

Autumn, 2022

Volume 3, Issue 3

# The Troubadour

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



## Keeping the Faith

Our good St. Francis, whose feast day we celebrate October 4, was a simple man on the surface, and the true depth of his character is not always apparent, then and now. He was truly a servant of God and His Church.



Born to relatively wealthy but hard-working parents, "Francis" was only a nickname – he was baptized as Giovanni, or John. His prosperous cloth merchant father was away on a business trip when he was baptized, and it was he who called him Francis, since his father was so fond of the French and their culture. Francis grew up assisting his father in his shop and on trips when he was not in school, and with his open, charismatic personality, proved to be an excellent salesman.

Francis's mother, Pica, was also a direct influence on his character. She was a very devout Catholic who taught Francis to care for the poor and unwanted, and she was a sympathetic and kind mother.

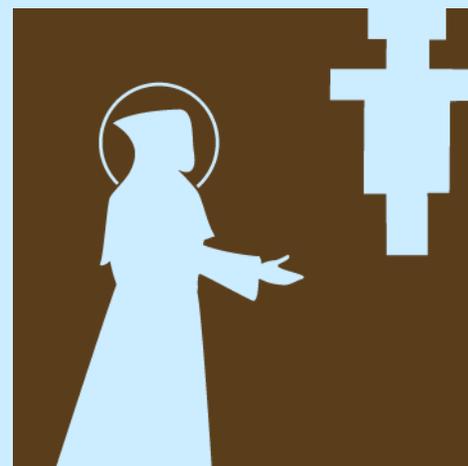
Francis loved being around people and grew to be a real party boy. He liked nothing better than to enjoy meals with his circle of friends and sing late into the night. He was one of those people who brought light and warmth into every room he entered.

After going away to war to defend Assisi, he was captured and imprisoned for over a year. Francis consoled himself with prayer and introspection. He was not the same man when he returned to Assisi, and launched his ministry which survives to this day in us and our beloved OFM priests and Poor Clare sisters.

There is hope for new life for everyone! It's never too late to change for the better and to take up our cross and serve God!

## Spiritual Director

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



## Editor

Susan Kramer, TOF

## Franciscan Quote for Autumn, 2022

**"Do not try to please everybody. Try to please God, the Angels,  
and the Saints - \*they\* are your public."**

**St. John Vianney, TOSF (1786-1859) Feast Day – August 4**  
Priest, Promoter of Marian Devotion & Confession, Patron Saint of Parish Priests,  
Third Order Franciscan



## St. Hildegard of Bingen – Doctor of the Church (Part One)

From Hildegard of Bingen's Spiritual Remedies, Dr. Wighard Strehlow, 2002



Saint Hildegard of Bingen was a visionary, mystic, healer, linguist, poet, artist, musician, playwright, biographer, theologian, preacher, and spiritual counselor. Her lifetime was 1098-1179 in Germany. She was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012.

She had visionary experiences which were direct transmissions from the Divine. God wants humans to be healthy in order to love and serve Him.

A person cannot be healed physically until they are healed spiritually. Hildegard listed 35 negative forces, “vices,” which are spiritual risk factors which correspond with bodily ailments. We can overcome the evil of this dark side. We are instructed to become more aware of our spiritual nature, to turn a vice into a “virtue,” turn sickness into health, weakness into strength. This spiritual wisdom reveals the great relationship between body and soul, forming the basis for her extensive medical thought.

Although living 850 years ago, Hildegard was an outspoken woman of her time. She was incredibly literate and talented. She corresponded with popes, kings, queens, bishops, and common people alike. They asked her for prayers and for advice. As an herbalist, she advocated for a balance diet, sufficient rest, alleviation of stress, and a wholesome moral life. The plant genus *Hildegardia* is named for her due to her considerable contributions to herbal medicine. Ironically, her medical knowledge was largely forgotten shortly after her death, only being rediscovered in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

\*Submitted by an anonymous Third Order Franciscan

\*\* St. Hildegard is one of four female Doctors of the Church. The others are St. Catherine of Siena, St. Teresa of Avila, and St. Therese of Lisieux

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

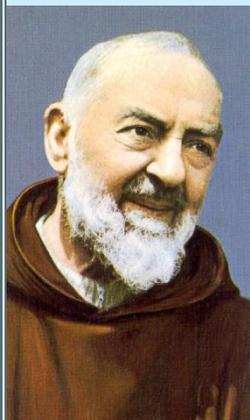
Our postulants, Mathew Wojciechowski, Aaron Fedele, and Shari Jamieson are progressing in their studies and moving forward in learning how to be Franciscans. One day at a time!

We have been approached by two gentlemen who have expressed interest in learning more about our Franciscan Order, which is quite wonderful! We are considering having another Come and See soon.

May God bless us all with new, faithful vocations!



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



Once again, members of the St. Padre Pio Fraternity helped man the Right to Life booth at the Canfield Fair and were pleased to note that the overall response of those who stopped at the booth was very positive. We thank Sally Perunko, TOF, a member of our fraternity and Director of the Mahoning County Right to Life, for her hard work and dedication in organizing the Canfield Fair exhibit and for her untiring efforts on behalf of Right to Life.

We welcome Fr. Dennis Arambasick, OFM back to the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted. Fr. Dennis had previously been our TOF Spiritual Director and returns to the shrine after being assigned to the Franciscan Monastery in Wappinger Falls, New York for the past three years. **Welcome back, Fr. Dennis!**

On Monday evening, October 3, there will be a Transitus Service at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted at 6:30 PM to commemorate the passing of St. Francis from this life to his eternal life in heaven. It is a short, but powerful, spiritual experience and an important event for Franciscans. All are welcome to attend. Refreshments will follow in the Shrine Hall.

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

On August 23rd we had our “Come and See” event at Saint Nicholas Byzantine Church. We had 12 people who attended the meeting, which was run by Virgil Daniel, TOF. The goal was to briefly inform them on what it means to be a follower and disciple of Saint Francis, and how his life impacted the people of his time and overall, the life of the Church. Virgil provided information



on the different steps of the Franciscan formation of the Third Order. Joanne Angeletti, TOF and Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM, also offered their vocation stories to the attendees. Formation classes will begin September 20.

← **Betty DeMarco, TOF & Carol Perrine, TOF**

On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, our Fraternity joined the Right to Life of Stark County group that had a booth in the Exhibition Hall at the Stark County Fair with the purpose of proclaiming the sanctity of life at conception. Those who staffed the booth included Betty DeMarco, TOF, Carol Perrine, TOF, Bob Burtscher, TOF, Matt Poletti, TOF (accompanied by his wife Jess), and Roberto Meza, TOF.

**Roberto Meza, TOF, Jim Griffin (Stark Co. RTL), & Bob Burtscher, TOF** →



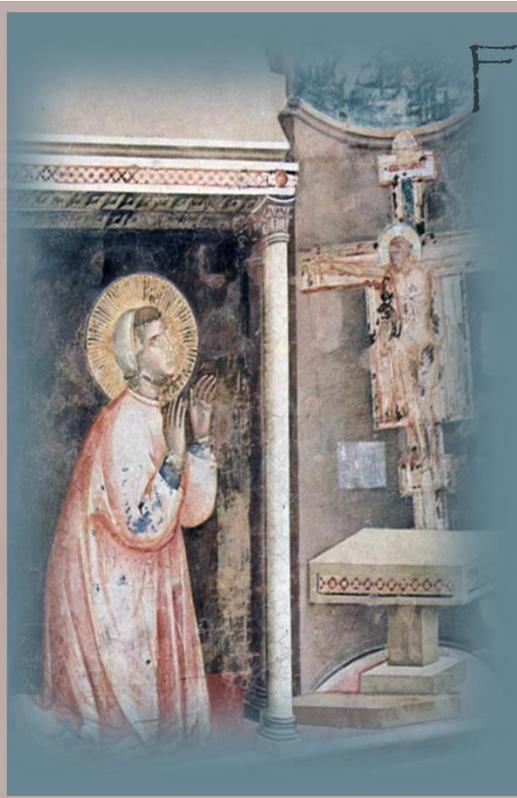
On September 17th, Denise Williams and Jesse Kuhn, novices of this Fraternity, will have a Pre-Profession Retreat at the shrine of Our Lady the Comforter of the Afflicted in Youngstown Ohio. Fr Vit will direct the retreat and several members of our Fraternity will assist.

## **Update on the Isolated Tertiaries of the TOF Community** – by **Pepe Ventosa, TOF**

The community of Isolated Tertiaries continues to gather online monthly. The gathering starts with prayer, followed by Lectio Divina. For ongoing formation members are discussing the constitutions for the Rule of 1883. Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM, joins in with teaching and spiritual direction.

Fr. Vit established a new Isolated Tertiary. We welcomed Miguel from Illinois at our August meeting, and he looks forward to celebrating the Ceremony of Investiture in September 2022.

The Novices continue to study the Franciscan Way of Life using "*Called to Commitment*", "*The Admonitions of St. Francis*", "*The New Catechism of the Third Order*" and the Rule of 1883. We currently have some Inquiries who will be starting initial formation in the next few months. It is always a pleasure to gather online where we share our way of life and learn from each other.



### 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](http://www.franciscanthirdorderpenitents.com/retreats)

### **Transitus – Ss. Francis & Clare Fraternity**



The Transitus will be held Monday, October 3 at St. Nicholas Church at 6:30 PM.

This service commemorates the death of our good St. Francis, and his passage to new life.

Our extended family from Our Lady of America and Padre Pio Fraternities is very welcome to join us! Feel free to bring family and friends!

## **Pre-Profession Retreat – by Debbie Ventosa, TOF**



A pleasant, sunny, day this September 17, 2022 at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of The Afflicted was the setting for the Pre-Profession retreat. Novices Denise Williams and Jesse Kuhn, members of Ss. Francis and Clare TOF Fraternity, along with the Formation Team and council members "went away to a desert place" for the day to learn and contemplate their upcoming Holy Profession. The day began on the celebration of the Stigmata of St. Francis with The Liturgy of the Hours, and Lectio Divina, followed by a teaching by Fr. Vit on "Living the Life of the TOF in the Modern World." Time for questions and sharing with Father followed.

The brothers and sisters participated in Benediction, Eucharistic Adoration, Sacrament of Confession and attended Holy Mass. Following the Mass a lunch was provided by Mary Dye TOF and fellowship was had by all members present.

The Stations of the Cross on the Shrine grounds were prayed together meditating on the evil of Communism and oppression of the Hungarian people as well as all who live under the heel of communists.

Virgil Daniels TOF spoke on "Profession: A Commitment to Live the Franciscan Gospel Life" and Debbie Ventosa TOF spoke on "Profession:" Not an End but a Means to Achieve Perfection." Silent reflection followed Virgil's talk and discussion followed Debbie's talk. Fr. Vit OFM and Fr. Dennis Arambasick OFM gave the final blessing.



**(Roberto Meza, TOF; Jim Miller, TOF; Fr. Dennis Arambasick, OFM; Mary Dye, TOF; Debbie Ventosa, TOF; Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM; Jesse Kuhn, Denise Miller, Virgil Daniel, TOF, and Joanne Angeletti, TOF)**

## Update on Mat Posts – by Pepe Ventosa, TOF

By now, all members of the community of Franciscan Tertiaries of the Province of the Immaculate Conception should be receiving the "Mat Posts" by email. The Mat Posts are a monthly tool sent via email to all our members with the purpose of assisting us as we strive for Christian perfection, the purpose of our Order. In the Mat Posts you will find information to increase one's life of prayer, devotion to Our Blessed Mother, highlights from Pope Leo the XIII, the saints and other aids for our spiritual life.

If you are not receiving the Mat Posts please send an email to Pepe at [TOF@thirdorderfranciscans.com](mailto:TOF@thirdorderfranciscans.com). They will also be posted on our website ([www.thirdorderfranciscans.com](http://www.thirdorderfranciscans.com)).



Answering Your Questions  
on Spiritual Life  
With  
Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM

### Day of Recollection

### Franciscan Tertiaries of the Province of the Immaculate Conception

**When:** November 12, 2022

**Place:** Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted  
Youngstown, OH

**Speaker:** Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM

**Time:** 9:00 AM Opening Mass

## Day of Recollection – Submitted by Pepe Ventosa, TOF

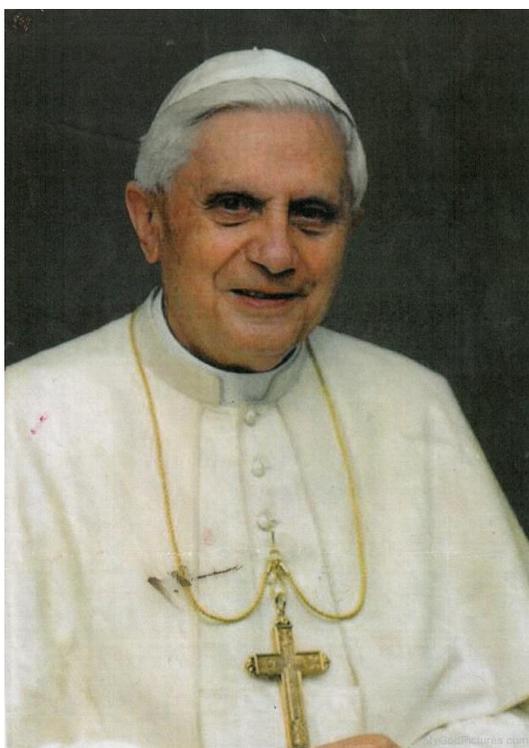
Our annual Day of Recollection will take place on Saturday, November 12, 2022. The topic this year will be "Answering Your Questions on Spiritual Life". We will have a questions and answer format with Father Vit answering our questions on the spiritual life.

We are collecting questions to present to Father Vit. If you have any questions, please send this to Pepe at [TOF@thirdorderfranciscans.com](mailto:TOF@thirdorderfranciscans.com). The questions will be selected from those received. See flyer (above) for more information.

Hope you can join us!

## Save the Dates!

10/4	Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
10/26-10/30	Franciscan Tertiaries Retreat, St. Felix Catholic Center, Huntington, Indiana (see notice above)
11/1	All Saints Day (Holy Day of Obligation)
11/12	Day of Recollection (Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted, Youngstown, Ohio)
5/20/23	Annual TOF Community Pilgrimage (St. Padre Pio Fraternity will arrange)



***“Blessed are those who mourn.” To underline the paradox, we could translate this as: “Blessed are those who are not overloaded with good fortune.” But what strange kind of good fortune is it then that is meant by the word “blessed”? I think the word has two temporal dimensions: it embraces both present and future, and each in a different way.***

***The present aspect consists of the fact that those addressed are told of a special closeness to them of God and His Kingdom. This would then mean: It is precisely in the sphere of suffering and mourning that God with His Kingdom is particularly close. When someone suffers and complains, God’s heart is moved and affected in a special way. The complaint invokes***

***His coming down to deliver this person (Ex. 3:8).***

***This presence of God’s concern that is lurking in the word “blessed” includes a future: God’s presence that is still hidden will one day be manifest. Hence what the phrase is saying is: Do not be afraid in your distress; God is close to you, and He will be your great comfort.***

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who reigned as Pope from 2005 to 2013