, but did attend her Confirmation into the Roman Catholic Church.

A few years later Wanda met her husband to be, Ramiro. They married in the Catholic Church on March 27, 1977, and have five children. As sometimes happens for several years Wanda stopped attending Mass. After going through many trials in life, sickness, and felt great loss, Wanda was gently drawn by God back to the Church and prays daily that she may never stray again. Wanda currently lives in Bonham, Texas and attends St. Elizabeth Catholic Church.

Wanda developed a close spiritual relationship to St. Anthony of Padua and believes he is responsible for her conversion into the Catholic Church. The Communion of Saints is one of the many riches of the Catholic faith Wanda holds dear as it was one of the many things she was unfamiliar with as a Protestant. Wanda is very happy to have been called back to the Church and into the Third Order of Franciscans and feels her patron, St. Anthony, rejoices too. Wanda's Novitiate ceremony was June 19, 2022 at St. Elizabeths Catholic Church in Bonham, Texas by Fr. Randle Fogle. Wanda is also grateful to Ericka Witover, TOF, for the friendship they share and encouraging her to look into the Third Order of Franciscans.

ON PENANCE

Submitted by Debbie Ventosa, TOF, Formation Assistant



“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 bored 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 of life everlasting.”

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

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MOTHER

August 12, 2022



Pope Pius XII defined the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mother to be a Marian dogma of the Holy Catholic Church in 1950. “We proclaim and define it to be a dogma revealed by God that the Immaculate Mother of God ever virgin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven.”

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mother is not documented in scripture, but is based upon the 1854 dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, which declared Mary was conceived free from sin and is the Mother of God.

Remembering a time when I was a sponsor to a Candidate in RCIA at St. Patrick’s Church in Placerville, California, Gail had asked me the question, “What is this thing about Mary?” Gail had been raised a Southern Baptist and knew the scriptures well. Knowing she would be hard to convince I hesitated, but then at the same time these words just flowed out of my mouth, “Hail Mary full of Grace the Lord is with thee, as the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary at the Annunciation.” (Lk 1:28) The look on Gail’s face was astonishing as it was revealed and she understood the meaning of what the Angel Gabriel had said to Mary. She looked at me and said, “I understand.” This experience taught me the Holy Spirit works through us and gives us the words to say at the right time.

Jesus so loved his mother, and Mary is so closely associated with the mysteries of Christ, it is no wonder that our Lord would assume her into heaven and make her Queen of Heaven and earth. Mary is the handmaid of the Lord as declared in the Magnificat (Lk 1: 46-55). As Mary shared so fully in the passion of Christ and is the perfect example of giving herself completely in her life and in death, so Mary gives us her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

ADMONITION XI
Scandal at Another's Fall

Nothing should upset a religious (= a servant of God) except sin. And even then, no matter what kind of sin has been committed, if he is upset or angry for any other reason except charity, he is only drawing blame upon himself (See Rom 2:5). A religious (= a servant) lives a good life and avoids sin when he is never angry or disturbed at anything. Blessed the man who keeps nothing for himself, but renders Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God's the things that are God's (See Mt. 22:21).

We are still talking about Charity as we were in the two previous Admonitions IX and X. Here we are looking at the evil consequences of sin for ourselves with "Scandal at Another's Fall." Lothar Hardick, O.F.M. as he says, "again and again" to make a point of importance, as he mentions at least several times in this Admonition, "Nothing should upset a religious (= servant of God) except sin." How do we accomplish this or overcome the temptations to look at another's fault in a manner that does not place us to sin?

We can easily blame our accuser or our enemy with all kinds of excuses or defensive reactions to help us feel better or justified in thinking we are right and that person was wrong. What good does that do in the situation? Another thought comes to mind, if we look at our accuser or our enemy with love rather than thoughts that we should not act upon, we remain at peace and can rationalize the situation calmly and patiently for a resolution. Our thoughts, therefore, should remain within prayer for ourselves and our accuser. Our Lord Jesus Christ will lead us as we do God's will.

This reminds me of the article which Ericka Witover wrote in this Newsletter concerning her situation she experienced. Ericka's example in showing charity towards her neighbor is inspiring as we realize

this was handled as, “Speak evil of no one, avoid quarreling, be gentle, and show perfect courtesy toward all people. (Titus 3:2).” Amazing, if we could discipline ourselves in this manner and avoid temptation.

A Priest recently said in his homily, “we should pray everyday to do the will of God.” What a beautiful practice in our prayer. Another Priest advised if your thoughts are a problem say a prayer even if you have to say a prayer a hundred times a day, do it!” This is another way to avoid the temptation if we lack the love of our neighbor, but can we remember to pray? Habits and obedience are important.

“Let us not become blind, as Lothar Hardick points out, that everything belongs to God and it is good. We should love the sinner and resolve to cling to God’s will, and we should have the forces that impel us to win within our power.” And again we reiterate, “No one should be upset by another’s evil action.” Also, “Nothing should upset a religious (= a servant of God) except sin.”

POPE BENEDICT XVI
The Lord Be with You, homily, August 15, 2006

“God, Who became present here on earth truly dwells in Mary, Mary becomes His tent. What all the cultures desire—that God dwell among us—is brought about here.”

St. Augustine says: “Before conceiving the Lord in her body she had already conceived Him in her soul.” She had made room for the Lord in her soul and thus really became the true Temple where God made Himself incarnate, where He became present on this earth.



“What wonderful majesty! What stupendous condescension! O sublime humility! That the Lord of the whole universe, God and the Son of God, should humble Himself like this under the form of a little bread, for our salvation.”

St. Francis of Assisi

MONDAY:	Judith Inglesby, TOF
TUESDAY:	Linda Menser, TOF
WEDNESDAY:	Luis Guzman, TOF Judith Inglesby, TOF Paul and Mary Tag, TOF
THURSDAY:	Sandy Baden, TOF
FRIDAY:	Linda Menser, TOF Pepe Ventosa, TOF
SATURDAY:	Ericka Witover, TOF
SUNDAY:	Linda Menser, TOF

Please include prayer for the intentions of our Pope, bishops and priests. Also pray for the Community of Friars of the Immaculate Conception Province, for an increase in religious vocations in their Community and for all the intentions of the members of the Isolated Tertiaries Community.

Contact Pepe Ventosa, if you would like to participate in Eucharistic Adoration.

Save the Date

**AUGUST 4: IT Zoom Gathering 6:45 PM Eastern Time,
Frank will present Article 43:**

Article 43: That they may more easily practice love of God and charity towards their neighbor, members shall follow the example of Christ who said of himself: “The Son of Man did not come to have service done him; he came to serve others, and to give his life as a ransom for the lives of many” (Mt. 20:28). Further, with the Seraphic Francis as their model, they shall, instead of living merely for themselves, make every effort to be of service to others, and to spread Christ’s kingdom by word and work. They shall strive to settle disagreements and discord wherever they may come upon these, and make the greatest endeavor to restore and promote the spirit of charity and and peace.

AUGUST 6: The Transfiguration of the Lord

AUGUST 16: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**OCTOBER 26-30: The Confraternity Annual Retreat/Conference
at the Saint Flix Catholic Center, 1280
Hitzfield St., Huntington, Indiana 46750.**

**(The retreat is open to Franciscan Tertiaries and any member of
the Third Order and those in Formation.)**

**BE ALERT! Mat Post is Friday, August 5th (the first Friday). If
anyone who does not receive the email, please contact Pepe
Ventosa, TOF.**