

July, 2023

Volume 4, Issue 7

Il Poverello

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

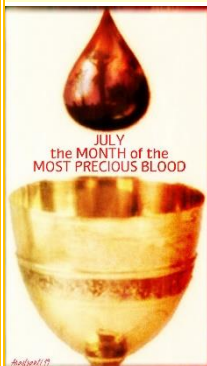


O holy Father, protect those in Your name (John 17:11) whom You have given to me in the world; they were Yours and You have given them to me. (John 17:6)

And the words which You gave to me I have given to them... - St. Francis of Assisi

www.thirdorderfranciscans.com

Something to Consider



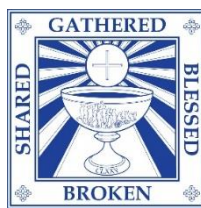
July is the month the Church dedicates to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus. It is especially good to remember this during the worldwide Eucharistic Revival, which has been underway for over a year and is now focused in our parishes and Dioceses.

Some local parishes have returned to offering the Precious Blood at Communion after a hiatus of over 2 years because of the pandemic and fears of exposure to Covid. This long period without being offered the Precious Blood at Communion, while difficult, has the positive side effect of reminding us of the great gift Jesus has given us, and how we must prepare ourselves to have the courage to present ourselves to Jesus and accept this

gift. And it is true – absence makes the heart grow fonder!

The full Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity exists in the Sacred Host we are presented at Communion. It is not true that our Communion with Jesus is somehow more complete or valid when we also receive the Precious Blood. But receiving the Precious Blood is a mystical and glorious thing that unites us with Jesus in the same way it is when receiving the Body of Christ in the Sacred Host.

To present ourselves to Jesus in Communion, we must be free of mortal sin and in a state of grace. The only way to ensure that is to go to Confession on a frequent and regular basis. The teaching of the Church states this must be once per year at a minimum. But going more often, perhaps monthly, makes it a habit and helps keep us humble. Our Rule (Chapter 2, #5) clearly endorses this. For some of us, that is a rather intimidating process. But it is to our great advantage spiritually to find a confessor with whom we are comfortable, and to make a promise to Jesus and to ourselves to get to Confession and to make use of this great Sacrament of forgiveness and reconciliation, which properly prepares us for another great Sacrament – the Holy Eucharist.



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, July 16 @ 1:30 PM
St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish
1051 Robinson Ave. Barberton

We are expecting you!

Franciscan Quote of the Month



“Let us kindle in our souls an ardent affection, considering His great affection toward us, which upon the cross He declared and manifested to the whole world.

And the benefit which He bestowed upon us in His Passion, because He bought us with the inestimable price of His precious blood, of which only we reap the benefit and commodity.”

St. Peter of Alcántara, OFM (1499-1562) Feast Day – October 19

Priest, Mystic, Hermit, Patron Saint of Night Watchmen and Nightly Eucharistic Adoration

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.*

July Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

Judith Hoyt, TOF – 23 Years

Debbie Ventosa, TOF – 20 Years



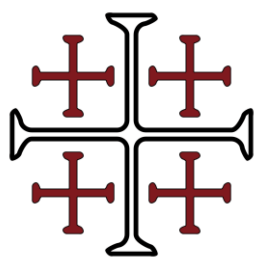
Birthdays

Fred Kramer – 7/6

Therese Harper, TOF – 7/20

Cindy Russo, TOF – 7/21

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 Judith Hoyt, TOF will pray on July 15 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 July Gathering, Rose Akins, TOF and Denise Williams, TOF will prepare our Hospitality. If you want to help, please contact one of them to see what is needed.

Therese Harper, TOF will prepare the Little Portion for July, 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 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.

We are having a picnic and want you to come!

SS. Francis and Clare
Fraternity
Annual



Date: Sunday August 20, 2023
Place: Queen of Heaven Parish
1800 Steese Road,
Uniontown, OH
Time: 1:30pm



Reminder!

It is part of our Franciscan duty to make proper arrangements for our funerals and wills. St. Francis himself went to the trouble of making things easier for his brothers by communicating his wishes before he entered eternal life.

Please contact Roberto Meza, TOF to fill out the form for the Franciscan wake service if this is part of your plans – **even if you have already submitted a form previously**. Your Franciscan brothers and sisters are willing to pray the wake service at the calling hours or before the funeral, and your non-Franciscan family members will find this a great comfort.

Debbie Ventosa, TOF has been in communication with Paula Kruger, a local woman who is a seamstress and has patterns for the habit lay Franciscans wear in death, which is similar to the OFM habit. We hope to have her visit one of our Gatherings with samples and information on the cost.

This is not something to leave to your family. When one of the original members of the St. Frances Cabrini OFS fraternity died a few years ago, her family wanted her to be buried in a habit, as her husband had been. But the poor woman had never ordered a habit, and her children were not Franciscans and did not know where to get one. Fortunately, her niece was a member of the fraternity and managed to get one delivered from out of state with only a few hours to spare.

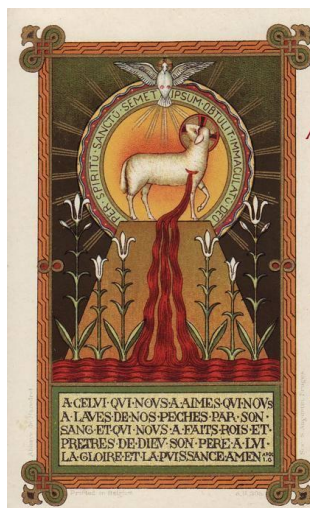


In these post-Covid days, when things are more uncertain and delays are more frequent, it is perhaps better to make arrangements now, so our families are not burdened with these arrangements. Think about it. See Roberto about the wake service as soon as possible so we have the information on hand. The seamstress for the habits will attend a Gathering soon with more information on how to order a habit.

Welcome to the Novitiate, James!



As you may have read in *The Troubadour*, our TOF community newsletter, James Bissell of Virginia entered into the Novitiate of the TOF in June at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted in Youngstown, where he was received by our own Fr. Vit. James is undergoing Formation in our Isolated Tertiary community. Roberto Meza, TOF, Jim Miller, TOF, and Virgil Daniel, TOF witnessed James' Novitiate ceremony and recorded the occasion with these photographs. Welcome to our family, James, and God bless and protect you!



JULY

*is dedicated to the
Most Precious Blood of
Our Savior Jesus Christ*

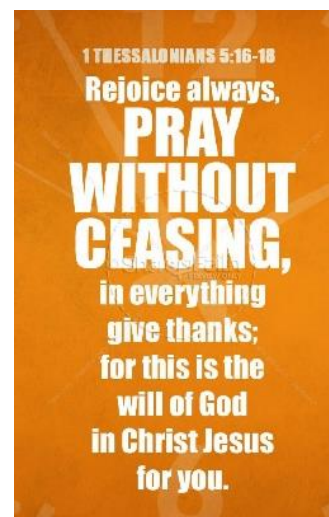
THROUGH THE HOLY GHOST
HE OFFERED HIMSELF
WITHOUT BLEMISH
TO GOD
TO THE ONE WHO LOVED US
WHO WASHED OUR SINS
THROUGH HIS BLOOD
AND MADE US KINGS AND
PRIESTS OF GOD HIS FATHER
TO HIM BE GLORY AND
POWER. AMEN

facebook: Adoremus in Aeternam,
a Catholic Tradition

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:

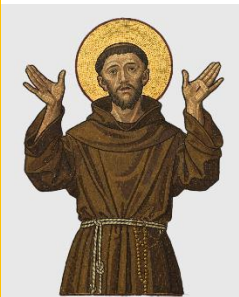
1. **The spiritual protection of our fraternity and of all our members.**
2. **Those in our fraternity who are sick, and their families.**
3. **Pope Francis** and his intentions.
4. Our bishops and their intentions: **Bishop David Bonnar** of the Diocese of Youngstown, **Bishop Kurt Burnette** of the 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 being 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, womb to tomb.
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!

A Message from Our Minister – Roberto Meza, TOF

WHY ATTENDING THE GATHERINGS MATTER



To make progress in the Franciscan way of life, we must strengthen our convictions during the monthly gatherings. The opportunity of joining together, monthly in support, prayer, and faith sharing, sustains our ongoing conversion. By attending the gathering, we show our commitment to follow in the footsteps of our Father Francis, and together with our brothers and sisters, praise, and give God glory.

What an absolute joy it must have been for the first Franciscan community of followers, Bernard, who sold all his belongings and distribute them to the poor, Peter Cantanii, Giles, Philip, Moricus, Leo, Maseo, Illuminati, joining our founder Francis in imitation of him and his zeal and love of Christ. We have an opportunity each month to experience that same joy and zeal at our gatherings. The spiritual instruction is uplifting and spiritually invigorating despite only meeting an average of three hours a month. When we gather, it is not the individual prayers, but that of a family with Jesus, the Lord in our midst glorifying the Father. Remember “when two or three gather in my name, I am there among them” (Matthew 18:20) and all the holy angels and communion of saints join us.

Saint Francis really blesses us during our Gatherings, and we need each other!

The shared Franciscan spirituality reenergizes and does so in an outstanding way. What a sacrifice and inspiration Jennifer and Julia are to all of us as they travel long distances to be at the gathering; it reminds me of Margaret Maurer, who came from a nursing home only to attend our gatherings. She inspired us all. These three sisters inspire us by their example in living Article 63 of the constitution that states (“Tertiaries, even those who belong to other pious associations, shall do their utmost to attend the monthly meetings, enjoined by the rule”).

With that in mind, sisters and brothers, if there are no health impediments or extraordinarily difficult circumstances, kindly make every effort in living our life in Community. It’s my prayer and hope that the graces and blessings of the monthly gathering be shared by all. As the Holy Spirit prompts you, reach out to those members you haven’t seen for a while and, if needed, offer them a ride or encouragement to return, to pray together, and continue on our Franciscan journey to perfection.

Lord, it is Good for Us to be Together!

We met for our June Gathering on June 24 at St. Nicholas Byzantine Church. There were 30 in attendance, including Oligario (Jerry) Johnson, John McGough, Jess and Carolyn Polleti, Annie Butts, and Fred Kramer.

- Roberto Meza, TOF led us in the Ritual Gathering Opening Prayer.
- Kenny Green, TOF, Debbie Ventosa, 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 day from St. Matthew – “Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed”, and “Whoever denies Me before others, I will deny before My Heavenly Father.”) Each table discussed what we heard and how we can bring this message to our faith lives.
- Roberto Meza, TOF reported we sent \$100 each for Frater Francis Tumaini and Fr. Gastor Temu Bahati, both of the Diocese of Moshi, Tanzania. T. O. Bennett of WILB Catholic Radio presented us with a TOF prayer book.
- Roberto Meza, TOF, Jim Miller, TOF, and Virgil Daniel, TOF attended James Bissell’s entry into the Novitiate. James is from Williamsburg, Virginia and is in the Marine Reserves. He joined the TOF on the advice of his Marine chaplain, who said if he doesn’t have a priestly vocation, he should look into a tertiary community. James then contacted Pepe, and the rest is history. We look forward to James’s Profession, at which point he will be one of our growing community of Isolated Tertiaries.
- St. Mary, Wooster was selected as the recipient of the food pantry offering. Mike Butts, TOF will deliver.
- Roberto Meza, TOF led Grace before we enjoyed our delicious lunch. Many thanks to Mary Dye, TOF, Louise

and Virgil Daniel, TOF and Susan Kramer, TOF, who prepared our meal, and to all who assisted!

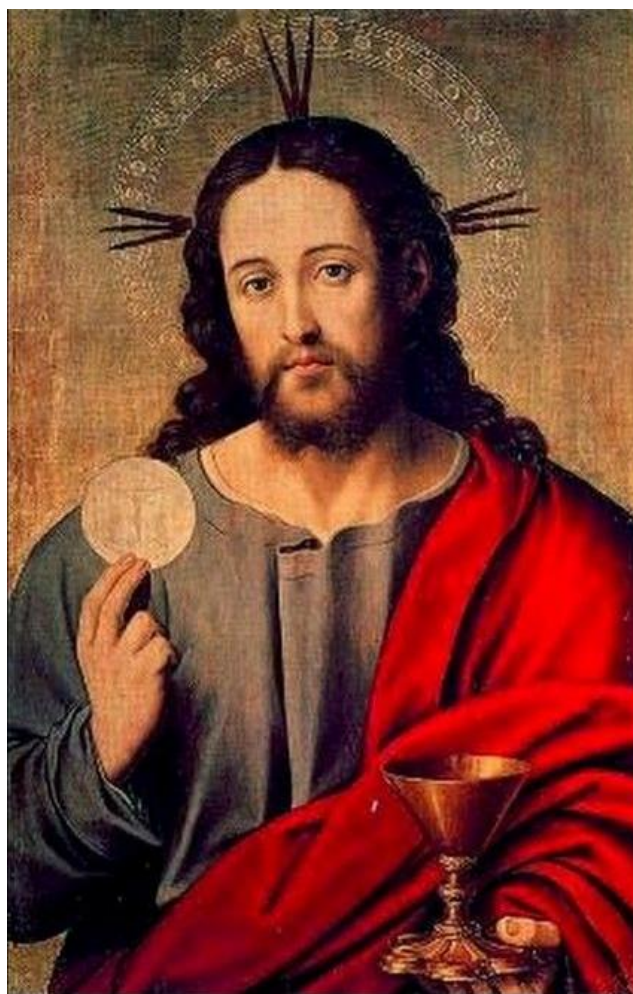
- Roberto Meza, TOF led our after-meal Grace (which is part of our Rule.)
- Eileen Dunlap, TOF led us in Ongoing Formation, which was on Article 51 – Chastity.
 - The bodies of all humans are holy. We must remain chaste in our station of life and respect the bodies of others. We must not be wanton or selfish – married or single.
 - Eileen drew heavily on Casti Conubii, which is an encyclical from Pope Pius XI on chaste wedlock. She recommends we read it.
 - There is grace in marriage, which comes from God.
 - Casti Conubii recommends against mixed-faith marriages. **(Note: while Casti Conubii forbade marriages of mixed religions, the 1983 Code of Canon Law now provides for mixed-faith marriage. However, such marriage must be approved by the local bishop first. – Virgil Daniel, TOF)**
 - Raise children wisely and faithfully.
 - Abortion is condemned for **any** reason. Each life is sacred.
 - We must defend the innocent and voiceless. Even in the case of rape.
 - Abortion is **always** against God’s will. “God is the avenger of innocent blood that cries to heaven for justice.”
 - One in five children are aborted – not including those who never lived because of contraception.
 - Upcoming ballot initiatives in Ohio regarding abortion on minors will make access to abortion part of the Ohio Constitution. **VOTE “YES” ON ISSUE 1 IN AUGUST! VOTE “NO” ON ISSUE 1 IN NOVEMBER!**
 - For more on Issue 1, which also has ramifications on transgender surgery on minors, check the Protect Our Constitution website.
 - Eileen also provided several informational documents which explain Issue 1.
- Virgil Daniel, TOF discussed how we conduct our election of fraternity officers following the Constitution.
 - The Constitution stipulates there should be one Minister/Prefect and 4 Councilors in each fraternity.
 - We currently have a Minister, Vice-Minister, Treasurer, Secretary, and Councilors.
 - There should be no nominations from the floor.
 - A nominating committee selects a slate of candidates.
 - After the vote is taken, the chairman announces publicly how many votes each candidate receives.
 - Virgil is working with Fr. Vit to propose an amendment to the Statutes.
 - The Master of Formation will be an elected position.
 - We may not vote for ourselves, or the vote will be invalidated.
 - Other details to follow.
 - The next election will be October 2024.
- Maria Elena Meza, TOF presented the Infirmarian Report.
 - No recent contact with Sandy Pollino, OFS.
 - Bill Marshall, TOF talked to Elizabeth Francis, TOF. She attends Mass regularly. He will meet with her soon.
 - Julia Tarulli, TOF and Jennifer Kerns, TOF are experiencing continuing health concerns and ask for our prayer support.
 - Mary Cate Roberts, TOF was present at the Gathering! She is recovering well and thanks us for our prayers.
- Joanne Angeletti, TOF, Carol Perrine, TOF, and Mary Dye, TOF participated in the Stand for Life for June. Their witness was peaceful.
- Virgil Daniel, TOF prepared the Portiuncula offering, and Rick Dunlap, TOF delivered it to street people in Canton.
- 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, Sheila Burtscher, Nico Ventosa, Larry and Lucy McNutt, TOF, and Dorothy Takacs, OFS.*

- We prayed the St. Michael Prayer, and then Roberto led us in the Gathering Closing Prayer.
- The annual fraternity picnic will be August 20, and will also be our monthly Gathering. It will take place at Queen of Heaven Parish in Green. Food assignments will be announced.
- Wake service forms are available on the website or contact Roberto. Members are encouraged to give some thought to this and if they would like to have the Wake Service at their funerals.

Save the Date (July, the Month of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus)

July 16	July Gathering (1:30 PM – St. Nicholas Byzantine Church)
July 16	Canonization of St. Francis of Assisi
August 2	Feast of St. Mary of the Angels (Santa Maria degli Angeli) – Portiuncula Indulgence
August 12	Feast of St. Clare of Assisi, Foundress of the Poor Clares
August 15	Assumption of the Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)
August 20	August Gathering and Annual Picnic, Queen of Heaven Parish (Details TBA)



ANIMA CHRISTI

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
 Body of Christ, save me.
 Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
 Water from the side of Christ,
 wash me.
 Passion of Christ,
 strengthen me.
 O good Jesus, hear me.
 Within Thy wounds hide me.
 Suffer me not to be separated
 from Thee.
 From the malignant enemy,
 defend me.
 In the hour of my death, call
 me and bid me come to Thee.
 That with Thy saints I may
 praise Thee,
 Forever and ever.
 Amen.

*An indulgence of 300 days
 or an indulgence of 7 years if
 recited after Holy Communion.*

www.worksbyfaith.org

Note: Church law on Indulgences changed after Vatican II - no more 300 days or 7 years. The current grant of indulgence (2006 in English) for the Anima Christi remains for reciting this prayer, as an act of Thanksgiving, after Communion. The grant is for a partial indulgence.