

August, 2023

Volume 4, Issue 8

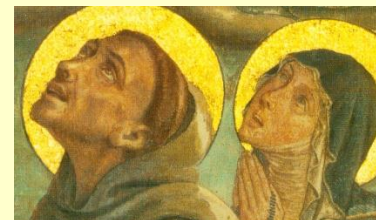
Il Poverello

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

Along with many of the great saints of the Church, St. Maximilian Kolbe, OFM was devoted to Mary, to whose Immaculate Heart the Church dedicates August.

Raymond Kolbe was born in 1894 in Poland. In common with many Polish families then and now, his family were joyfully devout Catholics. At the age of 10, he had a vision of Mary, who offered him two crowns, one white and the other red. Raymond recalled, "That night I asked the Mother of God what was to become of me. Then she came to me holding two crowns, one white, the other red. She asked me if I was willing to accept either of these crowns. The white one meant that I should persevere in purity and the red that I should become a martyr. I said that I would accept them both."

At the age of 13, Raymond and his older brother entered the Conventual Franciscan seminary. He chose Maximilian as his name while a novice, and in 1914 was sent to Rome. He earned a doctorate in theology and was ordained in 1918, and then taught in the Krakow seminary. At the end of World War I, Fr. Kolbe witnessed the marches led by the Freemasons against the Catholic Church in Italy. He responded by organizing the Army of the Immaculata, which was dedicated to the conversion of sinners and enemies of the Church through the intercession of Mary.

During the 1920s, Fr. Kolbe travelled to India and Japan, where he established monasteries. The Indian monastery eventually closed, but the Nagasaki monastery not only survived the atomic bomb, but the priests and brothers, who were praying the Rosary when the bombing started as they did every day before Mass, were spared radiation burns and poisoning despite being only a mile from ground zero, with no casualties.

Fr. Kolbe returned to Poland and was placed in charge of his monastery. He and his Franciscan brothers published a monthly magazine as well as a daily newspaper which had a circulation of over 300,000. He started a radio station and broadcast Catholic programming. When the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939, Fr. Kolbe's monastery offered sanctuary, food, and medical care to over 2,000 Jews who were in hiding on their journey to escape.

In 1941, Fr. Kolbe was arrested by the Nazis, beaten, tortured, and imprisoned in Auschwitz, where he was put to hard labor. He took this opportunity to bring his ministry to the prisoners, and secretly offered Mass and Confessions and brought spiritual comfort. When a Polish family man was sentenced to die along with 11 other men by starvation in a hot, windowless metal bunker, Fr. Kolbe asked to take the poor man's place, and continued his ministry with the doomed men. Fr. Kolbe was the last to die two weeks later by lethal injection on the eve of the Feast of the Assumption, having gained both the white crown of purity and the red crown of martyrdom. He was canonized by St. Pope John Paul II in 1982.

Fraternity Council

Roberto Meza, TOF

– Minister

Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM

– Spiritual Director

James Miller, TOF –

Vice-Minister

Mary Dye, TOF – Secretary

Therese Harper, TOF –

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Virgil Daniel, TOF –

Councilor

Chris Devore, TOF –

Councilor

Pepe Ventosa, TOF –

Councilor

Debbie Ventosa, TOF

– Formation Director

Susan Kramer, TOF

– Newsletter

Next Gathering –

ANNUAL PICNIC!

– Sunday, August 20

@ 1:30 PM

Queen of Heaven Parish

1800 Steese Rd. Uniontown

44685

We are expecting you!

Franciscan Quote of the Month

“Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much.

You can never love her more than Jesus does.”

**St. Maximilian Kolbe, OFM (1894-1941) Feast Day – August 14 Priest, Professor, Publisher, Editor,
Broadcaster – Patron saint of Radio Broadcasters, Addicts, Journalists, and Prisoners**



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

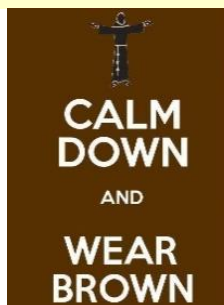
The apostolate of daily Eucharistic Adoration is VITAL to our Fraternity. It does not depend only on the 26 brothers and sisters listed above and is not only limited to one day. If you wish to take a place on the Adoration list, please contact Susan Kramer. When you find yourself at church, say a prayer of adoration to our good Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

August Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

Bob Burtscher, TOF – 27 Years

Carol Perrine, TOF – 26 Years



Birthdays

Debbie Ventosa, TOF – 8/6

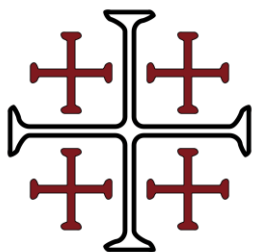
Jim Miller, TOF – 8/15

Stand for Life



Mike Butts, TOF and Rick Dunlap, TOF will pray on August 19 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.**

Upcoming CFP Retreat



Plans are 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.

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 information about cost and for reservations please contact the CFP via their website or go to franciscanthirdorderpenitents.com/retreat

There are fraternity funds available for members who want to attend but need assistance. **Give it prayerful consideration!**

Hospitality and Little Portion (Picnic News!)

Our Annual Picnic on August 20 at Queen of Heaven Parish, 1800 Steese Road, Uniontown, 44685 will take the place of our August Gathering.

Anna Butts will prepare the Little Portion, and Kenny Green, TOF and Bill Marshall, TOF will deliver.

See the posting below for information. Mary Dye, TOF will be sending out an email with details on food assignments. Or, if you do not receive the newsletter via email, you may contact Mary to see what you can bring to our feast!

Bring your Franciscan Crown rosaries and your appetite!



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, a local woman who sews 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.



Come and See – by Debbie Ventosa, TOF

The St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity will be hosting a "Come and See" event with Fr. Vit Fiala on Tuesday, August 29th at 7 PM at St. Nicholas Byzantine Church in Barberton.

Please extend an invitation to those at your parish or others who may have an interest in the Franciscan way of life. And please attend yourself with those you invite to learn about the Third Order Franciscans.

Virgil Daniel, TOF has put together a pamphlet you can distribute or give to the prospective inquirers. Email Virgil and he will send you the pamphlet to download and print.

RSVP to Debbie Ventosa, TOF so I can get a list of names as well as a count of how many packets I need to get together.

And don't forget to pray for more Third Order Franciscan vocations!

A Message from Fr. Gastor Bahati, Diocese of Moshi

Dear Mama Susan, and our dear Franciscan and Clare Fraternity,

Prayerful and Heartfelt Greetings from Moshi Diocese.

It is my joy that you are doing very well spiritually and physically. I am really grateful to God for His love to us all, and I pray that, He continue to shower His Graces and Blessings to us. It has been a while, but be sure that you are always in my daily prayers, especially Holy Mass.

Here in Moshi, we are doing well. Personally, I am carrying on well with my pastoral service in the Bishop's House. I am really grateful to God. I believe it is because of your daily prayers and love. I therefore entrust you all and your dear families in the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Again, thank you so much Mama Susan, for the good wishes of my anniversary. I will never forget your generous and lovely heart. Stay blessed and protected in the hands of the Lord.

With unceasing prayers and best wishes, I remain.

In Christ,

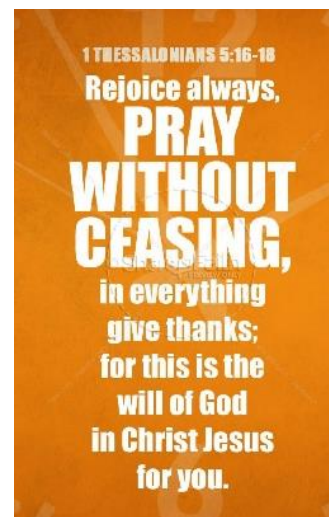
Fr. Gastor Bahati

Bishop's Secretary, Diocese of Moshi

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 contributor to "Catholic Answers" on EWTN radio. 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 and servants 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 – including the Third Order Franciscans, 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!

Lord, it is Good for Us to be Together!

We met for our July Gathering on July 16 at St. Nicholas Byzantine Church. There were over 30 in attendance, including John Paul Antalek, Oligario (Jerry) Johnson, John McGough, Fr. Vit, Jess and Carolyn Polleti, Annie Butts, and Fred Kramer.

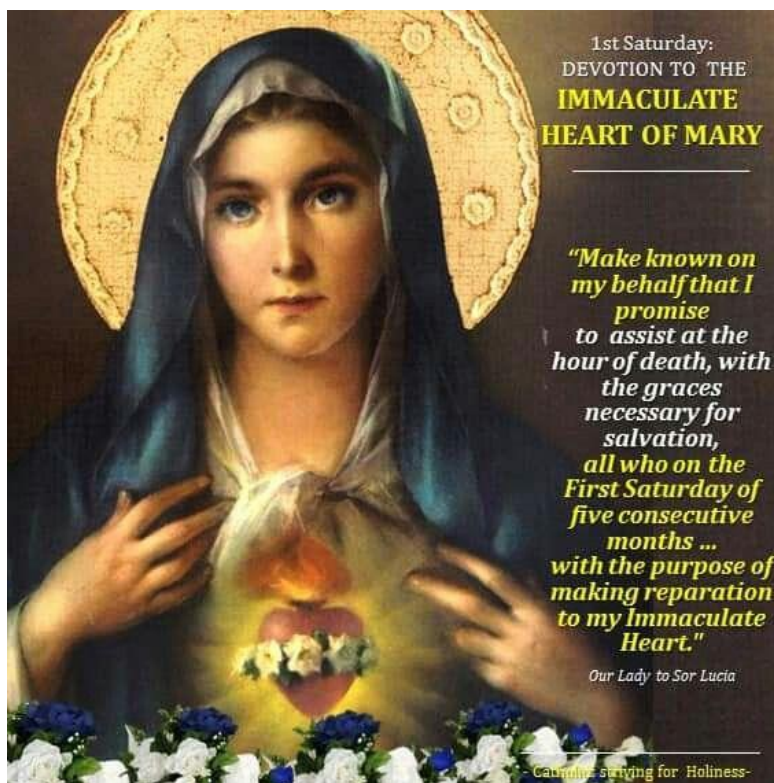
- Roberto Meza, TOF led us in the Ritual Gathering Opening Prayer.
- Kenny Green, TOF, Debbie Ventosa, TOF and Bill Marshall, TOF led us in Liturgy of the Hours.
- Pepe Ventosa, TOF led the Lectio Divina, and read the Gospel of the day from St. Matthew – the parable of the sower of seeds (“Some seed fell on rich soil”; “Whoever has ears ought to hear.”) Each table discussed what we heard and how we can bring this message to our faith lives.
- St. Barnabas, Northfield was selected as the recipient of the food pantry offering. Mary Dye, TOF will deliver.
- John Paul Antalek, whom we recently added to our list of local seminarians we have spiritually adopted, spoke to us briefly. He told us his vocation story, which began before he was born. His mother, Colleen, was in danger of death near her due date and was in the hospital. This was at the same time St. Pope John Paul was dying in 2005. As St. John Paul’s condition worsened, Colleen improved, and vice versa. One night, she was visited by St. John Paul, who told her, “Don’t worry. You and the baby will live, but I will go away.” Her baby, whom she and her husband Mike named John Paul, was born healthy a few days later, and Colleen recovered. John Paul was brought up in a very devout and loving Catholic family. At his home parish, St. Mary in Akron, John Paul and his three brothers are altar servers, and he and his sister and brother-in-law sing in the choir (little sister Beatrice participates at Mass in the pew with their parents). He prays the Rosary and Liturgy of the Hours daily. John Paul credits a retreat he attended at the age of 12, which was led by an especially joyful priest, with inspiring him to consider serving God and His Church as a priest. With the support of his family, John Paul gave a lot of prayer and thought to his future and decided to apply to Borromeo, where he will start his first year on August 24. He looks forward to the next nine years of seminary as a time of study, work, prayer, and deep discernment. If it turns out that the priesthood is not for him, Borromeo and St. Mary Seminaries will give him an excellent grounding in being a good Catholic family man. He sincerely asked us to continue praying for him, and he will do the same for us.
- Roberto Meza, TOF recognized Judith Hoyt, TOF, whose profession anniversary was in July, as well as Caroline Polleti, Therese Harper, TOF, Cindy Russo, TOF, and Fred Kramer who have birthdays in July.
- Roberto Meza, TOF led Grace before our lunch, prepared by Rose Akins, TOF and Denise Williams, TOF, with assistance from a few others who brought food to share. After enjoying our good lunch and visiting among ourselves, Roberto then led us in the Grace after the meal.
- Kenny Green, TOF led us in Ongoing Formation, which was on Christian Perfection According to the Franciscan Spirit.
 - Article 53 of the Constitution reads: “In order to recognize one another more easily and to be more effectively drawn together in bonds of fraternal charity, tertiaries shall wear an external Franciscan emblem, where this can be prudently done. Further, it is urged that one and the same emblem be worn throughout the world. Likewise, tertiaries shall salute one another with the Franciscan greeting, “pax et bonum (peace and all good)” or any other religious manner according to local usage.”
 - Kenny led a discussion recognizing the emblems we use as Franciscans.
 - The Tau cross we receive at Profession and wear daily.
 - The scapular of St. Francis, which we wear daily.
 - The cincture, or white cord, which we wear under our clothing.
 - Franciscan jewelry, such as Tau rings or necklaces, and the San Damiano cross.
 - The Franciscan Crown Rosary, which includes meditations on the seven joys of Mary.

- Kenny has a tattoos with the Tau and others Franciscan emblems.
 - We discussed the various greetings we give to others that are religious in nature.
 - “Pax et bonum” is the traditional greeting St. Francis used in speaking and in written correspondence. There is evidence of Franciscan communities using this greeting starting from the 15th century.
 - We often say, “God bless you” when someone sneezes, or in greeting or ending conversations with others.
 - Spanish-speaking people (including Pepe Ventosa, and Roberto and Maria Elena Meza) sometimes say, “Adios”, which Roberto explained means “to God”.
 - Even “Bless your heart!”, which is a Southern phrase, can be considered a religious greeting!
 - Kenny reminded us that right from the start, Francis and his friars were committed to preaching peace, not only in words, but with their lifestyle. St. Francis said, “The peace that you proclaim with your mouth, you must have even more abundantly in your hearts.”
- Roberto Meza, TOF presented the Infirmarian Report on behalf of Maria Elena Meza, TOF.
 - Bill Marshall, TOF paid a visit to Elizabeth Francis, TOF. She attends Mass regularly and is volunteering, though not as much as before. She appreciates our prayers.
 - Jennifer Kerns, TOF was unable to attend the Gathering and is experiencing continuing health concerns. She asks for our prayer support.
 - Mary Cate Roberts, TOF and Julia Tarulli, TOF were present at the Gathering, and we were so glad to see them!
 - Sandy Pollino, OFS is very ill and is in need of prayer support. She is experiencing constant migraines and other health challenges, per Judith Hoyt, TOF.
 - Judith Hoyt, TOF also reported that Dorothy Takacs, OFS is doing well under the circumstances.
 - Pat and Deanna Hurley, OFS are keeping busy. Pat’s cancer is in remission, thanks be to God.
- Master of Formation Debbie Ventosa, TOF reported our three postulants (Marlene Walker and Carolyn and Dennis Gacioch) are steadily progressing. There will be a Come and See on August 29 to start a new group.
- 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 Burtcher, Nico Ventosa, Larry and Lucy McNutt, TOF, and Dorothy Takacs, OFS**.
- Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM spoke on Spiritual Direction in his Ongoing Formation.
 - In the Sacrament of Confession, the Western and Eastern Rites of the Church take different approaches to spiritual direction.
 - The Western Rite of the Catholic Church encourages us to do our best in following God’s teaching and pleasing Him.
 - The Eastern Rite asks, “What do you desire?”
 - We must have a goal.
 - To attain sanctity.
 - To attain sainthood, ultimately.
 - What does sanctity mean, and how do we live it?
 - We must focus on pleasing God.
 - Eastern Rites are not so legalistic.
 - For instance, there is not as much differentiation between mortal sin and venial sin. **All* sin is bad and goes against God.*

- The Catholic Church – all Rites – seeks to produce saints.
- As for scandal:
 - Remember that the Church is never scandalous because it is of God. Individuals can cause scandal, but never the Church.
 - Wolves in sheep's clothing hide behind the Church to obscure their sin.
- We prayed the St. Michael Prayer, and then Roberto led us in the Gathering Closing Prayer.
- Fr. Vit gave us his blessing.
- **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 (August, the Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary)

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 enclosed)
August 20	Come and See (7 PM, St. Nicholas Byzantine Church)
November 11	Day of Recollection (Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted, Youngstown)



Immaculata, Queen and Mother of the Church, I renew my consecration to you for this day and for always, so that you might use me for the coming of the Kingdom of Jesus in the whole world.

To this end I offer you all my prayers, actions and sacrifices of this day.

St. Maximilian Kolbe, OFM – Prayer to the Immaculata