



Soldiers of Christ

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

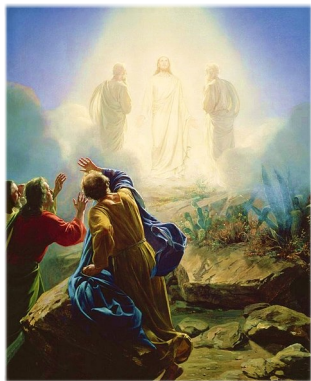
August, 2023

Sandy Baden, TOF, Editor

Vol 3, Issue 8

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Feast day: July 6, 2023



Mt 17: 1-8: After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His cloths became as white as the light. And behold Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, “Lord, it good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.” When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them saying, “Rise, and do not be afraid.” And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone.

How awesome is this Scripture in Mathew describing the Transfiguration of the Lord. What is interesting to note is the three apostles seemed not afraid of the Lord’s Transfiguration as the Lord’s face shone like the sun, and his cloths became white as light, but they were terrified at the voice of God. They knew they were in the presence of Moses and Elijah, yet this did not create the fear they experienced until they heard the voice of God.

There could be a little humor in this account of the Transfiguration of our Lord, as Peter says, “It is good to be here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” Peter did not want to leave, and did he not think Moses and Elijah would return to where they had come? How long were they going to stay on the high mountain?

Jesus is revealing His divine nature in all His glory indicating that God had come in the flesh and declared Him as His Son. “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; Listen to Him.” Moses and Elijah representing the Law and the Prophets of the Old Testament as they heard the voice of God that came from a cloud. The Transfiguration of the Lord helps us see that Jesus is the “Light of the Word” and we should always listen to Him.

Listen to our Lord Jesus Christ as God tells us, “This is My beloved Son, Listen to Him.” Do we hear our Lord in the Scriptures, in our daily lives, in our work, our leisure, or in our prayer? Always remember the Transfiguration of Our Lord to help us remember the faith God has blessed us and the awesomeness of this Luminous Mystery when we pray the Rosary.

When we think of St. Thomas, the Apostle, whose Feast Day was July 3rd, and how St. Thomas needed confirmation that Jesus had risen from the dead. The Transfiguration should leave us no room for doubt. St. Thomas had said, “My Lord and My God,” when seeing our Lord, His hands, His side and His feet. Jesus was transfigured before them, Peter, James and John, witnessed Jesus’ face as it became dazzling as the sun. This account in the Scriptures, Mathew 17: 1-8, should be our confirmation of the love God has for His Son and His love for us.

Sandy Baden, TOF

POPE BENEDICT XVI ON THE TRANSFIGURATION

The transfiguration is a prayer event, Benedict explains. “It displays visibly what happens when Jesus talks with his father: the profound interpenetration of his being with God, which then becomes pure light.” In his oneness with the Father, Jesus is himself “light from light.”

August 6, 2019

Getting to know our Isolated Tertiaries

Welcome Peter Emau, TOF



We welcome Peter Emau, TOF, established as an Isolated Tertiary June 13th, on the Feast of St. Anthony of Padua.

A cradle Catholic and native of Uganda Africa, Peter's family and village life was steeped in Catholicism. His father was one of the first catechists in the missions established by the Mill Hill Fathers and Franciscan Sisters in their village in Uganda. The Catholic Church permeated the village environment supporting the education of the children in the faith and academically. The

Franciscan Sisters ran the girls' school, hospital, and trained nurse midwives. The Mill Hill Fathers (also called Saint Joseph Missionary Society) educated the boys of the village and educated men to become catechists. These catechists eventually served not only their communities but were vital in teaching the faith at the outstations where Peter and his siblings were formed in the faith. Peter's family began the day with prayer, and as the bells rang at noon, 3:00 PM, and 6:00 PM, all the villagers stopped their activities of pray in their native tongue.

Mass was celebrated in Latin with men together and women together on opposite sides of the Church. Communion is received on the tongue kneeling at the communion rail and a deep reverence and respect of the Mass is evident in posture and wearing the Sunday best clothing.

Peter grew in this fertile Catholic community and assisted in leadership positions as well as helping where the need arose. He attended Catholic school until the University level, then the Government school is where he obtained a degree in Veterinary Medicine. At the University of California, Davis Campus, his graduate degree was completed.

Peter met his future wife, Margo, at the University of California. Margo entered the RCIA program prior to their marriage in 1985 and now have three adult children. Throughout his career the family moved and lived in Washington State, California, Ohio, Georgia, Wisconsin, Kenya and Uganda. The foundation of Peter's faith was maintained through the decades as a simple contemplative faith that is inseparable from daily life.

Peter's Franciscan journey began with the Irish Franciscan Missionary Sisters for Africa, who together with the Mill Hill Fathers, had settled and established a Mission in Uganda in the early 1900's. His Cousin is a religious Little Sister of St. Francis who invited Peter to look into the Third Order of St. Francis and gave him a book titled, "Handbook of The Third Order," based on the Rule of 1883. He began formation in 2007 and was Professed in October 2009 as a Secular Franciscan in Bremerton, Washington. While working in Ohio he belonged to the St. Padre Pio fraternity in Columbus, Ohio until he retired and returned to Washington to be closer to his children. He was longing for a deeper spirituality and was introduced to the TOF website by Alison Vermente-Lente, another Isolated Tertiary in the Washington area.

Peter will be invested in the month of July and encourage you to reach out to him for inspiring details on his life and journey. He is a delight and inspiration as he continues to spread the Gospel through is care of mentally challenged family members and plans for a Franciscan Retreat Center in his native village. Our community welcomes Peter and look forward to walking together toward the path to holiness in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi.

The picture above shows Peter receiving his Scapular and Rope on June 13, 2023, Investiture.

Submitted by Debbie Ventosa, TOF

XX

"Oh how happy and blessed are they who love the Lord, and who do as the Lord himself says in the Gospel: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with whole heart and they whole soul and they neighbor as thyself (Mt. 22: 37-39). Let us therefore love God and adore him with a pure heart and a pure mind... And let us praise him and pray to him day and night... Let us, moreover, produce the good fruit of penance (Lk. 3, 8). And let us love our neighbors as ourselves."

(Our holy Father Francis, First letter to all Christians)

FORMATION NEWS

Let us Celebrate as we have two Holy Professions in June and July into our order as Isolated Tertiaries: Gordon and Frank. We are truly blessed to have Gordon and Frank who are now TOF. Both are from Australia.



Gordon was Professed on
June 18, 2023....

Congratulations! Gordon, TOF



Frank was Professed on
July 16, 2023....

Congratulations! Frank, TOF

We celebrate James who has entered into the Novitiate phase of Formation. James had his ceremony at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Comforter of The Immaculate Conception in Ohio, on June 24, 2023.

Congratulations James from Virginia!



Be sure to read Jame's interview in the September issue of the Soldiers of Christ Newsletter.

XX

ARTICLE 4: It is the duty of the Third Order, as a leaven of the Gospel perfection put into the world, to give stability and strength to Christian life within the Church, and to maintain and spread Christ's kingdom by setting before others a pattern of genuine holiness.

**HONORARY MEMBER
ISOLATED FRANCISCAN TERTIARY**

Tien Peter Tran, TOF

Submitted by Pepe Ventosa, TOF

On July 15, 2023, Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM established our first Isolated Tertiary Honorary Member, Tien Tran, TOF.

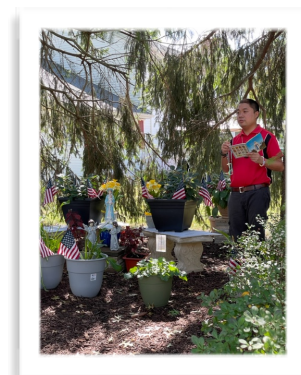


Tien is twenty-seven years old and lives with his parents and younger brother in Camp Hill, PA. Tien's name means angel in Vietnamese and his Christian name is Peter. Tien and family are parishioners in the Diocese of Harrisburg. Tien is joyful when attending daily and Sunday Masses as well as visiting shrines, especially the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception and Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land. Tien is a graduate of the nationally accredited Seton Home Study School, and he has earned Catechism Certificates from the Diocese of Harrisburg. He attends Elizabethtown College Preparatory Division for

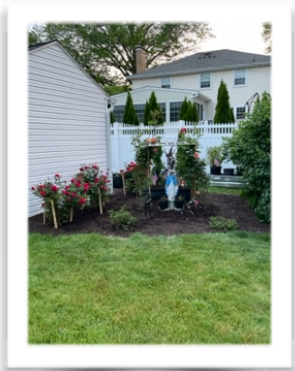
Tien is praying in front of the Our Lady of Grace statue at the family's home Rosary Garden

music lessons of voice, piano, and improvisational drums. Daily prayer devotions of the Rosary, Chaplet Divine Mercy, The Angelus, and Latin prayers as well as reading the Bible have helped Tien to grow in learning to know, love and serve Our Lord. Tien learns best by visual means and his mother made for him a Rosary (with the four mysteries) and a Chaplet of Divine Mercy Garden where he goes for his daily prayers. Tien's other interests include golfing, swimming, listening to Christian music, reading Bible audio books, watching Bible movies, and going to amusement parks.

Tien is praying the Glorious Mystery by Our Lady of La Vane statue at the family's home Rosary Garden



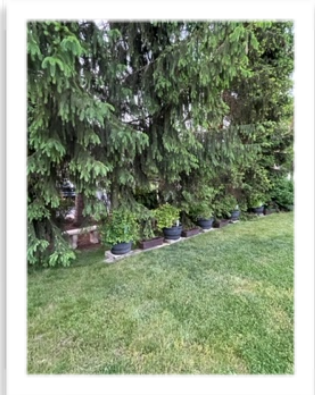
As an Honorary Member, Br. Tien will keep the OFM Province of the Immaculate Conception, our Community of Tertiaries, and any individual prayers from its members in his prayers. As he prays for us, our Community prays for him. His family is planning to travel to our annual Day of Recollection on November 11, 2023 to celebrate the Ceremony of Investiture at the Shrine of our Our Lady of the Comforter and receive his Tertiary habit. We are blessed to have Br. Tien with us.



Our Lady of Grace



Joyful Mysteries



Sorrowful Mysteries



Luminous Mysteries



Glorious Mysteries



**Chaplet of Divine
Mercy**

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.

We need volunteers for Presentations for September, October, November, and December: Articles 61-62, 63, 64-66, and 67-68.

Please contact Linda Menser, TOF if you would like to volunteer for future presentations.



“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 XXII: TRUE CORRECTION

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



Blessed the religious (= Blessed is the servant) who takes blame (= correction), accusation, or punishment from another as patiently as if it were coming from himself.

Blessed the religious (= Blessed is the servant) who obeys quietly when he is corrected, confesses his fault humbly and makes atonement cheerfully.

Blessed the religious (= Blessed is the servant) who is in no hurry to make excuses, but accepts the embarrassment & blame for some fault he did not commit.

In this Admonition we can see we must look at: the servant who takes blame patiently, the servant who obeys quietly, and the servant who is in no hurry to make excuses. Can you see yourself in any of these situations or in all of them? How did you deal with these difficult scenarios?" Looking back we can see how we should have reacted differently or we can see how well we had accepted the Correction for our fault.

Lothar Hardick, OFM, concentrates on the word "correction," which is much better than the word "punishment." Correction seems to be the best way to explain any blame or criticism from another to ease hurt feelings or anger which may arise. If "True Correction," in our time, is needed, hopefully it should be done tactfully, with love, and consideration of the person receiving the correction. If this is done, then it would be easier to take the blame or accusations patiently. However, if correction is given with harsh words and insensitivity it would be difficult to accept, but we must control ourselves in these situations. Resentment can occur towards the person giving the Correction. We then take it to prayer. Remember Patience is a virtue.

Humility is also a virtue and being corrected is difficult. What good would it do to be angry and upset over being corrected. If we take the blame for something we have done and accept it, the correction might not seem so bad. Think of Our Blessed Mother and how she took everything into her heart in silence. Can we not follow her example? This would then mean if we have difficulty in obeying quietly we should then say a few “Hail Mary’s.” Also, be thankful we are not living during the time of St. Francis and have to take the kind of corrections he would give as Lothar Hardick, OFM has illustrated.

How do we accept the embarrassment and blame for some fault we did not commit and not be in a hurry to make excuses? We then would have to include Humility, Patience, and what else? “Obedience,” Humility, and Patience combined as they all play a part in remaining silent when being accused. Our Lord Jesus Christ was taken and falsely accused before he was brought before Pilate and then ordered to be scourged. All that Our Lord experienced was in His silence and with the will of the Father. This is the time to think of our Lord in his passion and realize in the end the truth will be exposed.

All of these examples are not easy to endure, Patience, Humility and Obedience fits all of these encounters. Patience in acceptance of listening to the accusation and Correction from another. Being considerate as a listener and in silent acceptance of what is being presented.

To be humble and obedient while being corrected as our Lord Jesus Christ did in his Passion. Be silent as the Mother of God. Go to prayer and pray a few Hail Mary’s while carrying our Lord’s cross.

Lastly, for the blame for the fault we did not commit. Endurance in prayer, continue to do “God’s Will” and not worry what others may think. Give thanks to God that it is not St. Francis giving the Correction and remember or Lord knows the truth.

BIRTH OF A NEW CLUSTER IN WASHINGTON STATE

Submitted by Alison Vertmette-Lente

Peace of Christ be with you!

A Cluster has been formed with the Washington Isolated TOFs on July 21, 2023. We are comprised of Bonnie Gilovich, TOF, from Aberdeen, Fr. Daniel Dozier, TOF, from Olympia/Lacy, Peter Emau, TOF, from Bainbridge Island, and Alison K. Vermette-Lente, TOF, from Bremerton.

The meeting took place via ZOOM with opening prayer led by Fr. Daniel. We discussed the dynamics of what a cluster entails and proceeded to pick a name for our Cluster. It was a unanimous decision, as Bonnie read from the Magnificat and Fr. Daniel held his icon. We chose a doctor of the church, St. Lawrence of Brindisi, OFM Capuchin; and decided that we will study his homilies as on-going formation discussions as part of our structure in addition to the Lecto Divina for our monthly gatherings. Peter led our closing prayer and Fr. Daniel gave us a blessing with special prayers for Bonnie's health.

Our Cluster gatherings will be mostly on the third Thursdays of the month for an hour. We are hoping to eventually have meetings at Fr. Daniel's parish with Divine Liturgy and at Bonnie's home. For now, though, everyone is happy we have met, found a name, established a time, and what we want to study. The Holy Spirit is moving us.

Pax et Bonum!

UPCOMING RETREAT (A FRANCISCAN RETREAT)

The annual retreat from the Confraternity of Penitents (CFP) will be taking place on October 11-15 at St. Felix Catholic Center, Huntington, IN. The CFP, a community of Franciscan Tertiaries, have extended an invitation to us again this year. Some members of our community attended the retreat last year and it was a great opportunity for prayer, ongoing formation, and fellowship with other Third Order communities. Space is limited and reservations are required. For reservations, please contact via their website or go to franciscanthirdorderpenitents.com/retreat. Hope you can join us.

Upcoming Events

- AUGUST 3: 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 56-60, Virgil Daniel, TOF
- AUGUST 13: IT Novitiate Formation Group 1: 7:00 PM Eastern Time, 4:00 PM Pacific Time. You can sign in 15 minutes earlier before the meeting begins.
- AUGUST 6: Transfiguration of the Lord
- AUGUST 15: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

