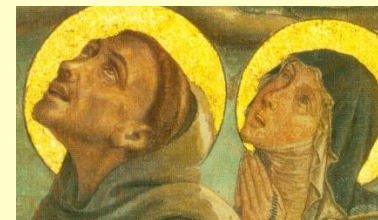


August, 2024

Volume 5, Issue 8

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

With the Eucharistic Revival and the recent National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, Catholics in America and worldwide are focusing more than ever on the great gift of the Blessed Sacrament. As you will find in this edition of *Il Poverello*, there is a report from Therese Harper, TOF, who, with her husband (and Jerry Johnson) was a delegate representing the Diocese of Cleveland. They and over 60,000 other Catholics met for a week of Masses, Adoration, Rosaries, Processions, and interesting and inspiring talks from clergymen such as Bishop Robert Barron and Fr. Mike Schmitz and lay people such as Jonathan Roumie and other prominent apologists and Catholic speakers.

From the time of St. Francis, Franciscans have also placed our love of the Eucharist at the very top of the charisms of our Order. St. Clare, whose feast day is celebrated this month (August 11), although she had been bedridden, rose from her sickbed when she learned that Muslim invaders were threatening Assisi. She held a monstrance holding the Body of Jesus high from a window in the convent, which immediately turned away the intruders and saved Assisi and her sisters! Our good St. Francis trusted in his beloved Jesus so much that he traveled through the Egyptian desert, accompanied by one of his Franciscan brothers, and walked straight into a war zone of the Crusades. He was promptly captured by the Muslim forces and presented to the Sultan, who asked him what he was doing (it must have been pretty amazing that an unarmed man would willingly walk up to an opposition army!) St. Francis related his love of Jesus and the Scriptures, and even offered to walk on hot coals to prove his Faith if they would convert. The Sultan liked to the charming Francis and was very impressed with his great faith in Jesus. He told Francis it would be impossible for him to convert because of his position in the Ottoman Empire, which would mean certain death for him, his family, and possibly his army. But he released him and willingly gave him safe passage so that Francis and his accompanying brother could return to the Christian-held territory. To this day, the holy sites of the Middle East are in the care of Franciscans because of the Sultan's esteem of Francis and his respect for his Catholic Faith.

We in our fraternity have upheld this deep love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament by our participation in Eucharistic Adoration. At least one member of our fraternity makes a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament every day of the week. We also do our best to attend daily Mass in addition to our Sunday duty as a measure of our great love for the Eucharist.

It is not a fairy tale or a delusion for us and other faithful Catholics. It is not a symbol, as our Protestant brothers and sisters mistakenly believe. The Blessed Sacrament is truly the Body and Blood of Jesus – a living Sacrament, and exactly what Jesus said Holy Communion is. We take Jesus at His word, and do not presume to second-guess His intent. *This* is what the Church wants to reinforce with us, that we may never lose our love, trust, and faith in the greatest gift Jesus could give us – His own body!

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

(Fraternity Picnic!) –

Sunday, August 18

Queen of Heaven Parish

1800 Steese Road

Uniontown, Ohio

We are expecting you!

Franciscan Quote of the Month

“God dwells in our midst in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar.”

St. Maximilian Kolbe, OFM (1894-1941) – Feast Day August 14

Priest, Seminary Professor, Broadcaster, Newspaper Publisher, Protector of Holocaust Victims, Martyr



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.*

August Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

Bob Burtscher, TOF (28 Years)

Carol Perrine, TOF (27 Years)



Birthdays

Debbie Ventosa, TOF – 8/6

Jim Miller, TOF – 8/15

Jerry Johnson – 8/17

Dennis Gacioch – 8/22

Stand for Life



Mary Dye, TOF and Bill Marshall, TOF will pray at the abortion clinic on State Road in Cuyahoga Falls on August 17. 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

August is the month we celebrate our annual fraternity picnic as our Gathering! Mary Dye, TOF has sent a sign-up sheet via email with information on what you may contribute towards our feast. As usual, we will meet on August 18 at Queen of Heaven Parish to enjoy our time together!



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

The Little Portion will be prepared from our picnic feast, and Bill Marshall, TOF and Kenny Green, 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.**

Reminder!

Please be sure to contact 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!**

Come and See – by Virgil Daniel, TOF

Just a reminder that our annual “Come and See” event is fast upon us – Tuesday, August 20, 7:00 PM at St. Nicholas in the St. Nicholas Room. Please reach out to those whom you have been thinking about as potential members of the Third Order. Remember that it is also an apostolate to build up the Third Order itself (Constitutions, Art 82 & 83). If you have someone who has responded with enthusiasm, please let Debbie Ventosa, TOF, our Master of Formation, know so that she might follow up - whether they can make it on the 20th or not. Thank you!

If you believe they have a serious interest, why not bring them to our Picnic on August 18 for them to meet us and pray with us a bit? Also, it is appropriate for you to accompany them to the “Come and See,” so they won’t be sitting alone in a room full of relative strangers. Peace!

Liturgy of the Hours / Divine Office – by Virgil Daniel, TOF



Liturgy of the Hours

Thanks to Debbie Ventosa, TOF, for her excellent presentation on the Daily Divine Office at our July Gathering. What a privilege, what a blessing, that as tertiaries we might be included amongst those deputized by Holy Mother the Church to make such a daily offering in prayer and devotion.

Just a further thought from the New Catechism of the Third Order:

“If circumstances force one to omit the office for part or all of a given day, one need not make it up the next day. The Office is a burden fixed to a single day.” (para 222). There is always that ill-timed phone call, the baby cries, a friend drops by – we’ve all been there and interrupted and can’t get back to it. Of course, being incapacitated due to illness or injury falls under this as well, although a friend or family member might sit with us and recite the hours for us to hear and follow along if possible.

If you are a commuter and find morning prayer difficult timing, Living Bread Radio offers a daily podcast of morning prayer to pray along with as you are driving. There are also various apps available to us in this digital age, including I-Breviary and Divine Office.

Finally, the Office is meant “to be recited,” which means that the Office comes under the category of **oral prayer** – one should enunciate the prayers, at least under one’s breath, by moving the lips, as it were. Mental prayer, i.e. in the silence of the heart and mind, is the prayer of contemplation, which is another thing altogether. By the way, the prayers that are the work of seeking an indulgence are also meant to be oral prayer.

10th National Eucharistic Congress – by Therese Harper, TOF

I rode the wings of the Holy Spirit back from the 10th National Eucharistic Congress I attended in Indianapolis, from July 17th to 21st. My husband, Terry, and I were blessed to serve The Cleveland Diocese along with 250 other delegates. The last National Eucharistic Congress was held 83 years ago in Cleveland, so this was long awaited. It was the most inspiring and uplifting experience I have ever encountered, and it made us both rejoice for being Catholic.

The revival of The National Eucharistic Congress was initiated after a recent study showed only 30% of practicing Catholics believe in the True Presence of the Eucharist, Body Blood Soul and Divinity. This could explain why so many of our children and family members have left the Catholic Church. “Those who Believe, Do Not Leave” as stated by Matthew Kelly in 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory, A Spiritual Pilgrimage.

The Congress began in May with Eucharistic Pilgrimages coming from four directions (North, South, East and West) in our Nation concluding in Indianapolis. We experienced beautiful praise and worship music from talented contemporary musicians, traditional music from Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra that lifted the spirits and added to the magnificent experience

The Congress started with a Rosary then morning Mass shared with 50,000 to 60,000 participants. We attended talks throughout the day on various subjects such as Biblical Theology of the Eucharist; Miracles of the Eucharist; Sex, Gender and a Sacramental Worldview; Repentance and Mercy; Family and Pro-life talks to name a few. There were exhibits on the Shroud of Turin and Eucharistic Miracles by Blessed Carlo Acutis.

The evening section had dynamic speakers that some of you may heard of such as Father Mike Schmitz (Bible in a Year), Lila Rose (Pro-Life advocate), Bishop Barron (Founder of Word on Fire) and Jonathan Roumie (Plays Jesus Christ in the Chosen). Day 1 was centered on “From the Four Corners” where each of the four Eucharistic Pilgrimages converged to the center of Lucas Oil Stadium. Day 2 was “The Greatest Love Story” where the speakers centered on Christ’s Love and Mercy for us. Day 3 was “Into Gethsemane” where Jesus asked his disciples to wait for him while he prayed, and they all fell asleep. Day 4 was “This is My Body” the mystery that takes place at every mass. Day 5 was “To the Ends of the Earth” in which we were sent to “go out” and



proclaim the Gospel and share our experience. Each night ended with Adoration and Benediction that was beautiful and reverent to Our Lord. Many of these talks are available on YouTube under “National Eucharistic Congress”

The final full day we participated in a Eucharistic Procession through downtown Indianapolis joined by 75,000 other participants. The participants included Bishops, Priests, Seminarians, Franciscans, Deacons, various Religious orders, senior citizens, teens, college-aged and young families, some with newborn babies. It was a hopeful sight.

As I was taking in all the amazement of this experience my thoughts came to “This is exactly what our broken world and church desires”. Our secular world is so troubled, and it can be discouraging when social media makes us believe that everything is lost, but I see otherwise after experiencing this event. Christ is there for us both in the Holy Eucharist and Eucharistic Adoration as well as Mercy and Healing in the Sacrament of Confession. I would suggest taking some time to sit before Our Lord in Adoration, if you have never done so, and discover the peace Christ can give that our secular world cannot.

(Be sure to check the upcoming Fall edition of *The Troubadour* for Jerry Johnson’s report on the National Eucharistic Congress. Jerry also represented the Cleveland Diocese as a delegate. Jerry is currently a Postulant in Formation.)

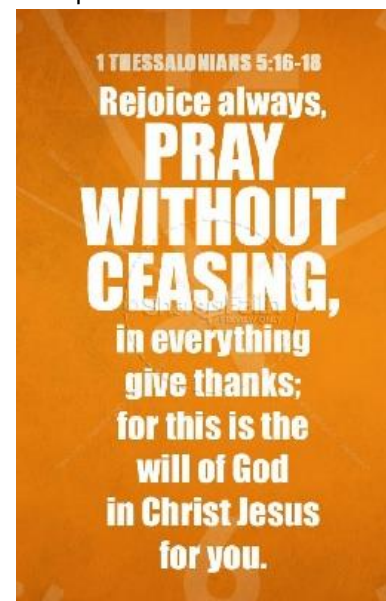
Eucharistic Adoration and Daily Prayer

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!

It's Time for the Ss. Francis & Clare Fraternity 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 has sent out 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 welcome to share the day with us, which will feature the recitation of the Franciscan Crown Rosary and plenty of time to socialize with our Franciscan family.

Lord, it is Good for Us to be Together!

The July Gathering was held on July 21 at St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish. We had 35 in attendance, including Annie Butts, Fred Kramer, Fr. Vit, and our honored guest, Jakin Miller, the grandson of Jim and Nettie Miller, TOF.

- Roberto Meza, TOF led the Opening Prayers.
- Kenny Green, TOF led the Liturgy of the Hours, assisted by Debbie Ventosa, TOF and Bill Marshall, TOF.
- Virgil Daniel, TOF proclaimed the Gospel of the day (Mark 6:30-34) for Lectio Divina – "Rest a while," and "Sheep without a shepherd."

- Following this, we discussed what word or phrase spoke to us from this reading with those at our tables and prayed over this.
- Roberto Meza, TOF led Grace before we enjoyed our delicious lunch, which was prepared by Cindy Russo, TOF, Mary Dye, TOF, Denise Williams, TOF, Marlene Walker, and Dennis and Caroline Gacioch.
- Jakin Miller, the grandson of Jim and Nettie Miller, TOF, discussed his calling to work with FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students).
 - Jakin explained the mission of FOCUS Missionaries.
 - Each missionary is a recent university graduate, who dedicates two years of his or her life to working among university students, to strengthen and increase their Catholic Faith. They are supported by donations.
 - FOCUS missionaries undergo training before they are sent to campuses where they are needed.
 - FOCUS was developed by Catholic apologists, including Dr. Edward Sri, to save souls
 - FOCUS works in tandem with the Newman Center, supporting Catholic students in their Faith.
 - Catholic students, on both secular and Catholic campuses, are in great danger of having their Faith weakened or losing it entirely. FOCUS missionaries offer an alternative to this and instead keep them connected to our Faith.
 - FOCUS missionaries also assist at the parishes connected to the Catholic university students. They attend daily Mass and participate in Adoration every day. They also are often altar servers, readers, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion if needed by the pastor.
 - It is a joyful and much needed calling.
- The pantry collection went to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Macedonia. Cindy Russo, TOF will deliver.
- Roberto Meza, TOF led the Grace after our meal.
- Debbie Ventosa, TOF taught the Ongoing Formation on Prayer and Praying the Divine Office (Liturgy of the Hours).
 - Public Prayer
 - Mass
 - Liturgy of the Hours
 - Private Prayer
 - Rosary
 - Divine Mercy Chaplet
 - Stations of the Cross
 - Litanies and Novenas
 - Third Order Franciscans pray the Liturgy of the Hours (Divine Office) daily. This can include:
 - Canonical Office/Breviary
 - Liturgy of the Hours
 - Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 - Seraphic Office (needs clarification)
 - Nature of the Office
 - This is a duty and obligation imposed by the Church on some of her members, including clergy, religious sisters, and members of lay Orders such as the Third Order Franciscans. It is a privilege granted by the Church.
 - The objective of the Office is to praise and honor God in union with the whole Church.
 - Its value as praise to God by the Church is second only to Mass.
 - We are ambassadors of the Church when we offer the prayers of the Divine Office.
 - Proper recitation should be done daily, with the utmost attention and devotion.
- Formation Report
 - There are two teams, one of Postulants and one of Novices, with meetings scheduled through early September. All professed members are welcome to attend as well.
- Fr. Vit's Formation – Father discussed silence in the presence of God.
 - Ego is attached to intellect. Ego must be put aside to focus on God in prayer.



- Pray with maximum focus.
- Make time for silence in the presence of God.
- Live in the present moment and enjoy the fruits of your work.
- Enjoy the presence of God.
- **Infirmarian Report** – Presented by Maria Elena Meza, TOF
 - There is no recent report on Elizabeth Francis, TOF. The last we heard, she is doing all right.
 - Sandy Pollino, OFS is suffering from a benign tumor in her brain per Judith Hoyt, TOF. She asks for our prayers.
 - Rose Akins, TOF is caring for her mother, who is improving.
 - Jennifer Kerns, TOF is experiencing unstable health and asks for our prayers.
 - Betty DeMarco, TOF has health challenges involving insomnia and asks for prayers.
- **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. We added Jakin Miller and the FOCUS Missionaries to our prayers, for success in their ministry among Catholic university students.
- 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.
- Fr. Vit gave us his blessing.

Don't forget! Our Annual Fraternity Picnic, which will serve as our August Gathering, will be Sunday, August 18 at 1:30 PM at Queen of Heaven Parish!

Save the Date (August, the Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary)

August 15	Start of St. Michael's Lent
August 18	Annual Ss. Francis and Clare Fraternity Picnic (August Gathering)
August 23-25	Tridua at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted
September 17	800-Year Anniversary of the Stigmatization of St. Francis



**AUGUST, THE MONTH OF
THE IMMACULATE HEART
OF
MARY**

*Don't forget to call your mom!
Pray a Rosary, Memorare,
Hail Holy Queen,
and Hail Mary today!*