



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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ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA, OFM, Feast day, June 13, 2023



St. Anthony, Patron Saint of souls in need of prayers and conversion, was born August 15, 1195 and died June 13, 1231. Known as a Doctor of the Church as declared by Pope Pius XII in January 1946. He was canonized less than one year after his death by Pope Gregory IX.

In 1263, upon the exhumation of St. Anthony's body, it seemed to be corrupt except his tongue and vocal cords, which was found to be totally incorrupt. St. Anthony would deliver moving homilies throughout his short life, of thirty-five years, which would explain the incorrupt tongue and vocal cords.

Born into a wealthy family in Portugal he spent time at the Abbey of Santa Cruze in Coimbra at the age of fifteen. In 1210 he joined the Augustian Canons and became a Priest. Shortly after ordination to the Priesthood, in 1220, he received permission to leave the Abbey and join the Franciscan Friars outside of Coimbra. He wanted to become a Martyr and preach to the Saracerns, but became ill on the way and returned home.

St. Francis of Assisi had found a friend in St. Anthony in 1224, and would

send his friars to him for their studies. The book of psalms St. Anthony used, with all his comments and notes to help in his teachings, at some point had disappeared. After prayer for the book to be returned, a Franciscan novice return the book, and after being forgiven came back to the order. The book has been preserved in the Franciscan friary in Bologna to this day. This became the story, when praying to St. Anthony for finding lost or stolen things, of how he also became to be known as the Patron Saint of Lost Things, and also people.

Many miracles have been attributed to St. Anthony of which one or two are well known: The miracle of the Eucharist which a man wanted to make an example of St. Anthony. He found a mule that was very hungry, and with food in one hand and the Holy Eucharist in the other he held them out to the mule. The mule ignored the food and bowed before the Eucharist.

In another miracle, St. Anthony started to preach where heretics treated him with contempt. He was preaching at the edge of the water and a great multitude of fish gathered in front of him. As the people were amazed at the abundance of fish, St. Anthony stated, “the fish were more receptive to my preaching than the heretics of the church,” and then the the people gathered to listen to him.

After the death of St. Francis in Assisi in 1226, St. Anthony was nominated Minister Provincial of Emilia. St. Anthony’s preaching of the Gospel brought many into the family of Franciscans, and his defense of the faith in the Holy Catholic Church lead to his appointment to follow his Seraphic Father, St. Francis, as Minister Provincial.

On June 13, 1231, while eating lunch with the Franciscan Friars St. Anthony became ill. He short time later he died of ergotism, which is poisoning from a plant called ergot or a fungi. He was buried in a small church of Santa Maria in Padua. A large basilica was completed in 1301 over the small church, The Chapel of the Dark Madonna, and is known today as “Il Santo” (The Saint.)

Sandy Baden, TOF

O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and Charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Encouraged by this thought, I implore you to obtain for me (request). O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will even be yours. Amen. (Unfailing Prayer to St. Anthony)

*Cluster Meeting in California
Submitted by Sandy Baden, TOF*



St. Padre Pio Cluster has begun in California. Our new members are Linda Menser, TOF, Sandy Baden, TOF, Brenda Dunkelman, TOF and Luis Guzman, TOF. Hard to get us all together on a Holiday weekend, but Sandy Baden, TOF and Linda Menser, TOF managed to begin the first meeting for May 2023.

We began with the required prayers and then voted on our Saint for our Cluster, St. Padre Pio. We discussed the rules and requirements and determined our presentations for ongoing formation. We feel blessed we are able to meet in person and pray for our group.

Linda's dog was our guest, Copper, and we wanted to make him our Mascot. Copper roamed the front yard while we had our meeting and then came in for his picture. We ended with prayer and thanked God for blessings given.



Alison Vermette-Lenten was born in Montgomery, AL, the second of three children to an enlisted Air Force dad. With mom and dad she was raised as a cradle Catholic and began her journey with Franciscan stepping stones. Alison felt drawn to the Franciscan Nuns in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in her early years, with hopes of joining them one day. Her father's frequent transfers led her to leave parochial school and attend a public school in New Mexico. Despite leaving Catholic school, Alison remained strong in her faith walk.

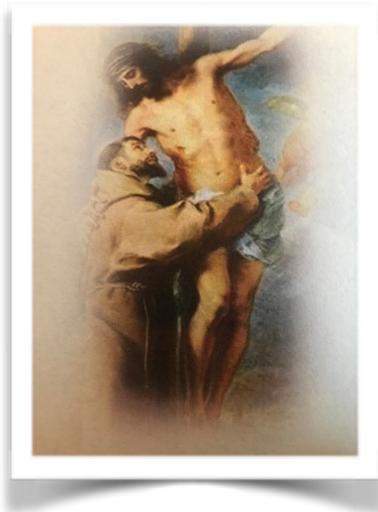
Alison shared her fond devotion to St. Padre Pio, who was dear to her. She was married at twenty-three years old and soon found herself raising her two sons Nicklaus and Anthony with special medical and cognitive challenges as a single parent.

She relied on her faith to meet the challenges given her and was professed to the OFS in October, 1999. After finding the GOF fraternity website, Alison felt her prayers were answered for a spirituality that she was seeking. Alison transferred to the GOF and brings with her a deep prayer life and reliance on the providence of God. She has a servant's heart and with heroic virtue continues to advocate and care for her adult sons. We warmly welcome Alison as a GOF living as an Isolated Tertiary of the Province of the Immaculate Conception, OFM.

Debbie Ventosa, GOF

SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI
FEAST: SUNDAY, JUNE 11TH

ARTICLE 56: The Union with Christ which is begun in the faithful by baptism is renewed and strengthened through participation of the Eucharistic Sacrifice. Consequently, tertiaries shall be on fire with love for the most sublime Sacrament of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, in obedience to the words of their Seraphic Father: “Brothers, kissing your feet, and with all the charity of which I am capable, I beg you all to show every reverence and honor possible to the most holy Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom all things in heaven and on earth are set at peace and are reconciled (cf. Colossians, 1:20) to Almighty God” (Letter to the General Chapter).



The Feast of Corpus Christi, the Most Holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, was given to Pope Urban IV in 1264. The Pope then established the Body and Blood of Christ as a Solemnity to the Roman Catholic Church. At the moment of Transubstantiation, (consecration) of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ should give us pause in the knowledge of our faith and to the love that Our Lord Jesus Christ has given us.

As we unite ourselves to Christ in the Holy Eucharist, Our Lord unites himself to us in his Body and Blood, and we are made one in the Holy Catholic Church. This is what it means as we say “Communion of Saints” when we pray the Apostles Creed.

On the night of the last supper, Christ fulfilled the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist by commanding the Apostles to celebrate the memorial of His death in making them Priests to consecrate the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. How could anyone doubt the glorious miracle of the Holy Eucharist after witnessing the death and resurrection of our Lord? How could it be possible to miss the presence of our Lord in the Eucharist?

When in prayer at Mass during the consecration of the Eucharist, our Lord hears us, knows our hearts, will bless us with His grace, and never deny our prayer as He knows we have acknowledged his glorious presence in the Holy Eucharist. The presence of our Lord in the Holy Eucharist goes beyond our human understanding, but at the same time gives us the grace to follow the way of the cross.

The Holy Eucharist is the entire essence of the Church as we give glory to God in His presence. The sacrifice given through Christ our Lord also becomes our sacrifice when we share as participants of the Body of Christ. This is why we also honor the Blessed Virgin Mary because she was the first tabernacle of our Lord and participated in the passion and death of Our Lord Jesus Christ as her heart was filled with sorrow.

Our hearts should be on fire with love and devotion as we receive our Lord in the Holy Eucharist. Just as if we were with the Apostles in prayer in the Upper Room with Mary, the Mother of God, and share in communion with them. Amen, we say as the Priest gives us our Lord in the Eucharist. Our proclamation of belief and love for our Lord Jesus Christ in His presence, and the grace He is giving us, is our statement. Nothing should hinder this Sacrament in our devotion and obligation to Article 56 as Tertiaries, in obedience to our Rule.

St. Teresa of Calcutta, Mother Teresa, who founded the Missionaries of Charity, gives us examples of what we should become with graces given to us by Our Lord:

Sandy Baden, TOF

Do It Anyway

People are often unreasonable, irrational and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere, people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.

If you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.

- St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

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	ERICKA WITOVER, TOF		ARTICLES 56 & 57
JULY	GORDON SMITH, TOF		ARTICLE 58
AUGUST	VIRGIL DANIEL, TOF		ARTICLES 59 & 60
SEPTEMBER			
OCTOBER			
NOVEMBER			
DECEMBER			

Remember each Presentation should be 10-15 minutes, and then questions to promote discussion. Discussions 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.

ARTICLE 56:

The Union with Christ which is begun in the faithful by baptism is renewed and strengthened through participation in the Eucharistic Sacrifice. Consequently, tertiaries shall be on fire with love for the most sublime Sacrament of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, in obedience to the words of their Seraphic Father. “Brothers, kissing your feet, with all the charity of which I am capable, I beg you all to show every reverence and honor possible to the most holy Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom all things in heaven and on earth are set at peace and are reconciled (cf. Colossians, 1:20) to Almighty God” (Letter to the General Chapter).

ARTICLE 57:

If at all possible for them, tertiaries shall strive to attend the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass daily, and to go frequently to Holy Communion with devotion. Those unable to do so shall take care to make a spiritual communion. Thus, united with the Eucharistic Christ, either sacramentally or in spirit, they shall start their daily work with confidence.



“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

MONDAY:

JUDITH INGLESBY, TOF

TUESDAY:

LINDA MENSER, TOF

WEDNESDAY:

LUIS GUZMAN, TOF
JUDITH INGLESBY, TOF
PAUL & MARY TAG, TOF

THURSDAY:

SANDY BADEN, TOF

FRIDAY:

LINDA MENSER, TOF
PEPE VENTOSA, TOF

SATURDAY:

ERICKA WITOVER, TOF

SUNDAY:

LINDA MENSER, 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 members of the Isolated Tertiaries Community.

Please contact Pepe Ventosa, TOF if you would like to be added to this Eucharistic Schedule.

(Study on the Admonitions of St. Francis—by Sandy Baden, TOF)

ADMONITION XX The Virtuous Religious



Blessed that religious who finds all his joy and happiness in the words and deeds of our Lord and uses them to make people love God gladly. Woe to the religious who amuses himself with silly gossip, trying to make people laugh.

Lothar Hardick, OFM changes the word silly in the above Admonition of St. Francis to the word empty, which we will also use in describing the word silly.

Have you ever met anyone who pretends to be something they are not, especially in the religious life? Sometimes this can be hard to detect as Tertiaries in the world today. There are those who from the outside seem to be doing the things that all of us

do in our prayer, church ministries, and living their lives as Tertiaries. Eventually, it seems to come to the surface of the “empty” religious.

This reminds me of a time, while talking to a Council member of a Fraternity as we were discussing praying the Office. The statement was made, “While reading the Liturgy of the Hours, the prayers and some of the Psalms and Canticles seem to be just words with no meaning.” When listening to this statement, the thought came to mind when I could have made the same reflection. However, after time and deliberately concentrating on prayer, and finding the love of Christ in the Canticles and Psalms, the daily meditations seemed to come alive. Could this be an example of an “empty” religious?

Luthar Hardick, OFM reiterates, “It is extremely important in the religious life to question again and again the meaning of what we do and why we do it. If we do not ask these questions, our practices lose their inner meaning and become merely external formalities.” Our love of Christ should be real in our hearts and the joy and happiness will emanate what we feel to all those we meet or encounter in our daily lives.

The beautiful statement from St. Francis, “You are joy and gladness” and not “You will be joy and gladness.” This, then, becomes our DNA, “You are Joy and Gladness.” How can we evangelize our love of Christ if we do not feel the joy and gladness in our souls. It would be impossible to emanate this love of Christ. We must be obedient in our prayer and not neglect the Liturgy of the Hours each day.

During the last Zoom Gathering, Fr. Vit spoke about Joyful peace. Here are a few thoughts from Fr. Vit: “We should learn and practice to be joyful. First, be sorry for our sin, and second be joyful because Christ has forgiven our sin. We should rejoice.” Fr. Vit continued, “We should turn it around into social joy and accept everything with an open heart and not worry. Confession wipes everything clean so our ego diminishes and Jesus will increase.”

The joy we emanate from within ourselves, for the love of Christ, comes from our hearts and the happiness we express also comes from our hearts, and only God knows this love which is in our hearts. Let us be joyful with the love of Christ and find true and lasting peace with “authentic” or “genuine” faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

PSALM 33

*Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.*

*Give thanks to the Lord upon the Lyre, with
a ten-stringed harp sing him songs. O sing
him a song that is new, play loudly with all
your skill.*

*For the word of the Lord is faithful and all
his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice
and right and fills the earth with his love.*

SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 1: IT Zoom Gathering, 7:00 PM Eastern Time, 4:00 PM Pacific Time. You can sign in 15 minutes earlier before the meeting begins. Presentation: Articles 56-57.

JUNE 8: IT Inquiry Formation Group 2, 7:00 PM Eastern Time, 4 PM Pacific Time. You can sign in 15 minutes earlier before the meeting begins.

JUNE 11: SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

JUNE 13: ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA, OFM

JUNE 16: MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

JUNE 17: THE IMMACULATE HEART OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

JUNE 18; FATHER'S DAY

JUNE 24: NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

JUNE 29: STS. PETER AD PAUL, APOSTLES

