



Soldiers of Christ

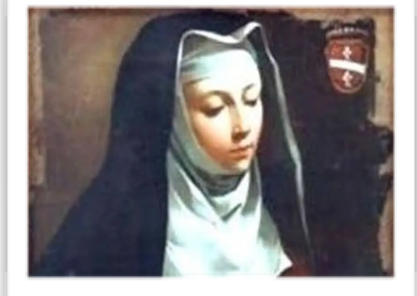
Newsletter of the
Isolated Franciscan Tertiaries
of the OFM Province of the
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Sandy Baden, TOF, Editor

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BLESSED ANGELINE OF MARSCIANO RELIGIOUS (Submitted by Debbie Ventosa, TOF)



Famously known as the second founder of the Franciscan Order, St. Bonaventure's feast day is celebrated on July 15th. Just two days prior to his feast day the Proper office of Franciscan Saints and Blessed in the Liturgy of the Hours will commemorate a Third Order Blessed. Her life was not as well known as St. Bonaventure.

Her name is Blessed Angeline of Marsciano Religious. Her commitment to the third order way of life, and generously in living the Rule, brought comfort to many. She was from a noble family, married, and sadly her husband died two years into the marriage. Following his death, Angeline dedicated her life to widows, children, and bringing sinners back to virtue. She had the ability to draw others to living a life of virginity. She founded the sisterhood of the Third Order Regulars when she was a mere twenty years old. Angeline also built fifteen convents for following the Rule of St. Francis in various locations prior to her death at age fifty-seven.

As a Third Order Franciscan, Blessed Angeline strived for holiness where God put her, in her family, town, and with those she encountered daily. The example she lived is inspiring and challenges us to seek holiness according to our station in life where God has placed us.

Bonnie Aberdeen, TOF

Bonnie Aberdeen was born in Washington state and her family's heritage includes pioneers who were employed to extend the railroad from California to Washington. Her mother was a Registered Nurse and Bonnie received her degree in education. It was during her college years as a "high church Anglican" that Bonnie's English history class clarified her concerns regarding the primacy of the Pope. She attended a Newman Club meeting where she grew to understand and love the Blessed Virgin Mary. She entered the Catholic Church during her senior year of college.



Bonnie volunteered at the local Catholic hospital where the nuns gave her reading materials that strengthened her understanding of Catholicism. Embracing the beauty of the Catholic faith and the Sacraments she continued to grow in her love of Our Lord, and in her faith.

Anton was the love of Bonnie's life and she was drawn to his work ethic as a fisherman, his strong roots in the Catholic faith, and ardent love for her. Bonnie reciprocated this love as she took her vows seriously "in sickness and in health." They were married almost nineteen years when the many health challenges took Anton home to Jesus.

Bonnie's servant heart as a teacher for special needs children and sexually and physically abused children was where she lived the sacrificial love of Christ. Her gift of teaching was used to build the Church in the RCIA program and a widows program.

The Franciscan charism was her calling and she professed as an OFS. Bonnie served on the Council and Formation for years. Bonnie's sense of humor and introspection during a recent infirmity gave her time to "reflect on the things we should have been reflecting on all of our lives." She felt called to a "Spiritual House Cleaning" under the direction of the Franciscan clergy and reached out to the TOF.

St. Claire of Assisi and her spiritual concept of the "mirror," as well as Padre Pio's surrender and suffering, are the two saints she continues to relate and grow in her faith with love of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Please welcome Bonnie as she is a delightfully joyful example of Franciscan joy.

(Submitted by Debbie Ventosa, TOF)

Word's from St. Padre Pio

"The most beautiful act of faith is the one made in darkness, in sacrifice, and with extreme effort." "The storms that are raging around you will turn out to be for God's glory, your own merit, and the good of many souls."

Bob Zupanek, Novitiate



When the Holy Spirit prompts...Bob Zupanek pays attention! His story begins as a cradle Catholic attending Catholic grade school serving as an altar boy and participating in youth programs. While on leave during his military service he was selected by his family to deliver food to several student nurses, one of whom was his cousin who was on duty during the holiday weekend. His “yes” to that is

when he met his future wife Karen. They said “yes” at the altar and Karen converted to Catholicism to maintain a united faith household as they raised their two sons.

Bob attended college following the military, obtaining an Associate degree in Industrial Management and a BA in Business Administration, by taking night classes and working full time during the day. This faith-filled couple went on to continue to follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit, raising a family. Karen who had been working in the field of mental health was offered the opportunity to take over a group home. The family moved into living in the group home that Karen managed in Beaver PA for five years.



Bob’s work led to a transfer to KY. While living in KY and working full time, Bob heeded the Holy Spirits call and entered seminary at fifty-two years old to work toward a degree as a Pastoral Associate. This was a four year night school and summer school endeavor which included a practicum. The practicum was at Holy Spirit Parish which served the community at the University of Kentucky. Bob fell in love working with those students and shifted from Parish Administration into Campus ministry and for the next ten years Bob served in that capacity, working simultaneously at two colleges Hampden-Sydney College, a private all male campus Longwood University a co-ed state associated school as Campus Minister.



Bob's lovely wife, Karen over the years developed a number of health issues, so when Bob hit retirement age he asked Karen, "where do you want to live?" She wished to reside near the beach. They picked up and moved to North Carolina in 2016 and became members of a vibrant faith community at St. Paul Catholic Church. "Old St. Paul's" is the oldest Catholic Church in North Carolina. The main campus is a few miles away and includes a school and a Family Parish Center. The third campus, St. Peter the Fisherman, is approximately thirty miles away. Bob participates in the KofC and several of the parish prayer groups. His lovely bride valiantly bore her cross with Bob at her side as she went to her eternal reward in 2021.

Bob and Karen had saved and planned an extensive pilgrimage, but Karen passed just three months and eleven days before their 50th anniversary. Many friends and family encourage Bob to take the opportunity to attend the Pilgrimage and the Holy Spirit was confirming those suggestions. It was a faith filled and fruitful journey to many holy sites in Europe, Medjugorje and the Holy Land. Upon returning home Bob continued with the Prayer groups. One in the Spirit, Medjugorje, Fatima and Divine Mercy, but felt strongly he was being asked to do more. He reached out to several third orders on advice of a priest and the connection with the TOF was where he was led.

Bob just entered the Novitiate phase of the formation as an Isolated Tertiary and has been to the day of recollection at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of The Afflicted in Youngstown. The community hopes that when he visits his son and grandchildren, who live in Boardman, OH they can meet him and rekindle the friendship that began at the Shrine and over zoom. Welcome Bob, what a blessing to journey with you to the Franciscan way of life.

(Submitted by Debbie Ventosa, TOF)



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 58: To be Presented by, Gordon Smith, TOF, July Zoom Gathering.

They shall show deep reverence for God's churches, whether these are large and richly furnished, or small and poor, and they shall make visits to them readily, whenever an opportunity occurs. There they shall adore Christ with the words of their Seraphic Father: "We adore You, most holy Lord Jesus Christ, here and in all your churches throughout the world; and we bless You, because by Your holy Cross You have redeemed the world." Thus, through participation in the Eucharist, they shall realize and profess their membership of the Mystical Body of Christ, of whose unity this most sublime Sacrament is the symbol, the sustaining power, and the perfection.

Questions to be presented by Gordon Smith, TOF for discussion:

1. What is the most surprising thing you found regarding the influence of Article 58 on the need for co-existence and diversity in a contemporary secular society through the Eucharist?
2. How can we implement Article 58 into our social structures as been the Mystical Body of Christ?



“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 and Mary Tag, TOF
THURSDAY:	Sandy Baden, TOF
FRIDAY:	Linda Menser, TOF Pepe Ventosa, TOF
SATURDAY:	Ericka Witover, TOF Miguel Mahan, 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.)

ADMONITION XXI: THE TALKATIVE RELIGIOUS

(Study on the Admonitions of St. Francis of Assisi, By Sandy Baden, TOF)



Blessed that (=Blessed is the Servant) who never says anything just for what he can get out of it. He should never be hasty in his words (Prov. 29:20) or open his heart to everyone, but he should think hard before he speaks.

Woe to that religious who does not keep the favors God has given him to himself (Lk 2:19, 51) people should see them only through his his good works; but he wants to tell everybody about them, hoping he will get something out of it. In this way he has received his reward (Mt. 6:2, 16) and it does not do his listeners any good.

After reading Admonition XXI, the conclusion reached seemed to say it did not not apply entirely for Isolated Tertiaries in our world today. It mostly concerned those who were living in a Monastic life. We, as Isolated Tertiaries, spontaneously speak our minds at our Zoom Gatherings on the topic being discussed at the moment.

We do have to consider the “Blessed” and the “Woe” as Lothar Hardick, OFM elaborates in this Admonition. As Isolated Tertiaries, we do not have the option to keep silent, stop and reflect on an answer to a question, or say yes or no as a response. Our way of life is to rely on the Holy Spirit for guidance when we are at our Zoom Gatherings. The question is, “How do we know what the proper Christian attitude must be,” and “What is the right way of speaking as Lothar Hardick, OFM states? Outside of the Zoom Gatherings we may consider some of those options as suggested, but these suggestions may seem unrealistic at different times.

It would be safe to say, we have been “Blessed” that we can speak at our Zoom Gatherings. Without this form of communication we would not be able to know who each of us are as we are scattered throughout the world. How “Blessed” we are to be able to meet and speak to each other as Isolated Tertiaries.

If what we speak is “Woe” because we talk over someone or take more time than we should when reflecting on a topic, then yes, you could say “Woe” concerning that person. Outside of our Zoom Gatherings we are to emanate the love of Christ and by so doing we are doing the “Will of God.” We should refrain from saying things that would be close to our hearts as gifts from God so as not to offend our listener, or be hasty in our words as the Admonition reflects.

The statements stated in this Admonition may seem unrealistic in some ways, but are they really? There are times when we may refrain from saying something or simply just say, “Yes or No,” anything more may be harmful. There are also those times when we must stop and reflect on an answer to a question so not to say something in hast and be sorry for what was said. Yes, there may be a time when we may need to keep silent for for there may not be anything to say to help the situation. We look to Mary, the Mother of God who kept all these things in her heart, and as St. Francis had said, “to spread the Gospel and sometimes without words.”

Let not our tongues bring harm to anyone or to ourselves in our speech, but concentrate on the right way of speaking with a proper Christian attitude. In our obedience to our Rule and love of our Lord Jesus Christ we will be able to discern, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to obtain proper speech and seek silence when necessary.

Quote from St. Francis of Assisi

“We must be on our guard against pride and empty boasting and beware of worldly or natural wisdom. A worldly spirit loves to talk a lot but do nothing, striving for the exterior signs of holiness that people can see, with no desire for true piety and interior holiness of spirit.”

Upcoming Events

- JULY 6: 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: Article 58
- JULY 13: IT Inquiry Formation Group 2: 7:00 PM Eastern Time, 4:00 PM Pacific Time. You can sign in 15 minutes earlier before the meeting begins.
- JULY 1: St. Junipero Serra, Priest, Franciscan
- JULY: 15: St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church (Franciscan).