

June, 2024

Volume 5, Issue 6

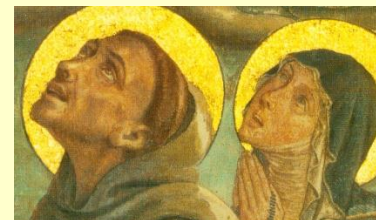
# Il Poverello

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)*

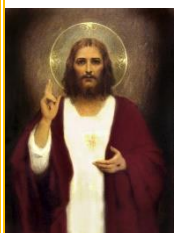
*And the words which You gave to me I have given to them... - St. Francis of Assisi*

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



## Something to Consider

**The 12 Promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus** by Mary Thierfelder (Reprinted from  
The Catholic Company website)



In the Catholic Church, the month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This great feast in the Church is always celebrated on the octave day of Corpus Christi, the feast which celebrates the Body and Blood of Christ. Corpus Christi falls on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday (which itself falls on the Sunday after Pentecost), which means the feast of the Sacred Heart falls 19 days after Pentecost Sunday. The following day is the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, so these two devotions to the hearts of Jesus and Mary are side-by-side on the liturgical calendar.

Devotion to Jesus' Sacred Heart is perhaps the most popular in the Church today, and it had its beginning in 17th century France. In 1672, Christ appeared to a French Visitation nun, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. Over a series of visits, Our Lord revealed to St. Margaret Mary the importance of devotion to His Sacred Heart. He asked that His heart, wounded on the cross and continually wounded by ingratitude of men for his sacrifice for them, be venerated and adored as an embodiment of His Divine Mercy and love.

Jesus especially asked that all people go to Confession and receive Holy Communion often, especially on the First Friday of each month, and that reparation be made for sins committed against His Sacred Heart and the Holy Eucharist. He also requested that the Church observe a feast day specifically for the purpose of this reparation. In 1856, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart was officially added to the liturgical calendar.

You can have a devotion to the Sacred Heart by doing as Our Lord asked, by receiving Holy Communion frequently (*especially on the first Friday of each month*), monthly Confession, veneration of an image of His Sacred Heart, and prayers and sacrifices offered out of love for Him and for the conversion of sinners.

Jesus also gave us, through St. Margaret Mary, special promises for those who keep a loving devotion to the attribute of His infinite love for mankind as represented in His Most Sacred Heart. (*This is considered a private revelation. See the final page for the 12 Promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and for the Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus*)

## Fraternity Council

Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM

– Spiritual Director

Roberto Meza, TOF

– Minister

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

– Master of Formation

Susan Kramer, TOF

– Newsletter

**Next Gathering –**

**Sunday, June 9**

**St. Nicholas Byzantine Church**

**1051 E. Robinson Ave.**

**Barberton, Ohio 44203**

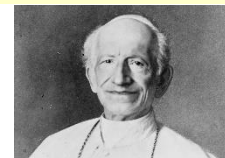
**We are expecting you!**

## Franciscan Quote of the Month

**“There is in the Sacred Heart the symbol and the express image  
of the infinite love of Jesus Christ which moves us to love in return.”**

**Pope Leo XIII (1810-1903)**

**Priest, Bishop, Pope, Intellectual, Papal Diplomat, Patron of Several Catholic charities,  
Consecrated the Entire World to the Sacred Heart of Jesus (June 11, 1899), Third Order Franciscan**



## 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.*

## June Anniversaries and Birthdays

### Profession Anniversaries

Mike Butts, TOF (20 Years)

Virgil & Louise Daniel, TOF; Mary Dye, TOF;  
Therese Harper, TOF; Jim & Nettie Miller, TOF;  
and Matt Poletti, TOF (3 Years)



### Birthdays

Elizabeth Francis, TOF –  
6/13

Susan Kramer, TOF – 6/29

## Stand for Life



Joanne Angeletti, TOF, Carol Perrine, TOF, and Mary Dye, TOF will pray at the abortion clinic on State Road in Cuyahoga Falls on June 15. 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 June Gathering, Therese Harper, TOF will prepare our luncheon. If you want to help, please contact her to see what is needed. ***\*Since Therese is the only one who signed up for June, this would be an especially welcome time to assist if you are interested – give her a call to see how you can help!***



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

Therese Harper, TOF will prepare the Little Portion for June, and Bob Burtscher, 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.***

## Evangelization Committee Being Formed - Submitted by Pepe Ventosa, TOF

The Evangelization Committee is now formed. We have a total of 18 members (9 women and 9 men) volunteering in this committee. This group is composed of members from our three local fraternities (St. Pio, Our Lady of America and Ss. Francis and Clare fraternities). Members of this committee will take turns in manning a display table with information about the TOF in local events such as Catholic conferences, parish events and others. We thank those participating in their giving of their time to promote the Third Order of St. Francis. If you are aware of any local Catholic event that can benefit from this service please contact Matt Poletti, TOF, chairperson of this committee.

*"In gratitude to God and to the Church for their Franciscan vocation, members shall do their utmost to advance the interests of the Order. One or more shall be appointed in each fraternity whose duty it will be to promote and spread it with prudent zeal, especially among men and young people."* Constitution Art 82

## Tridua Update - by Pepe Ventosa, TOF



Our first TOF retreat will be taking place at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted on August 23-25, 2024.

Registration is now open (*full details towards the end of this newsletter*). Please know that there is an option to attend one, two or all three days. If you are planning to attend, we kindly ask that you fill out the registration form (*link available via the Mat Posts or by requesting a printed copy to Susan Kramer, TOF*) as soon as possible, as this will help us in planning for the retreat according to the number of attendees. The retreat will start at 4:30 pm on Friday and will end after lunch on Sunday. The registration form directs you to indicate which days you will be attending so the committee can plan accordingly.

Our Constitutions (Art 66) strongly recommends an annual retreat of Franciscan nature. Basil Gummermann, OFM Cap, in his Handbook of The Third Order Secular of St. Francis of Assisi, writes, "By spending several days in holy silence, prayer, meditation, self-examination, and pious planning the soul is enlightened, cleansed, sanctified and prepared for the battles of life... Tertiaries who take the pursuit of perfection seriously avail themselves of the opportunity of making a retreat every year" (p. 274-275).

## It's Time for the Ss. Francis & Clare Fraternity Picnic!

Summer is nearly here – and that means we are quickly approaching our annual picnic!

As usual, we will be holding our picnic on the beautiful Queen of Heaven parish grounds, with the gracious hospitality of Fr. David Durkee. The parish is located at 1800 Steese Road in Green, and has a lovely grotto and several outdoor shrines.

Mary Dye, TOF will be sending out further information in the next few weeks, including food assignments for those who want to contribute to our picnic feast.

The picnic will be held August 18, 2024 and will function as our August Gathering. Family members are quite welcome to share the day with us, which will also feature the recitation of the Franciscan Crown Rosary and plenty of time to socialize and relax with our Franciscan family.

## Reminder!

Please be sure to call Vice Minister Jim Miller, TOF if you are unable to make it to the monthly Gathering. Attending the Gathering every month is part of our duties as Third Order Franciscans, and it is something that should be taken seriously. Part of our charism is that we live in community – that we are a family - and we observe that by attending the Gathering and keeping in contact, just as some families come together for Mass and Sunday dinner. If you have a valid reason for not attending, such as illness, family obligations, and so on, please let Jim know via email, text, or phone. **We miss you when you are away!**

## Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus – by Pepe Ventosa, TOF



The Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus falls this year on June 7, 2024.

In its Constitution, our Order, which was consecrated to the Sacred Heart by the Ministers General during the Pontificate of Pope Pius IX, makes reference to this devotion in two articles.

Article 68 asks each fraternity to renew the consecration of the Order to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the month of January or June. Our fraternity will renew this consecration at our June Gathering. The prayer can be found on our website under the "Exercises of Religion" in the menu bar.

Article 72, which deals with the tertiary's family life, strongly recommends consecration of the family to the Sacred Heart and its annual renewal.

## St. Louis IX TOF Men's Prayer Group

All TOF men are invited to join us on the last Tuesday of the month at 8:00pm Eastern Time via Zoom to pray the Compline (night prayer) using the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is a great opportunity to become familiar with the Little Office of the BVM, which is one of the offices that the Tertiaries are gifted with. We will be praying in Latin.

**For any questions, or to be included in the Zoom invite, please contact Pepe Ventosa, TOF.**



## Ongoing Formation for the June Gathering – by Debbie Ventosa, TOF

Kenny Green TOF will be sharing with us Article 58. "They shall sow deep reverence for God's churches, whether these are large and richly furnished, or small and poor, and shall make visits to them readily, whenever an opportunity occurs...."

Please take some time to familiarize yourself with the beauty of this entire article and reflect on how we may be able to draw closer to the Lord by our participation in the Holy Eucharist.

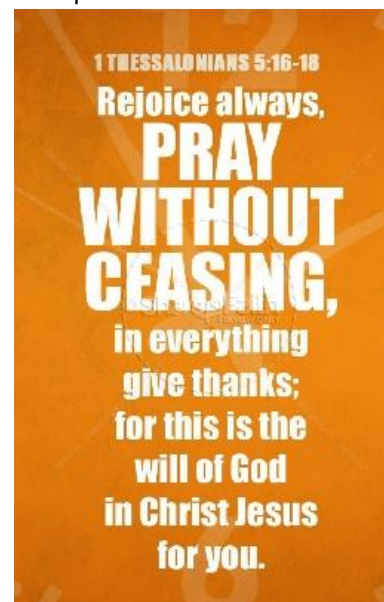
## Eucharistic Adoration and Daily Prayer

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) 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), **John Paul Antalek** (St. Mary Parish in Akron), all from the Diocese of Cleveland, and **Andrew Turpin** (University of Akron Newman Center, St. Bernard). 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, 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.**



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. The very least we can do is to pray for them!

### **Lord, it is Good for Us to be Together!**

The May Gathering was held on May 19 at St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish. We had 24 in attendance, including Annie Butts, Jen and Carolyn Poletti, and Fr. Vit.

- Roberto Meza, TOF led the Opening Prayers.
- Kenny Green, TOF led the Liturgy of the Hours (special prayers for Pentecost Sunday), assisted by Debbie Ventosa, TOF and Chris Devore, TOF.
- Virgil Daniel, TOF proclaimed the Gospel of Pentecost Sunday for Lectio Divina, which focused on “the Spirit of Truth”. We discussed what words and phrases touched us most and how we can apply the wisdom of the Scripture reading to our daily lives. And then we prayed together with those at our table.
- Roberto Meza, TOF led us in Grace before our lunch and social time.
- Our delicious meal was prepared by Mary Dye, TOF; Bob Burtscher, TOF; and Chris and LeeAnn Devore, TOF.
- We were reminded to be sure to get our reservations in for the Franciscan Tridua, which will be held at the Shrine of Our Lady, Comforter of the Afflicted in Youngstown. *(Details below this article.)*
- After the meal, Roberto Meza, TOF led us in the prayer after the meal.
- Ongoing Formation was taught by Mike Butts, TOF. Mike discussed and explained Article 57 of the Rule.
  - Which exercise should Third Order Franciscans hold first in their vocations?
    - Daily Mass or Spiritual Communion.
  - Holy Mass is a visible sacrifice.
    - Adoration
    - Thanksgiving to God
    - Atonement and Reparation
    - Petitions to God
    - Interior Participation
  - Praying the Rosary before or after Mass is a devout practice, but our focus during Mass should be on Mass, as are other devotions. Our full attention and participation should be on the Mass.

- Holy Communion
  - Try to attend Mass daily
  - Try to always be free from mortal sin
  - Be sure to receive Communion in a State of Grace
  - The best preparation for Communion:
    - An Act of Faith, Hope, and Love
    - Confession
- Fr. Vit's Formation:
  - "The world will hate you, but the world hated Me first." Jesus will \*always\* win in the end.
  - Jesus entrusted His Body and Blood, teaching and Sacraments to His disciples.
  - Corruption comes when His words and teachings are distorted or "modernized".
  - The Last Supper is a promise.
  - The Resurrection is an Act of God which changes everything.
  - Make reparation for those in need of prayer. Pray for one's spouses.
  - "There is nothing colder than a Christian who does not seek to save others." (St. John Chrystosom)
  - Fr. Vit gave us his blessing at the end of his teaching.
- Evangelization Committee: Roberto Meza, TOF said the Committee will be a function of all three fraternities in our area (Ss. Francis & Clare, St. Padre Pio, and Our Lady of America), consisting of perhaps eight members. It will work to share the Third Order Franciscan way of life with others. Please see Matt Poletti, TOF if you are interested in being part of this.
- Formation Report: Debbie Ventosa, TOF reported that Kenny Green, TOF will lead Ongoing Formation in June on Reverence for God's Churches. The Formation teams continue to work with the Postulants and Novices. All groups are progressing and coming along with their studies well.
- Virgil Daniel, TOF seconded Debbie's report. The students continue to study the Rule. He also stated he has received no concerns about the By-Laws, only positive, grateful feedback for the work of the Council. After the Fraternity Council approves of the By-Laws, it will then go forward to Fr. Vit for his approval.
- Infirmarian Report: We were delighted to welcome Elizabeth Francis, TOF at the Gathering and to see her beautiful face! Jennifer Kerns, TOF is feeling under the weather and thought it best to stay home. Betty DeMarco, TOF is mourning a close relative who died, and has asked for our prayers. Denise Williams, TOF had an injury to her head, which put her in the ICU.
- Little Portion: Mary Dye, TOF prepared the Little Portion, and Kenny Green, TOF will deliver it.
- Intercessory Prayer: Roberto Meza, TOF led us in prayer for the various intentions we keep close to our hearts, including the intentions of Pope Francis, our local bishops (Bishop Bonnar of Youngstown, Bishop Fernandes of Columbus, Bishop Pipta of the Eparchy of Parma, and Bishop Malesic of Cleveland), and our parish priests, including Fr. Miron Kerul-Kmec of St. Nicholas Parish (our kind host), Fr. Ryan Furlong, TOF of the St. Padre Pio Fraternity, and Fr. Daniel Dozier, TOF, an Isolated Tertiary. We also prayed for our fraternity, our families, our country, and those Catholics worldwide who are in danger or who live under persecution for their Faith. And for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, the TOF, and for an increase in faithful Catholic marriages and families.
- Roberto Meza, TOF led us in the Memorare (for all seminarians, particularly those we have spiritually adopted) and the Prayer to St. Michael for spiritual protection.
- We prayed the Closing Prayers, led by Roberto.

**Council is moving the June Gathering from June 16 to June 9 because of Father's Day!**

### **Save the Date (June, the Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus)**

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| June 7       | Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – Family Consecration   |
| June 9       | June Gathering at St. Nicholas Parish, 1:30 PM <b>(Date moved forward due to Father's Day)</b>   |
| June 24      | Mass at Canal Park with Bishop Malesic for the Eucharistic Revival, with a Solemn Public Eucharistic Procession to St. Bernard, and a talk by one of the Eucharistic Revival preachers, 7 PM |
| June 25      | TOF Men's Prayer Group Meeting – 8 PM <b>(Last Tuesday of Every Month)</b>   |
| August 18    | Annual Ss. Francis and Clare Fraternity Picnic   |
| August 23-25 | Tridua at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted  |

## Franciscan Tertiaries' Tridua 2024 – by Pepe Ventosa, TOF

### TRIDUA

Franciscan Tertiaries - OFM Province of the Immaculate Conception



#### What is a Tridua?

“As it is impossible for a great number of Tertiaries to be several days away from home or work, tridua, also known as public Tertiary retreats, have been introduced. On three successive days a sermon is preached in the morning and in the evening, or at least in the evening. During the day the members are to practice recollection and devote as much time to prayer as their condition allows. Special opportunities for confession are offered.” From: *Handbook of the Third Order Secular of St. Francis of Assisi*, p. 275.

As a simple Franciscan Tertiary retreat, most of the time in the Tridua is dedicated for individual prayer, recollection, spiritual reading and meditation. The object of the Tridua “is not only spiritual renewal in general but renewal in the spirit of St. Francis” *Handbook of the Third Order Secular of St. Francis of Assisi*, p. 276. Group activities are few and optional, and participation at these is left for the participant to discern. They are provided as an aid to keep your focus on God. The main talks for reflection will be provided by Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM. Attendees can stay at their homes or at facilities provided. Participants can attend one, two or the three days of the Tridua, as personal responsibilities allow.

#### Available during the Tridua:

- Daily Mass
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Confession
- Spiritual Direction
- Quiet areas for prayer and spiritual reading
- Station of the Cross for individual meditation
- Common areas for fellowship
- Simple meals

**DATE:** August 23-25, 2024

Starts Friday at 5:00 pm with Opening Mass

Ends Sunday at 2:00 pm after lunch

**PLACE:** Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted - Youngstown, OH

**DONATION:** \$40

#### HOUSING:

- Camping at the Shrine's grounds
- House at the Shrine
- Local Hotel: a retreat group discount is available at \$149/night plus tax (hotel info provided upon registration)
- At your home or friend's house

#### REGISTRATION:

**Registration deadline: July 15, 2024** – (Registration available via Mat Posts or by completing the form included below)

**REGISTRATION FOR TRIDUA**

August 23-25, 2024

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: July 15, 2024**

Name:

Address:

Email address:

Phone number:

Fraternity name (if applicable, or if Isolated Tertiary):

Please select:

- Professed member
- Attending Initial Formation, please specify:
- Inquirer
- Postulant
- Novice

**ATTENDANCE**

I will be attending the following days (place an "X" inside parenthesis for all that apply):

- Friday
- Saturday
- Sunday

**HOUSING INFORMATION**

I will be staying at (place an "X" inside parenthesis that applies)

- at my home or friend's home
- I will make my own reservations at a local hotel as follows (please select accordingly):
- Provide me with the group discount hotel information and I will make the reservation.  
Group discount rate is \$149/night plus tax.
- I will make my own hotel selection and reservation.
- I would like to stay at the house next to the Shrine. If a room is available, please let me know. I'm aware that steps are involved.
- I will camp on the Shrine's grounds and will bring my own camping gear.
- Other plans (please specify):

**MEALS**

Meals are included, but unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate special dietary restrictions. You are welcome to bring your own meals if necessary.

**DONATION**

Donation for the Retreat is \$40. Please make check payable to: Jose Ventosa, TOF, and write "Tridua Retreat" on the memo line.

***Please send registration along with donation to Pepe Ventosa, TOF***



### **12 Promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus:**

1. I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.
2. I will establish peace in their homes.
3. I will comfort them in all their afflictions.
4. I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all, in death.
5. I will bestow abundant blessings upon all their undertakings.
6. Sinners will find in my Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.
7. Lukewarm souls shall become fervent.
8. Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection.
9. I will bless every place in which an image of my Heart is exposed and honored.
10. I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
11. Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in my Heart.
12. I promise you in the excessive mercy of my Heart that my all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Fridays in nine consecutive months the grace of final perseverance; they shall not die in my disgrace, nor without receiving their sacraments. My divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.

### **Novena Prayer to the Sacred Heart (to be prayed on nine consecutive days)**

Divine Jesus, You have said, "Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you." Behold me kneeling at Your feet, filled with a lively faith and confidence in the promises dictated by Your Sacred Heart to Saint Margaret Mary. I come to ask this favor: *(Mention your request)*.

To whom can I turn if not to You, Whose Heart is the source of all graces and merits? Where should I seek if not in the treasure which contains all the riches of Your kindness and mercy? Where should I knock if not at the door through which God gives Himself to us and through which we go to God? I have recourse to You, Heart of Jesus. In You I find consolation when afflicted, protection when persecuted, strength when burdened with trials, and light in doubt and darkness.

Dear Jesus, I firmly believe that You can grant me the grace I implore, even though it should require a miracle. You have only to will it and my prayer will be granted. I admit that I am most unworthy of Your favors, but this is not a reason for me to be discouraged. You are the God of mercy, and You will not refuse a contrite heart. Cast upon me a look of mercy, I beg of You, and Your kind Heart will find in my miseries and weakness a reason for granting my prayer.

Sacred Heart, whatever may be Your decision with regard to my request, I will never stop adoring, loving, praising, and serving You. My Jesus, be pleased to accept this my act of perfect resignation to the decrees of Your adorable Heart, which I sincerely desire may be fulfilled in and by me and all Your creatures forever.

Grant me the grace for which I humbly implore You through the Immaculate Heart of Your most sorrowful Mother. You entrusted me to her as her child, and her prayers are all-powerful with You. Amen.

