



Soldiers of Christ

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

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Sandy Baden, TOF, Editor

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RESURRECTION OF THE LORD, APRIL 9, 2023

In the New Testament John 20: 1-10 gives the account of the Resurrection of Jesus. As documented in (John 20: 8-10): **“Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead.”**

An interesting statement, “for as yet they did not know the Scripture.” How could this be after all the time they spent with Jesus and did not understand what he was teaching them. Yet, there is so much we do not understand and cannot grasp in our knowledge of Scripture. By faith and prayer we will grow in a deeper understanding of Scripture to help lead us towards our journey in reaching perfection.

The Resurrection is the hope within our faith to acknowledge our Lord Jesus Christ and follow in his footsteps. A quote from Mother Angelica is a beautiful reflection of faith in the Resurrection of our Lord: “We must keep our eyes on the Risen Lord, and our hearts will burn within us no matter what happens—for our God is risen. He is truly risen!” Not just risen, but is with us always!

It has been said, that the Blessed Virgin Mary was the first person to be visited by our Lord after His Resurrection. Mary Magdalene was the first mentioned in the Gospels to have seen Jesus after the resurrection. 1

Even though the Blessed Mother's visit was not mentioned in Scripture, Pope John Paul II is quoted: "Indeed, it is legitimate to think that the Mother was probably the first person to whom the risen Jesus appeared. The unique and special character of the Blessed Virgin's presence at Calvary and her perfect union with the Son in His suffering on the Cross seem to postulate a very particular sharing on her part in the mystery of the Resurrection." (St. John Paul II at a General Audience May 21, 1997.)

St. Vincent Ferrer, a Dominican, stated: "The first apparition He gave was to the Blessed Virgin Mary, although the gospel does not tell us about this." St. Bridget of Sweden, states: But we believe that Mary His Mother knew of his rising before all others, and that she was the first to see him." St. Ignatius of Loyola believed: "First, he appeared to the Virgin Mary. This, although it is not said in Scripture is included in saying that He appeared to so many others..." Servant of God John Hardon, who wrote The Catholic Catechism, quoted: "It is not only a pious opinion that the Risen Savior first appeared to His Mother on Easter Sunday." Lastly, Six Doctors of the Church, including St. Ambrose and Albert the Great believed that Our Lady was the first witness of the Resurrection.

What a beautiful thought to meditate on this vision of seeing Jesus visiting the Blessed Mother first after His Resurrection. We must keep in mind also as is written in the bible, "And many other signs Jesus truly did in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book," (Jn: 20: 30-31). We have come to believe in the Holy Spirit and through Catholic Tradition the Holy Spirit works to bring the grace and truth of Christ into our own lives. Pope Benedict XVI states, "Tradition is a living river that unites us to the origin, the living river in which the origins are always present, the great river that leads us to the port of eternity. In this living river, the word of the Lord..." "And behold I am with you always, until the end of the age," is fulfilled again (Mt 28: 20)

Jesus rises from the dead and shows us a new portal to reach our God. We have the opportunity to partake in the Blessed Sacrament daily, and in the Holy Eucharist our Lord invites us to live the gospel according to His will in our lives. In His love He gives us the graces to reach the joy of Heaven and earth. "For Our God is risen. He is truly risen!"

DID YOU KNOW?

THE LEGEND OF ST. CLARE AND THE HOT CROSS BUNS

Clare of Assisi's reputation for holiness spread throughout Italy, eventually reaching the Holy Father. Anxious to meet this remarkable woman, the Pope traveled to her monastery to talk with her.

As a gesture of hospitality, Clare asked that the loaves of bread be placed on the tables. She wanted the Pope to bless the bread, which would then be given to the sisters as a keepsake of his visit. But the Pope declined, saying instead, "Very faithful Sr. Clare, I want you to bless these loaves of bread, making over them the sign of the cross." Clare hesitated, saying she was unworthy to do such a blessing.

But the Pope insisted, and finally commanded her to make the sign of the cross and bless the bread. Clare reluctantly did. When she finished praying, an image of a cross miraculously appeared on each loaf.

Legend says this began the practice of making a cross on Hot Cross Buns.

POPE BENEDICT XVI
(Marian Thoughts)

Woman of the Eucharist

Our Lady accompanies us every day in our prayers. . . . In his last Encyclical, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, our beloved Pope John Paul II presented her to us as “Woman of the Eucharist” throughout her life (cf. 53). “Woman of the Eucharist” through and through, beginning with her inner disposition: from the Annunciation, when she offered herself for the Incarnation of the Word of God, to the Cross and to the Resurrection; “Woman of the Eucharist” in the period subsequent to Pentecost, when she received in the Sacrament that Body that she had conceived and carried in her womb.

Address, May 31, 2005

The Upper Room

In the upper Room the Apostles did not know what awaited them. They were afraid and worried about their own future. They continued to marvel at the death and Resurrection of Jesus and were in anguish at being left on their own after His Ascension into heaven. Mary, “she who believed in the fulfillment of the Lord’s words” (cf. Lk 1:45), assiduous in prayer alongside the Apostles, taught perseverance in the faith.

By her own attitude she convinced them that the Holy Spirit, in His wisdom, knew well the path on which He was leading them, and that consequently they could place their confidence in God. giving themselves to Him unreservedly, with their talents, their limitations, and their future.

Address, May 26, 2006 4



“What wonderful majesty! What stupendous
condescension! O sublime humility! That
the Lord of the whole universe, God and the
Son of God, should humble Himself like this
under the form of a little bread, for our
salvation.”

St. Francis of Assisi

ISOLATED TERTIARY SCHEDULE FOR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

MONDAY:	Judith Inglesby, TOF
TUESDAY:	Linda Denser, TOF
WEDNESDAY:	Luis Guzman, TOF Judith Inglesby, TOF Paul & Mary Gag, TOF
THURSDAY:	Sandy Baden, TOF
FRIDAY:	Linda Denser, TOF Pepe Ventosa, TOF
SATURDAY:	Erica Witover, TOF
SUNDAY:	Linda Denser, 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 all the intentions of the members of the Isolated Tertiaries Community. (Please contact Pepe Ventosa, TOF if you would like to be added to this Eucharistic Schedule.)

ONGOING FORMATION ZOOM GATHERING MONTHLY SCHEDULE: 2023
PRESENTATIONS

MONTH	PRESENTATION BY:	TOPIC	ARTICLE
JANUARY	MARY TAG, TOF		ARTICLE 48
FEBRUARY	LINDA MENSER, TOF		ARTICLES 49-52
MARCH	JULIE ELKINTON, TOF		ARTICLE 53
APRIL	Cancelled due to Holy Week		
MAY	VIRGIL DANIEL, TOF		ARTICLES 54 & 55
JUNE			
JULY			
AUGUST			
SEPTEMBER			
OCTOBER			
NOVEMBER			
DECEMBER			

Remember, each Presentation should be 10-15 minutes, and then questions to promote discussion. Discussion from each person should be short, around three minutes, so everyone will have a chance to share.

Please contact Linda Menser, TOF if you would like to volunteer for future Presentations. As you can see we need volunteers for June through December.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Second Sunday of Easter

April 16, 2023



“Jesus, I Trust in You,” is the message from Sr. Mary Faustina’s mission to the world in the Divine Mercy apostolic movement.

Sr. Mary Faustina Kowalska was a nun in the convent of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Poland. She was canonized in the year 2000 by Saint John Paul II and he called her, “the great apostle of Divine Mercy in our time.” Jesus commanded Sr. Mary Faustina to have the Divine Mercy painting, of His image, to be created along with the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

In the Divine Mercy, “In My Soul, Diary,” depicts the spiritual life of Sr. Faustina and all her struggles in her journey and what our Lord revealed to her between 1931 and 1938. All that Our Lord tells Sr. Faustina is filled with love and mercy as you read all the revelations given to her. The Divine Mercy Chaplet and the painting are just that: Love and Mercy.

Divine Mercy Sunday was declared by Pope John Paul II a year before the Canonization of Sr. Faustina on April 30, 2000. The rays of the Divine Mercy painting represent “the graces that Jesus Christ longs to pour out upon us and are not meant to leave us right where we are.” The two rays indicate blood and water, the pale stands for the water that makes a soul righteous, and the red ray is the blood which is the life of souls. As long as the Chaplet is prayed with the thought in mind: “Jesus, I Trust in You,” mercy will be given.

Sandy Baden, GOF

**Annual Third Order Franciscan Pilgrimage
Saturday, May 20, 2023**

Take a step back in history and explore the beginnings of St. Philip Neri Parish in Dungannon, Ohio, the oldest continuous Roman Catholic congregation in northern Ohio and those of our beloved Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted in Youngstown.



**St. Philip Neri Parish
Dungannon
11328 Gavers Road
Hanoverton, OH 44423**



**Shrine of Our Lady
Comfort of the Afflicted
517 S. Belle Vista Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44509**

- 9:30AM** **Arrival at St. Philip Neri Parish**
- 9:45AM** **Tour of present day church and original log cabin**
- 11:00AM** **Depart for Youngstown**
- Noon** **Mass at Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted**
- 1:00PM** **Catered hot lunch at shrine**
 Cost: \$11.00 per person
- 1:45PM** **Presentation on the History of the Shrine by Fr. Vit Fiala**
- 2:30PM** **Departure for home**

Suggestion: Wear comfortable walking shoes
Questions?: Call or text Pat at 330-720-1546

ADMONITION XVIII Part II



Blessed is the servant who refers (=restores) all the good he has to his Lord and God. He who attributes anything to himself “hides his master’s money” (Mt. 25:18) in himself and “even what he thinks he has shall be taken away” (Lk 8:18).

Part II of Admonition XVIII deviates entirely from Part I as we mostly concentrated on weakness and shortcomings.... Here we begin looking at our talents given to us by God.

Once in a while someone says to me they have no talents. As I look at that person, immediately one or two talents come to mind. Most people miss the point of their talents or do not bother to use them. Sometimes they are using them and do not realize it as a talent. The talent in the painting above shows St. Francis speaking and the roses are what goes up to heaven as he speaks. This painting, as it reflects the work of God, with the help of St. Francis, was painted for all to understand the beauty of St. Francis’ words and the glory that he gave to God and for us. There are two talents in this painting, St. Francis’ talent of speech, and then the artist. The painting itself may not be a work of art in the eyes of the experts, but it is a talent that was given by God to be used for God’s Glory.

If we do not use our talents and just ignore them how would that benefit anyone? Various ministries in the Church are considered as talents for the benefit of others, singing in the choir, a catchiest, working in the church office, bereavement ministry, women’s guild, Eucharistic Minister, and so on.....Think about your talents and how they would benefit others and therefore would give praise to God, who is the owner of those talents. Give to God what is already His, praise and glory.

Lothar Hardick, OFM, reiterates that our talents belong to God and we must use them for the glory of God. If we use them for our own benefit only, what good does it bring to anyone else? We are to evangelize and spread the gospel to everyone we meet. God gave us talents to use for that purpose. The purpose is to glorify God. Jesus preached, healed, and was a witness before His Father. In His divinity He was able to give dignity to everyone in the miracles he performed for the purpose to illuminate the glory of God. Mary, the Mother of God, gave her entire life to God because it belonged to Him. St. Joseph was the protector of the Holy Family and he fulfilled that talent to perfection.

A person cannot say they have no talents. God gave us something to discover about ourselves. Reflect on your lives for a moment and think about all you have accomplished throughout the years. What new thing did you learn and what have you done with it? Can you use it now and give that talent back to God by helping others? Can you say, yes, I did give to God a talent? Meditating on our talents one can come to believe that God has given us more than one talent, or have we become lazy and ignored them? Let that not be the case and take it to prayer. Lothar Hardick, OFM points out that Francis shows us “we should restore to God all the good that we have received from Him”...and...”restore everything to God.” Always keep in mind, “everything belongs to God.”

**PEACE OF HEART, based on the life and Teachings of
St. Francis of Assisi, by John Kirvan**

Our Father who art in heaven, let your kingdom come into
my heart not for my sake, but for the sake of all those
for whom your Son lived and died. Lead me not into the
temptation to take your great gifts and hoard them in
isolation and silence, in selfish enjoyment of your
presence. Rather let me live so that others might have life.
And now as the day ends, Father, and sleep approaches,
open my heart to everyone. give me the gift of a generous
spirit.

For all your children I pray: May the Lord bless and keep all of
us. May He make his face to shine upon us and be gracious
us. May the Lord look kindly upon us, grant us a quiet night
and lasting peace.

Save the Date

APRIL 2-9: HOLY WEEK

APRIL: 2: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

APRIL 6: Holy Thursday

APRIL 7: Good Friday

APRIL 9: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

APRIL 6: IT ZOOM GATHERING: **CANCELLED DUE TO HOLY WEEK**

APRIL 13: IT Initial Formation Group 2, 7:00 PM Eastern Time 4:00 PM Pacific Time, Zoom Meeting. You can sign in 15 minutes before the meeting begins.

APRIL 20: IT Initial Formation Group 1, 8:00 PM Eastern Time, 5:00 PM Pacific Time, Zoom Meeting. You can sign in 15 minutes before the meeting begins.

APRIL 16: Divine Mercy Sunday, Second Sunday of Easter

