

February, 2024

Volume 5, Issue 2

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 look on Lent with dread? Or do you think of it as a time for spiritual improvement?

Our good St. Francis regularly set five different 40-day periods of prayer and fast throughout the year. The first was the pre-Christmas fast which started on All Saints Day, November 1. The next was the "Great Lent", which he observed during the 40 days of Lent. He also did the same from the Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul (June 29) through the Feast of the Assumption (August 15), and then from Michaelmas (September 29) through All Saints Day. Which is, with little deviation, pretty much all year long!



For us in the laity, St. Francis only encouraged us to participate in the period of fast and prayer during Advent and then again during Lent. As faithful Catholics, we all surely follow the Church's request to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent (and our beloved Byzantine and Eastern Rite family abstains from meat for the entire duration of Lent – what an inspiration to all of us!) We also fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, with one regular, moderate meal in addition to two smaller meals which do not together exceed the regular meal. And of course, we often deny ourselves certain things we enjoy during Lent, such as chocolates or other treats. *(Per our Constitution, TOF members abstain on Wednesdays and Fridays, and fast on Fridays.)*

Like St. Francis, we can go one step farther during this holy time. There are many ways we can deepen our Faith and serve others. Maybe add a daily Rosary – or even just one extra daily prayer to those we regularly pray, such as a Memorare for our seminarians. Or perhaps pious exercise of the Stations of the Cross, especially during Lent, and on the last sufferings of Christ. We can also step out of our comfort zones a bit and assist our pastors and parishes in some capacity, perhaps tidying up the pews and putting missalettes away, or offering our services in whatever area our pastor needs assistance. Devote some time to mental or spiritual reading of a good Catholic books or Scripture. Or ask Roberto how you can help our fraternity! These small things can become habits that extend all year long, and it may add Franciscan joy to your life.

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, February 18

St. Nicholas Byzantine Church

1051 E. Robinson Ave.

Barberton, Ohio 44203

We are expecting you!

Franciscan Quote of the Month

“Where there is charity and wisdom there is neither fear nor ignorance.”

St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)

**Salesman, Soldier, Deacon, Mystic, Stigmatist, Poet, Founder of the Franciscan Order,
Patron Saint of Italy, Animals, and the Care of Creation**



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.

February Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

None this month!



Birthdays

Mike Butts, TOF – 2/1

Louise Daniel, TOF – 2/6

Julia Tarulli, TOF – 2/21

Formation News by Virgil Daniel, TOF

We have 9 individuals currently in the Initial Formation Process - 3 novices and 6 inquirers. Our current novices are on track to Profess in November at the Day of Reflection.

Five of our Inquirers hopefully will be advanced to the Postulancy in March. (The Council is currently considering their letters of application.) One Inquirer, Joe Zbasnik, is a unique case. He lives too far away to reasonably attend our formation sessions. As a courtesy to our fraternity, the Isolated Tertiaries have agreed to provide his initial formation, while he will continue to attend our monthly Gatherings. As such, the plan is for him to enter the Novitiate with them at the Shrine on February 24.

Don't forget to pray for **all our Formation students!**

Stand for Life



There are no fraternity members scheduled to pray at the abortion clinic for February because of the bitter weather. 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.**

Hospitality and Little Portion

For our February Gathering, Jim and Nettie Miller, TOF, and Susan Kramer, TOF will prepare our luncheon. If you want to help, please contact one of them to see what is needed.



Cindy Russo, TOF will prepare the Little Portion for October, and Bill Marshall, TOF 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.

Borromeo Bound – New Seminarians for our Daily Prayers!

God is clearly at work in the Cleveland and Youngstown Dioceses and in our parishes!

Roberto Meza, TOF has asked us to pray for William Martzaklis of St. Paul Parish in North Canton. William is a recent convert to our Faith. He entered Borromeo this past August, and is in the same class as John Paul Antalek, whom we added to our prayers a few months ago.



We have also added "The Andrews" to our daily prayer list! According to the chaplain of the University of Akron Newman Center and pastor of St. Bernard and St. Mary Parishes, Fr. Chris Zerucha: "Who are 'The Andrews'? From the 8 PM Sunday Mass, the Newman Center, and a small but strong



house of faith on Adolph Street, we have not one, but TWO Andrews applying to enter the Cleveland Diocesan seminaries in the Fall!! Andrew Turpin and Andrew Karka have recently graduated from the University of Akron. Both young men have devoutly, joyfully, and dependably assisted at 8 PM Mass as servers and readers, and Andrew Turpin as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Andrew Karka has also served as sacristan for 8 PM Mass for the last couple of years. Please pray for their discernment!" Andrew Turpin is a life-long Catholic



from Atwater and is a member of the Diocese of Youngstown. Andrew Karka entered the Church at the 2023 Easter Vigil and has fully embraced Catholicism (Andrew Turpin was his RCIA sponsor). He is from Louisville, but remains a member of St. Bernard in Akron, where he received his Sacraments and still assists as sacristan, server, and reader at the 8 PM and daily Masses.

God bless these young men and *all* seminarians and others in discernment of a religious vocation!

(Top right, William Martzaklis, photo courtesy of the Diocese of Youngstown. Lower left, Andrew Turpin, lower right, Andrew Karka, both photos courtesy of Fr. Chris Zerucha)

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 is continuing to work on a more local connection for the burial shrouds.



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.

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**

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.

Bodenschatz, (St. Paul in North Canton) and **William Martzaklis** (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: We are adding two new seminarians to our prayer list! Andrew Turpin and Andrew Karka, both of the Newman Center of the University of Akron, which meets at St. Bernard in Akron, have been accepted for admittance to Borromeo Seminary in August.**

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, January 21, Francis at St. Nicholas for our January Gathering. We had 37 in attendance, including visitors, Annie Butts, Fred Kramer, and our Spiritual Director, Fr. Vit
- Roberto Meza, TOF welcomed everyone and led the opening ritual prayer.
- Kenny Green, TOF led the Liturgy of the Hours with Debbie Ventosa, TOF and Bill Marshall, TOF. **(Starting with this Gathering, we are adding the prayers before and after the Office).**
- Lectio Divina followed, beginning with Virgil Daniel, TOF proclaiming the Gospel of the day from St. Mark (the arrest of John the Baptist; “repent and believe in the Gospel”, the call of John, James, Andrew, and Simon to the ministry of Apostles, “the Kingdom of God is at hand”).
- 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 Ongoing Formation:** Fr. Vit spoke to us on the least-practiced virtue by pious Christians, which is Justice:
 - The ruin of others' reputations by gossip, etc. is an injustice
 - Jesus is Divine and chose to humble Himself
 - Satan is the lowest and wants to be worshipped as divine
 - The secret weapon against demons is prayer and sacrifice
 - We follow principles – not thoughts and feelings
- **Guest from Embrace Clinic and Care:** Peggy outlined the work done by Embrace in Barberton and their mission in support of the pro-life and pro-family cause. Embrace supports:
 - Pregnant women
 - Provides pregnancy testing
 - Provides ultrasounds
 - Provides parenting classes to both mothers and fathers

- Provides a supportive Men and Father Ministry, to strengthen them in their vocation
 - Provides family supplies, food, childrens' supplies (diapers, clothing, toys, etc.)
 - Provides counselling to mothers, fathers, and children, all in respect and confirming Christian beliefs
 - Provides material and emotional support
 - Provides mentoring
 - Promotes abstinence outside of marriage – no birth control
 - Volunteers and donations are welcome
 - Located at 180 1st Street NW, Barberton, Ohio, 44203
- **Formation Report:** There are 9 individuals currently in the Initial Formation process – 3 Novices and 6 Inquirers. The Novices will profess in November at the Day of Reflection. Five Inquirers hope to be advanced to the Postulancy in March. Joe Zbasnik, the 6th Inquirer, is in Formation with the Isolated Tertiaries since he lives quite a ways from us and because of his home responsibilities. He hopes to enter the Novitiate at the Shrine on February 24.
- **Infirmarian Report:** Maria Elena Meza, TOF reported the following:
 - Per Bob Burtscher, TOF: Pat and Deanna Hurley's (OFM) daughter Lynn died recently. Pat is in a wheelchair. Bob Burtscher, TOF and Rose Zaratsian, TOF attended the funeral.
 - Per Bill Marshall, TOF: Elizabeth Francis, TOF is losing her hearing. Bill did not visit this month.
 - Per Judith Hoyt, TOF: Sandy Pollino, OFS is embracing her health challenges and is cheerfully carrying on. And Dorothy Takacs, OFS continues to struggle with her condition.
 - Per Roberto Meza, TOF: Jennifer Kerns, TOF is suffering from blindness in her left eye and can no longer drive in the dark, which is why she is unable to attend the Gatherings until there is light in the evening. She asks for prayers for her sister, Elaine. Also, Betty DeMarco, TOF has been unwell. And Rick Dunlap, TOF needs prayer support as he battles health challenges.
- **Isolated Tertiary Report:** Pepe Ventosa, TOF announced that the Inquirers are discerning entry into the Novitiate. Some will have their ceremony at the Shrine on February 24 at the 12:00 Mass. All fraternity members are welcome and are encouraged to attend in support of the Isolated Novices.
- **Ongoing Formation:** Virgil Daniel, TOF will lead a lesson on Indulgences. He provided us all with homework to study in preparation and urged us (in his Army/teacher voice) to be prepared!!!
- **Stand for Life:** There is no Stand for Life in February because of the bitter weather. Mike Butts, TOF and Rick Dunlap, TOF are scheduled for March.
- **Little Portion:** Cindy Russo, TOF will prepare and Bill Marshall, TOF will deliver the February Little Portion.
- **Wake Service and Burial Shroud Update:** Jim Miller, TOF has wake service forms available for those who have not made arrangements for this. We are still waiting for news on shroud availability!
- **Triduum Retreat:** Pepe Ventosa, TOF says the retreat is planned August 23 through August 25 at the Shrine. There are some rooms available (reserve early, please!), and members may bring their own tent and sleeping bag to camp on the grounds. More details to follow.
- **Fr. Vit's Books:** There are three books on praying for poor souls in purgatory, which Fr. Vit has made available to us. Please see Roberto if you would like to borrow them.
- **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 Pat and Deanna Hurley, OFS, who are in mourning for their daughter, Lynn.
 - For the success of the ministry of the Embrace Clinic.
 - 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
 - William Martzaklis of the Diocese of Youngstown and Borromeo Seminary
 - Andrew Turpin of the Diocese of Youngstown, who will enter Borromeo Seminary in August
 - Andrew Karka of the Diocese of Cleveland, who will enter Borromeo Seminary in August
- Roberto then led us in the Memorare and the St. Michael Prayer and concluded with the Closing Ritual Prayer.

***Don't forget – our next Gathering will be at St. Nicholas on February 18!
And Blessed Lent!***

Save the Date (February, the Month of the Holy Family)

February 18	February Gathering (St. Nicholas Byzantine Church, 1:30 PM)
March 29	Good Friday (Day of Fast and Abstinence)
March 31	Easter Sunday – The Resurrection of Our Lord
May 18	Annual TOF Pilgrimage planned by Our Lady of America Fraternity
August 23-25	Triduum at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted

One last word from our Minister:

I heartily encourage anyone who can, to see “Cabrini” in theaters. It will be released on March 8. It is the story of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, who was the beloved patron saint of our former OFS fraternity. The film is produced by Angel Studios, which has also produced “The Chosen”.

From “The Cabrini Movie” Facebook page: “From Alejandro Monteverde, award-winning director of “Sound of Freedom”, comes the powerful epic of Francesca Cabrini, an Italian immigrant who arrives in New York City in 1889 and is greeted by disease, crime, and impoverished children.

Cabrini sets off on a daring mission to convince the hostile mayor to secure housing and health care for society’s most vulnerable. With broken English and poor health, Cabrini uses her entrepreneurial mind to build an empire of hope unlike anything the world has ever seen.”

The film will be shown at –

Lake 8 Movies (558 W. Tuscarawas Ave., Barberton)

3/7 @ 7 PM

3/8 through 3/10 @ 1 PM, 4 PM & 7 PM

3/11 through 3/14 @ 12 PM, 3:15 PM & 6:40 PM

Regal Independence (1210 Independence Ave., Akron)

3/7 @ 6 PM

3/8 through 3/14 @ 12 PM; 3:15 PM & 6:40 PM

Cinemark Tinseltown North Canton (4720 Mega St. NW, North Canton)

3/7 @ 6 PM & 9:25 PM

3/8 through 3/14 @ 11:40 AM; 3:05 PM, 6:30 PM & 9:55 PM

There may be other local theaters which show this fine movie – check the listings if these are inconvenient!

I hope this will prove to be a faithful and truthful recreation of Mother Cabrini's life, which was lived in line with her Third Order Franciscan vocation. Pax et bonum, Roberto

