

October, 2022

Volume 3, Issue 10

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

October is the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary in the Catholic calendar. The Battle of Lepanto took place in October in the 17th century. Muslim forces threatened to overtake the island of Lepanto in the Mediterranean, not far from Malta. When they became aware of the danger, the devoutly Catholic residents of Lepanto immediately began a Rosary novena, praying for deliverance from the Turkish Muslims. Against all odds and, despite being vastly outnumbered and possessing little in the way of earthly defense, the Muslims were turned away and Lepanto was saved.



In the late 1800s, Pope Leo XIII, an enthusiastic Third Order Franciscan, officially dedicated the entire month of October specifically to devotion to the Holy Rosary, and established October 7 as the Feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary.

Our good St. Francis himself considered himself a loving son and defender of Our Lady and was also devoted to praying the Rosary.

When we pray the Rosary (or the Franciscan Crown Rosary), we are never far from the ears and heart of our gracious and kind Blessed Mother. Make it a daily habit!

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, October 16 @ 1:30 PM
St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish
1051 Robinson Ave. Barberton, OH

Franciscan Quote of the Month

*"It is not fitting, when one is in God's service,
to have a gloomy face or a chilling look."*



St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) Feast Day October 4
Salesman, Soldier, Penitent, Deacon, Founder of the Franciscan Order

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.*

October Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

Elizabeth Francis, TOF – 32 Years

Roberto Meza, TOF and
Maria Elena Meza, TOF – 9 Years

Rose Akins, TOF and
Betty DeMarco, TOF – 6 Years

Chris Devore, TOF; LeeAnn Devore,
TOF; and Cindy Russo, TOF – 4 Years



Birthdays

Rick Dunlap, TOF – 10/2
Rose Akins, TOF – 10/3
Bob Burtscher, TOF – 10/13

Stand for Life



Joanne Angeletti, TOF and Bill Marshal, TOF are scheduled for the Stand for Life on October 15. 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

Fred and Susan Kramer, TOF and Mary Dye, TOF will be providing our hospitality for the October Gathering. Virgil will also prepare the Little Portion, and Denise Williams, who is nearing her Profession, will be delivering.

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!!!

A Word from the Fraternity Minister – by Roberto Meza, TOF

As professed Franciscans, we happily agree to commit to certain things –obedience and loyalty to all the teachings of the Church, daily praying of the Liturgy of the Hours, and living in imitation of St. Francis.

We also understand that we live in community. That means it is essential keeping in regular contact with our fellow Franciscans by attending the monthly Gathering, except in case of excused absence. Article 63 of the constitutions of TOF states that "Tertiaries, even those who belong to other associations, shall do their utmost to attend the monthly meetings enjoined by the Rule".

If you cannot attend the monthly Gathering for any reason, please do not forget to contact me or anyone on Council. Contact with the fraternity does not end with Profession – indeed, it is only the beginning of our Franciscan journey of service.



Transitus



The Transitus was 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.

← ***Brother Donald Thielsen, OFM Conv.***

We were delighted to welcome Brother Donald Thielsen, OFM Conv. of the St. Maximilian Kolbe Shrine in Marytown, Illinois. Brother Donald gave us a splendid homily, and later, a very interesting talk on St. Francis and on St. Maximilian (who, in the spirit of St. Francis, served tea and sandwiches to the Nazi SS personnel who arrested him and sent him to Auschwitz). Brother shared his personal vocation story – it is always fascinating to hear how Jesus calls us to Himself, and how St. Francis inspires us to our vocation. He also shared relics of both holy Franciscans. We learned a lot about the earthly missions of these saints, who are dear to the hearts of our fraternity members!



Holy Relics of Ss. Francis & Maximilian Kolbe, in addition to a relic of St. John Paul II ↑

Fifteen of us were in attendance in addition to Brother Donald, and we were also very pleased Marcella Kerul'-Kmec, the lovely and hospitable wife of Fr. Miron, pastor of St. Nicholas, joined us in prayer.

St. Francis of Assisi, Pray for Us!

St. Maximilian Kolbe, Pray for Us!

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)

Day of Recollection – Submitted by Pepe Ventosa, TOF

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

We are collecting questions to present to Fr. Vit. If you have any questions, please send them to Pepe at TOF@thirdorderfranciscans.com. The questions will be selected from those received. See the flyer for more information.

Hope you can join us!



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

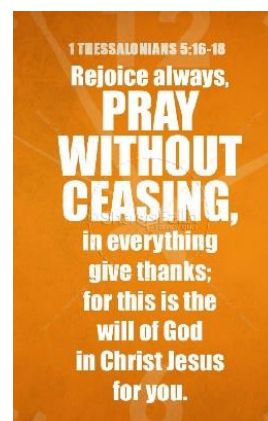
Time: 8:45 AM

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**). We have also recently added **Alex Krukemeyer** from Summit County.
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. 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!

Lord, It Is Good for Us to Be Together! (Notes by Mary Dye, TOF – Thanks!)

Roberto Meza, TOF called the group to order at 1:45 PM on Sunday, September 18 at St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish. There were no guests today, but we welcomed back Julia Tarulli, TOF.

Kenny Green, TOF led us in Midday Liturgy of the Hours.

Lectio Divina was led by Virgil Daniel, TOF. The reading was from the Sunday's Gospel Luke 16:1-13.

Lunch was provided by Virgil and Louise Daniel, TOF and Chris and LeeAnn DeVore TOF.

During lunch, Mary Dye, TOF discussed the Fraternity Ministries in preparation for signing up at the October Gathering. This was a very productive discussion, and members were able to ask questions about ministries.

Roberto Meza, TOF routed a sign-up for the November Day of Recollection which will be November 12, 2022, at the Shrine. The dollar amount for the luncheon is TBD. More information on this activity next month.

On-going Formation was led by Jim Miller, TOF. The topic was Article 45: The Church. Afterward he noted that there was a letter to the editor in the Oxford Post, saying that the writer didn't want anything to do with the Catholic church since basically the leaders don't speak out about their beliefs, and the truth. The reply from the Editor was "we follow Christ! The faithful must endure the folly of their leaders". Jesus Christ is the same yesterday today tomorrow! St. Paul says, "I have run the race, I have kept the faith!"

Questions were insightful, which we discussed as a whole group.

1. How do we set limitations on our love for service?
2. Are we implicated in the politics of destruction or engaged in reconciliation and forgiveness?
3. How can we as Francis be more engaged and effective in the ministry of the church?
4. How does this speak to us personally about our relationship with Christ and his Church?

Transitus will be at St. Nicholas on October 3, 2022 at 6:30 PM.

Maria Elena Meza, TOF facilitated updates on the home bound.

Formation Director Debbie Ventosa, TOF updated us on Formation news. There was a Retreat September 17 at the Shrine for the current novices, Denise Williams and Jessie Kuhn. They will be Professed November 12, on the Day of Recollection



at the Shrine. A new inquiry group will start up, September 20 at Ventosa's house. Debbie Ventosa, TOF has received some follow-up emails but requests that each Fraternity member reach out to the person that they invited.

←(Bob Burtscher, TOF, Jesse Kuhn, Standing – Bill Marshall, TOF, Julia Tarulli, TOF, & Maria Elena Meza, TOF)

Roberto Meza, TOF led Birthday song for the September birthdays.

Roberto Meza, TOF led Intercessory prayers.

Fr. Vit then taught Ongoing Formation. The primary interest of our earthly pursuit is "Union with God." The first step is saying "Yes" to God. We must focus on God without expecting anything in return.

In order to progress toward union with God we must pray, attend to the sacraments and live a virtuous life. By doing so over time the focus of our prayer will be relational. We will want to love God more and a slow shift will occur where we grow in love of God.

The focus of what "I need and want", will shift to "I want to love God more and do His holy will,". As we progress in our

spiritual life, we love God more and forget ourselves.

As we progress toward spiritual perfection our love of God becomes the fiber of who we are. We reach the point of 'I don't care what God gives me, even if He gives me nothing...I will give all to Him anyway.'

Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM led the closing prayers and blessed us. The meeting ended at 5:00 PM.

Save the Date (October, the Month of the Most Holy Rosary)

October 3	Transitus Service (St. Nicholas, 6:30 PM, use the church entrance)
October 4	Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
October 26-30	Franciscan Tertiaries Retreat, Huntington, Indiana
November 12	Day of Recollection, Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted, Youngstown



***Lord, help me to live this day
quietly, easily.
To lean upon Thy great strength
trustfully, restfully.
To wait for the unfolding of Thy
will patiently, serenely.
To meet others peacefully,
joyously.
To face tomorrow confidently,
courageously.***

Photo Credit – Chris Devore, TOF – Thanks, Chris!