

November, 2023

Volume 4, Issue 11

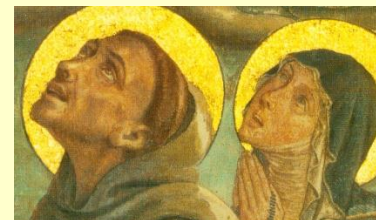
Il Poverello

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

Do you ever wonder if you have what it takes to be a saint – as God expects of each of us? Are you under the impression that only priests, sisters, and popes are saint material? Do you think someone with a life like yours has a chance?

Maybe you are a housewife – so were Our Lady and St. Martha. Are you a husband? So was St. Joseph. Are you a soldier? St. Martin of Tours, St. Sebastian, St. George, and St. Francis served bravely as soldiers. Are you interested in law and politics? St. Thomas More was a lawyer, legislator, and advisor to King Henry VIII. Are you handy around the house? So was St. Joseph Bessette. Are you a nurse? St. Agatha of Sicily, St. Camillus de Lellis, and St. Elizabeth of Hungary were nurses. Are you a teacher? So was St. Thomas Aquinas. Are you a doctor? St. Luke and St. Gianna Molla were doctors. Do you enjoy sports? St. Sebastian was an athlete. Are you a computer nerd? Blessed Carlo Acutis was, too. Do you like to laugh? St. Philip Neri and St. Lawrence laughed all their lives – even at the moment of death. Do you like to sing, eat good food, and go to parties? Well, our good St. Francis loved all those things, and so did Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati!

God gives each of His children a special mission in life – even if it doesn't seem special to us. And we can bring His gifts to others by the way we live our lives and do our work, whether it is something noble like Holy Orders, healthcare, or education, or if it is something more ordinary such as housework, manual labor, or factory work.

God made great saints of the least likely individuals. Blessed Solanus Casey was considered so lacking in intelligence that although he was ordained a priest, he was not permitted to hear Confessions or preside at Mass. Many people would say St. Joseph was a failure – he was poor all his life. St. Therese of Lisieux did not make much of an impression on the other sisters of her convent, who were astonished that their Mother Superior wanted her to write her memoirs before her death at the age of 24 – and that Therese was later named a Doctor of the Church!

It is not who we are, but instead, who we become when we place ourselves at the service of God in whatever station of life He chooses 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

November Gathering was

November 4

Next Gathering at

St. Nicholas

Sunday December 17

We are expecting you!

Catholic Quote of the Month

“Make up your mind to become a saint!”

St. Maria Mazarello, FMA (1837-1881)

**Foundress of the Salesian Sisters, Teacher, Protector of Homeless Girls, Missionary,
Incorruptible**



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.

November Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

Jennifer Kerns, TOF – 6 Years

Jesse Kuhn, TOF
& Denise Williams, TOF – 1 Year

Mary Cate Roberts, TOF – 32 Years



Birthdays

Jesse Kuhn, TOF – 11/2

Carol Perrine, TOF – 11/9

Formation News

Carolyn and Dennis Gacioch and Marlene Walker were joyfully welcomed to the Novitiate in a ceremony 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



We have no one scheduled for the Stand for Life in November since we met in Youngstown at the Shrine for the Day of Recollection that day.

Please do not forget to vote NO on Issue 1 and Issue 2 on November 7. The Bishops of Ohio strongly urge us to vote against both Issue 1 and Issue 2, which deal with the issues of abortion, parental rights, and widespread access to recreational marijuana.

CFP Retreat by Virgil Daniel, TOF



Five members of our Fraternity attended the annual Confraternity of Penitents (CFP) conference and retreat in October. It was again at the St Felix Center in Huntington, IN. All concerned noted how restful, prayerful, and spiritually uplifting the 4-day experience was. The overall theme this year was the Eucharist. The beginning talk of the retreat days was presented by Madeline Pecora Nugent, CFP, on the Eucharist in the lives of St Francis, St Clare, St Anthony of Padua, and Blessed Carlo Acutis. (Madeline would know. Her excellent book, *Francesco*, recently won a Catholic Book Award.)



The other retreat sessions, as well as all liturgical events, were presented by Fr Joe Tuscan, OFM Cap, the CFP Spiritual Director. Father Joe also previewed for us the excellent film, *The Miracle Box*, on the beauty of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Most inspiring! Fr Joe also shared about the progress of the cause for sainthood of Rhoda Wise and made available to us a biography of the Servant of God Rhoda, as well as some specially blessed holy water from the Rhoda Wise House in Canton.

Our attendees were Roberto and Maria Elena Meza, Jim Miller, Pepe Ventosa, and Virgil Daniel. All were repeat attendees except for Roberto and Maria Elena. Also with us were Julie Elkinton, TOF, from Padre Pio Fraternity and Margaret Sartor, TOF, from Our Lady of the Americas Fraternity; Margaret was accompanied by Joyce Ann White, an Inquirer.



Hospitality and Little Portion

We enjoyed the hospitality of the St. Padre Pio Fraternity of Youngstown at the Day of Recollection. Because we were away for our Gathering, there was no Little Portion.



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.

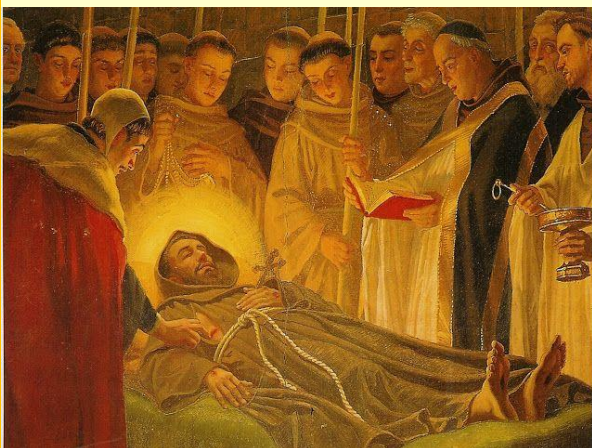


Debbie Ventosa, TOF has been in communication with Paula, a local woman who sews and has patterns for the habit lay Franciscans wear in death, which is similar to the OFM habit. She displayed a sample of the habit at our September Gathering and took orders as well. Anyone else who is interested should 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.

Transitus



The Transitus, which was held Tuesday, October 3 at 7:00 PM at St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish was well-attended, with about 25 of our members in attendance. Our minister, Roberto Meza, led us in the commemoration of the death and beginning of eternal life of our good St. Francis.

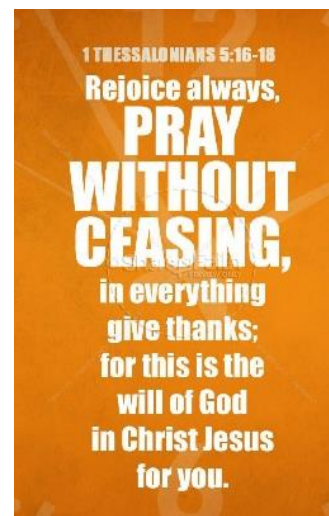
We thank Fr. Miron Kerul'-Kmec and St. Nicholas Parish for their generous hospitality for this special evening.

St. Francis did not look on death with fear or sadness, but with great joy at the knowledge he would be seeing the face of his beloved Savior. As Franciscans and Catholics, may we come to look on our own mortality with the same confidence in the mercy of God!

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!

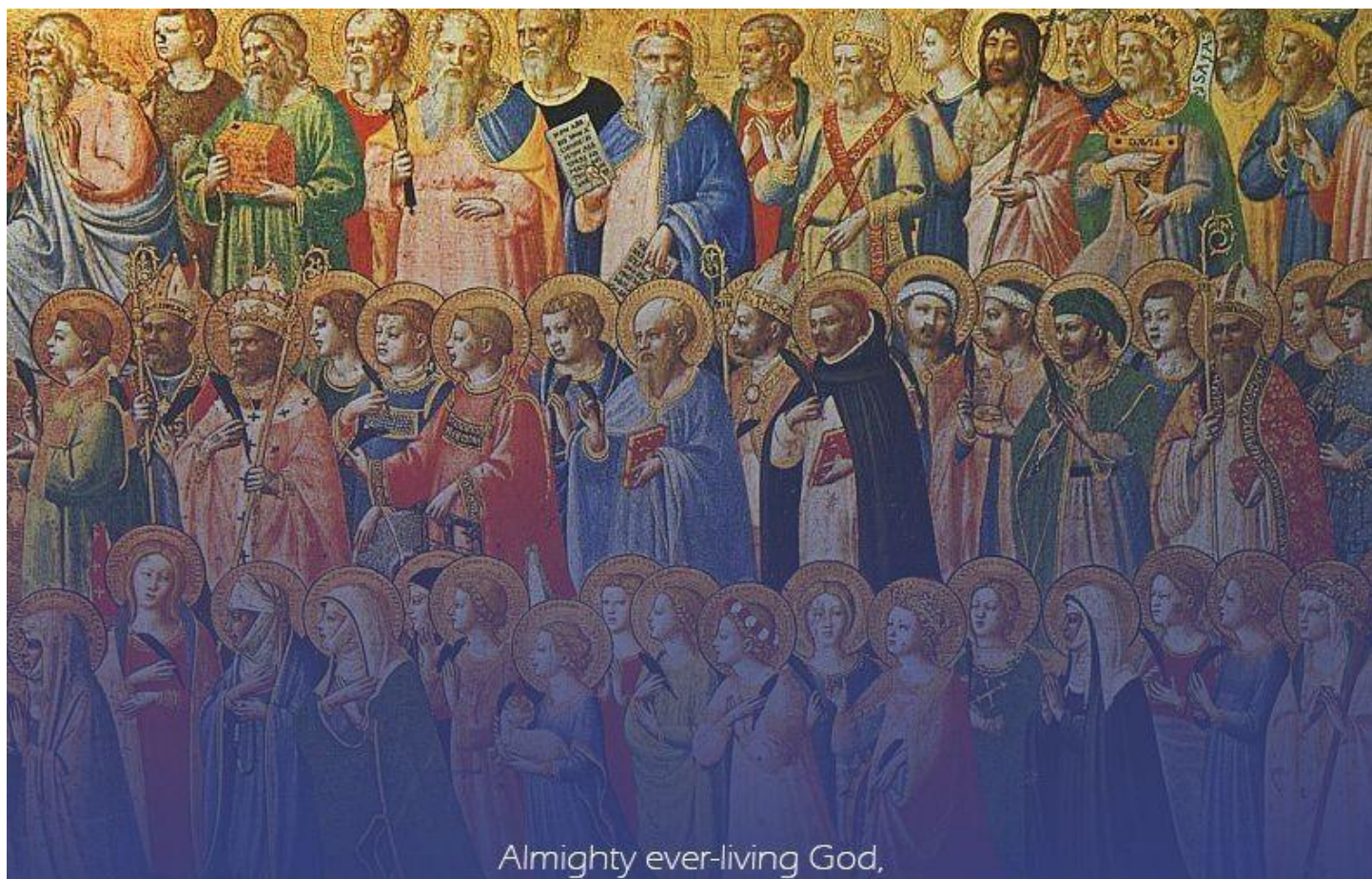
Lord, it is Good for Us to be Together!

- We met on Sunday, October 15 at St. Nicholas for our October Gathering. We had 30 in attendance, including those in Formation and visitors, as well as Fr. Vit, Annie Butts, and Fred Kramer.
- Because our minister, Roberto Meza, TOF, was away at the CFP retreat in Indiana, Chris Devore, TOF stood in his place and welcomed everyone.
- Chris Devore, TOF led the Ritual Prayer.
- Kenny Green, TOF led the Liturgy of the Hours along with LeeAnn Devore, TOF and Bill Marshall, TOF.
- The Gospel of the day from the book of Matthew was proclaimed by Bill Marshall, TOF, which recounted the parable of the wedding feast, “The feast is ready but those who were invited are not worthy”, and “Many are invited but few are chosen”.
- We then had private discussions on the reading, after which Chris led us in Grace before we enjoyed our lunch, which was prepared by Bill Marshall, TOF, Therese Harper, TOF, Joanne Angeletti, TOF, and Susan Kramer, TOF. After we finished, Chris led Grace after the meal.
- Carol Perrine, TOF gave us information on Issue 1. In accordance with Church teaching on the defense of life, the Ohio Catholic Bishops are united in urging us to Vote No on Issue 1.
- Denise Williams, TOF prepared and delivered the Little Portion.
- St. Augustine Parish in Barberton was the recipient of the Food Pantry collection, and it will be delivered by Rose Akins, TOF.
- **Ongoing Formation:** Matt Polleti, TOF taught on Article 55 regarding our Catholic duty to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
 - When we attend Mass, whether it is on Sundays, Holy Days, or any other occasion, we provide a witness to others, not only our families.
 - It is our duty as Catholics to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, unless we are sick, caring for others who are sick, or if it is impossible because of travel or because of situations such as the Covid quarantine.
 - Matt provided us with a list of the six Holy Days of Obligation for the United States.
 - We are to follow the direction of our local bishops regarding Holy Days of Obligation if they fall on certain days of the week, such as Monday, in which case the Holy Day is sometimes transferred to Sunday.
 - If one is ill or incapable of attending Mass because of taking care of others who are ill, or because of weather conditions, for instance, there is no sin attached to missing Mass on these occasions.
 - Matt provided random prizes! Nettie Miller, TOF received a Tau keyholder. Mary Dye, TOF received a book of TOF Offices. And Bill Marshall, TOF received a Tertiary Companion book.
 - We are encouraged to participate in sacred functions in addition to our Sunday and Holy Day Mass obligations. These include:
 - Daily Mass
 - Frequent Communion
 - Frequent Confession (minimum of monthly)
 - Guidance of a Spiritual Director if possible
 - Daily examination of conscience with the intent to amend our failures
 - Attendance at monthly Gatherings
 - Lead by example! Be faithful!
- **Fr. Vit’s Formation:** Ways to Approach God
 - Benedictine Method
 - The monastic way of constant remembrances of God and the examination of conscience.
 - Jesuit Method
 - Meditation on Gospels and examination of conscience.
 - Pray the way you can – not the way you cannot.
 - The monastic call of solitude, to be alone with God, is very helpful in focusing on communicating with God.

- St. Francis made these methods available to everyone.
- The relationship between husband and wife is a reflection of the Blessed Trinity. Two become one, joined by love.
- **Stand for Life:** Mary Dye, TOF and Bill Marshall, TOF participated in the Stand for Life on October 14 and reported no difficulties. Fr. Cristanzic from Holy Family Parish in Stow was present. There were 3 or 4 clients. Mike Butts said perhaps we should consider going later when there are more clients, maybe 10 AM to Noon.
- **Day of Recollection:** The Day of Recollection at the Shrine on November 4 starting at 9 AM for Mass and ending at 3:30 PM. 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:** Chris Devore, 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 those in need of spiritual and physical healing.
 - For the spiritual integrity of our country.
 - For the rejection of Issue 1.
 - 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 and for their sanctification, 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
- Fr. Vit then led us in the St. Michael Prayer and concluded with the Closing Ritual Prayer, and then gave us his blessing.

Save the Date (November, the Month of the Poor Souls in Purgatory)

November 16	Feast of St. Agnes of Assisi, Poor Clare Sister (Blood Sister of St. Clare, died 1253)
November 19	Feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Patroness of Third Order Franciscans
November 29	Feast of the Saints of the Seraphic Order
December 7	Day of Fasting for Third Order Franciscans
December 8	4 th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Third Order Franciscan Community Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the US - Holy Day of Obligation
December 10	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas
December 25	Christmas – Holy Day of Obligation
January 1	Feast of Mary, Mother of God – Holy Day of Obligation



Almighty ever-living God,
by whose gift we venerate in one celebration the merits of all the Saints,
bestow on us, we pray,
through the prayers of so many intercessors,
an abundance of the reconciliation with you for which we earnestly long.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

ALL SAINTS DAY

NOVEMBER 1

www.archtoronto.org
Prayer from catholicculture.org