

February, 2023

Volume 4, Issue 2

# Il Poverello

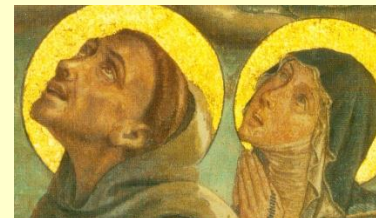
The newsletter of the SS Francis and Clare Fraternity  
of the Third Order of St. Francis

*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

Lent is approaching, with Ash Wednesday falling on February 22 this year. Like Advent, it is a time of preparation, waiting, and sacrifice.

We are asked by the Church to make a few small sacrifices in union with the whole Church, including fast and abstinence on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and abstinence on all the Fridays of Lent. As Third Order Franciscans, we are asked to abstain on Wednesdays and fast on Fridays per Rule 4 in Chapter 2, so this should be second nature to us.

It is optimal to do something a bit more, to give something up, or to commit to a good habit, such as perhaps adding a Rosary for our beloved seminarians and priests or creating another good spiritual practice in our lives that will carry on after Lent.

Something else to think about is to be sure to get to Confession before Easter, as asked of us by the Church. Many of us confess on a more regular schedule, maybe monthly or more often, to keep humble and to keep in the practice of regular reconciliation with God.

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, a wealthy, outgoing Italian man who died of tuberculosis at the age of 24 in 1924, routinely fell to his knees and asked for Confession if he encountered a priest on the street. He didn't care what people thought of him or if they overheard his sins – he wanted to stay close to God with no sin standing between them. We can easily imagine the same of our good St. Francis, who was only too willing to free himself of his sins and shortcomings before God. Like St. Francis, Blessed Pier Giorgio also found delight in our Faith!

May we all grow closer to Jesus as we enter our own personal deserts with Him during the 40 days of Lent and reemerge on Easter Sunday with great joy! Blessed Lent!

## 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, February 19 @ 1:30 PM**  
**St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish**  
**1051 Robinson Ave. Barberton**

## Catholic Quote of the Month

*“Lent is a time of going very deeply into ourselves. What is it that stands  
between us and God? Between us and our brothers and sisters?  
Between us and life, the life of the Spirit?”*

*Whatever it is, let us relentlessly tear it out, without a moment's hesitation.”*



**Catherine Kolyschkina deHueck Doherty (1896-1985) – pre-Revolution Russian  
Baroness, Convert from Orthodoxy to Catholicism, Catholic lay apostle, Social  
Activist, Racial Equality Pioneer, Writer, Lecturer, Spiritual Mother, Founder of Madonna House**

## 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.*

## February Anniversaries and Birthdays

### Profession Anniversary

None this month!



### Birthdays

Mike Butts, TOF – 2/1  
Louise Daniel, TOF – 2/6  
Mary Cate Roberts, TOF -2/29

## Stand for Life



There is no one scheduled for the Stand for Life for the months of November, December, January and February 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

Nettie Miller, TOF, Julia Tarulli, TOF, and Susan Kramer, TOF will be preparing our lunch for the February 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.*

Our dear friend, Annie Butts, will prepare the Little Portion for February, and Chris and LeeAnn Devore, 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.***

## 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!!!

## 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 late to start saving up! There are fraternity funds available for members who want to attend but need assistance. Give it some prayerful thought!

## Reminder

Those who have printers are asked to print out at least 50 copies of the brochure describing the Third Order Franciscans. These brochures will be used at Catholic conferences in Columbus and North Royalton. It will also be good to have several on hand for future opportunities to explain our Order. If you can help, contact Pepe Ventosa, who will email the brochure to you to print.

Also, we are asked to pray at least one rosary when a fraternity member enters eternal life, especially if we cannot attend the Franciscan Wake Service or the funeral. It is a small but priceless act of fraternal love.

## **A Word from Our Seminararians**

*Arthur Bodenschatz and Joe Rohan are two of the seminararians for whom we have been offering spiritual support, particularly at daily Eucharistic Adoration. Mr. Bodenschatz and Mr. Rohan recently sent an email message to be shared with all of us. Please note that Mr. Rohan asks for special prayers for healing for his knee.*

Dear Franciscan Community,

Thank you for your faithful prayers! We cannot thank you enough for the support you give us in our formation even as you all grow in your lives of discipleship. Here is a little bit of what's new with us:

**Arthur** - Over Winter break, I got to spend a lot of time at home with family which was a great blessing. I felt rested and ready coming back to the newly renovated St. Mary seminary which is quite nice! I am the first person to live in my room which is exciting and invites the responsibility of keeping it as good as new. Theology classes are off to a good start this semester. It's always nice to be able to pray with what I'm learning. My classmates and I also recently had our first night of Alpha at St. Albert the Great Parish where we are inviting non-church-goers to join us for dinner and conversation about the big questions in life. With continued prayer, the semester shows great promise!

**Joe** - this is my final semester of college seminary, which is super exciting! It will be a pretty busy semester but it will be rewarding when it's over! My ministry for the year is working with campus ministry and their retreat team—it has been so good! I have made some great friends and really been able to step into an active role in ministry. On a more somber note, I have been dealing with an ACL surgery and the recovery. My knee keeps getting infected, so a particular intention I would like to ask you all for is that my knee might start to really heal. Otherwise, it has been a great year and both Arthur and myself are looking forward to joining the seminary's spring break trip to Rome! We'll be there for about a week!

Peace,  
Arthur and Joe

## **Initial Formation Leadership Teams**

The Fraternity Council discussed plans for Initial Formation Leadership Teams at their January meeting. With the blessing of growing interest in the Third Order Franciscans, Council decided to lighten the responsibility presently carried by Formation Director Debbie Ventosa, TOF and to create Initial Formation Teams so that Inquirers and Postulants can attend meetings closer to home and to learn a bit more efficiently.

Several fraternity members were approached by Council to serve on the Initial Formation Team. Two groups, one based in North Canton and the other at St. Nicholas in Barberton, were organized and will be under the guidance of Debbie Ventosa, TOF.

The North Canton Formation group and the Barberton Formation Group have been formed, and Council will confirm the nominees will serve. The teams and members will be introduced at the next Gathering.

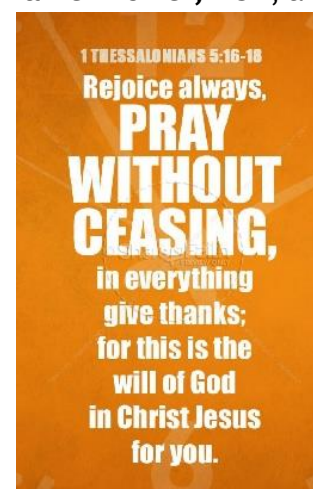
Both groups will participate in classes together during the training period, and the North Canton team will assist the Barberton team as needed. Classes meet every other Tuesday from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM for the time being. Both teams will be under the capable oversight of Debbie Ventosa, TOF.

Virgil Daniel, TOF will continue to work with Debbie Ventosa, TOF on the curriculum and the countless other things he helps with, far too numerous to mention. Many thanks to Debbie and all the members who have stepped up to help with the Initial Formation of our future brothers and sisters!

## ***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. **Bishop Milan Lach, SJ**, for whom we have prayed for the last few years, has been transferred to the Eparchy of Bratislava, Slovakia. Bishop Burnette is the interim Bishop of the Eparchy of Parma until a permanent bishop is named.
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 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**, 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 **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, Peru, 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!

### **Monthly Gathering Attendance – Jennifer Kerns, TOF**

*Our Fraternity Council asked Jennifer Kerns, TOF to write an article on the importance of attendance at our Gatherings. She was asked because of the sacrifice she makes to attend our Gatherings, in all kinds of weather, in spite of having to drive up from West Virginia to do it and living with health challenges. Jennifer routinely picks up Julia Tarulli, TOF on the way. She made a great many beautiful rosaries to send to Fr. Gastor Bahati on his Ordination, to share with the people he cares for in Tanzania. She is a splendid example of devotion to the Third Order Franciscans and the commitment to living in community. The following is her offering to us:*

Today's secular environment calls for a greater need to strengthen our spiritual growth. God has called us to a unique way of life that is both a responsibility and a privilege. Somewhat like a fragile plant that needs periodic water to grow, we need the love, encouragement, prayers, and spiritual guidance we receive in our monthly Gatherings.

What better way can we receive help to remain loyal to our Profession and keep faithful to the profound principles of Franciscan teachings than through fellowship with our brothers and sisters in our Third Order Franciscan Fraternity who share our love for Jesus Christ, His Church, Ss. Francis and Clare, and all the Franciscans who have gone before us?

### **Lord, it is Good for Us to be Together!**

We met for our January Gathering on January 15 at St. Nicholas Byzantine Church. There were 26 in attendance, in addition to a visitor, John McGough, an Inquirer, Marlene Walker, and our faithful friends, Annie Butts and Fred Kramer.

- Roberto Meza, TOF announced there will be no Little Portion or Stand for Life in January. He then led us in the Ritual Gathering Opening Prayer.
- Kenny Green, TOF led us in Liturgy of the Hours.
- Pepe Ventosa, TOF gave us an update on Initial Formation. He explained the current duties of the Formation Director and the need to revise them. Assistants help teach and keep track of students. With the growth of Inquirers and continued interest in the Third Order Franciscans, it has become a happy problem, and too much work for one person.

In view of this, Council decided to reform the Formation model to improve and take the pressure and work responsibilities off the Formation Director and spread them more equitably.

Our Formation Director, Debbie Ventosa, TOF will oversee two Group Leaders, each with two Assistants. The Formation Director will approve the curriculum, and a Group Leader will teach each group, one based in North Canton and the other in Barberton, at St. Nicholas.

The Group Leader will keep student files and teach with the help of two Assistants. Fraternity members are welcome and encouraged to attend these classes.

The Group Leaders and Assistants are listed in a separate article in this newsletter.

- Peggy from Embrace, a Christian organization which assists at-risk pregnant women and their families, addressed us on their work. Their services, all free of charge, include pro-life counseling, a men's ministry, parenting classes, and furniture, clothing, formula, and other items needed by these families.

Embrace helps men and women to be the best parents they can be and to make good choices. They have been in Barberton for 33 years as a Christian ministry which is fully in line with Catholic doctrine. They are always in need of prayers, volunteers, word of mouth promotion, supplies and money. Our members donated supplies and cash to assist this worthy work, and Joanne Angeletti, TOF, who regularly volunteers at Embrace, will deliver these items.

- Roberto Meza, TOF led us in grace before we enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by Cindy Russo, TOF and Carol Perrine, TOF. Needless to say, there was more than enough for everyone!
- We continued with Lectio Divina. Virgil Daniel, TOF read the Sunday Gospel of St. John ("He is the Son of God.") Each table had a brief discussion of what touched us in that reading.
- Virgil Daniel, TOF reviewed the 2022 Annual Report for our fraternity, which was included in the January newsletter. He answered any questions and explained how we have grown and the challenges we face.
- Roberto Meza, TOF presented a Profession Certificate to Bill Marshall, TOF after a short talk by Debbie Ventosa, TOF, detailing Bill's devotion and service to our fraternity. Congratulations, Bill, on your 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a lay Franciscan!
- Debbie Ventosa, TOF introduced Marlene Walker, a former nurse and member of Little Flower Parish. Marlene is in the Inquiry stage of Formation, and we are very glad to welcome her!
- Pepe Ventosa, TOF announced he and Matt Poletti, TOF will be attending the Catholic Men's Conference in Columbus in February. They will use the new banner and ask for members with printers to please print out at least 50 brochures for them to offer to interested men at the conference.
- Roberto Meza, TOF announced the food pantry collection would be going to St. Nicholas. Virgil and Louise Daniel, TOF, who are St. Nicholas parishioners, will deliver the collection.
- 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 Lach, SJ 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, Gertie O'Kennedy (the late mother of Eileen Dunlap, TOF), Sandy Pollino, OFS, and Dorothy Takacs, OFS.
- The next Council meeting will be January 28.
- Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM then led us in Ongoing Formation. He spoke on the authority Jesus gave to bishops and priests, enabling them to teach, heal, and exorcise. Father explained that those with authority sacrifice themselves for those for whom they are responsible, just as parents do.

Father reminded us that, “the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.” Christians have authority over their bodies and the position they hold in society.

The closer we are to God, the more we are protected from Satan and his demons. Satan only has power when we give it to him – by not living our Faith. Demons cannot receive nor give love.

- Fr. Vit led us in the Ritual Closing Prayer and gave us his blessing.
- The February Gathering will take place on February 19 at 1:30 PM at St. Nicholas.

### ***Save the Date (February, the Month of the Holy Family)***

February 19	February Gathering, 1:30 PM at St. Nicholas
February 22	Ash Wednesday – <b><i>Day of Fast and Abstinence</i></b>

