



# Soldiers of Christ

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

November 2022

Sandy Baden, TOF, Editor

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## ALL SAINTS DAY/ALL SOULS' DAY

**ALLHALLOWTIDE**

The three days of All Hallows' Eve, All Hallows' Day, and All Souls' Day are collectively referred to as Allhallowtide and are a time for honouring the saints and praying for all recently departed souls.

The term hallow means "holy" – you may recall reciting it in the Lord's Prayer, "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name" (Mt 6:9).

 [facebook.com/catholicsknowtheanswerofficialpage](https://www.facebook.com/catholicsknowtheanswerofficialpage)

All Saints Day is a solemn (**Holy Day of Obligation**) on November 1, 2022 and is celebrated each year within the Holy Catholic Church. It is a day that we recognize our known Saints that have attained Heaven, which is officially called, "**The Solemnity of All Saints.**" On November 2, 2022 we will celebrate "**All Souls' Day**, which is not a Holy Day of Obligation, but is dedicated to those who have died and have not yet reached heaven.

One of the questions one might ask: How does the Holy Catholic Church determine who are the recognized Saints that have attained heaven? In today's process it is the Bishop of the Diocese who initiates the investigation for a person who has died and has been known for their sanctity or martyrdom. All information is gathered. For example, writings, or a special favor or miracle that has occurred and then submitted to the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints.

Further investigation is conducted and determined if the person has been deemed to have lived a life with heroic virtue, and if so, would then be declared as Venerable. The next step would be an investigation into Beatification.

The candidate for Beatification would have to be credited with a miracle and verified by the Catholic Church. After beatification another miracle would be investigated and then the formal declaration of sainthood. Much goes into these investigations, but this is just a short summary of the process.

Let us look to our Saints and see, as an example of holiness, how they lived their lives in this journey of faith. Each of us reaches our journey towards perfection, in a special way, by guidance of the Holy Spirit, and in our obedience and love of God within our chosen station in life.

Sandy Baden, TOF

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JUDITH INGLESBY, TOF, AND LINDA MENSER, TOF, PRAYING A ROSARY IN FRONT OF AN ABORTION CLINIC WITH THE STUDENTS OF THE ST. JOSEPH ACADEMY IN SAN MARCOS, CALIFORNIA. LINDA MENSER, TOF ON THE LEFT WITH THE SIGN BEHIND JUDITH INGLESBY'S, TOF, GREEN SIGN.

# THE OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY

Submitted by Judith Inglesby, TOF

In the year 1633, when Europe was struck with bubonic plague, Oberammergau, a village in Bavaria, Germany, had many of its people die. The townspeople vowed that if deaths would stop in their town, they would perform a Passion Play to show their appreciation for God. The Plague ended and the townspeople fulfilled their vow. The first performance of the Oberammergau Passion Play was in 1634. From 1634 to 1674 it was performed annually. Since 1680, it has been performed every ten years or in years ending in the digit zero.



The schedule for the Passion Play was altered due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so the performances that were to be held in 2020 were moved to 2022. The performances began in May and will end on the first weekend of October. The running time is 5 to 7 hours with a meal break in between. The numbers of visitors range from 420,000-530,000.

The production involves of 2,000 people: actors, musicians, stage technicians and others, all residents of the village. The play features spoken dramatic text, musical and choral accompaniment and tableaux which are scenes from the Old and the New testaments. The newly built structure, an amphitheater, can accommodate more that 4,000 spectators.

The performance was wonderfully done and dramatic with appropriate costumes from that time. The music and chorus blended well, and the performers had magnificent voices.

The photo that is included for this event is the last scene in the play. I tried to investigate how the actor can be held up on the cross because I can not see any rope or string to keep him up for a long time. Incredible performance!!!! The next performances will be in 2030.

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

**Day of Reflection**  
**Franciscan Tertiaries of the Province of the Immaculate Conception**

<b>When:</b> November 12, 2022	<b>Speaker:</b> Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM
<b>Place:</b> Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted Youngstown, OH	<b>Time:</b> 9:00 AM Opening Mass

## COMMENTS AND INFORMATION

### MAT POSTS

There are some of you, like myself, sometimes have not received the **MAT POSTS** on first Fridays of the month. There a couple of things you might want to try: First check your Junk mail...there is where I found it. Second, the problem may be your computer is not recognizing **MAT POSTS** as a “friendly” email. So, make a new contact and it will recognize the email as it comes to you from now on. To create a new contact: New name, TOF; New email; [tof@thirdorderfranciscans.com](mailto:tof@thirdorderfranciscans.com), then save the contact. Also, move it to “inbox.” Hope this is helpful.

Please contact Pepe Ventosa for any further issues.

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### SAINT ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY FEAST DAY, NOVEMBER 17TH

ARTICLE 70: Similarly, they shall venerate with particular devotion and imitate Saint Joseph, the Spouse of the Blessed Virgin, also our holy Father Francis, holy Mother Clare, and the patrons of the Third Order, namely, Saint Louis the King and **Saint Elizabeth of Hungary**. They shall celebrate their feasts with solemn ceremonies.

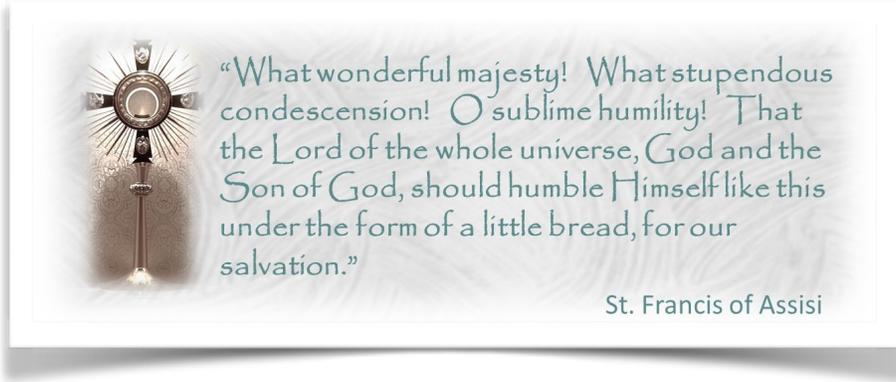
## PRESENTATIONS AT OUR IT ZOOM MEETINGS

A form has been created for Scheduling Presentations at our IT Zoom Meeting Gatherings each month. Each presentation should be 10-15 minutes and then have questions to promote discussion. It is not necessary to prepare an extensive presentation...just something simple. The discussion is most important to share our questions and comments. Please contact Linda Menser, TOF or Judith Inglesby, TOF for any questions.

ONGOING FORMATION ZOOM GATHERING MONTHLY SCHEDULE			
MONTH 2022	PRESENTATION BY:	REPLACEMENT	TOPIC
JANUARY:			
FEBRUARY:			
MARCH:			
APRIL:			
MAY:			
JUNE:			
JULY:			
AUGUST:			
SEPTEMBER:			
OCTOBER:			
NOVEMBER:	Gordon Smith, TOF		Article 47
DECEMBER:	Miguel Mahan, TOF		The Incarnation

ONGOING FORMATION ZOOM GATHERING MONTHLY SCHEDULE			
MONTH 2023	PRESENTATION BY:	REPLACEMENT	TOPIC
JANUARY:	Mary Tag TOF		Article 48
FEBRUARY:	Sandy Baden, TOF		Articles 49-51
MARCH:			
APRIL:			
MAY:			
JUNE:			
JULY:			
AUGUST:			
SEPTEMBER:			
OCTOBER:			
NOVEMBER:			
DECEMBER:			



## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION ISOLATED TERTIARIES SCHEDULE

MONDAY	Judith Inglesby, TOF
TUESDAY	Linda Menser, TOF
WEDNESDAY	Luise Guzman, TOF Judith Inglesby, TOF Paul and Mary Tag, TOF
THURSDAY	Sandy Baden, TOF Judith Inglesby, 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 the intentions of the members of the Isolated Tertiaries Community.

## **TIPS DISCOVERED FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

by: Sandy Baden, TOF

Recently while flipping through our website I ran across a few things I did not know as an Isolated Tertiary. If I did not know, then maybe, some of you have not noticed or have not discovered these hidden gems. One I found that has set me on fire each time I pray this prayer: Pray before Reciting the Hours - Third Order of the Franciscans.

Taken from : Ritual for Public Functions Franciscan Third Order

‘Our TOF Ritual book advises us to be watchful not to fall into a monotony and routine when reciting the Offices. The Ritual provides us with a “Prayer before Reciting the Hours” as an aid in praying the Office with fervor.’

“The Office (that is, duty or charge) entrusted to us by Mother Church makes us ambassadors whose role it is in the name of mankind to glorify God, to render thanks for His continuous blessings, to ask His pardon, and in fine to secure for the world the graces of which it stands in need. That is saying enough to make us realize how serious and earnest we ought to be in discharging the duty, while at the same time it intimates that our Office should have the priority over any private devotion.”

### **PRAYER BEFORE RECITING THE HOURS**

With the right thumb make the sign of the Cross on the lips while beginning the following prayer.

Lord, open my mouth to bless your Holy Name; cleanse my heart, too, from all vain, perverse, and distracting thoughts; enlighten my understanding, inflame my affections: that I may recite this Office with worthy attention and devotion, and may deserve to be heard in the sight of your Divine majesty. Through Christ Our Lord Amen.

Lord, I offer you these Hours in union with that Divine intention wherewith You offered praise to God while You were on earth.

**PRAYER FOR DAILY NEGLECTS**

This prayer I found in the blue Pieta prayer book, which I pray every night. Just for your information I would like to share this with you.

“A Poor Clare nun, who had just died, appeared to her abbess, who was praying for her, and said to her, I went straight to heaven, for, by means of this prayer, recited every evening, I paid my debts.”

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Sacred Heart of Jesus, with all its Love, all its Sufferings and all its Merits.

First: To expiate all the sins I have committed this day and during all my life. Glory be to the Father and to the Son.....!

Second: To purify the good I have done badly this day and during all my file. Glory be to the Father and to the Son.....!

Third: To supply for the good I ought to have done, and that I have neglected this day and during all my life. Glory be to the Father and to the Son.....!

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**A PRAYER FROM ST. FRANCIS ASSISI**

Praised be you, O my Lord, for all who show  
forgiveness and  
pardon and another for your sake,  
and who endure weakness and tribulation.  
Blessed are they who peaceably endure,  
For you, Most High, shall give them a crown.

(Francis of Assisi, The essential Writings, In His Own Words)

## **ADMONITION XIV POVERTY OF SPIRIT**

**“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven” (Mt. 5:3). There are many people who spend all their time at their prayers and other religious exercises and mortify themselves by long fasts and so on. But if anyone says as much as a word that implies a reflection on their self-esteem (= on their ego that they love so much) or takes something from them, they are really poor in spirit. A person is really poor in spirit when he hates himself and loves those who strike him in the face.**

How many of us can truly say we are “Poor in Spirit?” Surely this Admonition is difficult in practice, especially in the world we live in to day. We are Tertiaries and are not living in a Community or in a Cloistered convent. In today's world we are expected to have many things to keep us living and moving about. Our disappointments when we lose something or feel we have been neglected in some way could keep us in turmoil at the loss. Sometimes one would think it is easier if we were living in a Cloistered convent because, when you think about it, they are provided with all they need, food, clothing, shelter, a place to pray, and they do not worry about what is going on beyond their walls. Is it really that simple?

What does it mean to read in this Admonition, “A person is really poor in spirit when he hates himself and loves those who strike him in the face.” To most people this sentence would make no sense. How difficult this would be to hate yourself and let someone strike you in the face. Sounds silly actually. There is deeper meaning to this statement for a religious than for the ordinary person who has no faith in their prayer or concern for their spiritual growth.

In our spiritual life we acquire our growth through prayer, offer our sufferings to God, pray to do God's will not our own, and try not to let our ego get in the way. This comes from the love of God in our hearts and not just the prayers we pray with words, fasting, vigils and scourging, etc., as Lothar Hardick, OFM states in this Admonition.

Remembering a time when working for Blue Shield of California, we were told

the office we were working was going to close. Those of us who were Customer Service Representatives would have to go through a three hour interview to continue working in the same position in the new building fifteen miles away. The silence in the room at the time was astounding. Then one by one each person was called for their interviews which had to be completed in two months for one hundred people. For myself, I became ill and was in the hospital for twelve days with an infection throughout my body and Gall Bladder surgery. I was on sick leave for six weeks. When returning there was two more weeks left and the office was going to be closed, plus the interviews were over. I prayed and for the first time in my life totally left the problem in God's hands. I actually thought they forgot about me, but was not worried. It was in God's hands, not mine. I hated the idea of losing my job after ten years of service.

A week later the secretary to the Manager called me on the phone and asked to meet her at the fax machine. As I approached she said, "do you see the paper going through the fax machine?" "Of course," was my reply. "Well, that is your request for an interview into the Medical Management Department which is a growing department and a higher salary." I was called for the interview the next day, fifteen miles away. The interview lasted ten minutes and I was accepted for the job as a Clinical Support Coordinator. A higher paying job, another nine years with Blue Shield, and then retirement.

This example had shown how to let go and let God answer prayer, and not to worry. The injustice was felt by many at Blue Shield in trying to prove themselves worthy for a job that was done for years seemed so unfair to have to be interviewed all over again. Sadly, some of those employees did lose their jobs after the interviews.

So, what does this have to do with "Poverty of Spirit," you may ask? The injustice at possibly being let go after years of service and to go through interviews was a devastating blow. However, with prayer and humble faith in God leading the way puts any fear in the background and there seemed to be no worry of what might happen.

No matter what happens to us in this world we should keep our hearts and minds in humble reverence to Our Lord Jesus Christ. Our souls should remain at peace and rely on our Lord without fear. How difficult this is when sometimes we seem to forget, rely on ourselves, and let our ego get in the way. As Lothar Hardick, OFM says, "It is therefore not possible to disturb, upset, or offend the man who is really poor in spirit by taking something away from him. Things may well have been available to him, but he knows that God had lent them to him and can take them from him whenever he wants to."

*Save the Date*

NOVEMBER 6: IT Zoom Gathering 6:45 PM Eastern Time, Linda Menser, TOF, Facilitator; Presentation of Article 47, Gordon Smith, TOF.

Article 47: Accordingly, let them beware of committing any sin in acquiring and enjoying temporal goods. Rather, let them share these things with their neighbors, bearing in mind that all temporal things—private property itself included—have been given by God not only for their own advantage but also that they may be administered well for the good of society. Moreover, let them, in good time, will their property, with due regard for justice and charity.

(Remember, each presentation should be 10-15 minutes, and then have questions to promote discussion. It is not necessary to prepare an extensive presentation...just something simple.)

NOVEMBER 1: ALL SAINTS, (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)

NOVEMBER 2: The Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed  
(All Souls' Day) NOT a Holy Day of Obligation

NOVEMBER 17: Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Patron of the Third Order

NOVEMBER 21: The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

