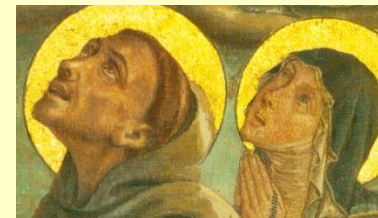


January, 2023

Volume 4, Issue 1

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

Sometimes, God sends the right person exactly when and where he or she is needed and gives that person extraordinary graces to do His Will.

Pope Benedict XVI was one of those people. Although he was born under very humble circumstances, and grew up during the worldwide Depression, he was blessed to be part of a very devout and loving Catholic family and surrounded by the beauty of Bavaria, music, and the Church. Later, young Joseph Ratzinger was required by Nazi authorities to join the Hitler Youth organization, even though he and his family were strongly anti-Nazi. At 17, he was forced to join the German military in the final days of World War II. He promptly deserted and spent the last few weeks of World War II in an American POW camp, where he celebrated his 18th birthday.

After VE Day and his release from detention in the POW camp, Joseph returned home in June of 1945. He and his brother Georg decided to enter the seminary together, and they both were ordained June 29, 1951. Fr. Joseph was never a parish priest since he possessed the God-given gifts of great intellect and the secondary vocation of being an inspired teacher. Instead, he became a university professor of theology. His convincing, logical, and faithful teaching brought him to the attention of the Church hierarchy. Fr. Joseph eventually was named a bishop and then a cardinal. He was head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith for many years. He was also a firm and loyal friend and adviser of St. John Paul II, who also suffered but strengthened his Faith in the face of Naziism and Communism.

Pope Benedict had a great appreciation of beauty, not only in the Liturgy, but music. He was an accomplished pianist and was very fond of the works of Mozart. And he had great affection for cats. When he was a cardinal, he often shyly greeted visitors in St. Peter's Square as he walked to work. He led us well and faithfully.

Sometimes it may feel that we are given circumstances we cannot control. It may then be good to remember our dear Pope Benedict, who overcame everything with the confidence he placed in doing God's Will and in always following His plans.

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

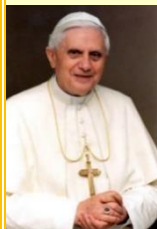
Susan Kramer, TOF
– Newsletter

Next Gathering

Sunday, January 15 @ 1:30 PM
St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish
1051 Robinson Ave. Barberton

Catholic Quote of the Month

*“Jesus, I love you.” – the final words of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI
before his death on 12/31/22*



**Pope Benedict XVI (1927-2022) – Priest, Professor, Bishop, Cardinal,
Head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Pope, Scholar, Pianist,
Servant and Defender of the Church**

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.*

January Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversary

Bill Marshall, TOF – 31 Years



Birthdays

Eileen Dunlap, TOF – 1/7
Chris Devore, TOF – 1/9
Kenny Green, TOF – 1/12
Roberto Meza, TOF – 1/16
Pepe Ventosa, TOF – 1/20
Lucy McNutt, TOF – 1/22
Matt Poletti, TOF – 1/23
Maria Elena Meza, TOF – 1/25

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

Cindy Russo, TOF and Carol Perrine, TOF will be preparing our lunch for the January Gathering. If you would like to assist, please contact one of them to find out how you can help!



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

There will be no Little Portion for January due to the bitter weather. 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 contact Mary Dye, TOF.

Roster Updates

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!!!

Embrace Baby Shower

We will be having a representative from Embrace, a pro-life organization which assists pregnant women, babies, and at-risk families, visiting us at our January Gathering. Please bring a baby item for the baby shower (diapers, formula, infant to pre-school clothing, etc.) Cash donations are also welcome!

St. Maximilian Kolbe Apostolate to the Imprisoned



We are pleased to report we were able to purchase 60 New Testaments with Psalms on behalf of the St. Maximilian Kolbe Apostolate to the Imprisoned. A portion of the New Testaments were in Spanish. Pepe Ventosa, TOF delivered them to the chaplain of one of the Ohio Department of Corrections facilities for distribution. We thank Betty DeMarco, TOF and St. Raphael Bookstore for their assistance!

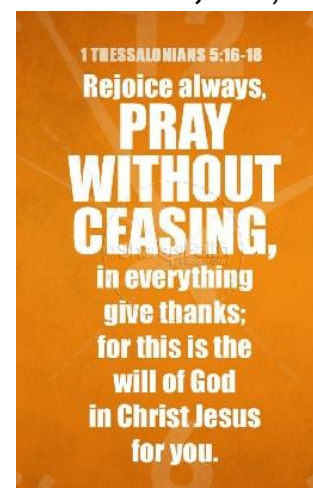
Group E-Mail Lists

Please check your e-mail listings against the updated roster to be sure your group e-mails for the fraternity only go out to those listed on the roster. Our roster is always being updated with changes, additions, and deletions, and it is important to keep these contacts up to date!

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 St. 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. 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!

Franciscan Tertiaries
OFM Province of the Immaculate Conception
Local Fraternity Annual Report

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING ON DECEMBER 31, 2022

Fraternity Information	
Fraternity name	SS. Francis and Clare Fraternity
Place of monthly gathering	St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, Barberton
Date of monthly gathering	3 rd Sunday of the Month

Fraternity Membership			
	As of January 1st	As of December 31st	+/-
Professed Members	33	35	+2
Novices	3	0	-3
Postulants			
Total	36	35	-1

Date of last profession: November 12, 2022 (2 Newly Professed Members)

Please describe ways your fraternity promoted growth in the Third Order this year (i.e., brochures, website, "Come and See" days, parish/other group presentations, etc.)

- 1- We had a "Come and See" event on 8/23/2022 with 9 guests. Of these, 3 are currently in the Inquiry stage of Initial Formation.
- 2- On July 10th, 2022, 2 members of our community manned a booth with information about the TOF at St. Nicholas Parish annual picnic.
- 3- On August 6th and 7th, 2022, 2 members of our community gave a short talk after the Masses and manned a booth at the Little Flower Parish with banner and information about the TOF.
- 4- One of our members did a short presentation about the TOF and provided handouts to the Men's group of his parish.
- 5- Our website and our business card are a great resource for promoting new vocations, not only in our local area but across the country and beyond.

Council Information	
Date of last Council election	September 19, 2021
Spiritual Director	Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM
Minister	Roberto Meza, TOF
Vice Minister	James E. Miller, TOF
Secretary	Mary Dye, TOF
Treasurer	Therese Harper, TOF
Councilor	Virgildee Daniel, TOF
Councilor	Christopher Joseph Devore, TOF
Councilor	Jose Ventosa, TOF
Non-Voting Member	Susan Kramer, TOF, Editor of Il Poverello
Non-Voting Member	Debbie Ventosa, TOF, Master of Formation

Fraternity Prayer Life

Our Community Statutes states in Article 3.2 that “the spirit of prayer ‘should characterize the whole of the tertiary’s life: it should pervade his joys and his sorrows, his activity and his leisure’ (ref Call to Commitment: twelfth lesson).

Please describe how your fraternity promotes prayer among its members:

At gatherings:

- Liturgy of the Hours
- Lectio Divina
- Prayers of intercession for our Pope, bishops, pastors, seminarians, IC OFM Province, our friars, general intercessions for our members or friends in need
- Ritual prayers

Outside of gatherings:

- We promote Eucharistic Adoration among membership
- Daily Mass
- Tertiary Office, which includes the Liturgy of the Hours
- Through our prayer chain we encourage prayers for each other
- Franciscan wake service when necessary

Does your fraternity participate in Eucharistic Adoration? Yes, at least one member is in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every day.

Fraternity Formation

Our Community Statutes states in Article 4.1 that “the purpose of Formation in the community of Tertiaries is ‘to form its members in Christian perfection’ (ref Sacra Propediem 16) by giving them a better understanding of their divine call to holiness and by guiding and assisting them in observing the Holy Gospel according to the example of St. Francis of Assisi.”

Initial Formation: please describe your program for Initial Formation (i.e., formation team, number of meetings per month, length of sessions, materials/curriculum used, etc.)

The team presently consists of 2 professed members plus several assistants that attend on an “as needed” basis. Team meets twice a month with each session lasting about 2 hrs.

Curriculum includes prayer, Lectio Divina, Franciscan symbols/traditions.

Books: Scripture, Catechism of the Catholic Church, TOF Rule/Constitutions, “Call to Commitment in the School of St. Francis”, and “New Catechism of the Third Order”. Other references include: “Admonitions of St. Francis”, and Biographies of Franciscan Saints.

Please explain how this program brings to fruition the purpose of formation for novices as stated in Art. 4.1.

Promoting a spirit of prayer brings discernment on God’s calling, which assists in the development of docility and obedience to the Holy Spirit. Novices also are learning how to live our Franciscan vocation in everyday life and secular culture, as well as how to defend the faith. Learning about the life of St. Francis makes real the opportunity we all have to become saints and encourages all to reach the perfection of Christian charity.

Ongoing Formation: please describe Ongoing Formation at gatherings (i.e., presenter, material used, format, etc.) and at other occasions outside of gatherings.

All members are encouraged to participate in Ongoing Formation which is presented by members of the Fraternity and by Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM, our spiritual director. Also, the practice of prayer at the gathering is part of formation. This year we continued to study the Constitutions of the TOF.

Outside the gatherings:

- Held an annual Pilgrimage in May 2022
- Participated in Transitus at St. Nicholas Church
- Met with other Franciscan Tertiary communities at the St. Clare Monastery to plan for the annual retreat
- Joined the Confraternity of Penitents in their annual retreat on Oct 2022 in IN
- Participated in the Annual Day of Recollection on 11/12/2022
- We publish the monthly "Mat Post", email to members for their on-going formation

Please explain how this program brings to fruition the purpose of formation for your fraternity members as stated in Art. 4.1.

Promoting prayer and the Franciscan way of life encourages each of us in our path to holiness. Studying the constitution encourages practical application of the rule in our daily lives.

Fraternity Apostolic Life

"Missionary activity, important and noble as it is, must actually be no more than a spontaneous flowering of the love of Christ that comes only in prayer." From *Call to Commitment*.

Describe activities done outside monthly gatherings this year to promote fellowship among members of the community of tertiaries (i.e., picnic, retreats, day of recollection, pilgrimages, etc.)

- May 3, 2022- our Fraternity sponsored a tertiary community pilgrimage at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Windsor, OH, for our local fraternities. Members of St. Padre Pio and Our Lady of America Fraternities attended
- Annual Fraternity picnic took place on August 21, 2022
- Participated in Transitus, led by Br. Donald Thiessen, OFM
- In October 2022, members of our Fraternity attended and assisted by giving presentations at the annual retreat of the Confraternity of Penitents
- Assisted in the preparation for the Annual Day of Recollection on 11/12/2022
- Assisted in on-going formation and additional formation for the members of the community of isolated Tertiaries throughout the year

Does your fraternity have a newsletter? Yes, Il Poverello, goes out monthly.

Describe activities/ministries/apostolates of your fraternity that assists in the works of the local Church.

- At the Fraternity gathering each January, items are collected for donation to the local pregnancy support center
- At the end of the year bibles are purchased with donations and delivered to one of the prisons in OH
- At each gathering nonperishable food items are collected for donation to a local parishes' food pantry
- Provide food for the homeless
- Provide financial assistance to a seminarian in the Moshi Diocese of Tanzania
- Provide spiritual support to seminarians of the Dioceses of Cleveland, Youngstown and Moshi.

- Spiritually adopted 3 seminarians from the Cleveland and Youngstown Diocese
- On 9/3/2022 members manned the pro-life booth at the Annual Stark County Fair
- Participation monthly in pro-life prayer in front of abortion facilities
- Regular participation in liturgical and ministerial activities, in member's home parishes, for example eucharistic ministers of Holy Communion, lectors, catechists, singers, altar servers, etc.

Does your fraternity have a ministry to reach out to the youth? If so, please describe. No, however we encourage members who have children to bring them to the gathering.

Plans for next year

Please use this section to indicate plans for next year (i.e., plans to promote spiritual growth of your members, assist with the organization of your fraternity, growth of the Order, ongoing formation, apostolates, activities, etc.)

- Continue to promote Eucharistic Adoration among membership
- Promote attendance to monthly gatherings
- Plan to restructure the Formation team and develop a curriculum for Initial Formation
- Continue to assist the isolated tertiaries in the development of their communities
- With the new restructuring of the Formation team, we hope to be able to run 2 groups of Initial Formation simultaneously which will promote growth for the Third Order
- Plan to meet with other Masters of Formation to promote the consistency of the delivery of formation across fraternities
- Promote the growth of the Order by manning a TOF booth at local Catholic conferences and events
- Encourage members to participate in events with other Franciscan communities, such as the annual retreat of the Confraternity of Penitents
- Promote the wearing of the Tau cross and Franciscan symbols by members
- Finalize the Fraternity By-Laws
- Continue to publish the monthly "Mat Post".

Suggestions

Please use this section for any recommendations you may have for any activity, ministry, or any other idea to promote fellowship and Franciscan growth among our community of Franciscan Tertiaries.

- We need to discuss how to encourage regular attendance especially among members that rarely attend gatherings
- We need to have members physically visiting and maintaining contact with those who can't participate in gatherings and attend to any needs they may have. We have the St. Elizabeth of Hungary ministry for this. Personal visits also would encourage those that have grown cold on coming back since COVID.
- Movie night had been a great opportunity for fellowship in the past. Need to discuss how to bring this activity back.
- Create a poster, or UTUBE presentation with general information or an interview regarding TOF, to use for advertising; it could be general information or directed toward youth.



Lord, it is Good for Us to be Together! – by Pepe Ventosa, TOF



Our December Gathering at St. Nicholas Byzantine Church served as our annual Christmas party. Many of our members took advantage of this time to enjoy the company of our brothers and sisters, and to joyfully anticipate the Nativity of Jesus.

← **Fr. Vit, OFM; Carol Perrine, TOF; & Roberto Meza, TOF**

Roberto Meza, TOF presented Anniversary Certificates to our members who have achieved milestone anniversaries of their Profession in 2022. These included Jennifer Kerns, TOF (5 years), Carol Perrine, TOF (25 years), and Bill Marshall, TOF (30 years). Jennifer, Carol, and Bill have greatly enriched our fraternity by their presence, service, and faithfulness, and we are all grateful!



The multi-talented Mary Dye, TOF accompanied us in Christmas carols on her piano. Roberto Meza, TOF lent his voice to lead us in the singing of the lovely Christmas carols we all know so well! →

After enjoying our Christmas feast, Kenny Green, TOF favored us with his annual presentation of the Nativity, in which St. Francis had the idea to recreate Jesus' birth in Bethlehem at Greccio, which is near Assisi.

Fr. Vit then spoke to us about the Franciscan view on the Incarnation, and St. Francis's great love of the infant Jesus.

Fr. Vit, OFM takes a turn leading us in a Christmas carol as Mary Dye, TOF accompanies →



← **Roberto Meza, TOF; Kenny Green, TOF; and Bill Marshall, TOF present the story of St. Francis and the First Nativity Creche**

Time to eat! LeeAnn Devore, TOF; Kenny Green, TOF; Julia Tarulli, TOF; Mary Cate Roberts, TOF; Bob Burtscher, TOF; Virgil Daniel, TOF; and Jennifer Kerns, TOF fill their plates with the Christmas feast everyone contributed to and shared →



← Fr. Vit, OFM presents Jennifer Kerns, TOF with a certificate marking her 5th Anniversary as a Professed Third Order Franciscan

Well, **someone** had to be the first to taste the Christmas cookies! Mike Butts, TOF enjoys some delicious Christmas cookies and other desserts →



Next Gathering is January 15, 1:30 PM at St. Nicholas

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

¡Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año Nuevo!

Save the Date (January, the Month of the Most Holy Name of Jesus)

January 15	January Gathering, 1:30 PM at St. Nicholas – DON'T FORGET – EMBRACE BABY SHOWER!
February 19	February Gathering, 1:30 PM at St. Nicholas
February 22	Ash Wednesday – Day of Fast and Abstinence



Dear Baby Jesus!

You will soon come to earth. You want to make all children and me happy. I would like to get a missal, a green chasuble, and the heart of Jesus. I will always be good.

Greetings,
Joseph Ratzinger

*(Christmas letter to Baby Jesus,
written in 1934 when Pope Emeritus Benedict was 7 years old)*