

March, 2023

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Il Poverello

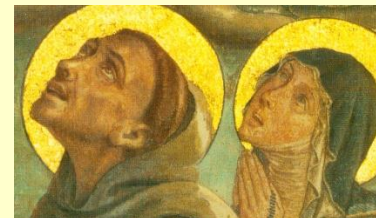
The newsletter of the SS Francis and Clare Fraternity
of the Third Order of St. Francis

*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

What better example of Catholic manhood – outside of Jesus Himself – have we than our good St. Joseph, who lived his life following the Will of God even when it was frightening or did not make sense.

Mary was about 15 years old when she gave birth to Jesus. It is likely St. Joseph was not much older, in his 20s perhaps. He was troubled when he learned Mary was pregnant before he took her into his home. He loved Mary and he was a decent, moral man. He did not want to humiliate her or expose her to possible stoning, so “he decided to divorce her quietly.” Before he did so, an angel visited him in a dream and told him to have no fear, that Mary was the mother of the Son of God. Trusting God, he welcomed Mary into his home.



We all know the story of the Nativity. St. Joseph gently led Mary to Bethlehem to register for the Roman census. He was able to secure the only shelter available, a stable. He witnessed the miraculous birth of Jesus, the visit of the shepherds and angels, the star, and the visit of the Magi, who offered extravagant gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. For a poor young man from a little village, it must have been astonishing!

St. Joseph was again visited by an angel in a dream with an urgent message, who told him to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt immediately to escape the dreadful murder of the Holy Innocents. Once it was safe, an angel told him he could return to Nazareth with his little family. He worked hard and was poor, but he was a loving husband and father, and they had a happy home. Before Jesus' public ministry, Joseph died a “happy death” in the presence of his beloved Mary and Jesus. Recently, his name was added to the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass to honor his vocation of earthly father of Jesus and beloved and chaste spouse of Mary.

St. Joseph is the patron saint of the Catholic Church, workers, married people, happy deaths, unwed mothers, fathers, Italy, and much more (maybe dreamers or insomniacs?) In times of trouble, let's remember to “Go to Joseph!”

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

Bring your own bagged lunch!!!

Catholic Quote of the Month

“When you invoke St. Joseph, you don't have to say much. Say, ‘If you were in my place, St. Joseph, what would you do? Well, pray for this on my behalf.’”

St. André Bessette, CSC (1845-1937) – Feast Day January 6 (January 7 in Canada)

Lay Brother, Porter, Devoted to the Passion of Jesus and St. Joseph,

Credited with Miraculous Healings, Assisted in Building the St. Joseph Oratory in Montreal



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.*

March Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversary

None this month!



Birthdays

Joanne Angeletti, TOF – 3/4
LeeAnn Devore, TOF – 3/24
Judith Hoyt, TOF – 3/29

Stand for Life



Mike Butts, TOF and Rick Dunlap, TOF will represent our fraternity on March 18 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, 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

For our March Gathering, mindful that we are in the midst of Lent, all who attend are asked to bring a simple bagged lunch. It is a small sacrifice from our usual joyful feast that we make to honor the sacrifice of Jesus in the desert, fasting for 40 days.



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

Nettie Miller, TOF, will prepare the Little Portion for March, and Kenny Green, TOF and Bill Marshall, 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.***

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 carpoled 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!

The Youngstown Men's Conference will take place on March 25 and will feature Fr. Ryan Furlong, TOF, who is a member of the St. Padre Pio Fraternity of Youngstown. The Diocese does not offer any informational tables, so we will be unable to provide a table for the fraternity. Registration is free, although you must register online, and women are welcome.

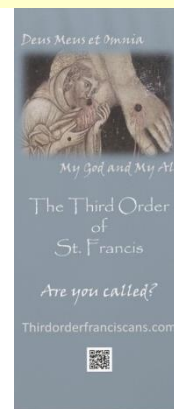
We were unable to secure a table at the Diocese of Cleveland Men's Conference since they reached capacity quickly. The Conference, which will be in North Royalton, will take place on March 18. If you wish to attend and need assistance with the registration fee (\$30), please contact Council asap to make arrangements – there are funds available to assist with this.

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.

TOF Outreach by Pepe Ventosa, TOF

On February 25, 2023, Matt Poletti, TOF, and Pepe Ventosa, TOF, attended the annual Catholic Men's Conference in Columbus, Ohio. The conference's theme this year was "Called to Be Saints" and 2,000+ men attended. This year the conference was dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Holy Family.

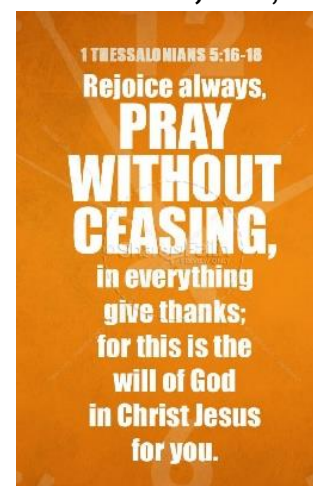
Matt and Pepe manned a display table with information about the Third Order of St. Francis. Brochures on the TOF were distributed to those visiting the TOF table. Visitors to the table were also joyfully greeted by Jess, Matt's wife, and their daughter Caroline.



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**, 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.**

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 February 19 at St. Nicholas Byzantine Church. There were 27 in attendance, in addition to a visitor, John McGough, an Inquirer, Marlene Walker, and our faithful friends, Jess and Caroline Poletti, Annie Butts and Fred Kramer.

- Roberto Meza, TOF announced there will be no Little Portion or Stand for Life in February. He then led us in the Ritual Gathering Opening Prayer.
- Kenny Green, TOF led us in Liturgy of the Hours.
- Jim Miller, TOF read the Gospel of St. Matthew, Chapter 5, Verses 3-8 ("Offer no resistance to the evil ones"). Each table discussed what we heard and how we can bring this message to our faith lives.
- Roberto Meza, TOF announced we received thank you notes from both Embrace and from St. Nicholas Parish. This was in response to the baby shower we held in January for Embrace, with gifts of supplies and monetary donations from our fraternity. The note from St. Nicholas was to thank us for our food pantry donation.
- Roberto reminded us that the Council asks that anyone with access to a printer print at least 50 copies of our informational TOF brochure for Pepe Ventosa, TOF and Matt Poletti TOF to take with them to the Columbus Catholic Men's Conference. We will also need more brochures for the upcoming Catholic Men's Conferences in North Royalton on March 18 and in Youngstown on March 25.

Roberto also shared some details about the upcoming conferences. Council hopes to be able to have an informational table at both Diocesan conferences. To do that, we not only need to have a stock of brochures, but also at least two professed representatives to staff the table. Fred Kramer has offered to assist and to drive to the North Royalton conference, but we need to have one or two professed members to staff the table, since Fred is not a member of the TOF. If anyone is interested in attending either Conference, please let Roberto know ASAP. Council

is willing to pay the registration fee for anyone who would like to attend. Women may staff the table, and you do not necessarily have to be a member of the host Diocese in order to attend. Again, please let Roberto know ASAP if you are interested in attending either Conference.

- Roberto Meza, TOF announced that we will not have the usual hospitality and lunch at the March Gathering. Instead, we are asked to bring a bagged lunch. This is to honor the season of Lent, in which we are asked to make small sacrifices for Jesus. We will resume the usual luncheon with the April Gathering.
- The Little Portion was prepared by Jim and Nettie Miller, TOF and delivered by Kenny Green, TOF.
- Our February hospitality was prepared by Nettie Miller, TOF, Susan Kramer, TOF, Marlene Walker, and Mary Dye, TOF.
- 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, Sandy Pollino, OFS, and Dorothy Takacs, OFS.
- The next Council meeting will be February 25.
- Matt Poletti, TOF led us in Ongoing Formation, with his subject being Article 48 of the Constitution. This article is on the dignity of work. Daily work is an excellent penance, especially if we are able to pray as we work. Pray unceasingly and depend on God for everything. Give a good example at work, not only of working hard, but of truly living our vocation – be pleasant, work hard, and do not descend into gossip or exchanging improper jokes or stories with co-workers.
- Fr. Vit favored us with the teaching of his Ongoing Formation.
- Fr. Vit led us in the Ritual Closing Prayer and gave us his blessing.
- The March Gathering will take place on March 19 at 1:30 PM at St. Nicholas. **Don't forget – bring a bagged lunch!**

Save the Date (March, the Month of St. Joseph)

March 19	March Gathering, 1:30 PM at St. Nicholas (bring a bagged lunch!)
April 9	Easter Sunday
May (date TBA)	TOF Community Pilgrimage (St. Columba Cathedral, Youngstown – remaining details TBA)

May Mary, our guide on the Lenten journey, lead us to ever deeper knowledge of the dead and Risen Christ, help us in the spiritual combat against sin, and sustain us as we pray with conviction: 'Converte nos, Deus salutaris noster' — 'Convert us to you, O God, our salvation'. Amen!



Pope Benedict XVI (1927-2022)

