

November, 2024

Volume 5, Issue 11

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

A retired priest of the Cleveland Diocese recently celebrated Mass for All Saints Day at a local parish. He gave the fortunate parishioners his annual homily for the holy day, which is paraphrased here:

“Do you have what it takes to be a saint? Or do you think it is only for priests, sisters, and others who take religious vows or are ordained?”

Are you a housewife or mother? So were St. Martha, St. Monica, St. Elizabeth (mother of St. John the Baptist), St. Zita, St. Anne, and of course, our beloved Mary, Mother of God.

Are you a father? So were St. Louis Martin, St. (King) Louis IX, and of course, our good St. Joseph.

Are you a spiritual mother or father? So were St. John Paul II, St. Teresa of Calcutta, St. Pio of Pietrelcina, and so many more who took a wholesome and loving spiritual interest in others.

Are you an educator? So were St. Aloysius Gonzaga, St. Alphonsus Liguori, St. Katherine Drexel, St. John Baptist de la Salle, St. Ursula, and St. Thomas Aquinas.

Are you involved in healthcare? So were St. Catherine of Siena, St. Camillus di Lellis, St. Agatha of Sicily, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, St. Raphael the Archangel, St. Luke the Apostle, and Sts. Cosmas and Damian.

Do you work with or use computers? Blessed Carlo Acutis – who died of leukemia at the age of 15 only a few years ago and who is to be canonized in 2025 – compiled a database of Eucharistic miracles that is being used to this day.”

And the list goes on. Sometimes, we do not have to be extraordinarily holy or brave. We just must do our work with Catholic morals and ethics, strive to please God every day, ask God for forgiveness in Confession regularly, and keep trying – every day. Outside of our Blessed Mother, no saint lived a perfect life nor a sinless life. But all of us, no matter what our vocation or life story, can please God by our work and contribute to the Kingdom of God in our own way, even if we live here in Ohio and do not seem to be special. **Be a saint!**

Fraternity Council

Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM
– Spiritual Director
Roberto Meza, TOF
– Minister
James Miller, TOF –
Vice-Minister
Debbie Ventosa, TOF –
Master of Formation
Mary Dye, TOF – Secretary
Therese Harper, TOF –
Treasurer
Virgil Daniel, TOF –
Councilor
Rick Dunlap, TOF –
Councilor
Pepe Ventosa, TOF –
Councilor
Susan Kramer, TOF
– Newsletter

**Next Gathering –
Saturday, November 9 – 9 AM
Our Lady Comforter of the
Afflicted Shrine
617 S. Belle Vista Ave.
Youngstown**

We are expecting you!

Catholic Quote of the Month



“To be a saint is not a privilege of a few ... all of us in Baptism have the inheritance of being able to become saints. Sanctity is a vocation for everyone.

**Pope Francis (Jorge Bergoglio - born 1936)
Priest, Jesuit, Chemist, Cardinal, Vicar of Christ**

Eucharistic Adoration



Sunday

Betty DeMarco, TOF

Monday

Rose Akins, TOF
Louise Daniel, TOF
Virgil Daniel, TOF
Chris Devore, TOF
LeeAnn Devore, TOF
Judith Hoyt, TOF

Tuesday

Michael Butts, 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.

November Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

Mary Cate Roberts, TOF (33 Years)

Jennifer Kerns, TOF (7 Years)

Jesse Kuhn, TOF & Denise Williams, TOF
(2 Years)



Birthdays

Jesse Kuhn, TOF – 11/2

Carol Perrine, TOF – 11/9

Stand for Life



The Stand for Life will be suspended until March because of uncertain winter 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

We will be enjoying the hospitality of the St. Padre Pio Fraternity at the Day of Recollection on November 9, which will serve as our November Gathering. Please see Mary Dye, TOF if you are attending and have not yet contributed \$13 toward lunch.

Since we will be in Youngstown, the Little Portion Apostolate to the poor will be suspended, just for November. 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.

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!**

Annual Day of Recollection – Saturday, November 9

Our annual Day of Recollection, in union with the other two TOF fraternities of Northeast Ohio – St. Padre Pio of Youngstown and Our Lady of America of Ashtabula – will be held Saturday, November 9 at Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted in Youngstown. Our Minister, Roberto Meza, TOF, heartily urges every fraternity member to attend. This is not only a deeply spiritual day and retreat, but it also functions as a family reunion with the other fraternities of our area.

Three Postulants from our fraternity (Andrea Ferraro, John Wilson, and Jerry Johnson) will enter the Novitiate this day, and three Novices will be making their permanent Profession (Marlene Walker, and Carolyn and Dennis Gacioch).

We will meet in Youngstown at the Shrine on Saturday, November 9 at 9 AM, and the day will conclude at 3:30 PM. Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and Confession will be available in addition to talks from Fr. Vit. The St. Padre Pio Fraternity, our generous hosts, will be providing lunch. If you have not already done so, contact Mary Dye, TOF. Mary is compiling a headcount for St. Padre Pio and collection \$13 from everyone attending to cover lunch.

If you wish to carpool – either as a rider or a driver – please contact a Council member. This event will be recorded and accessible on our website! **See you there!**

Cord Making Party!

Jim and Nettie Miller, TOF hosted a cord making party at their home in October. The cords will be used for those purchasing burial shrouds and for future professions. Thanks for the hospitality, Jim and Nettie!



Ongoing Formation Recording

Our Fraternity Gatherings are being recorded and posted on YouTube for private viewing. We also plan to record the Day of Recollection and other upcoming events. This is a terrific tool enabling our members and the public to view and study ongoing Formation and other interesting and important teachings from Fr. Vit and special events in the life of our fraternity. By the grace of God and in imitation of our good St. Francis, we hope to bring the Gospel to the four corners of the earth! Check it out! Many thanks to Jim Miller, TOF for his work in getting this project up and ready for the benefit of all of us!

Ss. Francis & Clare Fraternity Elections

At the October 20 Gathering, our Fraternity elections were held with the following results:

Minister Prefect – Roberto Meza, TOF

Councillors – Jim Miller, TOF; Rick Dunlap, TOF; Mary Dye, TOF; Therese Harper, TOF; Virgil Daniel, TOF; Pepe Ventosa, TOF; and Debbie Ventosa, TOF

At the Council meeting on October 26, Roberto Meza, TOF appointed these Councillors to the following offices:

Vice Minister – Jim Miller, TOF

Secretary – Mary Dye, TOF

Treasurer – Therese Harper, TOF

Master of Formation – Debbie Ventosa, TOF

Many thanks to Bob Elko, TOF and Mary Ellen Frabutt, TOF of the St. Padre Pio Fraternity of Youngstown for monitoring the elections, and to Jerry Johnson for assisting with distributing and collecting ballots.



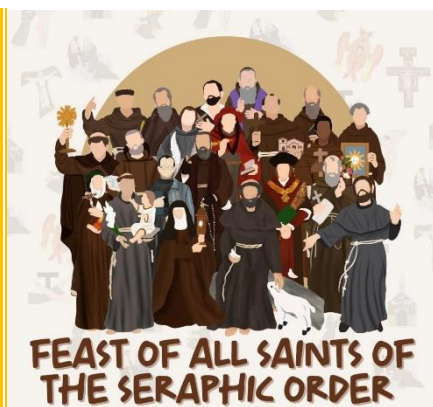
Franciscan Feasts for November

On the list of Franciscan feasts for November, the Feast of All Saints of the Seraphic Order is November 29. From the Catholic Telegraph of the United Kingdom:

“According to tradition, St. Francis of Assisi prayed the following prayer: “O Lord Jesus Christ, two favors I beg of you before I die. The first is that I may, as far as it is possible, feel in my soul and in my body the suffering in which you, O gentle Jesus, sustained in your bitter passion. And the second favor is that I, as far as it is possible, may receive in my heart that excessive charity by which you, the Son of God, were inflamed, and which actuated you willingly to suffer so much for us sinners.”

In response to his earnest prayer, the Lord appeared in the form of a seraph, or a six-winged angel (They are usually considered the highest order of angelic beings, immediately above the Cherubim, and their special duty is to love God).

Then Jesus bestowed on St. Francis the wounds of his suffering. St. Francis had been marked with the love of Christ, the



stigmata.

St. Francis died two years later in 1226, leaving the world the Franciscan Order, which became synonymous with the Seraphic Order. To this day, seraph wings and seraphs are symbolic of the Franciscan Order.

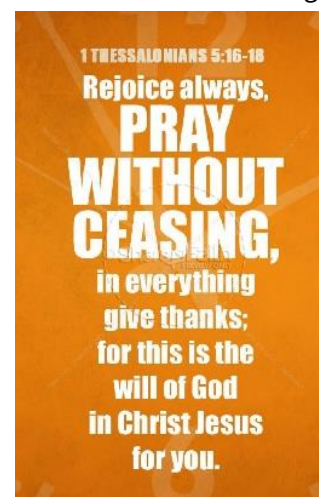
The final Rule of life for Franciscan friars was also approved on this day in 1223. To commemorate this, and all the saintly examples produced in the Franciscan Order, on this day all the saints of the Seraphic order are remembered at Franciscan churches.”

There is also an indulgence that can be gained with the prayer of renewal of profession on November 29, as well as for the Feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary on November 17. Check the November Mat Post (available on the archives of our website) for more information!

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), 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.
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.**
13. For the spiritual and physical health and protection of **Jakin Miller and all FOCUS missionaries**, who are working to keep the Faith among university students nationwide.



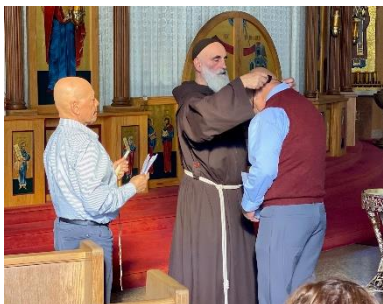
It is part of our holy Franciscan vocation to prayerfully support our fellow Franciscans, the Pope, our bishops, our priests, and

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 it is our privilege to pray for them!

Lord, it is Good for Us to be Together!

Our October Gathering was held on the 20th at St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish, with 32 in attendance. Included were Fr. Vit, Fred Kramer, and Bob and Mary Ellen Elko, TOF of the St. Padre Pio Fraternity of Youngstown.

- Roberto Meza, TOF, led the Opening Prayer and Bob Burtscher, TOF led the election prayer.
- Kenny Green, TOF led the Liturgy of the Hours, assisted by Debbie Ventosa, TOF and Bill Marshall, TOF. Virgil Daniel, TOF cantored the hymn, "Faith of Our Fathers".
- There was no Lectio Divina today because of the elections.
- Roberto Meza, TOF led the Grace before our meal.
- Our lunch of sloppy joes and other tasty dishes was prepared by Mary Dye, TOF and others.
- As we ate, Virgil Daniel, TOF spoke on the elections, which strictly follow the Constitution.
- Roberto Meza, TOF strongly urged everyone to attend the Day of Recollection, which will be Saturday, November 9 at the Shrine in Youngstown, from 9 AM to 3:30 PM. Mary Dye, TOF distributed signup sheets for the Day of Recollection (lunch is \$13) and for the 2025 Apostolates (Stand for Life, Hospitality, and Little Portion).
- Roberto Meza, TOF recognized the profession anniversary of Elizabeth Francis, TOF, on her 34th anniversary, and his and Maria Elena Meza's 13th profession anniversary.
- Virgil Daniel, TOF mentioned that Pope Francis has canonized 14 new saints today, and several are Franciscans.
- Jim Miller, TOF passed the fraternity roster to everyone to check their personal information and ensure it is correct.
- St. Francis de Sales in Coventry was selected for the Food Pantry Collection. Kenny Green, TOF will deliver.
- Roberto Meza, TOF reminded us that the Day of Recollection will function as our November Gathering.
- Susan Kramer, TOF announced that Andrew Turpin is being removed from the list of seminarians for whom we pray because he wants to discern another year before he enters the seminary. All are welcome to pray for his discernment in this time, but he will not be included on the list unless he enters the seminary.
- Roberto Meza, TOF led the prayer after our meal.
- The Fraternity election then commenced.
 - Jim Miller, TOF and Roberto Meza, TOF were nominated for Minister
 - Roberto Meza, TOF was elected Minister
 - Jim Miller, TOF; Rick Dunlap, TOF; Mary Dye, TOF; Therese Harper, TOF; Virgil Daniel, TOF; Pepe Ventosa, TOF; and Debbie Ventosa, TOF elected as Councillors
 - Roberto Meza, TOF appointed Jim Miller, TOF as Vice Minister; Mary Dye, TOF as Secretary; Therese Harper, TOF as Treasurer; and Debbie Ventosa, TOF as Master of Formation (*effective October 26 at the Council meeting*)
 - Bob Elko, TOF and Mary Ellen Frabutt, TOF from the St. Padre Pio Fraternity of Youngstown graciously travelled to our Gathering to monitor the elections. They were assisted by Postulant Jerry Johnson, who distributed and collected the ballots from our members. Bob led us in the Prayer after the Election.
 - Virgil Daniel, TOF proclaimed the Gospel – "You are the salt of the earth."
 - Fr. Vit, OFM gave a brief homily on the holiness of God and His righteous wrath.
 - Fr. Vit, OFM entrusted the Offices of Council to each newly-elected Council member, reminding them of their duties and responsibilities.
 - Fr. Vit, OFM then officiated at Jack Kellogg's entry into the Novitiate.
 - We moved to St. Nicholas church for the ceremony.
 - Fr. Vit bestowed the cincture, scapular and candle on Jack.



- We returned to the social hall where Roberto Meza, TOF led the Prayers of Intention:
 - For our Novices – Jack Kellogg, Marlene Walker, and Dennis and Carolyn Gacioch
 - For our Postulants – Andrea Ferraro, John Wilson, and Jerry Johnson
 - For the sick of our Fraternity – Elizabeth Francis, TOF; Jennifer Kerns, TOF; and Betty DeMarco, TOF.
 - For the mother of Rose Akins, TOF who recently died.
 - For our families and our country.
 - For Catholics worldwide who are in danger or who live under persecution for their Faith, including those in Asia, the war zone in the Middle East, Africa, and Ukraine.
 - For an increase in vocations to the priesthood and the TOF, and for an increase in faithful Catholic marriages and families.
 - For Pope Francis
 - For our local Bishops – Bishop David Bonnar of Youngstown, Bishop Earl Fernandes of Columbus, Bishop Edward Malesic of Cleveland, and Bishop Robert Pipta of the Eparchy of Parma
 - For the Friars of the Immaculate Conception Province of the OFM, particularly Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM; Fr. Dennis Arambasick, OFM; and Fr. Robert Campagna, OFM
 - For our beloved pastors and parish priests, particularly Fr. Miron Kerul-Kmec of St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish, Fr. Ryan Furlong, TOF of St. Padre Pio Fraternity, and Fr. Daniel Dozier, TOF of the Isolated Tertiaries
 - For all seminarians, especially those of our local Borromeo and St. Mary Seminaries, and particularly Frater Francis Tumaini of the Diocese of Moshi, Tanzania; Arthur Bodenschatz and William Martzaklis of the Diocese of Youngstown; and Joseph Rohan, Alex Krukemeyer, and John Paul Antalek of the Diocese of Cleveland, all of whom we pray for every day in front of the Blessed Sacrament.
 - For Jakin Miller and all FOCUS missionaries and Newman Center students.
- Roberto Meza, TOF led the Closing Prayers, and Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM gave us his blessing.

***Our next Gathering will be Saturday, November 9
at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted at 9 AM – be there!!!***

Save the Date (November, the Month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory)

November 9	Day of Recollection (<i>Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted</i>)
December 7	Observe a Day of Fast the day before the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Chapter 2, Rule 4)
December 8	Feast of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception (<i>Holy Day of Obligation</i>)
December 8	Fifth-Year Anniversary of the Establishment of the Franciscan Tertiaries of the Order of Friars Minor Province of the Immaculate Conception

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Eternal Father,

I offer Thee the most precious blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.

————— *Prayer of St. Gertrude the Great* —————