

April, 2023

Volume 4, Issue 4

Il Poverello

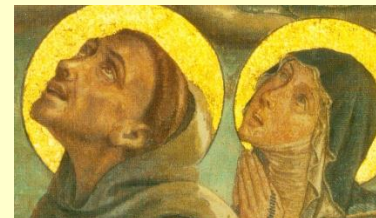
The newsletter of the SS Francis and Clare Fraternity
of the Third Order of St. Francis

*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

Stewardship and service is deeply ingrained in the Catholic Church, including our Franciscan Order. From the very first, Jesus entrusted His Church to His beloved apostles. With His incomparable example, the apostles spent the rest of their lives not accumulating wealth, possessions, and power – but serving Jesus, His Church, and the Christian community in a time when it was very dangerous, and which ultimately resulted in their persecution, torture, and execution.

Our parish priests and bishops are successors to the apostles, who were the first priests. They give their lives to the Church, serving God, the Church, their Bishop, their parish, and non-Catholics. They bring us Mass and Divine Liturgy and the Sacraments, comfort the sick and dying, oversee schools, catechize, feed and clothe those in need, counsel, work through mountains of paperwork, and so much more. They are good citizens, making our community a better place. The Church could not function without their commitment to service and faithful leadership.

St. Francis gave comfort to the sick and dying. He repaired churches and ensured clean sanctuaries and vestments, all for the glory of God. He preached and counseled. He travelled to the war zone in Egypt during the Crusades to bring the Gospel to those who did not know Jesus. He was not always successful, but he tried to do the job Jesus gave him every day, and he did it with great joy!

Fr. Miron Kerul'-Kmec graciously welcomes us to his parish every month and has been a friend to us for years. He actively fosters stewardship at St. Nicholas. His parishioners must commit to supporting the parish, not only monetarily, but with their time and talent. Whether it is cooking, landscaping, singing, catechizing, or any other category, including the commitment to daily prayer for the Church, the parish, and all those in need, St. Nicholas parishioners serve.



We in the TOF promise to attend monthly Gatherings and daily Mass, pray the Liturgy of the Hours, and to obey the teachings of the Church and our Rule. What can we add to this to assist our parishes and pastors? Think about it! God has plans for each of us, and expectations of service to His Church.

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED, HE IS RISEN!

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

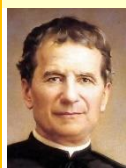
Sunday, April 23 @ 1:30 PM
St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish
1051 Robinson Ave. Barberton

We are expecting you!

Franciscan Quote of the Month

**“There are two things the devil is deadly afraid of:
fervent Communion and frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament.”**

St. John Bosco, SDB (1815–1888) – Feast Day January 31
Third Order Franciscan, Priest, Educator, Founder of the Salesian 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, 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.*

April Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversary

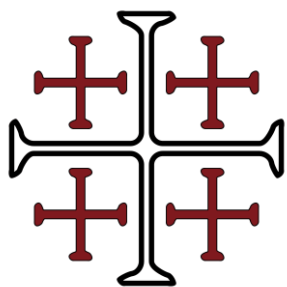
None this month!



Birthdays

Bill Marshall, TOF – 4/7
Betty DeMarco, TOF – 4/17
Nettie Miller, TOF – 4/30

Upcoming CFP Retreat



Plans are already in the works for the upcoming Confraternity of Penitents Retreat! It will once again be held at the St. Felix Retreat Center in Huntington, Indiana, and will take place from October 11 through 15. Several of our members carpooled and enjoyed this spiritual time spent with other Franciscans in beautiful surroundings. No details on the cost currently but it's never too early to start saving up! There are fraternity funds available for members who want to attend but need assistance. Give it some prayerful thought!

Stand for Life



Bill Marshall, TOF and Rose Akins, TOF will pray on April 15 at the abortion clinic in Cuyahoga Falls. 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. Do not use 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

For our April Gathering, Debbie Ventosa, TOF and Mary Dye, TOF will prepare our Hospitality. If you want to help, please contact one of them to see what is needed.



Therese Harper, TOF will prepare the Little Portion for April, and Denise Williams, TOF will deliver 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 in helping, please contact Mary Dye, TOF.**

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

Diocese of Cleveland Men's Conference by Virgil Daniel, TOF

As one of the many interesting talks given at the Cleveland Men's Conference on March 18, the Executive Director of Ohio Right to Life spoke on the topic of the initiative to place on the November ballot an Ohio constitutional amendment that would essentially enshrine so-called abortion rights into law.

You've probably seen the very dramatic ad campaign from Protect Women Ohio on the TV. It is important to know that Planned Parenthood has enlisted the energy and expertise of the same group that was behind similar initiatives in Kansas and Kentucky last November. Thankfully, they failed in Kentucky; but we all remember the hype and media energy around the success in Kansas. This can't happen in Ohio, but that is the focus of Planned Parenthood's efforts.

The proposed amendment, besides various abortion provisions, also includes privacy "protections" for minors to obtain so-called "gender affirming medical treatments" without parental knowledge or permission. That's egregious!

Consider this scenario – your daughter/granddaughter becomes pregnant. Rather than coming to you, she seeks counsel from her soccer coach. The coach helps her to procure an abortion, without your knowledge. Under this proposed amendment, should you later find out, the coach is protected from

your lawsuit as the amendment makes the coach's action perfectly legal, providing legal protection from your seeking redress.

The money funding this initiative comes from the usual sources. Yet, the Ohio Capital Journal (16 March 2023) proclaims that Protect Women Ohio is "a dark money 501.c.4 organization." "Dark money" to fight abortion? Really!!! You can see the need for us all to stand up and reaffirm the sanctity of life in the womb, that life begins at conception and is fully human in that moment, body and soul.

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
Comforter of the Afflicted
517 S. Belle Vista Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44509**

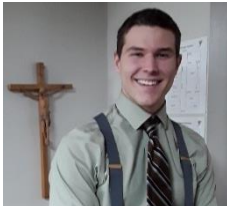
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|---------|--|
| 9:30AM | Arrival at St. Philip Neri Parish |
| 9:45AM | Tour of present-day church and original log cabin |
| 11:00AM | Depart for Youngstown |
| Noon | Mass at Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted |
| 1:00PM | Catered hot lunch at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

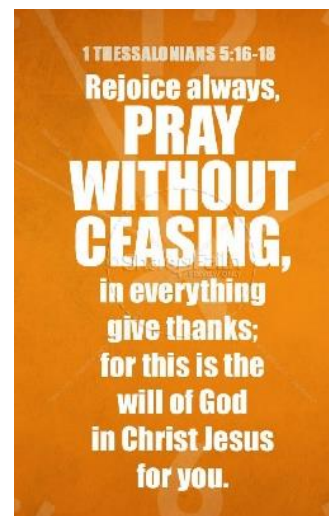
Suggestion: Wear comfortable walking shoes

Questions?: Call or text Pat at 330-720-1546

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 Kurt Burnette** 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** of St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish, 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 and St. Irene Byzantine Parish in Portland, Oregon, as well as a professor at SS. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Seminary. And **Fr. Ryan Furlong, TOF** of the Diocese of Youngstown and of the St. Padre Pio Fraternity.
7. **Fr. Gastor Temu Bahati**, of the Diocese of Moshi who is serving on the staff of his bishop, whom we have spiritually supported for several years.
8. **Frater Francis Tumaini** of the Diocese of Moshi, who is the Moshi 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 **Arthur Bodenschatz**, Christ the Servant Parish in Canton, **Joseph Rohan**, St. Joseph Parish in Cuyahoga Falls, and **Alex Krukemeyer** (Our Lady of Victory Parish in Tallmadge) from Summit County. We have also taken on **John Paul Antalek** (St. Mary Parish in Akron), who has been accepted to the Fall class at Borromeo Seminary. *(John Paul Antalek, future Borromeo seminarian)* → 
10. Please 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, Peru, Nicaragua, and other countries where our Faith is being attacked.**
11. Bishop David Bonnar of the Diocese of Youngstown has asked for prayers for the **victims of the train derailment in East Palestine**, which is in the Diocese. Fr. David Misbrenner, who hosted a profession Mass for our fraternity a few years ago at St. Peter of the Fields in Brimfield, is currently pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in East Palestine, and he has been a friend to our fraternity.



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!

We met for our February Gathering on March 19 at St. Nicholas Byzantine Church. There were 23 in attendance, in addition to visitor John McGough, and our faithful friends, Jess and Caroline Poletti, Annie Butts and Fred Kramer. Fr. Vit joined us later in the afternoon.

- Roberto Meza, TOF announced Nettie Miller, TOF prepared Little Portion and Kenny Green, TOF and Bill Marshall, TOF will deliver it. The Stand for Life for March is assigned to Mike Butts, TOF and Rick Dunlap, TOF. He then led us in the Ritual Gathering Opening Prayer.
- Kenny Green, TOF and Bill Marshall, TOF led us in Liturgy of the Hours.
- Virgil Daniel, TOF read the Gospel of the Third Sunday of Lent, (Jesus restores the sight of the blind man). Each table discussed what we heard and how we can bring this message to our faith lives.
- Roberto Meza, TOF led Grace before we enjoyed our bagged lunches. Since this Gathering falls in the season of Lent, Council decided we would not enjoy our usual feast and instead bring our own simple packed lunches. Debbie Ventosa, TOF kindly brought her delicious bean soup to supplement this.
- The Little Portion was prepared by Jim and Nettie Miller, TOF and delivered by Kenny Green, TOF.
- Virgil Daniel, TOF addressed us on the Diocese of Cleveland Men's Conference, which he attended with his son, Troy. There was an excellent presentation given on the status of the pro-life movement in Ohio and an update on what anti-life leaders are putting on the upcoming election ballot.
- Debbie Ventosa, TOF led Ongoing Formation in place of Mary Cate Roberts, TOF, who has suffered a debilitating injury. She discussed Article 49, Section II of the Rule of the Third Order, which deals with the discipline of living.
 - Remember the wisdom of temperance when eating and drinking.
 - Gluttony is a venial sin.
 - Let prudence be your guide.
 - Plain and simple should guide Franciscans.
 - Eat what is set before you.
 - Do not forget to pray before and after meals.
 - Fast for the Feasts of the Immaculate Virgin Mary and of St. Francis on the day before each solemnity, as well as on Fridays, and abstain from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays.
- Debbie Ventosa, TOF introduced the Inquirers who will soon be Postulants – Marlene Walker, and Dennis and Carolyn Gacioch. We are asked to pray for their discernment and studies.
- Maria Elena Meza, TOF gave the Infirmarian report.
 - Judith Hoyt, TOF reports that Sandy Pollino, OFS and Dorothy Takacs, OFS remain the same in their illnesses. Sandy has written a book and it is ready for the publisher.
 - Bob Burtscher, TOF said that Elizabeth Francis, TOF is in good spirits and keeping busy



with her volunteer job at Robinson Memorial Hospital and is getting to Mass at Immaculate Conception parish in Kent. She is enjoying the company of her brother.

- Mary Cate Roberts, TOF has a broken elbow and broken hip which is the result of a fall she suffered on the job. She is recovering from surgery. She asks for prayers as she heals and carries on with rehabilitation.
- Roberto Meza, TOF reported the Franciscan Wake Service has been revised. Please see him for more information.
- Pat Cuttica, TOF of the Padre Pio Fraternity in Youngstown has sent us information on the upcoming pilgrimage in May. The details are located in this newsletter. ***We will still have a Gathering in May.**
- Roberto updated us on the Diocese of Youngstown Catholic Men's Conference, which will take place on March 25 in Warren. See the Diocesan website for more information. The Conference will be free of charge!
- Roberto announced we will have our **Renewal of Profession and Acceptance of Postulants at the April gathering.**
- Roberto Meza, TOF then led us in prayer for the intentions of the fraternity, including the seminarians we have spiritually adopted (Arthur Bodenschatz, Joseph Rohan, Alex Krukemeyer, and Frater Francis Tumaini) as well as all seminarians in the Cleveland and Youngstown Dioceses, Bishop Fernandes of Columbus, Bishop Bonnar of Youngstown, Bishop Burnette of the Eparchy of Parma, and Bishop Malesic, JCL of Cleveland. We also prayed for our own members and families, including Jennifer Kerns, TOF, Julia Tarulli, TOF, Sandy Pollino, OFS, and Dorothy Takacs, OFS.
 - With the permission of Council, Susan Kramer, TOF asked us to add John Paul Antalek of St. Mary Parish in Akron to our list of seminarians we have spiritually adopted. John Paul has been accepted for the upcoming Fall class at Borromeo Seminary. He is very grateful for any prayers we can spare for him.
- The next Council meeting will be March 25.
- Fr. Vit favored us with the teaching of his Ongoing Formation. He spoke on demonic influence.
 - The natural world is ours.
 - The supernatural world is God's.
 - The Church started with Jews and pagans (Gentiles).
 - The spirit of the world and the spirit of God are incompatible.
 - Early Christians blessed everything they brought into the house because it came from a pagan world.
 - Paganism is attacking the Church right now.
 - America is no longer Christian.
 - Hypnosis, acupuncture, Eastern medicine and teachings, may become portals to the soul through which demons can enter. This may manifest at a later time. These "remedies" may remove pain but will not heal. They can also result in depression, broken marriages, and suicide.
 - Yoga and reiki are incompatible with Christianity because it is a Hindu practice related to

reincarnation. It has to do with worship of false Hindu gods.

- Anything to do with the occult – witchcraft, Wicca, etc. – is demonic. This includes Ouija boards, tarot cards, crystal balls, etc.
 - Only exorcism can remove demons.
 - Prayer is far stronger and more effective than anything the occult offers.
 - Demons can affect electronics. They infect science often.
 - Reiki is also to be avoided by Christians. It is a spiritually dangerous practice.
 - We must educate ourselves if we do not want to be misled by unfaithful leadership.
- The pantry collection went to St. Nicholas.
 - **April 23 is the next Gathering! (We are delaying one week because of Divine Mercy Sunday, which is April 16).**
 - Fr. Vit led us in the Ritual Closing Prayer and gave us his blessing.

Save the Date (April, the Month of Holy Eucharist)

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| April 16 | Divine Mercy Sunday |
| April 23 | April Gathering |
| May 20 | TOF Community Pilgrimage (see details in this newsletter) |

