

January, 2024

Volume 5, Issue 1

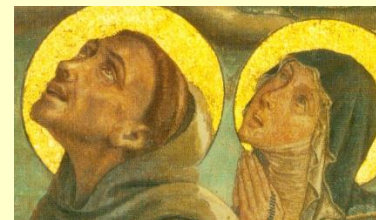
Il Poverello

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 the New Year begins, we often think of resolutions to improve ourselves. Perhaps to lose weight, exercise more, attend daily Mass, pray a daily Rosary, and other good habits. And all these things are definitely worthy goals! But maybe it would be a good idea to think of ways to also make the world a better place – starting with us!

In accord with the teaching of St. Francis, it is good to learn the discipline of Perfect Joy, which is to bear insults, humiliations, and disappointments with calm patience and quiet endurance in union with the sufferings of Jesus. This isn't always easy to do in the present cultural climate, but with firm resolve it can be done, and may someday even become second nature!

Most of our parishes can always use help in some area, whether it is in liturgical ministry (altar servers, readers, ushers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, choir, etc.), tutoring children at the parish school, counting the collection, and more. Maybe pick just one area to assist our pastors and parishes with some of the work that goes into keeping the parish running. An added plus is that often the people who volunteer at the parish are the very nicest of parishioners, so you may find yourself in good company!

To continue this thought, our fraternity apostolates can also use more support from us. This includes praying in front of the abortion clinic, assisting with the Gathering meal, preparing or delivering the Little Portion, helping to set up and clean up before and after Gatherings, and more.

Finally, how about making monthly Confession and Adoration a habit, especially in view of the Church being in the midst of the Eucharistic Revival? As faithful Franciscans, most of us are observant of confessing regularly. To worthily receive the Eucharist, we must be in a State of Grace. Many holy saints went to Confession weekly, including Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, who, when he saw a priest on the street, would drop to his knees and ask for Confession on the spot, in public!

A peaceful, holy New Year to Everyone!

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 at
St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish
Sunday, January 21
at 1:30 PM**

We are expecting you!

Catholic Quote of the Month

“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.”



St. Catherine of Siena (1347-1380) Feast Day – April 29
Third Order Dominican, Virgin, Visionary, Mystic, Papal Advisor,
Patron Saint of Italy and Europe, Doctor of the Church

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.

January Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

None this month!



Birthdays

Eileen Dunlap, TOF – 1/7
Chris Devore, TOF – 1/9
Kenny Green, TOF – 1/12
Roberto Meza, TOF – 1/16
Pepe Ventosa, TOF – 1/20
Lucy McNutt, TOF – 1/22
Matthew Poletti, TOF – 1/23
Maria Elena Meza, TOF – 1/25

Stand for Life



Because of the bitter weather, no one is scheduled to pray in front of the abortion clinic in Cuyahoga Falls in January. However, the Summit County Right to Life is sponsoring a March for Life, which will be held Saturday, January 20 at 9 AM. Everyone is to meet at Community Vineyard Church at 2543 State Rd., which is just a few blocks north of the abortion clinic. You may park in the church parking lot or street parking, but please avoid business parking lots – you may be towed. The march will begin at the church, head south on State Road to the abortion clinic, and then return to the church, where the church will offer hot drinks and cookies. The church and Summit County RTL urge marchers to carry a sign, but to keep the theme reflective of the joy of life – nothing graphic. You may make your own sign, and there will be a limited supply of signs available as well. More details are available at www.rtolofneo.com, click on Events, then click on More Events.

Embrace Pregnancy and Family Care Shower

There will be a representative from the Embrace Clinic to discuss the services Embrace provides to pregnant women, children, and fathers at the January Gathering. In place of our usual food pantry collection, please bring supplies for Embrace, such as diapers (sizes newborn and larger), infant formula, toys, boots, and baby food. Monetary donations are also most welcome!

Hospitality and Little Portion

Jim and Nettie Miller, TOF and Susan Kramer, TOF will be providing hospitality for the January Gathering. If you want to help, please contact one of them to see what is needed.



As often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.

There is no one scheduled for the Little Portion for January. The Little Portion Apostolate ministers to the homeless and street people of Akron and Canton 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.

If you are interested in helping by preparing the Little Portion or delivering it, please contact Mary Dye, TOF.

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.

Council Nominations and Appointments

Council elections will be held this Fall, and you may want to consider if you are interested in serving the fraternity on Council, or if you would like to nominate a member for an office. Please be assured that anyone who is nominated will be asked if he or she is willing to run for office – no one is put on the spot.

Council has also appointed individuals for certain responsibilities. These include Webmaster (Pepe Ventosa, TOF and Virgil Daniel, TOF), Apostolate Scheduling (Mary Dye, TOF), Archivist (Pepe Ventosa, TOF), and Newsletter Editor (Susan Kramer, TOF). These fraternity members have held these offices for the last few years and have agreed to continue, with Council's thanks.

Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Per Constitution Article 68, "Every year in the month of January or of June, each fraternity shall publicly make or renew its solemn consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and in the month of May or December, its consecration to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, using the approved prayers." Please take the time to pray the Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus this month if you will not be at the Gathering.

Consecration of the Order to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

O Jesus, present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar, with a humble and sincere heart and confiding in Your infinite mercy, we venture to renew the bond between the Third Order of our holy father Francis and Your Most Sacred Heart.

With this intention, we consecrate ourselves today entirely to You and promise to fulfil faithfully Your Divine will, to observe the Commandments, and to promote Your honor. We consecrate to You our person, our life, our actions, our trials and our sufferings. We consecrate to You our heart with all its emotions, with all its desires and intentions. O Jesus, take from us our sinful heart and give us a heart renewed and pure, that thus with the sacrifice of our heart we may please Your Most Sacred Heart. Watch over us continually, that we may serve You in justice, charity, and peace, and ever remain faithful children of Your Most Sacred Heart.

Sweet Jesus, loving Redeemer, look down on the threefold Order of St. Francis. Keep and protect it against all enemies.

Finally, dear Jesus, we beseech You in the name and by the merits of Your devoted servant our holy father Francis and all the saints, blessed, and elect of his threefold Order, bless Your beloved spouse, the Holy Catholic Church, and her visible head, Your Vicar on earth. Hasten the triumph and exaltation of Your Church, that Your name may be known, feared, loved and honored. Amen.

Profession Anniversary Photos

Milestone profession anniversaries were recognized at the December Gathering. Here are a few memories of our brothers and sisters who were honored for their vocations and the devotion and witness to the standard set for us by St. Francis in his Rule.





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, St. William Parish in Champion, and St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in Cortland (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), all from the Diocese of Cleveland. These men, and Frater Francis of the Moshi Seminary, are the future leaders and servants of our Church. **Note:**

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18
 Rejoice always,
PRAY
WITHOUT
CEASING,
 in everything
 give thanks;
 for this is the
 will of God
 in Christ Jesus
 for you.

William Martzakalis of St. Paul of North Canton is a new seminarian for our list. He is a recent convert and was accepted by the Youngstown Diocese into the priesthood program. He started his first semester studying Philosophy. Please pray for his vocation as well as the other fine young men on our list!

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, the Middle East, the Far East, 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 prayerful Franciscans, no priests without our seminarians, no Eucharist without our priests, and no Church without the Eucharist.** We all work together doing the mission God has given us, for His glory. 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, December 17, 2023 at St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish in Barberton for our December Gathering and Christmas party. There were 35 in attendance, including Annie Butts and Fred Kramer, and a guest from Little Flower Parish.
- Roberto Meza, TOF started off by leading the Ritual Prayer.
- The Liturgy of the Hours was led by Kenny Green, TOF, Debbie Ventosa, TOF, and Joe Zbasnik.
- Roberto then led us in our annual Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
- We prayed Grace before enjoying a bountiful, delicious meal.
- As we ate and socialized, Roberto Meza, TOF notified us of an upcoming invitation to celebrate the Day of Consecrated Life at St. Columba Cathedral in Youngstown on February 4, 2024.
- Betty DeMarco, TOF beautifully explained the Plenary Indulgence that can be obtained by praying at a Nativity at a church staffed by Franciscans, such as Sancta Clara Monastery.
- Roberto Meza, TOF and Jim Miller, TOF presented Profession anniversary certificates to the following brothers and sisters:
 - Jesse Kuhn, TOF and Denise Williams, TOF (1 Year)
 - Cindy Russo, TOF, LeeAnn Devore, TOF, and Chris Devore, TOF (5 Years)
 - Roberto Meza, TOF and Maria Elena Meza, TOF (10 Years)
 - Debbie Ventosa, TOF (20 Years)
 - Rose Zaratsian, TOF, Kenny Green, TOF, Pepe Ventosa, TOF, and Julia Tarulli, TOF (25 Years)
- Roberto then led us in prayer for the intentions of the fraternity:
 - For our families and friends, including Jennifer Kerns, TOF, Sandy Pollino, OFS, Lucy and Larry McNutt, TOF, Sheila Burtscher, Andrea Palazzo, Dorothy Takacs, OFS, Pat and Deanna Hurley, OFS, and Nettie Miller, TOF
 - For the spiritual safety of our country, and that the US may outlaw abortion and every other offense against life.
 - For continued blessings and vocations to our fraternity.
 - For the discernment of those currently in Formation.
 - For the Church where it is persecuted throughout the world, including China, Nicaragua, Nigeria.



- For the intentions of Pope Francis and the Magisterium.
- For peace in war zones, particularly in Ukraine and Gaza.
- For our local Bishops
 - Bishop Pipta of the Eparchy of Parma
 - Bishop Bonnar of Youngstown
 - Bishop Fernandes of Columbus
 - Bishop Malesic, JD of Cleveland
- For the OFM Friars of the Immaculate Conception Province, especially
 - Fr. Robert Campagna, OFM
 - Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM
 - Fr. Dennis Arambasick, OFM
- For all our parish priests, many of whom lead two or more parishes, particularly:
 - Fr. Miron Kerul-Kmec of St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish
 - Fr. Daniel Dozier, TOF of St. George Byzantine Parish (Olympia, Washington) and St. Irene Byzantine Parish (Portland, Oregon)
 - Fr. Ryan Furlong, TOF, who is pastor of three parishes in Trumbull County.
 - Fr. Gastor Temu Bahati of the Diocese of Moshi, Tanzania, who is on the staff of his bishop.
- For all seminarians in discernment for the priesthood, particularly:
 - Frater Francis Tumaini of the Diocese of Moshi
 - Arthur Bodenschatz of Canton, Diocese of Youngstown
 - Joseph Rohan of Cuyahoga Falls, Diocese of Cleveland
 - Alex Krukemeyer of Tallmadge, Diocese of Cleveland
 - John Paul Antalek of Tallmadge, Diocese of Cleveland
- We concluded the intentions with a Memorare and the St. Michael Prayer.



- Virgil Daniel, TOF read the Gospel of the Third Sunday of Advent (prepare the way of the Lord).
- Kenny Green, TOF gave us his presentation of the first Nativity, which St. Francis assembled in Greccio, outside of Assisi.
- Mary Dye, TOF accompanied the Fraternity (and the unofficial TOF Choir – Carol Perrine, TOF, Fred Kramer, Roberto Meza, TOF, Nettie Miller, TOF, Jim Miller, TOF, and Virgil Daniel, TOF) in singing Christmas carols.
- Roberto Meza, TOF led a discussion on the names of Jesus, which included:
 - Lion of Judah
 - Prince of Peace
 - Lord of Lords
 - Lamb of God
 - Light of the World
 - Bread of Life



- Redeemer
- Son of God
- Emmanuel
- Good Shepherd
- Sacred Heart
- Son of David
- Root of Jesse
- King of the Jews



- Roberto then concluded the Gathering with warm wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year (which we all made him repeat en español – “¡Feliz Navidad y Un Prospero Año Nuevo!”)

Save the Date (January, the Month of the Most Holy Name of Jesus)

January 21	January Gathering (St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish, 1:30 PM) *Collection for Embrace
February 14	Ash Wednesday (Day of
May 18	Pilgrimage planned by Our Lady of America Fraternity

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: THE POPE FRANCIS LIST

1. Don't gossip.
2. Finish your meals.
3. Make time for others.
4. Choose the 'more humble' purchase.
5. Meet the poor 'in the flesh'.
6. Stop judging others.
7. Befriend those who disagree.
8. Make commitments, such as marriage.
9. Make it a habit to 'ask the Lord'.
10. Be happy.

Paradiso

Credit: rappler/nbcnewsdotcom

