

December, 2022

Volume 3, Issue 12

# Il Poverello

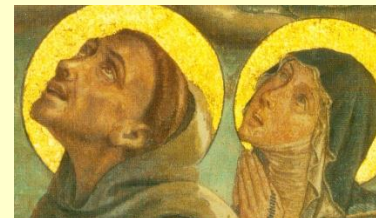
The newsletter of the SS Francis and Clare Fraternity  
of the Third Order of St. Francis

*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](http://www.thirdorderfranciscans.com)



## Something to Consider

The Catholic Quote selected for this month is from Fr. Alfred Delp, SJ, who was imprisoned and tortured by the Nazis from July 1944 to February 2, 1945, when he was executed at the age of 37.

During this time of waiting, Father chose to reflect deeply on Advent, which is also a time of waiting. Not only did he strive to forgive those who tortured him, and who he knew very well would eventually murder him, he wanted to keep bitterness and fear out of his heart.

Father came to realize that oppression, war, and hard times also bring certain spiritual gifts. During his imprisonment, he was visited by a Jesuit priest who covertly received him into the Jesuit Order, for which he had studied and prayed for many years. Besides his Ordination as a priest, this was his most treasured desire, even though Catholic priests and Jesuits in particular were seen as enemies of the German Reich. He secretly celebrated Mass daily, comforted fellow prisoners, and slipped out his meditations on little scraps of paper, including the quote below. The SS tormented him every day and told him if he refuted his Catholic Faith and priesthood, he would be released. With inner joy, he declined.

Father's cause for beatification is being investigated by the Vatican. Even if he is never beatified or canonized, he reminds us never to give up on our Faith, and that there is much to be gained from waiting. Waiting isn't a time of impatience or dread, but rather of preparation for a joyful reunion with Jesus, whether it is in our inevitable death, or in the birth of our dear Lord after all the prayer, self-improvement, and sacrifices of Advent.

***Christ is born! Glory to God in the Highest!***

## 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 –  
Councillor

Chris Devore, TOF –  
Councillor

Pepe Ventosa, TOF –  
Councillor

Debbie Ventosa, TOF  
– Formation Director

Susan Kramer, TOF  
– Newsletter

**Next Gathering**

**Sunday, December 18 @ 1:30 PM**  
**St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish**  
**1051 Robinson Ave. Barberton**

## Catholic Quote of the Month

*"If we want Advent to transform us – our homes and hearts, and even nations – then the great question for us is whether we will come out of the convulsions of our time with this determination: Yes, arise! It is time to awaken from sleep...It is time to put things back where God intended them. It is time for each of us to go to work – certain that the Lord will come – to set our life in God's order wherever we can. Where God's word is heard, He will not cheat us of the truth; where our life rebels He will reprimand it. God enters only His own rooms, where someone is always keeping watch for Him."*



**Fr. Alfred Delp, SJ (1907-1945) – Jesuit Priest, Philosopher, Member of the Kreisau Circle German Resistance Group, Tortured and Executed by the Nazis for being a Catholic Priest**

## 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, TOF

### 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.**

## December Anniversaries and Birthdays

### Profession Anniversaries

Joanne Angeletti, TOF – 36 Years

Julia Tarulli, TOF – 24 Years



### Birthdays

Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM – 12/16

Denise Williams, TOF – 12/18

Jennifer Kerns, TOF – 12/23

## Stand for Life



There is no one scheduled for the Stand for Life for the months of November, December and January due to the bitter weather. If you choose to witness to the Church's teaching on life by praying at the abortion clinic, don't forget our rules for your own safety. **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. Be sure to always remain on the sidewalk. If you cannot 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.**

## Hospitality and Little Portion

We will be enjoying our annual Christmas Party at the December Gathering! You should have received an email from Mary Dye, TOF, who is organizing the food assignments. If you are not on email, please contact Mary, who will note what you plan to bring. This will ensure we have a selection of good food and drinks!



Judith Hoyt, TOF will prepare the Little Portion offering, and Bob Burtscher, TOF will be delivering it. 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.

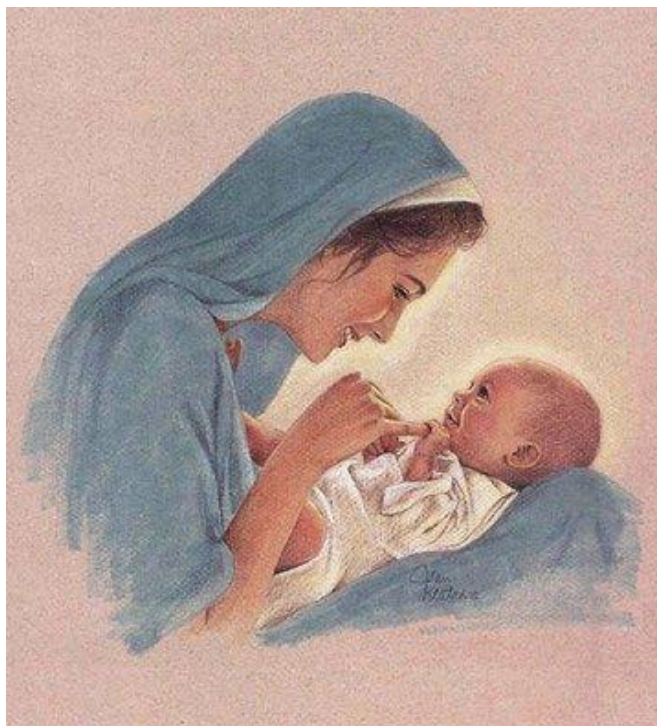
*As often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.*

## Roster Updates

We are updating our fraternity roster so that it is ready to release to everyone by the turn of the year. Please check your email soon for a copy of the current roster, and carefully check the information we have for you. If anything has changed or is incorrect, contact Susan Kramer with the correct information.

There will be hard copies of the current roster available for those who do not have computer access.

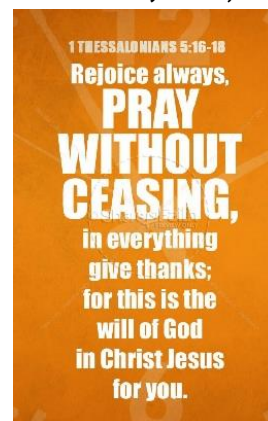
Any time your contact information changes, please remember to let Council know. Thank you for your help!!!



## ***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, **Bishop Earl Fernandes** of the Diocese of Columbus, 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, hard-working 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**). We have also added **Alex Krukemeyer** (Our Lady of Victory Parish in Tallmadge) from Summit County.
10. 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. Also, **for the protection of Catholic priests, religious, and lay people everywhere, particularly in Nigeria, Nicaragua, and other countries where our Faith is being attacked.**



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!

## Day of Recollection and Holy Profession



↑ Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM

Our annual Day of Recollection and Holy Profession took place Saturday, November 12, 2022 at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted in Youngstown. We joyfully met with our brothers and sisters from the St. Padre Pio Fraternity of Youngstown and the Our Lady of America Fraternity of Ashtabula. The topic this year was, "Answering Your Questions on Spiritual Life". Fr. Vit answered our previously submitted questions on spiritual life.

**Jesse Kuhn receives the cincture →**



We started out the day with the Mass of Holy Profession at 9 AM, offered by Fr. Vit and Fr. Jeremy Merzweiller of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Coventry, who witnessed the joyful Profession of Jesse Kuhn, his parishioner, and Denise Williams of St. Augustine Parish in Barberton. Pat Cuttica, TOF, Minister of St. Padre Pio Fraternity, welcomed us warmly ahead of Mass.

← **Denise Williams receives the cincture**

Mass and the Profession were beautiful, with a large attendance of members from our three fraternities, family, and friends. We are so happy to be able to call our dear Jesse and Denise brother and sister, and to welcome them into our fraternity family!

**Jesse Kuhn, TOF & Denise Williams, TOF →**



After Mass, we enjoyed a light snack in the church basement and caught up with one another. Paul Fedele, TOF, Minister of Our Lady of America Fraternity, related the news of his wife's recent healing from cirrhosis of the liver after a novena to St. Therese of Lisieux and Rhoda Wise, and we were all so thankful for this grace.

**It was so nice to see Fr. Dennis Arambasick, OFM again!!! Welcome home, Father! 😊**



Joanne Angeletti, TOF and Virgil Daniel, TOF offered copies of their newly released book on the iconography of their parish and our fraternity home, St. Nicholas Byzantine Church. The book is beautifully photographed and written, and is very interesting, with spiritual reflections. If you are interested in a copy, which costs \$20, please contact Joanne or Virgil.

← **2022 Profession**

After we wound up this brief snack and social time, Pepe Ventosa, TOF gave us a short biography of Fr. Vit. For those who were not familiar with his story, Father was raised in Communist Czechoslovakia, with little contact with

religion, since spirituality of any kind is oppressed by Communist leadership. He is blessed with considerable musical talent and entered a prestigious music academy as a pre-teen to study cello, piano, and other instruments, and musical theory. He eventually became a music instructor and a member of the Czechoslovakia National Symphony. While on an international tour in Toronto, Father went out for a walk on a snowy day and stopped in a doorway to warm up. It turned out to be the Franciscan motherhouse, and a Brother opened the door, invited him in to get warm and have a snack, and talked about Catholicism for a couple of hours. Father started attending Sunday Mass, then Daily Mass, then entered the Franciscan seminary – and the rest is history! We are blessed to be under his spiritual guidance.

1. Our morning session was on “The Spiritual Life with an Emphasis on our Franciscan Vocation.” Father led us in the Our Father to begin.
  - a. Father discussed interior exile per St. John Climacus.
  - b. This involves detachment from worldly distractions in order to grow closer to God.
  - c. Decide you will serve God.
  - d. Renounce what separates you from God.
  - e. Do not let worldly distractions master you or become the source of your joy.
  - f. Trust Jesus!
2. What can Isolated Tertiaries do to grow in their spiritual life and live their vocation when they aren’t part of a fraternity?
  - a. It is like being a hermit.
  - b. Keep in touch via Zoom meetings.
  - c. Place yourself under the spiritual direction of a good priest.
  - d. Stay in communication with the TOF family.
  - e. Always remember that mortal sin means to make a pact with the devil. Attend Adoration and Confession often.
3. For a successful and holy religious life:
  - a. Be close to God.
  - b. Do not fear demons – they should fear you!
4. What is meant by “kingdom” (i.e., the Kingdom of God)?
  - a. Anywhere God is the leader, and where his followers dwell, is His Kingdom. We should embrace the Kingdom and become part of it.

At 11 PM, Fr. Dennis and Fr. Vit offered Adoration and Confession in the church. Fr. Dennis led Benediction at the end.

At Noon, we ate a delicious lunch catered by a local Youngstown charity which employs young people in need of work. The St. Padre Pio fraternity ensured we mixed among our fraternities by placing us with members of other fraternities at the tables, which was a great idea! Lots of good conversation along with a good meal for everyone present!

After we wrapped up our meal, Kenny Green, TOF, Debbie Ventosa, TOF, and Bill Marshall, TOF led us in Liturgy of the Hours. This was followed by prayers and remembrance of our beloved dead, including those who entered eternal life during the pandemic. Richard Russelo, TOF, Betty Smith, OFS, and Mary Wagner, OFS were remembered by our fraternity – all of them dear to us and missed for their Franciscan example of faithfulness.

The afternoon session opened with Fr. Vit exploring the following:

1. How can we know Jesus as St. Francis did?
  - a. Through Lectio Divina.
  - b. Meditation. What does Jesus say to me? Put yourself in the picture.

- c. Study commentaries on Scripture from trusted, faithful sources.
- d. Prayer, whether it is for intercession or deliverance. Make it part of your life.
- e. Contemplate. See your world as God sees it – and respond as He does.

With Fr. Vit's blessing, we concluded our Day of Recollection. We look forward to being together again next year!

**The sessions taught by Fr. Vit are available on our YouTube channel: Franciscan Tertiaries Province of the IC**

### **Save the Date (December, the Month of Advent and the Birth of Jesus)**

December 7	Day of Fasting per our Rule 4 of Ch II, since this the Vigil of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (unless excused per Church guidelines)
December 8	Third Year Anniversary of the Franciscan Tertiaries of the OFM Friars of the Immaculate Conception Province
December 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception – <b>HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION</b>
December 25	Christmas Day - <b>HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION</b>
January 1	Feast of Mary, Mother of God



**Be Catholic Anyway – by Gus Lloyd (with revisions), The Catholic Channel, Sirius Radio**

Bashing Catholics is the new, in-vogue blood sport. The world will ridicule you for being Catholic. **Be Catholic Anyway.**

Your friends will ask, “How can you stay in a Church like that? You should not be Catholic!” **Be Catholic Anyway.**

Your family (many of whom have left the Faith) will tell you to leave the Church and join them. **Be Catholic Anyway.**

The media will attack priests, bishops, and the Pope and claim that the Church is outdated and dying. **Be Catholic Anyway.**

You see, the Church is not defined by the sins of Her members – clergy or laity. She is holy because of who She is – the Bride of Christ. In the end, many will walk away because they never understood the true teachings of the Church in the first place. They expect you to abandon the Church, which would be to abandon Christ. Don't do it. **Be Catholic anyway.**



*"It will be Christmas if, like Joseph, we make room for silence;  
If, like Mary, we say "Here I am" to God;  
If, like Jesus, we are close to those who are alone;  
If, like the shepherds, we leave our enclosure to be with Jesus."  
Pope Francis*