

Summer, 2023

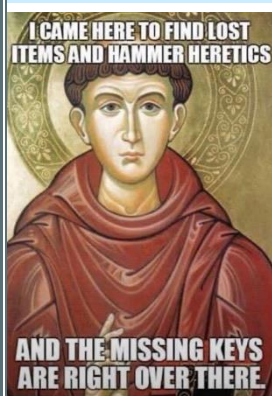
Volume 4, Issue 2

The Troubadour

Newsletter of the Franciscan Tertiaries of
the Province of the Immaculate Conception



Keeping the Faith



St. Anthony of Padua is a beloved Franciscan saint and Doctor of the Church. Born in Portugal, he was ordained an Augustinian priest. Shortly after this, he learned of the martyrdom of five OFM priests at the hands of Muslims in North Africa. Anthony was inspired by their courage and faith and journeyed to the site of their murder. Anthony was moved to transfer from the Augustinians to the Franciscans and made his way to Italy.

St. Anthony became a teacher and developed a reputation as an outstanding preacher as well. When they learned Anthony was to preach at a neighboring village, St. Francis's brothers urged him to attend. St. Francis was in his final years at this time and concluded that books and education would encourage pridefulness in his brothers. He did not permit them to even possess their own psalters.

Francis finally agreed to listen to Anthony preach. He was stunned by Anthony's faithful and powerful preaching, as well as his humility. He had to admit that being educated was no impediment to being a good Franciscan.

St. Anthony is routinely invoked when we lose random articles we need, such as car keys. A payroll clerk once lost the paychecks of over 150 employees and was frantic. Fifteen minutes after praying to St. Anthony with a fellow employee for help, she found the paychecks in a hanging folder in a file cabinet. St. Anthony's logical and clear preaching in defense of the Faith also led to his title of "Hammer of Heretics"!

On St. Anthony's feast day of June 13, a local priest mentioned that perhaps we should turn to St. Anthony for help with more urgent requests. He urged his parishioners to pray to St. Anthony to help fallen away Catholics find their Faith once more – and St. Anthony will surely assist!

St. Anthony of Padua – pray for us!

Spiritual Director

Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM
Shrine of
Our Lady Comforter
of the Afflicted
Youngstown



Editor

Susan Kramer, TOF

Franciscan Quote for Spring, 2023

“Actions speak louder than words. Let your words teach and your actions speak.”

**St. Anthony of Padua, OFM (1195-1231) - Feast Day –June 13
Priest, Teacher, Preacher, Writer, Miracle Worker,
Hammer of Heretics, Doctor of the Church**



TOF Community Formation Meeting – by Virgil Daniel, TOF

On April 29, a significant event in the Formation Process for Tertiaries of the Immaculate Conception Province took place at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted. A joint meeting of all involved in Formation, across all our fraternities and the Isolated, was convened. Present were Debbie Ventosa, TOF (via ZOOM) and Virgil Daniel, TOF of the Ss. Francis and Clare Fraternity (Barberton), Margaret Sartor, TOF from Our Lady of the Americas Fraternity (Ashtabula), Mary Ellen Burdick, TOF from Padre Pio Fraternity (Youngstown), and Julie Elkinton, TOF from the formation team for the Isolated Tertiaries, along with Fr Vit Fiala, OFM, our Spiritual Director. A copy of the meeting was also made for the benefit of Erika Witover, TOF, who leads Formation for the Isolated Tertiaries.

Virgil presented the formation curriculum for Inquirers and Postulants that he and Debbie have been creating. The formation curriculum for Novices was developed earlier by Debbie and Leeann Devore, TOF. Pepe Ventosa, TOF has been working on a curriculum for the Isolated that parallels what Debbie has developed, but accounts for the differences in the formation of the Isolated, such as they only meet once a month and via ZOOM versus the twice-monthly format for the local fraternities. The Novice curriculum has been proofread twice – once with the recent formation of Jesse Kuhn, TOF and Denise Williams, TOF of Ss. Francis and Clare Fraternity, and once with the current group of Isolated Tertiaries about to be professed. The curriculum for Inquirers has been proofread through the formation of our current three Postulants of the Barberton fraternity; the development and proofreading of the curriculum for Postulants is on-going at this writing. Our Lady of the Americas Fraternity is already starting to us these materials for Inquiry.



The intention of all this work by Debbie and others is to “standardize” formation across all entities of the Tertiaries of the Immaculate Conception Province. It is intended to make formation accessible to anyone who might be called to this important apostolate of the Third Order. Yes, the promotion of the Third Order is itself an apostolate; it guarantees the future of our Order. Thus, anyone undertaking leadership of formation would only have to access the elements of the curriculum, become familiar with the content and go forward. No “reinventing of the wheel,” as it were! Just sharing with and teaching those in formation. All materials – text for learning, teacher’s manual, and student materials – are provided.

The good news in all this is that everyone at the meeting agreed in principle to this “standardization” of formation. Assembling all the materials and making them available via exchange of flash drives is the on-going work of Debbie and Virgil at this time.

St. Padre Pio Fraternity News – by Pat Cuttica, TOF



The St. Padre Pio Fraternity Annual Picnic will be held Saturday, August 12, which is the day of our regular gathering. We will start off with Mass at Noon at the Shrine, followed by prayers and a talk from Fr. Vit. And then we will share a delicious picnic meal. All are welcome!!!

Our Lady of America Fraternity News – by Julianne Pertz, TOF

No news from Ashtabula, but best Franciscan blessings to all our brothers and sisters from Our Lady of America Fraternity!



Ss. Francis & Clare Fraternity News – by Roberto Meza, TOF

We invite all our brothers and sisters in the Third Order Franciscan community to the Ss. Francis and Clare Fraternity Picnic. We plan to meet on Sunday, August 20 at Queen of Heaven Parish, 1800 Steese Road in Uniontown, just south of Akron. We have enjoyed the hospitality of Fr. David Durkee and his parish for many years. We will gather in the pavilion off the parking lot, and Fr. Durkee encourages us to take advantage of the numerous outdoor shrines to saints – including our own good St. Francis and other Franciscan saints, as well as the grotto. We look forward to seeing anyone who can be with us!



One of the apostolates of the Ss. Francis and Clare Fraternity is to support our priests and seminarians. At our gatherings and every day, we pray for Pope Francis, Bishop Fernandes of Columbus, Bishop Burnette of the Eparchy of Parma, Bishop Bonnar of Youngstown, and Bishop Malesic of Cleveland, and our beloved OFM and parish priests. We include them in daily Eucharistic Adoration, in which 26 of our members pray before the Blessed Sacrament every day throughout the week.

We also take a special interest in seminarians. In addition to Frater Francis Tumaini of the Diocese of Moshi, Tanzania in east Africa, our fraternity has spiritually adopted several seminarians from Borromeo and St. Mary Seminaries, which educate the future priests of the Dioceses of Youngstown and Cleveland. Arthur Bodenschatz of Christ the Servant Parish in Canton, Joseph Rohan of St. Joseph Parish in Cuyahoga Falls, Alex Krukemeyer of Our Lady of Victory Parish in Tallmadge, and John Paul Antalek of St. Mary Parish in Akron (who will enter Borromeo in August) are all included in our daily prayers before the Blessed Sacrament and in our personal prayers.

We ask them to let us know if they have any special intentions or worries (one seminarian experienced problems with knee surgery that would not heal, for example). We send them our monthly newsletter so they know what we are up to. We were delighted to receive an email from Arthur and Joe this past Spring, who let us know they are so thankful we pray for them. They updated us on their newly-renovated quarters at the seminary, and asked us to pray especially for them as they travelled to Italy with fellow seminarians, during which they had a personal audience with Pope Francis.

These men and their families were recommended by our members who know them and their families or belong to their parishes. We had spiritually and monetarily supported a seminarian from the Diocese of Moshi for several years when it occurred to us that it would be good to include the young men who will be serving us here at home as well. They are the future leaders of our Church, and the very least we can do is to offer our prayerful support. They face many challenges which will continue after their Ordination, and one of those is attacks from the devil. We can best safeguard these men by putting them in the merciful hands of Jesus and Mary, and to pray daily for their spiritual and physical health and protection.

Isolated Tertiaries Update – by Pepe Ventosa, TOF

Our first group of Initial Formation just completed the Novitiate period this past May and will be celebrating Holy Profession during the summer. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to celebrate this joyful and solemn ceremony. Our second group completed the Inquiry period in June and will be entering the Novitiate phase of Initial Formation. Please keep them also in your prayers as they continue their discernment into the Third Order of St. Francis. Currently we have two people interested in starting the Inquiry period and we hope to get this group started in the next few months. They are from Florida and from California.

At this time, the community of Isolated Tertiaries has members in Florida, Virginia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, Minnesota, Texas, California, Washington and Australia. Our TOF community is being blessed with people yearning for a deeper relationship with Our Lord, inspired by the example of St. Francis. And for this we are so thankful.

A couple of months ago we introduced the concept of "clusters" for the community of Isolated Tertiaries. Clusters are a small group (3 to 5) of Isolated Tertiaries that come together on a regular basis to support each other in living their Franciscan vocation. Their meeting has a specific format that includes prayer and ongoing formation. Clusters meet personally if members live close to each other, or by zoom if far away. Although participation in a cluster is not a requirement for Isolated Tertiaries, it is offered to them as a tool for growth in prayer, love of God and neighbor, and in the Franciscan way of life.

We will be welcoming an Isolated Tertiary Inquirer celebrating the Entrance into the Novitiate on Saturday June 24th. His name is James Bissell and he will be traveling all the way from Virginia to celebrate this at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted at (or right after) the Mass at Noon.

James will be very happy to meet local Tertiaries from any of our three fraternities. If you can make it, please introduce yourself to him and welcome him to our Community! ***God is so good – always!***

We are delighted to welcome Bob Zupanek of New Bern, North Carolina to the Novitiate. Bob has entered the community of Isolated Tertiaries. He was received into the Novitiate at St. Paul Catholic Church (the oldest Catholic church in North Carolina) by Fr. Thomas Tully on Friday, June 16, 2023, the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. You may recognize Bob since he joined us at the Day of Recollection at the Shrine in November of 2022. ***Please remember all our Formation students – including the Isolated Tertiaries – in your daily prayers!***





Annual Franciscan Tertiaries Pilgrimage – by Lou Jacquet, TOF

Members of the St. Padre Pio Fraternity in Youngstown welcomed 19 members of our St. Francis and Clare Fraternity for a pilgrimage to St. Philip Neri Church in Dunganon, the oldest continuing congregation in Northern Ohio.

It was here in 1817 that Edward Dominic Fenwick, O.P., offered the first Mass in northern Ohio in the cabin of Daniel McAllister. A small brick church was built in 1820 and dedicated to St. Paul, but when the present church was built in 1846 on an acre donated by Philip Ehrhart, the parish was named after St. Philip Neri.

On this rainy and chilly Saturday morning, members of the two fraternities met in the church to hear Dr. Kelly Darney, local historian, describe aspects of the worship site, followed by remarks from Joe McKarns, a parishioner and tour guide for the site.



Darney, author of a book about the church written for its 200th anniversary in 2017, discussed such aspects as the ornate stained-glass windows that were added later and were quite expensive by the standards of the time: \$80 each for the two front windows, or \$20,000 today. They were made in Cincinnati and shipped via boat.



A mural of St. Philip Neri was painted by an Italian artist, and Darney

pointed out the saint as a lover of cats, though she apparently was unaware that he was the missionary, founder of the Congregation of the Oratory order, advisor to popes, cardinals, and kings, and was noted for his sense of humor which attracted untold numbers to the Catholic faith before his death in 1595.

Darney pointed out that the Stations of the Cross came from Italy, and the statuary dates from the 1800s, mostly made in Cleveland. But parishioners themselves, mostly hardy Irish immigrants who built the local Sandy and Beaver Canal, did the work of building the church in addition to their regular workload. For that reason, the church has several touches of Irish culture within its walls, she noted. The parish never had a school because the students who would have been its population were the children of farmers and stonemasons and were needed for work. She



also detailed murals on the ceilings which portrayed the four evangelists, amusingly mistaking St. John the Evangelist for "St. John the Baptist."

In his portion of the introduction, McKarns detailed the arrival of the first settlers into what was then "one of a dozen canal towns" that briefly flourished, which meant that the young parish "grew exponentially" for a few years but now has some 30-50 members in attendance for its one weekend Mass. The pilgrims then moved down the hill through wet grass

to the site of a replica of McAllister's original cabin, which has been restored and houses with a brick building to preserve it from the elements.

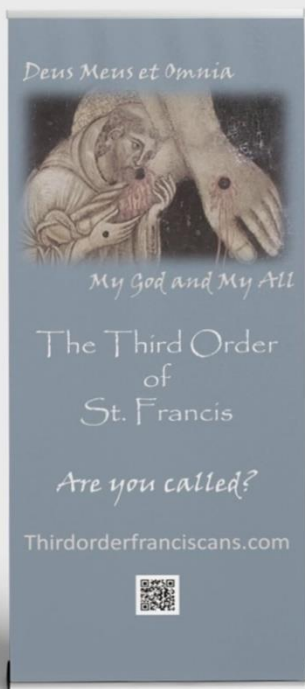


Because of time limitations, the pilgrims were unable to get to the parish cemetery a mile away, which contains the tall, immense grave marker of Father Eli Washington John Lindesmith, St. Philip's most famous resident priest and eventual chaplain to Indian country, who died in 1922. Darney had detailed how bringing it to the St. Paul Cemetery site had worn out several teams of horses pulling it a few hundred feet at a time on large wagons.

Following the tour, the pilgrims returned to the Shrine of Our Lady, Comforter of the Afflicted in Youngstown, for noon Mass, and remarks from Father Vit Fiala, spiritual director, on the history of the Hungarian Franciscans who built the shrine and have served it since to this day.

During the Mass, Marlene Walker and Dennis and Carolyn Gacioch of the Ss. Francis and Clare Fraternity and Gina Fire, Linda McGrath and Jain Savage of the St. Padre Pio Fraternity were received as postulants in the Third Order of Saint Francis.

Promoting the Third Order of St. Francis



Are there any upcoming events at your parish?
 Are you planning on attending a Catholic conference? Are you hosting a "Come and See"?

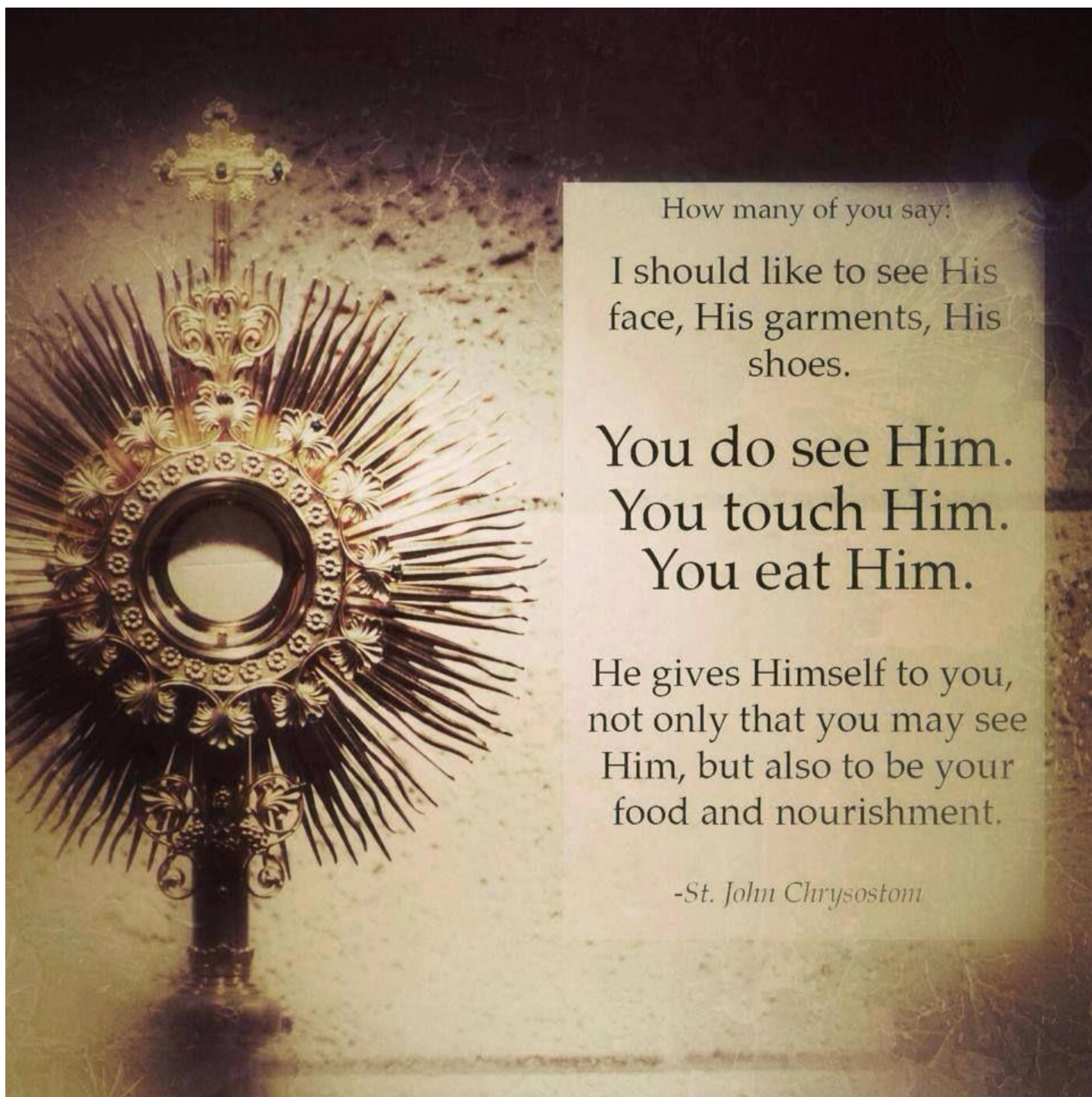
If so, there is a TOF banner available for you to display in order to promote our Order. We have pamphlets as well. Please contact Pepe if you have any questions.

Pictured here are Virgil and Louise Daniel, TOF, at their parish summer picnic passing out pamphlets and other items on the Third Order with the banner at their side.



Save the Dates!

8/11/23	Feast of St. Clare of Assisi
8/12/23	St. Padre Pio Fraternity Picnic - *All are Welcome!* <i>(Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted, Youngstown – Noon Mass, etc.)</i>
8/15/23	Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady (Holy Day of Obligation)
8/20/23	Ss. Francis & Clare Fraternity Picnic - *All Are Welcome!* <i>(Queen of Heaven Parish, 1800 Steese Rd., Uniontown, 44685 – 1:30-4:30 PM)</i>
10/11 – 10/15	Confraternity of Penitents Retreat (St. Felix Retreat Ctr., Huntington Indiana)



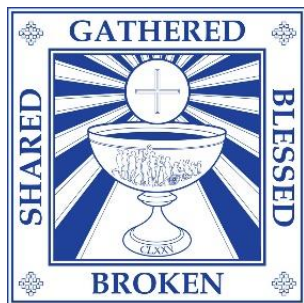
How many of you say:

I should like to see His face, His garments, His shoes.

You do see Him.
You touch Him.
You eat Him.

He gives Himself to you, not only that you may see Him, but also to be your food and nourishment.

-St. John Chrysostom



The Logo of the Eucharistic Revival, Diocese of Cleveland

As you travel throughout the Cleveland Diocese, keep an eye out for billboards with this emblem and a short quote from saints, famous Catholics, and ordinary members of the Diocese on the extraordinary gift of Jesus in the Eucharist! (And please drive carefully!)

