

September, 2023

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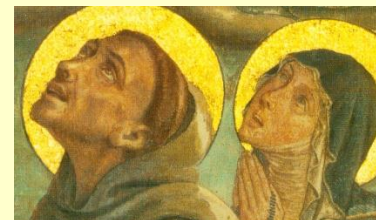
# Il Poverello

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](http://www.thirdorderfranciscans.com)



## Something to Consider

September is the month Catholics commemorate the Seven Sorrows of Mary. It is good to recall that, even though Mary was “highly favored” by God, she by no means had an easy time of it in her earthly life. Not only did she live her entire life in poverty, but she worked hard every day of her life. And she was undoubtedly the victim of gossip and humiliation from her neighbors when she agreed to God’s wish to be the Mother of Jesus. Just as it was in our society until the last 30 years or so, it was disgraceful for a young lady to find herself pregnant outside of marriage.

Beyond this, though, Mary endured great pain and distress in addition to the joy of being Jesus’s mother and Joseph’s wife. This was predicted by Simeon at the Presentation of Jesus:

1. **The Prophecy of Simeon:** At the Presentation of Jesus, Simeon gently foretold that Mary’s heart would be pierced by a sword, which proved to be true on more than one occasion.
2. **The Flight into Egypt:** Joseph had a disturbing dream in which an angel urgently told him he must take his little family into Egypt immediately. Joseph, a trusting servant of God and a protective, loving family man, did so without hesitation. They escaped just before Herod’s monstrous murder of the Holy Innocents, which would have included Jesus.
3. **Losing Jesus at the Temple:** The Holy Family set off to Jerusalem to visit the Temple, and joined a caravan. They lost track of Jesus among the rest of the group. Mary was terrified when she realized Jesus was missing. After a frantic search, she and Joseph found 12-year-old Jesus teaching in the Temple.
4. **Meeting Jesus on the Way to Calvary:** Could anything be more heartbreaking than to witness one’s son, who has only done good in the world, tortured, bearing the great weight of his instrument of murder, and humiliated by those He loved?
5. **The Crucifixion:** Mary stood with only John, Mary Magdalene, and a couple of loyal friends as her beloved child died a horrifying, shameful death, surrounded by criminals.
6. **Holding Jesus in Death:** The saddest day of Mary’s life. It is said that a child dying is a parent’s most dreadful nightmare, since the parent is supposed to die first. And not only did her Son die too young, but He died in an unspeakable manner.
7. **Placing Jesus in the Tomb:** Mary gently placed Jesus’s tortured body in Joseph of Arimathea’s tomb, and with the assistance of Mary Magdalene and her closest female friends, prepared winding cloth and herbs for His burial.

*Sorrowful Mother of God, Pray for Us!*

## 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, September 18**

**St. Nicholas Byzantine Church**

**1051 E. Robinson Ave.**

**Barberton, OH 44203**

**We are expecting you!**

## Catholic Quote of the Month

*“All of us, regardless of our state in life, must suffer. We must suffer because of original sin and also as true followers of Christ. Everyone has some kind of affliction, contrariety, illness or problem to bear. Our Lord offers His Cross to all; we should love it then and embrace it. But we should not only accept the sufferings He sends us – we should also have the generosity to make many sacrifices. Every Christian is “another Christ” and as such he should be willing to pray and suffer for souls. Now as never before we should put selfishness to one side.”*

Sr. Lúcia dos Santos, OCD, (1907 –2005) Portuguese Discalced Carmelite Sister,  
Witness of the Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima



## 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.**

## September Anniversaries and Birthdays

### Profession Anniversaries

None this month!



### Birthdays

Larry McNutt, TOF – 9/17

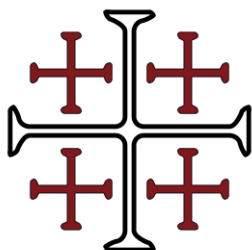
Virgil Daniel, TOF – 9/22

## Stand for Life



Rose Akins, TOF and Therese Harper, TOF will pray on September 17 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](http://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 September Gathering, Judith Hoyt, TOF and Cindy Russo, TOF will prepare our Hospitality. If you want to help, please contact one of them to see what is needed.



Rose Akins, TOF will prepare the Little Portion for September, 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 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 Virgil Daniel, TOF***



Our fraternity hosted a “Come & See” event at St. Nicholas Church on Tuesday, August 29. Our Master of Formation, Debbie Ventosa TOF, was out-of-town, so Virgil Daniel, TOF presided in her absence. After opening prayer, Vice-Minister Jim Miller, TOF gave the official welcome to this new group of potential Inquirers. Other members present were Formation Team Members (“formator” is the new usage) Leann Devore, TOF and Bill Marshall, TOF. Others present were Councilor Chris Devore, TOF, Louise Daniel, TOF, and Postulant Dennis Gacioch. Joanne Angeletti, TOF provided the refreshments for the evening.

After Virgil’s presentation on the Third Order and the process of Initial Formation, Fr. Vit addressed the group. It was most excellent. Both Jim and Virgil commented that they wished they’d been clever enough to record it. But, alas!

Besides now familiar faces Jerry Oligario, John Wilson, and Joe Zbasnik, four new folks came from Queen of Heaven parish in Green, and one each from St. Francis de Sales in Coventry, St. Paul in North Canton, and St. Francis of Assisi in Canton, plus one who did not note his parish. So, that’s eleven who “came to see.” Also, one gentleman who would be a candidate for the Isolated Tertiaries, if things work out. There are several who could not attend for whom Debbie or Virgil will follow-up. So, praise God, we are off to a great start for our next Initial Formation class. And special thanks to our Postulant Dennis, who personally invited 3 of the folks who were there on Tuesday.

Virgil invited all in attendance to our September Gathering. So, be alert for new faces in the crowd. Be sure to welcome them warmly!

## ***Office of Master of Formation – by Virgil Daniel, TOF***

At the June Gathering, Virgil Daniel, TOF reviewed upcoming changes to procedures for the triennial Election Chapter, which for our fraternity will next be in the Fall of 2024. In Chapter III of the Constitutions, “Government of the Third Order,” Section III, “Internal Government,” the Council discovered a designated election procedure which had been previously overlooked. These procedures will be incorporated into our pending Bylaws.

One item of particular interest is that “The Master of Novices and Postulants” is an elected office, a full voting member of the Council, not an appointed one. At the August Council meeting, using its authority under Articles 128 and 138, the Council elected Debbie Ventosa, TOF to that office until the next Election Chapter. In our Bylaws, the title of this office will be changed to “Master of Formation,” since Debbie’s duties include organizing both initial formation and the on-going formation at the Gatherings. Congratulations, Debbie! Long overdue.

## ***Right to Life Booth at the Stark County Fair***

Labor Day, which was Monday, September 4, several members of our fraternity manned the booth sponsored by Stark County Right to Life at the Stark County Fair. And we were very grateful to be in the enclosed Exhibition Hall, with plenty of fans and out of the sun, on this hot and humid day! Carol Perrine, TOF and Bob Burtscher, TOF took the first shift from 10 AM to 2 PM, and Fred and Susan Kramer, TOF, took the second shift from 2 PM to 6 PM. Visitors were courteous and encouraging, with no friction from anyone, thankfully. Roberto and Maria Elena Meza, TOF were scheduled to staff the booth from 6 PM to 10 PM, but the leadership of Stark County RTL decided to shut the booth down at 6 PM because visitors in the Exhibition Hall had dropped off sharply and other booths left by 5 PM. In spite of this, Stark County RTL collected over \$300 in donations, and along with them, we Franciscans helped spread the truth of the Catholic doctrine of life to the public.



**REMEMBER – VOTE “NO” ON ISSUE 1 IN NOVEMBER!**



## Welcome to the New Bishop of the Eparchy of Parma!



### *Glory to Jesus Christ!*

Our Holy Father Pope Francis has appointed the Very Rev. Robert Mark Pipta as the sixth Bishop of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma of the Ruthenians. Bishop-elect Robert is a priest of Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix, and currently serves as rector of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Please keep Bishop-elect Robert in your prayers as he prepares for his episcopal consecration and becomes the 6th Bishop of our Eparchy!

Bishop-elect Robert will be consecrated bishop on November 8, when the Eastern Churches celebrate the Feast of the Holy Archangel Michael and All the Heavenly Powers.

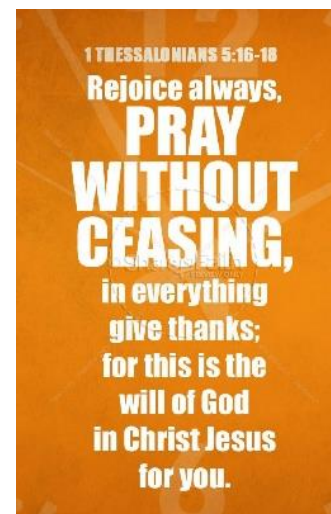
***God bless and protect Bishop Pipta and grant him many years! AXIOS!!!***



## ***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**, (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!**

Our annual fraternity picnic took the place of our August Gathering. Once again, we enjoyed the generous and welcoming hospitality of Fr. David Durkee and Queen of Heaven Parish in the City of Green.

There were about 30 of our members and their families and guests who attended. Bill Marshall, TOF supplied the delicious fried chicken, and our members provided various yummy sides and desserts. Fraternity Council arranged for beverages and paper products.

The tasty food was certainly enjoyed by all of us, but the best part was being with one another and catching up with our members and our families!

Later, we all prayed the Franciscan Crown Rosary, as befits followers of St. Francis, who had a great love and devotion to Our Lady. We are especially fortunate to spend this special time at Queen of Heaven, where the grounds are filled with grottos and memorials to the saints, including our own good St. Francis.

We will hold onto these lovely memories until we meet again for our picnic next August!

As part of our continuing support for seminarians in the Diocese of Moshi, Tanzania, Council sent \$1,000 for the schooling expenses of Frater Francis Tumaini, who is one of the seminarians we remember in our daily prayer intentions before the Blessed Sacrament. God bless and protect \*all\* seminarians, including those we have adopted, locally and in Moshi (Arthur Bodenschatz, Joseph Rohan, Alex Krukemeyer, John Paul Antalek, and Frater Francis Tumaini). A religious vocation is a gift from God, but it is up to us in the laity to protect, encourage, and nurture those God has chosen!

***Don't forget – the next Gathering is September 18 at St. Nicholas!***

***And the Transitus will be at St. Nicholas on Tuesday, October 3 at 7:30 PM in the church!***

## **Save the Date (September, the Month of the Seven Sorrows of Mary)**

September 18	September Gathering (St. Nicholas Byzantine Church, 1:30 PM)
October 3	Transitus (St. Nicholas Byzantine Church, 7:30 PM)
October 4	Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Founder of the Franciscan Order
November 11	Day of Recollection (Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted, Youngstown)



## THE SEVEN SORROWS OF MARY

THE PROPHECY OF SIMEON

THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

LOSING JESUS IN THE TEMPLE  
AT JERUSALEM

MEETING JESUS ON THE WAY  
TO CALVARY

THE CRUCIFIXION  
STANDING AT FOOT OF THE CROSS

THE PIETA  
RECEIVING HIS BODY

PLACING HER DIVINE SON  
IN THE TOMB

Lord Jesus, when people come looking for You, may they find me.  
And when they come looking for me, may they find You.

***Unknown Author***