



Soldiers of Christ

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

August 2025

Sandy Baden, OFS, Editor

Vol. 5, Issue 8

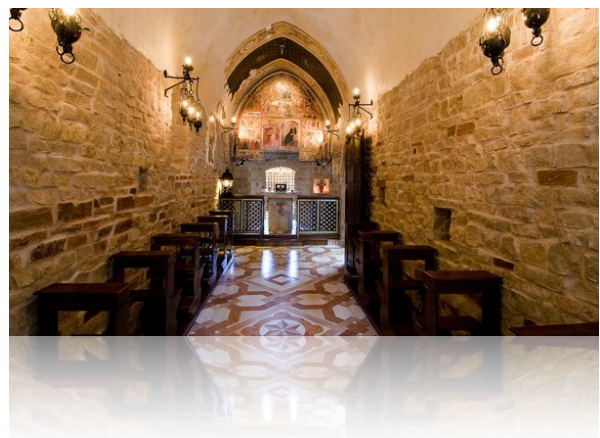
OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS, PORTINUCULA FEAST DAY: AUGUST 2nd



This beautiful picture of our Lady known to be an image of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary as she is surrounded by angels. When St. Francis had entered a small abandoned church there was a similar ancient fresco that had been placed above the altar. This small chapel today is the Portiuncula and was one of dilapidated churches St. Francis proceeded to repair.

*St. Francis had prayed to our Lord for the path he was to take before the crucifix of San Damiano. Christ spoke to St. Francis from the Cross, **“Build up my house, for it is nearly falling down.”** This was the answer St. Francis was looking for, so he thought, and restored San Damiano and other churches in the area, including Our Lady of the Angeles, Portiuncula.*

The Chapel was named, the little Portion, or in Italian, Portiuncula. The grounds and the Chapel were given to St. Francis and his followers for their work and support. Originally,



the property had belonged to the Benedictines who occupied the site for for hundreds of years. By the request of St. Francis, the Benedictines gave the grounds and the Church to St. Francis. Here he built a convent as he began his Franciscan Order and was the place of the first General Chapter.



Saint Francis began to understand his vocation, at Portiuncula and also received visions. This is also where St. Francis died on October 3rd, 1226 at the age of forty-five. The Portiuncula is where St. Francis began the Franciscan Order and it was where his life on earth had ended.

The chapel has been repaired over many years and is currently housed within the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli in Assisi Italy.

St. Bonaventure had written: “When he finally completed his church (San Damiano), he came to a place called the Portiuncula where there stood a church of the most Blessed Virgin Mother of God, built in ancient times but now deserted, and no one was taking care of it. When

the man of God saw it so abandoned, he began to stay there regularly in order to repair it, moved by the warm devotion he had toward the Lady of the world. Sensing that angels often visited there, according to the name of that church, which from ancient times was called Saint Mary of the Angels, he stayed there out of his reverence for the angels and his special love for the Mother of Christ..”

In a vision, St. Francis had been given from Jesus, the Indulgence of the Pardon of Assisi in 1216, and was verbally approved by Pope Honorius III. The oldest document dealing with the Indulgence was a notary’s deed of October 31, 1277, which Blessed Benedict of Arezzo had stated.

However, Pope Sixtus IV had extended the Indulgence from the Portiuncula to all churches of the Franciscans in 1481. Pope Paul VI confirmed the Indulgence for August 2nd. The indulgence includes a visit to the Portiuncula Chapel on August 2nd, Confession, Holy Communion, prayer for the intention of the Pope, reciting the Lord’s Prayer, and the Creed. In 1967, Pope Paul VI gave the permanence of the Indulgence on August 2nd for all Franciscan churches worldwide.

Sandy Baden, TOF

ST. CLARE OF ASSISI
Feast Day: August 11



Chiara Offreduccio, was born in Assisi on July 16, 1194, and was the eldest daughter of Favorino Sciffi, Count of Sasso-Rosso. Both her parents came from wealthy families. Her mother, Ortolana, belonged to the noble family of Fiumi.

When Clare was eighteen years old, while at a Lenten service at the San Giorgio church, heard St. Francis preaching. Listening to the words of the Gospel had touched her heart and compelled her to speak to St. Francis. She knew she wanted to give her life to our Lord in prayer. Knowing her father would not approve because he wanted to give his daughter into an appropriate marriage, Clare left her father's home on Palm Sunday in the year 1212 and met St. Francis at Portiuncula. Her beautiful hair was cut, given a woolen habit and veil, and a rope with knots, to replace her long hair and lovely gown.

St. Francis brought her to the convent of the Benedictine nuns of San Paulo. Her father attempted to force her back until he saw her cut hair and retreated knowing he had lost the battle. Sixteen days after Clare's escape, her sister Agnes also left her father's house and joined her sister. St. Francis eventually had a monastery built for them next to the church of San Damiano. As other women had joined them they became known as the "Poor Ladies of San Damiano." St. Francis gave them the Rule as a Second Order. The order became known as the Order of Saint Clare ten years after Clare's death, as she had been the abbess as directed by St. Francis.

In the year 1224, Frederick II with his army of soldiers came to attack Assisi. Clare was ill at the time, but with holding the Blessed Sacrament in her hand, she placed it where all could see, she prayed to God to save her Sisters. "O Lord, protect these Sisters whom I cannot protect now," At that moment a voice answered: **"I will keep them always in My care"** A sudden fright struck the attackers and they fled the city of Assisi. 3

St. Clare suffered illness for many years, but served our Lord in joy. In her joy she stated: "They say that we are too poor, but can a heart which possesses the infinite God be truly called poor?"

Pope Innocent IV, on August 9, 1253 stated: "Clare's rule would serve as the governing rule for Clare's Order of Poor Ladies." Clare died two days later at the age of fifty-nine years old. Clare's remains are buried beneath the high altar at the Basilica of Saint Clare.

Saint Clare is the Patron of eye disease, goldsmith, laundry, and television. She was Canonized by Pope Alexander IV on September 26, 1255.

Sandy Baden, TOF



ST. CLARE'S FLIGHT FROM HOME

A planning of all nights, the moon and the stars are shining, and the stillness of the darkness is so frightening. Oh, how a soul must trust in our Lord.

Escape was determination in the love of our Lord, and trying not to be seen as the door is opening to what awaits the other side. Oh, how a soul must trust in our Lord.

Quietly the door is closed and the escape into the night is terrifying, and to be caught would end it all. Was there a second thought? Oh, how a soul must trust in our Lord.

The run to the outer gate of the city is opened. In the dead of night the escape moves on and St. Clare feels joy and fear at the same time. Oh, how a soul must trust in our Lord.

What a cross to bear while pushing forward, and dare not to look back at the city of Assisi where St. Clare had grown up. Oh, how a soul must trust in our Lord.

Seeing St. Francis is such a relief as if the struggle is over. Changing her beautiful garment for one of the poor and cutting her hair that is always a woman's pride. Oh, how a soul must trust in our Lord.

Into the monastery she enters. Is the escape at an end or just beginning? The joy and the fear have now become one. Her love of God shows the world the "Will of God" is complete. Oh, how a soul must trust in our Lord.

Sandy Baden, TOF

QUEEN OF HEAVEN, THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Feast Day: August 22, 2025



Pope Pius XII in his papal encyclical in 1954, stated that Mary is called “Queen of Heaven.” **“Mary is Queen of Heaven, and deserves the title because she is the *Theotokos*, Mother of God.”** Pope Pius goes on to state, **“because she is closely associated as the New Eve with Jesus’ redemptive work, because of her intercessory power.”**

A statue of Mary by, Attard Malta, shows she is crowned with 12 stars, which is in reference to Revelation 12. Mary is given honor in the Salve Regina “Hail Queen,” and was given to us by a German Benedictine monk, Hermann of Reichenauy (1013-1054). We also honor Mary as Queen as we pray the Rosary in the final prayer, “Hail Holy Queen.”



The Second Vatican Council gave the title to Mary as, Queen of the Universe, in 1960, and we cannot forget the Ave Regina which was composed by Joseph Haydn in 1773. The life of the Blessed Virgin Mother in her relationship with her son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, gives her the various titles we honor her, Queen of the Angles, Queen of Saints, and Queen Mother of God.... In history there are many Kings who honored their mothers as queen mother and King David was one.

Pope Pius XII also wrote in his encyclical **Ad Caeli Reginam**: **“It cannot be doubted that Mary most holy is far above all other creatures in dignity, and after her Son possesses primacy over all. You have surpassed every creature, sings St. Sophronius. ‘What can be more sublime than your joy, O Virgin Mother?’ What more noble than this grace, which you alone have received from God.”**



The Blessed Mother’s Assumption into heaven, as she was conceived without sin, lived her life in the “Will of God,” and shows us her sanctity which she received from God. Mary was left behind as her Son ascended into heaven after his death and resurrection. She continued to be the mother of the Church until her own death and Assumption into heaven many years later.

Revelation 12 clearly indicates a Queen Mother: **(Rev. 12:1): “The woman wears a crown of twelve stars and appears in the sky, in heavenly glory—clothed with the sun and with the moon beneath her feet.”** Jesus says in **(John 18:36-37)**, **“My Kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my Kingdom is from another place....You say rightly that I am a King. For this cause I was born...”** Rightly so, Jesus is King of the Kingdom and Mary, His mother, is “Queen of Heaven and Earth.” **Sandy Baden, TOF**



VIRTUAL MONTHLY GATHERING
AUGUST 7, 2025

On our monthly zoom gathering, on August 7th, Sandy DeWaal, TOF, will present to us **The Crown Rosary**.

Article 72: — The following practices are strongly recommended: "...the recitation of the rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary or of the Franciscan Crown..."

Sandy DeWaal, TOF, was Professed in March 2025, and lives in Florida. Sandy has recently accepted the position of our **Monthly Gathering Coordinator**, and along with Mary Tag, TOF, help coordinate the **Franciscan Wake Service**.



ISOLATED TERTIARY NEWS

PRAYER CHAIN: Frank, TOF, from Australia has indicated all requests for prayers can now go directly to him and he will distribute them to the prayer chain.



Franciscan Tertiaries Province of the Immaculate Conception **TRIDUA**, August 22-24, 2025, Youngstown, OH.

NEW PROVINCIAL MINISTER
Submitted by Pepe Ventosa, TOF



The OFM Province of the Immaculate Conception Chapter of 2025 took place in June 2025 in Ontario, Canada. At this Chapter, Fr. Patrick Boyle, OFM, was elected Provincial Minister. Fr. Robert Campagna, who had served as Provincial Minister for several years, was elected Provincial Vicar.

We are grateful for the support and guidance under Fr. Campagna, OFM, and thank him for his service and care for our community of Franciscan Tertiaries. We pray for Fr. Patrick

Boyle, OFM, as he fulfills his new duties and ask our community to support him with our prayers.

ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE, OFM & TOFP
Feast Day: August 14

*St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe, is the Patron Saint of the **TOFP**. He was a Polish Conventual Franciscan Friar and a member of the Third Order. St. Maximilian Kolbe was not the founder of a specific “Third Order of the Priestly Confraternity,” but his life influenced various groups within the Franciscan Order. He was a prisoner of war in Auschwitz during World War II, and died a Martyr. He was Canonized in 1982 by Pope John Paul II.*



ST. LOUIS IX OF FRANCE

1214-1270

Feast Day: August 26



St. Luis IX of France is the Co-patron of the Third Order of St. Francis and of Third Order Regular men and women. He reigned as King of France from November 1226 to August 1270.

St. Louis IX of France was known for his acts of charity and devout religious practices, especially in connection to Franciscan spirituality. He was committed to serving others in showing how to live a Christian life. In living Franciscan spirituality, St. Louis was committed to God's justice in society and of peace.

The Cathedral Basilica in St. Louis, Missouri is named after Saint Louis IX of France and also the largest Franciscan Mission, which is in Oceanside, California.

San Luis Rey Mission:





"What wonderful majesty! What stupendous
condescension! O sublime humility! That
the Lord of the whole universe, God and the
Son of God, should humble Himself like this
under the form of a little bread, for our
salvation."

St. Francis of Assisi

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION ISOLATED TERTIARIES SCHEDULE

MONDAY

***Judith Inglesby, TOF
Nancy Caraballo***

TUESDAY

Linda Menser, TOF

WEDNESDAY

***Luis Guzman, TOF
Judith Inglesby, TOF
Paul & Mary Tag, TOF
Nancy Caraballo***

THURSDAY

Bob Zupanek, TOF

FRIDAY

***Linda Menser, TOF
Pepe Ventosa, TOF
Sandy DeWaal, TOF***

SATURDAY

***Ericka Witover, TOF
Peter Emau, TOF
Miguel Mahan, TOF***

SUNDAY

Linda Menser, TOF

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

ADMONITION XII

Knowing the Spirit of God

Study of the Admonitions of St. Francis of Assisi, Lothar Hardick, OFM
by: Sandy Baden, TOF



We can be sure that a man is a true religious (=servant of God) and has the Spirit if his lower nature does not give way to pride when God accomplishes some good through him, and if he seems all the more worthless and inferior to others in his own eyes. Our lower nature is opposed to every good.

Several questions seem to arise in reading of this Admonition. Lothar Hardick, OFM analyzes two statements to consider and the last states: "I can see from this that I have the Spirit of the Lord." This question comes to mind... "If a man

regards himself as unimportant and more lowly than all other people," as St. Francis states, how does a man recognize the Spirit of the Lord within him?

To obtain knowledge of the Lord would be through prayer and how we surrender ourselves in our love for God. Peace and harmony in our lives, in our faith, and obedience to God's will bring forth the Spirit of the Lord acting in our daily lives. Do we really need to be concerned if we can or cannot recognize our own progress as long as we continue to have faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and pray to do His will and not our own?

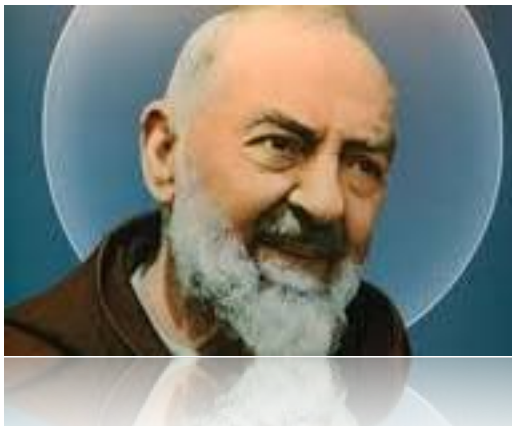
When we feel we are making progress in our spiritual lives it would be a gift from God that brings us to understand, but at the same time the more we realize that gift, we then can see what we lack, as Lothar Hardick, OFM indicates. What a dilemma this may be to us. Does this seem complicated or is it as simple as obedience and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ?

Lothar Hardick, OFM talks about how we think of our pride in our accomplishments and how we can be tempted to think of what we alone accomplished, as our ego gets in the way. What do we really think

of ourselves if we are to consider that any accomplishments we may have done comes from God and God alone. What is good, comes from God. Keeping in mind the awesomeness of God, how could anyone think they are above anyone else? There is no comparison when we realize what has been given to us in our talents, which comes from God, and to be used for the glory of God. Each person is created with gifts and is based entirely on glory of God. Each person is created with gifts given to us from God and what God sees fit for each of us as individuals and is given precisely for for that person. As our egos get in the way we may lose sight of our Lord and all that He has given us. This is as our lower nature may get in the way.

In reading Admonition XII several times it becomes clear there is hope for us in our Lord Jesus Christ. We can see the Spirit of the Lord and the “Poverty of Spirit” at the same time. Give thanks and praise to our Lord, as indicated in this Admonition, as St. Francis said: “Keep nothing for yourselves, so that He who has given Himself wholly to you may receive you wholly.” (Ep Old; Omnibus, 106) Our Lord gives himself to us in the Holy Eucharist as we surrender ourselves to His will when we receive this supreme gift from God. Never lose sight of this gift and be thankful that our Lord Jesus Christ has blessed us, and remember all He has given is good and brings us peace.

What did St. Padre Pio Say about the Spirit of God:



Holy Spirit, according to his spiritual guidance.

*Padre Pio described the spirit of God as a **spirit of peace**. He emphasized that, “even in the face of sin, the Holy Spirit brings a tranquil sorrow, humility and confidence, all stemming from God’s mercy. Conversely, the spirit of the demon, is characterized by agitation, exasperation, and a tendency to incite anger against oneself.” Padre Pio believed that true peace, tranquility, and a sense of God’s presence come from the*

Save the Date

AUGUST 2: OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS, PORTIUNCULA

AUGUST 7: IT ZOOM GATHERING: 7:00 PM Eastern Time, 4:00 PM Pacific Time. Discussion Topic: Presented by, Sandy DeWaal, TOF: **The Crown Rosary**

AUGUST 11: ST. CLARE OF ASSISI

AUGUST 14: IT NOVITIATE FORMATION GROUP 4: 7:00 PM Eastern Time, 4:00 PM Pacific Time

ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE, OFM & TOFP

AUGUST 21: INITIAL FORMATION INQUIRY GROUP 5: 7:00 PM Eastern Time, 4:00 PM Pacific Time

AUGUST 22: QUEEN OF HEAVEN, THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

AUGUST 26: ST. LUIS IX OF FRANCE, Co-Patron of the Franciscan Third Order.

AUGUST 22-24: FRANCISCAN TERTIARIES PROVINCE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION TRIDUA



