

October, 2023

Volume 4, Issue 10

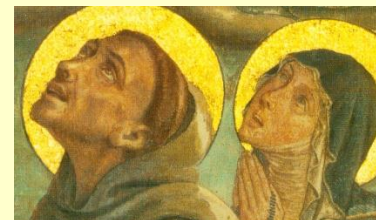
Il Poverello

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

As we approach the Transitus on October 3, which will be celebrated for our fraternity at St. Nicholas Church at 7 PM, it is a good time to consider the subject of death as Catholics and Franciscans.

Our culture shies away from the discussion of death as something morbid or even vulgar. But that is not the way our good St. Francis looked at it.

St. Francis had an active and very real relationship with Jesus, Mary and the saints. In fact, he regularly saw and spoke to them at night while his brothers were sleeping. The thought of dying and entering into eternity, and being in the presence of God and Jesus always filled him with great joy, and was his goal at the end of his earthly life, just as it should be for any believing Catholic.

St. Francis did not presume on being welcomed to Heaven immediately after death, but hoped for the chance to purify himself in Purgatory. Rather than viewing Purgatory with sorrow or fear, he was grateful for the second chance our good God gives His children to cleanse themselves before joining Him in Heaven.

St. Francis also thoughtfully prepared for his eventual death sensibly, by attending Mass regularly, receiving the Sacrament of Confession often, and all the other things the Church asks of us in order to keep in contact with God. He also prepared in a practical manner, advising his brothers – who, in his vocation as a Brother and Deacon, were in fact his family – of how he wanted his final arrangements to be handled. St. Francis wanted no coffin or even clothing in death, but to instead be returned to the earth, and, of course, a funeral Mass.

This is a good lesson to us. Often, devout Catholics are denied a funeral because their next of kin are not practicing Catholics and do not want to be bothered with a Mass, a wake, or even a Rosary and final prayers with a priest's blessing. Be sure to make your final arrangements now, clearly, to your family, parish, and funeral home. There is information upcoming about acquiring a Franciscan burial shroud, and Jim Miller, TOF will provide you with a simple form to ensure that your family will have the comfort of a Franciscan Wake Service, and that you will have the benefit of these prayers.

Don't put this off and leave it to your family, who will be faced with not only grief but other decisions when you leave this earth. There is nothing morbid or unlucky about ensuring your wishes are carried out, and that, as our Protestant brothers and sisters put it, you will have a final homecoming in our beautiful Catholic Franciscan manner.

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, October 15

St. Nicholas Byzantine Church

1051 E. Robinson Ave.

Barberton, OH 44203

We are expecting you!

Franciscan Quote of the Month

*“Go forth in peace, for you have followed the good road. Go forth without fear,
for He that created you has sanctified you, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother.
Blessed be Thou, O God, for having created me.”*

**St. Clare of Assisi (1194-1253) Founder of the Poor Clares, Defender of the Blessed Sacrament,
Abbess, Patron Saint of Television**



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
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 25 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.

October Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

Chris Devore, TOF; LeeAnn Devore, TOF;
Cindy Russo, TOF – 5 Years

Rose Akins, TOF; Betty DeMarco, TOF;
– 7 Years

Maria Elena Meza, TOF; Roberto Meza, TOF;
– 10 Years

Elizabeth Francis, TOF – 33 Years



Birthdays

Rose Akins, TOF – 10/2

Rick Dunlap, TOF – 10/2

Bob Burtscher, TOF – 10/13

Formation News

As our Formation students are finishing up their time as Postulants, they sent their letters to Council expressing their wish to continue to the Novitiate. All the Postulants – Carolyn and Dennis Gacioch and Marlene Walker – were accepted for entry into the Novitiate. The ceremony welcoming them into the Novitiate will take place at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted on November 4 during our Day of Recollection. Please continue to pray for these three as they continue their studies and journey to Profession as Third Order Franciscans.

Stand for Life



Mary Dye, TOF and Bill Marshall, TOF will pray on October 14 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. And carpooling will be available. **Give it prayerful consideration!**

Hospitality and Little Portion

For our October Gathering, Bill Marshall, TOF, Therese Harper, TOF, and Susan Kramer, TOF will prepare our Hospitality. If you want to help, please contact one of them to see what is needed.

Denise Williams, TOF will prepare the Little Portion for October, and 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 2 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.

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 Jim Miller, 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. She displayed a sample of the habit at our September Gathering and took orders as well. Anyone else who is interested should notify Debbie.

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 decisions. **Think about it.** See Jim Miller, TOF about the wake service as soon as possible so we have the information on hand.

Diocese of Cleveland Policy on Gender

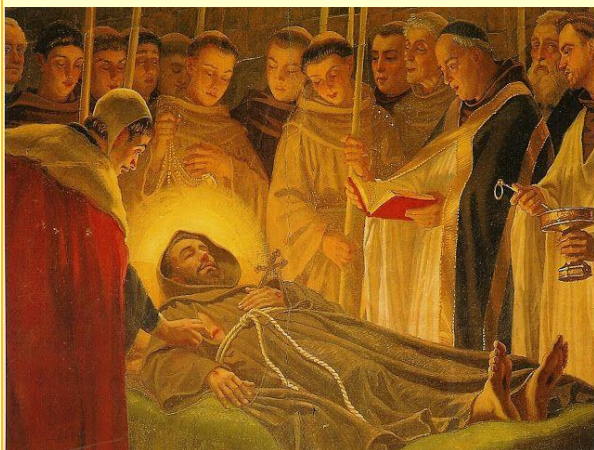
On September 14, Bishop Edward Malesic, JD of the Diocese of Cleveland issued a policy outlining and clarifying practices in Diocesan schools and parishes regarding LGBTQ issues, which reflects Catholic doctrine. The main points are:



- 1) Students, employees, and parishioners of Diocesan schools and parishes are only to be addressed by pronouns that match their birth gender.
- 2) Students, employees, and parishioners of Diocesan schools and parishes are to only use bathrooms that match their birth gender.
- 3) Those who attend Diocesan school or parish dances or social events may not bring a same-sex date.
- 4) Athletes of Diocesan schools and parish leagues may only participate on teams of their birth gender.
- 5) Students and employees of Diocesan schools, and parishioners and employees of Diocesan parishes may not display buttons, flags, shirts or anything else that reflects defiance of Church teaching, including rainbow flags and buttons.

Our fraternity Council and members continue to support the Bishop and the clarity and charity expressed through his policy. **We ask our members to continue to pray for Bishop Malesic's safety and protection.** His Excellency has been a friend to our fraternity and takes a pastoral interest in us and supports our apostolates. Council has sent a letter of support to the Bishop and has promised to pray for him.

Transitus



Tuesday, October 3 at 7:00 PM, our Fraternity will commemorate the death and beginning of eternal life of our good St. Francis. Fr. Miron Kerul'-Kmec and St. Nicholas Parish will once again offer their generous hospitality for this special evening.

Those of us who have taken advantage of the Transitus in the past have enjoyed and benefitted from the service and from the excellent teaching we received from the presider. Don't miss this chance to not only spend an enjoyable evening with our brothers and sisters, but to expand your spiritual outlook with peace and clarity!

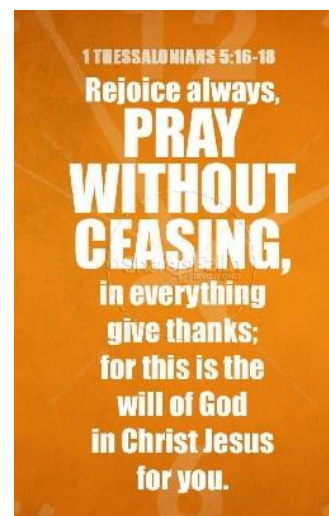
Day of Recollection

Our annual Day of Recollection will take place on Saturday, November 4 at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted. The day will start with Mass at 9 AM and will end at 3:30 PM. There will be a sign up for those who will be attending the Day of Recollection at the October Gathering. Pat Cuttica, TOF, who is Minister of the St. Padre Pio Fraternity of Youngstown which will be our hosts, will need a headcount so that they can order the luncheon, which will cost \$10-\$11, which may be paid at the October Gathering. Please see Mary Dye, TOF for the sign-up sheet and to pay for the luncheon. If there is anyone who needs assistance with the cost, please notify the Council. Also, if you have any questions for Fr. Vit's seminar on spiritual life, please submit to Pepe Ventosa, TOF as soon as possible. This will take the place of the November Gathering. Carpooling will be available – please notify Council if you need a ride.

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 Robert Pipta** 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**, (St. Paul in North 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 on Sunday, September 17, the Feast of the Stigmata of St. Francis at St. Nicholas for our September Gathering. We had 34 in attendance, including 4 visitors, Annie Butts, and Fred Kramer.
- Roberto Meza, TOF welcomed everyone. Instead of the Liturgy of the Hours, we prayed the special hymns and prayers for the Feast.
- Roberto then led the Ritual Prayer.
- Kenny Green, TOF led the Liturgy of the Hours with Debbie Ventosa, TOF and Bill Marshall, TOF.
- The Gospel of the day was proclaimed by Virgil Daniel, TOF, after his remembrance of the devastation of the Battle of Antietam, which anniversary was also on September 17.
- We then had private discussions on the reading, after which Roberto led us in Grace before we enjoyed our lunch, which was prepared by Cindy Russo, TOF, Mary Dye, TOF, Joanne Angeletti, TOF, Judith Hoyt, TOF, and Annie Butts. It was delicious! After we finished, Roberto led the Grace after the meal.
- **Fr. Vit's Formation:** Fr. Vit spoke to us on talking to God, by:
 - Vocal prayer
 - Meditation
 - Prayer of the Heart – to feel as Jesus and Mary felt
 - Prayer of Silence
 - Prayer of Simple Gaze

Use all methods of prayer to become closer to Jesus and to be in his presence and to be in union with Christ at all times.

The 3 things we must always remember to do: 1) Do not compromise your Faith. 2) Do no evil. 3) Love your enemies. Our goal is to desire union with Christ at all times.

Be advised, do not permit anyone but a priest to physically lay hands on you!

- **Ongoing Formation:** Rick Dunlap, TOF taught on Article 54 – “Go through the world with joy and thanksgiving”.
 - God is present in all creation. The presence of one honorable person prevents bad behavior. Prepare for the world knowing that God is near and do your very best.
 - There is strength in spending time before the Blessed Sacrament.
 - Be on your toes with words, thoughts, and actions.
 - Draw on Bible stories like that of Susanna. Do not let the evil in others drag you to their level. Remain true to God and speak the truth.
 - St. Francis loved the Lord and wanted others to do the same. Nothing got in his way when it came to Jesus – “Let nothing separate us from Jesus – always and forever.”
 - Praise should be a natural response for everything we face, both good and bad.
- **Formation Report:** Master of Formation Debbie Ventosa, TOF said all is underway for the Postulants to move forward to the Novitiate on November 4, the Day of Recollection at the Shrine. Several new Inquirers will start classes on September 25 at the St. George Center at St. Nicholas.
- **Infirmarian Report:** Maria Elena Meza, TOF reported that Jennifer Kerns, TOF and Julia Tarulli, TOF were present at the Gathering. Sandy Pollino, OFS and Elizabeth Francis, TOF remain on the excused list. Sandy will be undergoing an MRI. Kenny Green, TOF attempted to phone Elizabeth Francis, TOF with no response. Bill Marshall, TOF said she stopped volunteering but is still attending Mass and very much appreciates the fraternity contact and prayers. Elizabeth came to the picnic in August, and Bill will visit her soon.
- **Stand for Life:** Rose Akins, TOF and Therese Harper, TOF participated in the Stand for Life in September

and reported no difficulties.

- **Little Portion:** Rose Akins, TOF prepared and delivered the September Little Portion.
- **Moshi Seminarian Frater Francis Tumaini:** Fraternity Treasurer Therese Harper, TOF sent \$1,000 to go to Frater Francis's seminary tuition.
- **Indiana Retreat:** The annual retreat will take place October 11 through October 15. More details are available in this issue of the newsletter. Carpooling will once again be available.
- **Day of Recollection:** There will be a sign up for those who will be attending the Day of Recollection at the Shrine on November 4 starting at 9 AM for Mass and ending at 3:30 PM. Pat Cuttica, TOF, who is Minister of the St. Padre Pio Fraternity of Youngstown which will be our hosts, will need a headcount so that they can order the luncheon, which will cost \$10-\$11, which may be paid at the October Gathering – please see Mary Dye, TOF. If there is anyone who needs assistance with the cost, please notify the Council. Also, if you have any questions for Fr. Vit's seminar on spiritual life, please submit to Pepe Ventosa, TOF. This will take the place of the November Gathering. Carpooling will be available – please notify Council.
- **Prayer Intentions:** Roberto Meza, TOF led us in prayer for our intentions, including the following:
 - For the members of our fraternity, both those present and those homebound.
 - For our Isolated Tertiaries and those in Formation.
 - For the spiritual integrity of our country.
 - For the protection of all life, womb to tomb.
 - For our family members, including Sheila Burtscher, Nico Ventosa, and all those in need of prayer.
 - For Pope Francis, Bishop Pipta, Bishop Bonnar, Bishop Fernandes, and Bishop Malesic.
 - For the OFM Friars of the Immaculate Conception Province, especially Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM, Fr. Dennis Arambasick, OFM, and Fr. Campagna, OFM.
 - For Fr. Gastor Bahati of the Diocese of Moshi, Fr. Ryan Furlong, TOF of the Diocese of Youngstown, and Fr. Daniel Dozier, TOF, pastor of St. George Byzantine Parish of Olympia, Washington and St. Irene Byzantine Parish of Portland, Oregon.
 - For our beloved and hard-working parish priests, especially Fr. Miron Kerul'-Kmec of St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish.
 - For all seminarians, particularly:
 - Frater Francis Tumaini and his brother seminarians of the Diocese of Moshi seminary
 - Arthur Bodenschatz of the Diocese of Youngstown and Borromeo Seminary
 - Joseph Rohan of the Diocese of Cleveland and Borromeo Seminary
 - Alex Krukemeyer of the Diocese of Cleveland and Borromeo Seminary
 - John Paul Antalek of the Diocese of Cleveland and Borromeo Seminary
- Roberto then led us in the St. Michael Prayer and concluded with the Closing Ritual Prayer.

Don't forget – our next Gathering will be at St. Nicholas on October 15!

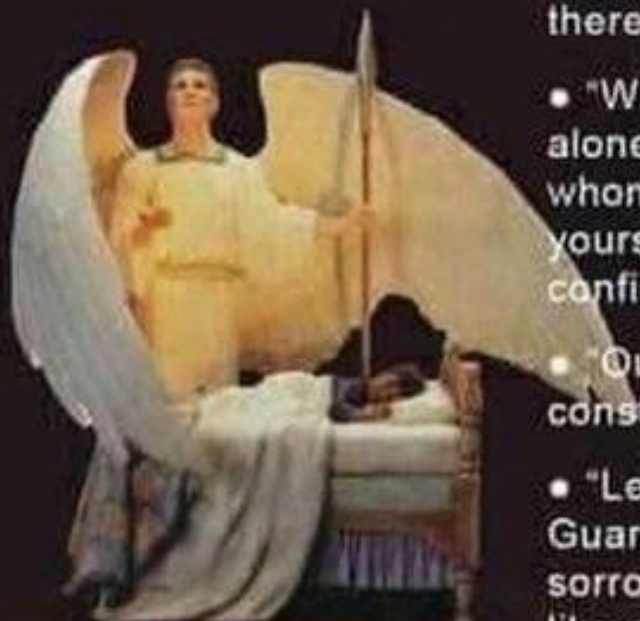
Save the Date (October, the Month of the Holy Rosary)

October 3	Transitus (St. Nicholas Byzantine Church, 7:30 PM) – <i>Day of Fast</i>
October 4	Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Founder of the Franciscan Order
October 20	Feast of Blessed Contardo Ferrini, TOF
November 1	Feast of All Saints – <i>Holy Day of Obligation</i>
November 4	Day of Recollection (Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted, Youngstown)

GUARDIAN ANGELS

Comments of St. Padre Pio on Guardian Angels

- "Do not forget this invisible companion, always present to listen to you; always ready to console you."
- "Your Guardian Angel prays for you; offers to God all the good works you accomplish; your holy and pure desires."
- "Invoke your Guardian Angel that he will illuminate you and will guide you. God has given him to you for this reason. Therefore use him!"
- "Often remember his presence; thank him; pray to him; respect him; be in constant fear of offending the purity of his gaze."
- "Our Guardian Angel never leaves us, even when we are disgusting God with our behavior!"



- "For people that live alone there is the Guardian Angel."
- "When you seem to be alone, here a friendly soul to whom you can unburden yourself and in whom you can confide your sorrows."
- "Our Guardian Angel prays constantly for us."
- "Let us confide to our Guardian Angel our pains and sorrows. He is like a friend, like a brother."