



Soldiers of Christ

Newsletter of the
Isolated Franciscan Tertiaries
of the OFM Province of the
Immaculate Conception

JUNE 2024

Sandy Baden, TOF Editor

Vol. 4, Issue 6

THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS, JUNE 7, 2024



In the year 1756, Pope Clement XIII approved the devotion of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. By 1856 Pope Pius IX placed the Feast of the Sacred Heart on the universal Roman Calendar to be celebrated on the Friday after Corpus Christi.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus is the celebration of God's love for mankind and is the symbol of human love. When we have a devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus it is a devotion to Jesus Christ Himself.

On a personal note, when I was a devout Lutheran around the age of fifteen years old, my best friend, Jackie, took me into her parents bedroom where there was a picture on the wall of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Jackie had me stand in front of the picture, and then told me to walk to the other side of the room and look at the picture as I did. I observed that the eyes of Jesus were following me wherever I went the room. This took me by surprise and I thought it was a miracle. The effect of that day stayed with me as I had looked at Jesus in awe, which I had never experienced before. I did learn years later when I started oil painting in 1993, I discovered how to paint the eyes of a human or an animal to give the illusion the eyes would follow the observer no matter where the person moved in the room. I then realized no miracle some thirty-one years ago, except the awesomeness of Christ had remained with me since then. One could say that was the beginning of my conversion into the Roman Catholic Church on October 4, 1971.

Our Lord Jesus Christ had appeared to St. Margaret Mary indicating He wanted reparation to the indifference of His most Sacred Heart. Christ indicated to St. Margaret He wanted us to have communion on nine first Fridays of each month.

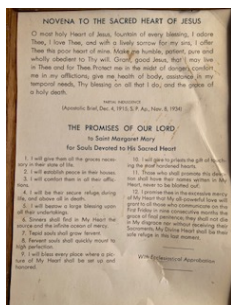
Between 1673-1675, Jesus appeared to St. Margaret indicating the importance of this devotion. Pope Pius XI had stressed in his encyclical, “the reparation to the Sacred Heart is obligatory for all Christians and the devotion or reparation to the Sacred Heart was the highest approval of Apostolic Authority and must be practiced universally.”

In 1931 the Devotion to the Divine Mercy was given to St. Faustina Kowalska, again by our Lord, indicating God’s love and mercy to His most Sacred Heart. The painting of Christ showing the colors of the graces to be given for healing and mercy and for the forgiveness of sins, should remind us of the importance of the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The symbol of God’s love is so awesome when you think about the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, the son of God. Christ’s divine love is at the heart of our faith and gives us the Holy Eucharist. Let us pray, as Tertiaries, to have the picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in our homes. One of the promises printed on the back of the picture, in which, Number nine says: I will bless every place where a picture of my Heart shall be set up and honored. There are twelve promises that were given to St. Margaret Mary for the souls devoted to His Sacred Heart.

Sandy Baden, TOF

NOVENA TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS



O most holy Heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing, I adore Thee, I love Thee, and with a lively sorrow for my sins, I offer Thee this poor heart of mine. Make me humble, patient, pure, and wholly obedient to Thy will. Grant, good Jesus, that I may live in Thee and for Thee. Protect me in the mist of danger; comfort me in my afflictions; give me health of body, assistance in my temporal needs, Thy blessing on all that I do, and the grace of a holy death.

(Apostolic Brief, Dec. 4, 1915; S.P. Ap., Nov. 8, 1934)

THE PROMISES OF OUR LORD

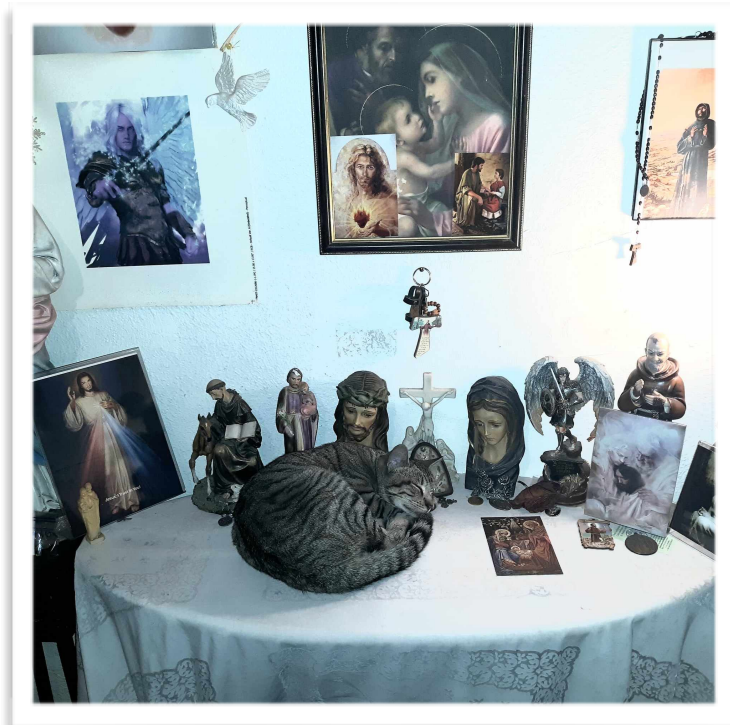
to Saint Margaret Mary for Souls Devoted to His Sacred Heart

1. I will give them all the graces necessary in their state in life.
2. I will establish peace in their houses.
3. I will comfort them in their afflictions.
4. I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all in death.
5. I will bestow a large blessing upon all their undertakings.
6. Sinners shall find in My Heart the source and the infinite ocean of mercy.
7. Tepid souls shall grow fervent.
8. Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection.
9. I will bless every place where a picture of My Heart shall be set up 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 in My Heart never to be blotted out.
12. I promise thee in the excessive mercy of My Heart that My all-powerful love will grant to all those who communicate on First Friday in nine consecutive months the grace of final penitence; they shall not die in My disgrace nor without receiving their Sacraments; My Divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.

With Ecclesiastical Approbation

ERICKA'S KITTEN, GEORGE WITOVER

Our beloved Ericka Witover has a home filled with love of our Lord Jesus Christ, and her kitten, George, has found a perfect place to feel at peace in Christ as he curled up on Ericka's prayer table.

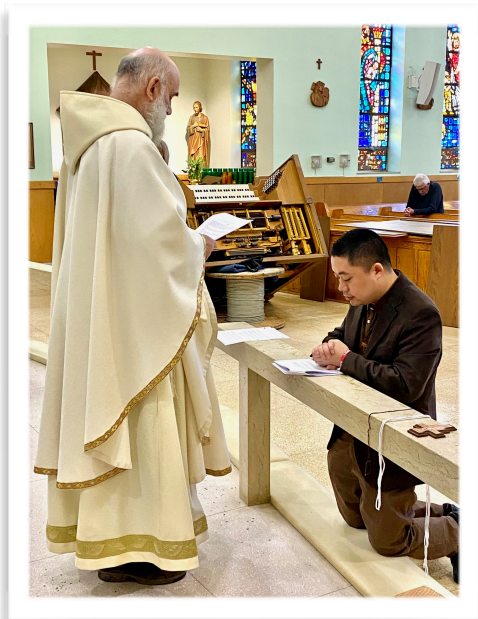


Getting to know our Isolated Tertiaries

TIEN TRAN'S HOLY PROFESSION
Submitted by KimQui Tran

Tien Tran, TOF was established as an Honorary Member of the Isolated Franciscan Tertiaries on July 13, 2023, the Feast Day of St. Bonaventure.

Tien and his family traveled from Camp Hill, PA to Youngstown, OH on Saturday, April 20, 2024 on the Feast Day of St. Marian to Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted. At the Shrine, Tien and family attended the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, noon Mass, and the Honorary Isolated Tertiaries Ceremony of Holy Profession. Rev. Vit



Fiala, OFM was the celebrant and blessed Tien's St. Francis Scapular, Cinture, and San Damiano Cross. Tien and family expressed their thankfulness for the Isolated Franciscan Tertiaries and its members as well as Rev. Fiala. Tien, as an Honorary Member, prays daily for all Franciscan Tertiaries and prayer requests. Beginning August 2024, Tien plans to attend the monthly Lectio Divina Zoom meeting with members of the Isolated Franciscan Tertiaries. For prayer requests, please email Tien at trankq25@gmail.com.

Anne Rattay (Ewell)

Andrew Ewell and Anne Rattay (Ewell)



I was raised Catholic along with my sisters, and one brother. My parents were also raised Catholic. I grew up going to a diocesan Latin mass. This shaped my faith in an invaluable way. My parents were also committed to creating an integrated home life based in the faith. A wonderful memory is when my father created prayer booklets for our family to use during the day and the evening when we would pray together as a family. This is how I learned the rosary, the St. Michael prayer and other foundational prayers as a child. I am so grateful for this. Perhaps like many cradle Catholics, my faith did have ebbs and flows of intensity throughout my teenage and college years, but in retrospect, the formative years I had as a child and growing up in the faith gave me a great foundation to appreciate and come back to.

I realized my attraction towards a Franciscan way of life when I was a child and I enjoyed learning about Franciscan Saints. I would describe it as an attraction to the spirituality of St. Francis, which combines the contemplation of God, Divine revelation, and an active zeal in the body of Christ. It always seemed that the Franciscan saints were lovingly able to pray always and exude a beautiful joy in living the Christian life. When reading about Franciscan saints it would seem to fail in describing their commitment to each part of the Christian life. It brings me into contemplation in a vivid way where the mysteries of the faith are brought to life and into the world through the pursuit of God in virtue. Whether this is described through missionary work, contemplative prayer, or personal interactions of sharing the faith, these are what I find the most inspiring and unique throughout the centuries of saints, both lay and religious living the Franciscan charisms.

I would say that St. Elizabeth of Hungary, who is also my patron saint during my discernment of the third order, inspires me very much. When I was little, probably eight years old, or so, I chose to dress up as St. Elizabeth of Hungary specifically for Halloween! I wanted to be a princess, and she was the first person I thought of. I really was impacted by her story in a simple way when I was a child and even more so now as an adult. She was a third order Franciscan of royal status in Hungary in the 1200s. She endured much hardship in her short life and received her eternal reward at the age of twenty-four. She was also a wife and mother. Coming to know more of her story now and petitioning her on the journey of Novitiate inspires me further since I myself am a wife at the age of twenty-three, soon to be a mother, and if God wills it, I will and I can imitate her example in all virtues.



Before discerning the Third Order Franciscans and learning more about the spirituality of St. Francis, I did not realize that the Franciscans were responsible for bringing about the infallible declaration of the Immaculate Conception. When I learned this, I was really struck with awe at the depth of prayer, devotion, and study the Franciscans have been committed to throughout history and to learn and live the gospel in a mystical way. It was very inspiring to learn that, because it is a true example of the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and how he enlightens the mind and heart of man, and to elevate his understanding of the mysteries of the faith.



Ceremony of entrance to the Novitiate on February 27, 2024 with Canon Willam Avis of the Institute of Christ the King Most Precious Blood of Jesus Parish in Pittsburgh.



Andrew Ewell, Canon William Avis, and Anne Ewell

Kennedy Pugh

I was born in Denver, Colorado. Both my parents were from Mansfield, Louisiana. Shortly after my birth my family moved to Pueblo, Colorado and I still have family that resides there. Both of my parents were Baptist and converted to Catholicism. It was



Fr. Don Malin and Kennedy Pugh

very important to them that their seven children, three girls and four boys, grew up in the Catholic faith. All of us kids attended Catholic Schools. When I was in fourth grade the Bishop of the Diocese of Pueblo closed all the Catholic schools and we were forced to resort to public education. My parents sent my older brother to a nearby boarding school run by the Benedictines called, The Abbey, in Canon City Colorado. My next oldest brother drove forty-five minutes each day to a catholic high school in Colorado Springs, Colorado. My parents could not afford to send the rest of us to attend catholic schools out of town so we had to resort to public education.

When I was a kid I was always fascinated with the Mass. I dreamed of becoming a priest and would make believe I was with my siblings. A brother and I throughout high school would pray the rosary with the Legion of Mary on a weekly basis. I became an alter server and eventually received my sacraments of first communion, reconciliation and confirmation.

I became involved with a Catholic youth ministry in my town called "Search" which was a peer youth ministry. I worked as a team leader throughout high school until I left for college. After attending a University in New Mexico, I decided to audition for an ecumenical singing group called the "Reach Out Singers." I was accepted and toured the United States, Scandinavia, and the USSR.

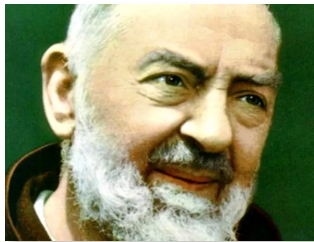
During my time with the Reach Out Singers I found my protestant brother and sisters confronting me and challenging me to why I believed as a Catholic and what I believed. It challenged me to know and seek answers and not just accept things because it was just the next “good catholic thing to do.” Another Catholic on the tour told me about a catholic ministry based in St. Paul, MN. called the NET ministries. (National Evangelization Teams) they were a catholic peer ministry. I applied and was accepted and began my ministry with them. I found this time to be the most formative in my faith. The element of living in community and praying together was powerful and life changing. It was a time that rooted me in prayer and my Catholic faith.

After I finished with NET, I eventually began working for a family in Boston that had an autistic son and wanted me to work with him in music therapy. I then moved to Manchester, NH and lived in a young adult Catholic community and worked running a shelter for the homeless.

I have always been attracted to the charism of St. Francis since I was young. To this day in our family home we have the prayer of St. Francis prominently displayed. It was my mom and dad’s favorite prayer and I have found it to be mine as well.

St. Padre Pio is the Franciscan Saint that inspires me and reminds me daily to “Pray, Hope and Don’t Worry!” I believe the thing that impacted me the most about St. Francis is he was not a priest and the Lord used him in a powerful way as a deacon. I am challenged to surrender and trust God on this journey.

I never became that priest I wanted to be when I was a kid. God has done a work in my life and is still calling me to “Go Deeper!” Through the grace of God I surrender to “God’s Holy Will.” The Novitiate ceremony was March 15, 2024.



QUOTES FROM ST. PADRE PIO

“Pray, hope, and don’t worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer.”

“Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter.”

“Be content to progress in slow steps until you have legs to run and wings with which to fly.”

Initial Formation News

The last Novitiate class will be in June with James, Bob, and Stephanie. Kindly keep them in your prayers as they continue their discernment process toward their final profession.



James



Bob



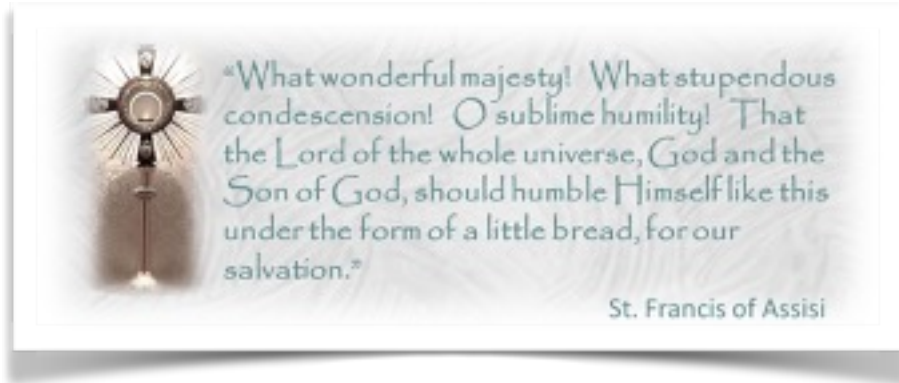
Stephany

ONGOING ZOOM MONTHLY GATHERINGS, JUNE 6th

ARTICLE 73:



In accordance with the Rule, they shall not permit in their homes books, newspapers, images or pictures, radio or television programs, from which harm to virtue may be feared; and they shall also prudently restrain those subject to them from from using such things. Rather, they shall foster by all means in their power everything that makes family life holy and happy.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION ISOLATED TERTIARIES SCHEDULE

<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>Judith Inglesby, TOF</i>
<i>TUESDAY</i>	<i>Linda Menser, TOF</i>
<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>Luis Guzman, TOF</i> <i>Judith Inglesby, TOF</i> <i>Paul & Mary Tag, TOF</i>
<i>THURSDAY</i>	<i>Sandy Baden, TOF</i> <i>Bob Zupanek</i>
<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>Linda Menser, TOF</i> <i>Pepe Ventosa, TOF</i> <i>Sandy DeWaal, TOF</i>
<i>SATURDAY</i>	<i>Ericka Witover, TOF</i> <i>Peter Emau, TOF</i> <i>Miguel Mahan, TOF</i>
<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>Linda Menser, TOF</i>

Please include prayer for the intentions of our Pope, bishops, and priests. Also pray for the community of Friars of the Immaculate Conception Province, for the increase in religious vocations in their community and for all the members of the Isolated Tertiaries Community.

ADMONITION XXVII—PART 6 (VIRTUE AND VICE)
(Study on the Admonitions of St. Francis of Assisi, Lothar Hardick, OFM)
by: Sandy Baden, TOF)

Where there is Mercy and Prudence, (Discretio), there is neither Excess nor Harshness



Where there is mercy and prudence (Discretio), which means discretion, there is neither excess nor harshness. Lothar Hardick, OFM explains the meaning of Discretio and indicates this also applies to oneself. How can we use discretion in all situations if we do not have the same regard to ourselves? This applies also to love of neighbor, which we should also love ourselves as God loves us in order to give love to others. One of the difficulties we may experience would be our own attitude towards ourselves as Lothar Hardick, OFM explains.

Sometimes we are extremely too harsh on ourselves and do not practice patience, which could hold us back in our spiritual growth. We would then experience guilt because we lack mercy and prudence. If we can love our brothers and sisters and have discretion (Discretio) when necessary, we should do the same for ourselves.

Where in our lives would we find the most mercy in our faith? If we believe God has forgiven us of our sins in Confession then it would mean God has great mercy on our souls. Our sins are absolved through the priest by the mercy of God. God is merciful and forgiving as Lothar Hardick, OFM reiterates. Our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and died on the cross to give us His great mercy. We also must also be merciful to ourselves and our neighbors.

*While Luthar Hardick, OFM speaks of mercy and prudence (Discretio), we are to keep in mind he is talking about living in a religious community. For us as Tertiaries, we live in the world and have families. Therefore, we are called to live with mercy and discretion (Discretio) and should practice prudence with ourselves and those around us. As we intrinsically live out our Franciscan way of life we are placed with situations which would have been met with harshness and excess. **“Where there is Mercy and Prudence, (Discretio), there is neither Excess nor Harshness.”***

Save the Date

JUNE 2: THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (Corpus Christi)

JUNE 6: IT ZOOM GATHERING: 7:00 PM Eastern Time; 4:00 PM Pacific Time. Discussion will be Article 73.

JUNE 7: THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS, (First Friday)

JUNE 16: Father's Day

JUNE 13: IT NOVITIATE FORMATION GROUP 2: 7:00 PM Eastern Time, 4:00 PM Pacific Time.

JUNE 20: IT NOVITIATE FORMATION GROUP 3: 7:00 PM Eastern Time

JUNE 25: ***St. Louis IX Men's, TOF, Prayer Group Zoom Meeting;***
8:00 PM Eastern Time. Please contact Miguel Mahan if you want to receive the zoom link invite.

Upcoming Events

AUGUST: *On August 23-25, 2024 we will be having our first "Tridua," also known as a Tertiary retreat at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted. See the Article in the January issue of the Soldiers of Christ Newsletter.*



