

May, 2023

Volume 4, Issue 5

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

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Something to Consider by Debbie Ventosa, TOF

What is meant by a virtue?

St. Augustine defines virtue as a quality of inner goodness, through which one lives well, and through which one avoids acting badly... Virtue may be natural or supernatural. When we speak of Christian virtue, we always mean supernatural virtue. (*Catechism of the Third Order*)

What is the meaning of supernatural virtue?

The supernatural virtues comprising the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity and the moral virtues which can be grouped under one or the other cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude are infused into the human soul at baptism together with sanctifying grace. These powers or dispositions must be exercised, developed and strengthened by acts of virtue, performed with the aid of actual graces which are offered to us by God. (*Catechism of the Third Order*)

What is the difference between supernatural virtue and striving for Christian perfection?

They are practically the same. Every act and step necessary or helpful to put ourselves and keep ourselves in the state of sanctifying grace and to increase that grace and the love of God in us is an act of one virtue or another ... the goal of virtue is the love of God. (*Catechism of the Third Order*)

We also have excellent models of virtue in the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Francis and many saints from all walks of life. In this month of May let us reflect on how St. Francis saw Our Lady as "God's masterpiece of the human race", and model of Christian life.

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, May 21 @ 1:30 PM

**St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish
1051 Robinson Ave. Barberton**

We are expecting you!

Catholic Quote of the Month

“My soul glorifies the Lord. My spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.”

**Mary of Nazareth, Virgin, Wife of Joseph,
Mother of God, Mother of the Church, Queen of Heaven and Earth**



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.

May Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversary

Kenny Green, TOF; Pepe Ventosa, TOF;
and Rose Zaratsian, TOF – 25 Years

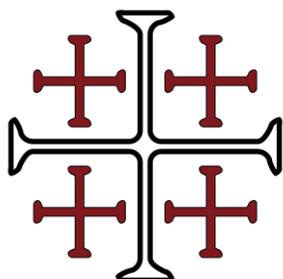
Eileen & Rick Dunlap, TOF;
Susan Kramer, TOF; and
Larry & Lucy McNutt, TOF – 8 Years



Birthdays

Mary Dye, TOF – 5/23

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



Bob Burtscher, TOF and Therese Harper, TOF will pray on May 20 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.**

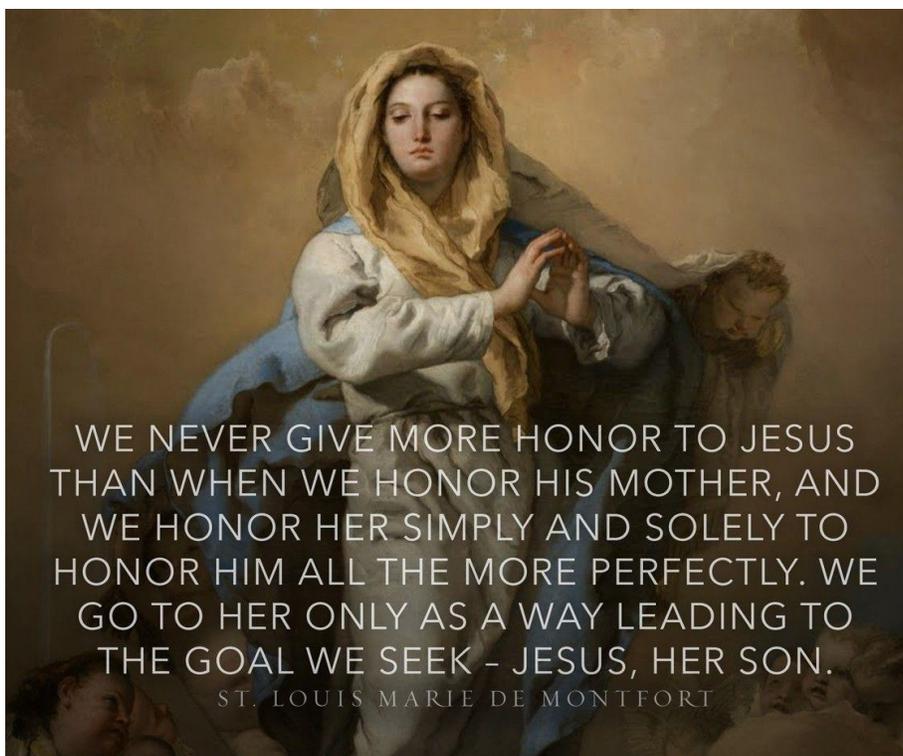
Hospitality and Little Portion

For our May Gathering, Bob Burtscher, TOF and Therese Harper, TOF will prepare our Hospitality. If you want to help, please contact one of them to see what is needed.

Judith Hoyt, TOF will prepare the Little Portion for May, and Rose Akins, 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 two 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.



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**

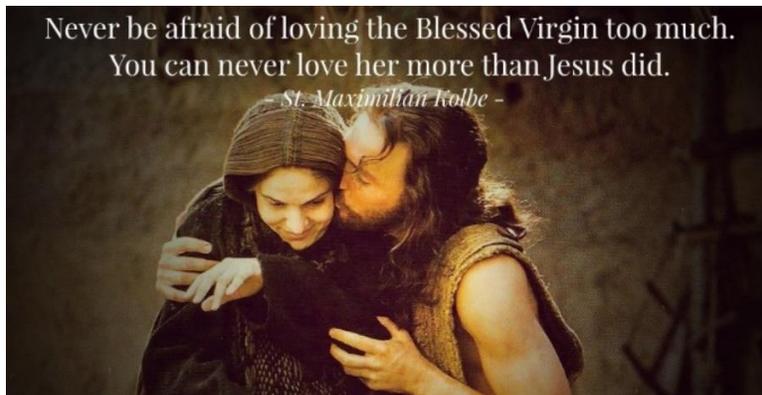


**Shrine of Our Lady
Comforter of the Afflicted
517 S. Belle Vista Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44509**

- 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

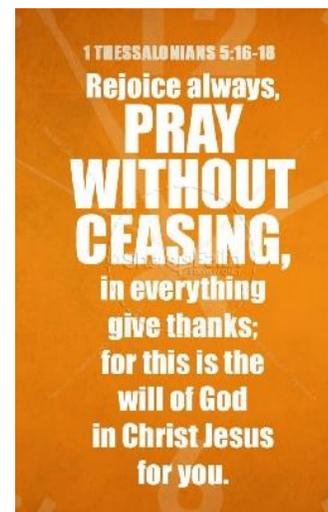
Questions?: Call or text Pat at 330-720-1546



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 and their intentions : **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 (Eparchy of Parma), 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,** who is pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Vienna, (Diocese of Youngstown) and who is a member 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) from the Diocese of Youngstown, **Joseph Rohan,** (St. Joseph Parish in Cuyahoga Falls), **Alex Krukemeyer,** (Our Lady of Victory Parish in Tallmadge), and **John Paul Antalek** (St. Mary Parish in Akron) from the Diocese of Cleveland. These men, and Frater Francis of the Moshi Seminary, are the future leaders of our Church.
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 spiritual and physical protection of Catholic priests, religious, and lay people everywhere, particularly in Nigeria, Peru, Nicaragua, and other countries where our Faith is being attacked.**
11. For the protection of all life, born and unborn.
12. For the blessing of an increase in priestly and religious vocations, and for an increase of faithful Catholic marriages and families.



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 April Gathering on April 23 at St. Nicholas Byzantine Church. There were 37 in attendance, including John Rienzi, John McGough, Jocelyn, Annie Butts, Fred Kramer and our lovely Teresa Ventosa.

- Roberto Meza, TOF led us in the Ritual Gathering Opening Prayer.
- Kenny Green, TOF and Bill Marshall, TOF led us in Liturgy of the Hours, with Virgil Daniel, TOF leading the hymn.
- Virgil Daniel, TOF read the Gospel of the Third Sunday of Easter, (St. Luke's Road to Emmaus narrative). 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 delicious lunch. Many thanks to the talented cooks who prepared our meal of sloppy joes, fruit, salads and more (Debbie Ventosa, TOF; Mary Dye, TOF; and Jennifer Kerns, TOF!)
- As we ate and caught up with one another, Roberto Meza, TOF updated us on the details of the TOF Community Pilgrimage on May 20 (also outlined in this newsletter). He announced lunch will cost \$11, and that carpooling and financial assistance is available. Please contact Roberto for these arrangements.
- Roberto Meza, TOF also announced he had received letters from Bishop Bonnar of Youngstown and Bishop Malesic of Cleveland. Our good bishops thanked him for providing the annual update of our activities. They both expressed their gratitude for our daily prayers on their behalf. Jim Miller, TOF read these letters to the fraternity.
- Roberto Meza, TOF and Virgil Daniel, TOF both gave a little background on St. Philip Neri Church of Dungannon, which is included in our upcoming pilgrimage.
- Roberto led us in our after-meal Grace (which is part of our Rule!)
- Maria Elena Meza, TOF updated us with the Infirmarian Report.
 - Judith Hoyt, TOF informed us that our sister, Sandy Pollino, OFS will undergo cancer surgery on Tuesday.
 - Bob Burtscher, TOF told us that Elizabeth Francis, TOF is doing well and is in good spirits. She keeps busy, goes to Mass, and enjoys the company of her brother.
 - Debbie Ventosa, TOF reported that Mary Cate Roberts, TOF is in the midst of post-operative recovery and rehabilitation after surgery resulting from her broken elbow and hip. She is doing well and remains upbeat!
- Debbie Ventosa, TOF gave us the Formation report on her students. Marlene Walker and Dennis and Carolyn Gasioch are doing well under the guidance of the Formation team. Please keep praying! These Inquirers will be advancing to Postulants very soon!
- Carol Perrine, TOF led Ongoing Formation on Article 44 (dressing modestly).
 - Article 44 says to avoid vanity and observe moderation, humility, simplicity and propriety – both men and women.

- Set a good example. Do not seek attention, but dress with taste.
 - Do not dress overly conservative/old-fashioned because that draws attention but be modest. Dressing in a flashy or flamboyant manner is also not the Franciscan way.
 - Make an effort to dress well for Mass. It is not only a way to honor God, but also pays respect to others.
 - Showy jewelry (bling) and extravagant hair styles are not becoming of a Franciscan.
- Roberto Meza, TOF reported the Franciscan Wake Service has been revised. Roberto has the forms, or they can be downloaded from the website. Even if you have already submitted a form, do it again so that everything is updated!
 - 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 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, John Paul Antalek, 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.***
 - We prayed the St. Michael Prayer and the Renewal of Profession.
 - Roberto led us in the Gathering Closing Prayer.
 - ***We are reminded that the TOF Community Pilgrimage is Saturday, May 20. The May Gathering will be Sunday, May 21 at 1:30 PM at St. Nicholas, as usual!***
 - The pantry collection went to St. Paul of North Canton. Pepe and Debbie Ventosa, TOF will deliver.
 - The Stand for Life will be May 20. Therese Harper, TOF and Bill Marshall, TOF are scheduled.
 - The Little Portion for May will be prepared by Judith Hoyt, TOF and delivered by Rose Akins, TOF.
 - The May Hospitality will be prepared by Therese Harper, TOF and Bob Burtscher, TOF.

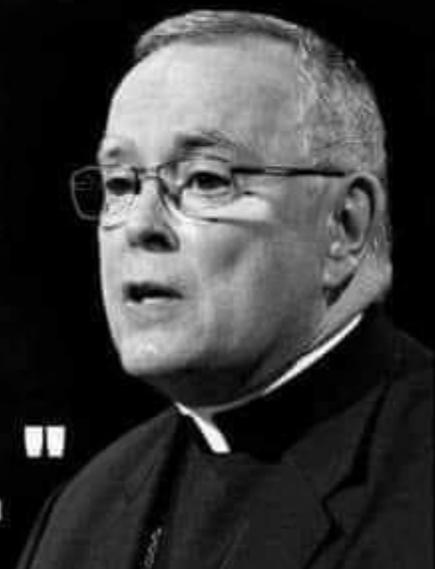
Save the Date (May, the Month of Mary, the Mother of God)

May 20	TOF Community Pilgrimage (see details in this newsletter)
May 21	May Gathering (1:30 PM – St. Nicholas Byzantine Church)
July 16	Canonization of St. Francis of Assisi

"Tolerance is not a Christian virtue.

**Charity, justice, mercy, prudence,
honesty - these are Christian virtues. "**

**"In fact, tolerating
grave evil within a
society is itself a
form of serious evil. "**



Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, OFM Cap.

Retired Archbishop of Philadelphia