

December, 2024

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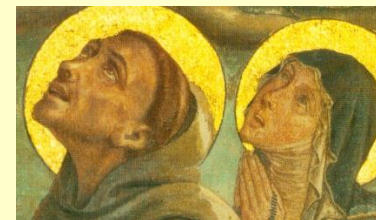
Il Poverello

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



Have you ever thought of Advent in relation to preparing for the birth of our own children?

Certainly, Joseph's and Mary's situation was like no other – the coming of Mary's Child announced by the Archangel Gabriel, Joseph's understandable inner turmoil and misunderstanding, Gabriel's reassurance to Joseph in a dream, and the young couple's difficult

journey to Bethlehem, only to find nowhere to stay but a stable, or cave, as some think.

It helps us to understand by remembering how the birth of a child was for many of us, our children, and acquaintances. So often, pregnancy is unexpected for some couples, and some may not be married when they become aware of a baby on the way. Like Joseph, worries and doubts may set in on the young parents-to-be. What will people think? How can I ever support a wife and a child? I'm not ready to be a father! These people may need reassurance – someone to say, "It's going to be all right."

Then, there are the feelings of the mother. Like Mary, the news that she is pregnant may be a bit of a shock at first. Then, there is the wonder of it all – a real baby living and growing, entirely in her care! Hopefully, no unnecessary pain or nausea for the new mother. There are so many things to consider – what to name her baby, who will be the Godparents, will he or she look like the mother or the father, and so on. And carefully gathering clothes for the baby, nice onesies and booties – maybe a Baptismal gown. Little dresses for the girls and play outfits for the boys, all with matching socks to keep their precious toes warm. And blankets and sheets for the crib, small towels, special toiletries for babies, and so on. So many things to prepare, and everything must be just right!

All these things racing around the young parents' heads! Can we even imagine how it was for Mary and Joseph – with their certain knowledge that the child they were welcoming is the Son of God?

It's time for us to prepare for the New Baby, too! Maybe not a baby shower, but it's time to get ourselves to Confession so we can welcome our Infant King into our warm hearts and tidy souls! **BLESSED ADVENT!!!**

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 –

Sunday, December 15 – 1:30 PM

St. Nicholas Byzantine Church

1051 E. Robinson Ave.

Coventry Twp. 44203

We are expecting you!

Franciscan Quote of the Month

**“O Father, in Your Truth (that is to say, in Your Son, humbled, needy and homeless)
You have humbled me. He was humbled in the womb of the Virgin,
needy in the manger of the sheep, and homeless on the wood of the Cross.
Nothing so humbles the proud sinner as the humility of Jesus Christ's humanity.”**

St. Anthony of Padua, OFM (1195-1231)

Priest, Preacher, Scripture Scholar, Protector of the Poor and Sick, Doctor of the Church



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.*

December Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

Joanne Angeletti, TOF (38 Years)

Julia Tarulli, TOF (26 Years)



Birthdays

Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM – 12/16

Denise Williams, TOF – 12/18

Jennifer Kerns, TOF – 12/23

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 celebrate with our annual Christmas party at the December Gathering!

Mary Dye has sent out an email to coordinate the food members may bring so we have a variety and not too little nor too much!

Cindy Russo, TOF will prepare the Little Portion, and Rick Dunlap, TOF will deliver it. The Little Portion Apostolate ministers to the homeless and street people of Canton and Akron by providing a simple meal of sandwiches, fruit, and anything individually wrapped for our brothers and sisters in Christ – usually at least 2 meals. You may also add small sized toiletries such as Purell, liquid soap, religious articles, disposable razors, etc. Tube socks are always very useful. Or you may want to deliver the offering. **If you are interested in helping, please contact Mary Dye, TOF.**

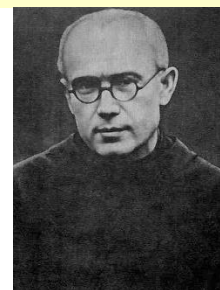


As often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.

Establishment of the Priestly Confraternity of the Third Order of St. Francis – Submitted by Pepe Ventosa, TOF

The Priestly Confraternity of the Third Order of St. Francis was established by Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM, our Spiritual Director, on August 14, 2024. St. Maximilian Kolbe OFM Con, whose feast day is celebrated on August 14th, was selected as the Patron Saint for the Confraternity.

The purpose of the priestly confraternity is to serve as spiritual nourishment for priests, through the inspiration of Our Lady, St. Francis and Seraphin, under the one principle of loving God and serving Him. St. Maximilian's devotion to Our Blessed Mother and his apostolic zeal and determination in combating the errors of Communism and Freemasonry, which the world still faces today, would be a great model for priests to follow.



Members of the Confraternity will be priests called to seek evangelical perfection by following the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the salvific center of his life. They do this as Franciscan Tertiaries, sharing in the grace and mission of the Order, while serving under the pastoral jurisdiction of their own local Bishop. Their community, the confraternity, is bonded together by their love of Christ and their desire to walk in the footsteps of our Seraphic Father, St. Francis.

As Franciscan Tertiaries, the members of the Confraternity are under the spiritual direction of the Order of Friars Minor of the Province of the Immaculate Conception and adopt, as their program of sanctification and way of life, the Rule of 1883 promulgated by His Holiness Pope Leo XIII for the Third Order Secular but adapted in a special way to the life of a priest.

Although in its early stages, a planning committee continues to meet on a regular basis as bylaws, program of Initial Formation, regular gatherings and other organizational details are discussed. More information will be available in the future. For any questions, please contact our website www.thirdorderfranciscans.com or Pepe Ventosa, TOF.

“The Tertiary priest knows that he is not fighting this battle (worldliness) alone but that there is the invisible choir of the Tertiaries spread all over the world that are with him. In such a thought lies great encouragement and potent inspiration.”

From: Survey of a Decade Third Order Secular of St. Francis in the United States, *The Third Order and the Priest*, Rev. Charles P. Bruehl, Meeting of Priests and Seminarians, October 4, 1926, p. 200

Don't forget to pray for *all* priests every day – from the Pope to our bishops to our parish priests and Order priests!

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!**

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!

2025 Pilgrimage News

The Ss. Francis and Clare Fraternity will host our annual pilgrimage on May 17, 2025. After some discussion and several good ideas which were put forward, Council decided on visiting Nativity of Our Lord Jesus in Springfield Township (just south of Akron), where the founding pastor assembled a large collection of Nativities over the years.

Our good St. Francis is responsible for the idea and implementation of the first Nativity in Greccio, a little village outside of Assisi, in 1223. The Church worldwide celebrated the 800th anniversary of this in 2023.



Our tour guide will be Fr. David Halaiko, who is a retired priest of the Diocese of Cleveland and who was the founding pastor of Nativity parish. Father is a licensed tour guide in Israel – which, like Italy, requires tour guides to pass a rigorous test in order to be certified. He is very knowledgeable about the history and politics of the Middle East and Europe, and will also offer Mass for us.

← **The Nativity of Greccio, St. Francis's loving representation of the birth of Jesus**

We hope to have lunch at Hartville Kitchen and will look into reserving a room for our pilgrims after the turn of the year. Stay tuned - more details TBA!

Fasting on the Vigil of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception – Submitted by Virgil Daniel, TOF

As to when to fast this year, here are my thoughts. December 8 is fixed in the Church's calendar as the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. The transfer to December 9 is a matter of liturgical observance, not a date change, as such. Sundays take precedence over even solemnities, except those related to Our Lord Himself. Since December 8 is fixed in the calendar, the day of fast per the Rule is still December 7, the Vigil for the solemnity.

NOTE: Bishop Malesic of the Diocese of Cleveland has issued a statement moving the Feast of the Immaculate Conception to Monday, December 9 since December 8 falls on a Sunday this year, as has Bishop Bonnar of Youngstown. Since it is a Holy Day of Obligation, we are required to attend Mass that day. Bishop Malesic has offered a dispensation, however, for those individuals of the Diocese of Cleveland who are legitimately unable to attend Mass. If those in that situation pray a Rosary at home that day, they are dispensed from attending Mass. This dispensation is only for members of the Diocese of Cleveland, however – those in the Diocese of Youngstown have no dispensation and *must* attend Mass on Monday, December 9.



Feast of the
Immaculate Conception
of the
Blessed Virgin Mary

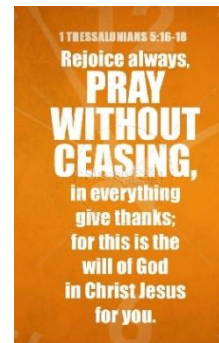
*... in the first instance of
her conception, by a
singular privilege and
grace granted by God, in
view of the merits of Jesus
Christ, the Savior of the
human race, was
preserved from all stain of
original sin ...*

-- Pope Pius IX
Ineffabilis Deus

DesiComments.com

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!

St. Maximilian Kolbe Charity Fund – Submitted by Roberto Meza, TOF

Fifty books of the New Testament have been donated to the Youngstown Diocese Ministry to the Portage County Prison System. Deacon Tim DeFrance will distribute them as a Christmas present to the residents. Another 30 books of the New Testament in Spanish will be donated to the Migrant Center in Hartville, which is supported by the Youngstown Diocese.

Lord, it is Good for Us to be Together!

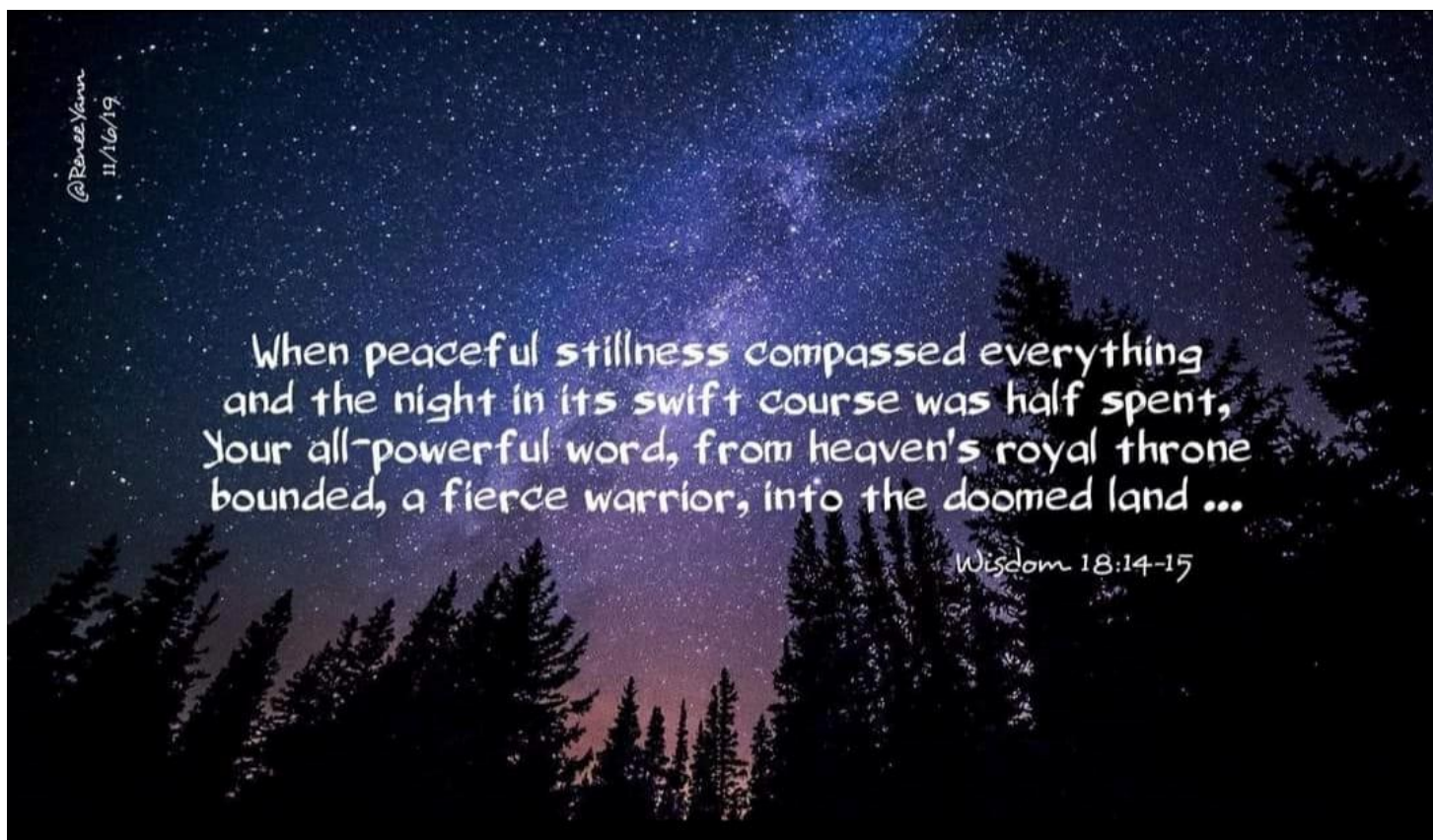
Our November Gathering, which, as usual was the annual Day of Recollection, was held on the 9th at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted in Youngstown. There were at least 50 or more in attendance, which included several members of our fraternity, the Our Lady of America fraternity from Ashtabula, and our generous hosts, the St. Padre Pio fraternity of Youngstown.

- Our day began at 9 AM, with a welcome and opening prayer from Lou Jacquet, TOF. Lou stepped up in place of Pat Cuttica, TOF, Minister of St. Padre Pio Fraternity. Pat's husband sadly had died Friday evening after a long illness. We included both of them in our prayers that day.
- Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM celebrated the Mass of Holy Profession, Entrance to the Novitiate, and Investiture.
 - Carolyn Gacioch, TOF; Dennis Gacioch, TOF; and Marlene Walker, TOF of the Ss. Francis and Clare Fraternity were Professed as Third Order Franciscans and received their white cord and San Damiano cross.
 - Andrea Ferraro, Jerry Johnson, and John Wilson moved from Postulancy to the Novitiate and received their scapulars, brown cords, and candles.
 - Those who are fully Professed recited the Renewal of Profession.
- After Mass, we all headed to the basement meeting room for a coffee/tea break, with pastries, fruit and more for a welcome breakfast.
- Once we finished our morning meal and fellowship, Fr. Vit commenced with his first session of teaching, followed by a question-and-answer session
- At 11 AM, we headed back to the church for Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Confession, and Benediction.
- At Noon, we walked back to the meeting room for an excellent lunch of sandwiches and various sides and desserts. It was also a chance to catch up with our extended Franciscan family as well as our own fraternity members.
- After lunch, Kenny Green, TOF led us in the Daytime Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours with assistance from various members of the different fraternities.
- Following this, we remembered the members of our fraternities who have died with the Memorial for the Deceased, led by Roberto Meza, TOF, Minister of our fraternity.
- Fr. Vit led the second session of ongoing formation, which was followed by a question-and-answer session.
- Our Day of Recollection concluded with the Closing Prayer, led by Paul Fede, TOF, Minister of the Our Lady of America fraternity of Ashtabula.
- Fr. Vit gave us his blessing, and we were dismissed.



Save the Date (December, the Month of the Birth of Our Lord)

December 7	Observe a Day of Fast the day before the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Chapter 2, Rule 4)
December 8	Fifth-Year Anniversary of the Establishment of the Franciscan Tertiaries of the Order of Friars Minor Province of the Immaculate Conception
December 9	Feast of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the United States of America (Holy Day of Obligation). Note: The Feast Day was transferred to December 9 this year since December 8 falls on a Sunday. In the Cleveland Diocese, those who are unable to attend Mass are granted a dispensation to pray a Rosary at home per Bishop Malesic. All others must attend Mass on December 9.
December 12	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of All the Americas
December 25	Christmas Day, Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)
January 1	New Years Day, Feast of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)
May 17	Annual TOF Pilgrimage – Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Springfield Township



Blessed Advent and Christmas to All Franciscans!

