

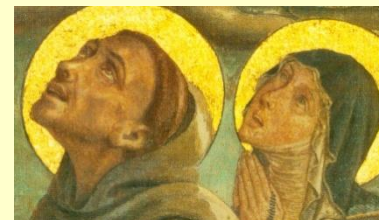
October, 2025

Volume 6, Issue 10

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 (from The Catholic Handbook)

The Franciscan Rosary is a unique and deeply meaningful devotion that honors the joyful mysteries of the Blessed Virgin Mary's life. Rooted in Franciscan spirituality, this 7 decade rosary takes a distinctive approach by focusing on the moments of joy Mary experienced, from the Annunciation to her Assumption.

It consists of 7 decades. The prayer begins with the Sign of the Cross. Announce the Joy before each decade, meditate on it, pray an Our Father and ten Hail Marys, and continues this procedure with each of the seven decades of Hail Marys. After the seventh mystery, two additional Hail Marys are recited to complete 72 Hail Marys, symbolizing the traditional number of years Mary lived. It can be prayed on a regular rosary, but a dedicated seven-decade Franciscan Rosary enhances the devotion.

The Seven Joys of Mary

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ
4. The Adoration of the Magi
5. The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple
6. The Appearance of Christ to Mary after the Resurrection
7. The Assumption and Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven

The Seven Sorrows of Mary (Prayed during Lent)

1. The prophecy of Simeon
2. The flight to Egypt
3. The loss of the Child Jesus for 3 days
4. Mary meets Jesus carrying the cross.
5. The Crucifixion of Jesus
6. The body of Jesus is taken down from the cross and placed in the arms of Mary.
7. The body of Jesus is placed in the tomb

How to Pray the Crown Rosary

For each of the next seven decades, introduce and meditate on the assigned mystery.

After completing the seventh decade, add two additional Hail Marys to reach a total of 72 Hail Marys, representing the number of years the Blessed Virgin is traditionally believed to have lived on earth.

While it is optional, you may include the Glory Be and the Fatima Prayer between decades. However, these prayers are not required for the Franciscan Crown Rosary. It is encouraged that all members of the Order, both secular and religious, recite the Franciscan Rosary at least every Saturday, a day specially dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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

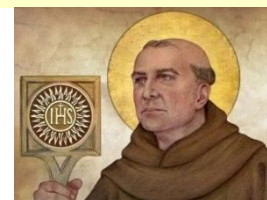
**Next Gathering – Sunday,
October 19 – 1:30 PM
St. Nicholas Byzantine Church
1051 E. Robinson Ave.,
Barberton, OH 44203**

We are expecting you!

Franciscan Quote of the Month

"You must know that when you 'hail' Mary, she immediately greets you! She is utterly courteous and pleasant. If you greet her, she will answer you right away and converse with you!"

St. Bernardine of Siena, OFM (1380-1444) – Feast Day May 20
Franciscan Friar, Preached Against Gambling, Infanticide, Sorcery/Witchcraft, and Sodomy,
Named "The Apostle of Italy" by Pope Nicholas V at his canonization



Eucharistic Adoration



Sunday

Betty DeMarco, TOF
Marlene Walker, 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
Jerry Johnson
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 26 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.*

October Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

Elizabeth Francis, TOF – 35 Years

Roberto Meza, TOF &
Maria Elena Meza, TOF - 12 Years

Rose Akins, TOF & Betty DeMarco, TOF – 9
Years

Chris Devore, TOF; LeeAnn Devore, TOF; &
Cindy Russo, TOF – 7 Years



Birthdays

Rick Dunlap, TOF – 10/2

Rose Akins, TOF – 10/3

Bob Burtscher, TOF – 10/13

Stand for Life



Bob Burtscher, TOF; and Therese Harper, TOF will be praying in front of the abortion clinic in Cuyahoga Falls in October. 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

Our October Gathering hospitality will be hosted by our beloved Novices – Andrea Ferraro, Jerry Johnson, John Wilson, and Jack Kellogg (*affectionately known as Andrea and the Js!*) If you would like to assist, please contact any of them to see how you can help!



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

Rose Zaratsian, TOF will prepare the Little Portion, 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, 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.***

Formation Class Updates by Debbie Ventosa, TOF

Our fraternity is blessed to have five novices in formation. One class of four will profess November 8, 2025 at the Day of Recollection. The Council conducted interviews of John Wilson, Jerry Johnson, Jack Kellogg and Andrea Ferraro and discussed their permanent profession commitment and their faith journeys. The council thanks the formation team that prepared our brothers and sisters during their time in formation.

Tony Perez also continues his studies and is slated to profess in March of 2026. Tony is a novice member of our fraternity who is doing his Initial Formation with the Isolated Tertiaries. Due to personal issues, he can't attend formation with our group. Tony has been attending our gatherings, the Tridua, picnic and also been an active participant as a novice.

Please keep these five brothers and sister in prayer as they continue their discernment.

After the Come and See in August, we had 15 individuals express interest in attending Inquiry Classes! Our meetings will be from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at St. George Hall at St. Nicholas Parish. Their Formators will be Rose Akins, TOF, Denise Williams, TOF, Marlene Walker, TOF, Virgil Daniel, TOF, and Dennis Gacioch, TOF. Professed members are most welcome to attend!

Our Novices continue to be under the direction of Carol Perrine, TOF, Rose Akins, TOF, and Denise Williams, TOF. Our beloved Novices are hard at work in their studies as they progress toward Profession Day, as is the trusty Formation Team! Please continue to pray for the students and the Formation Team!

These are the dates for formation for the current novices:

October 20 November – Practice and Holy Permanent Profession

2025 Day of Recollection

Our annual Day of Recollection is quickly approaching! Saturday, November 8 we will meet with our entire Third Order Franciscan Community for a family reunion of our fraternities at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted, located at 617 S. Belle Vista Avenue in Youngstown. We will have the pleasure of meeting Fr. Chris Gaffrey, OFM, who was recently assigned to assist Fr. Vit at the Shrine. We will have the privilege of Confession, Adoration, Mass, and talks from Fr. Vit in the morning and afternoon. In addition, we will have the pleasure of reconnecting with our TOF brothers and sisters over breakfast and lunch.

We will also joyfully welcome our beloved Novices - Andrea Ferraro, Jerry Johnson, Jack Kellogg, and John Wilson - as Professed Franciscans to our fraternity!!! Teresa Ventosa will celebrate her Investiture as an Honorary Member of our Fraternity! God is good!

If you have not already done so, please notify Mary Dye ASAP if you plan to attend. The St. Padre Pio Fraternity of Youngstown will once again offer their generous hospitality, but will need a headcount so there is enough food. The cost for lunch is \$12.

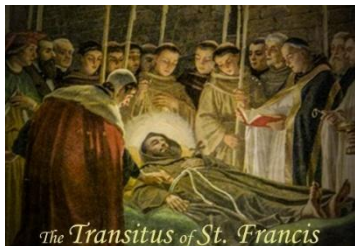
If you would like to carpool, please notify any Council member for information.

See you in Youngstown!!!

Sale of TOF Items!

The St. Padre Pio Fraternity in Youngstown runs a TOF store for the our TOF community. Items from the store will be available for sale on the Day of Recollection for those who are interested. Please bring cash if you are interested!

2025 Transitus



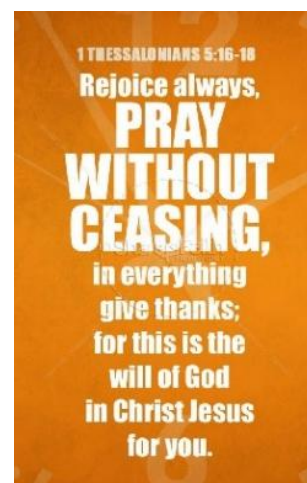
The Transitus once again took place at St. Nicholas Church at 7 PM on Friday, October 3. Vice-Minister Jim Miller led us in prayer and reflection as we celebrated the Franciscan devotion of the death of our good St. Francis!

Many thanks to Jim for stepping up to lead the service. We are also grateful to Fr. Kerul-Kmec and St. Nicholas Parish for their warm welcome and ongoing hospitality to our Fraternity!

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. **For the spiritual and physical health and protection of Pope Leo XIV.**
4. Our bishops and their intentions: **Bishop David Bonnar, Bishop Robert Pipta, Bishop Earl Fernandes, and Bishop Edward Malesic, JCL.**
5. The Friars of the Immaculate Conception Province of the OFM, particularly **Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM, Fr. Chris Gaffrey, OFM, Fr. Dennis Arambasick, OFM, and Fr. Patrick Boyle, OFM**, who is the Provincial Minister.
6. **Our beloved, hard-working pastors and parish priests, and our parishes**, including **Fr. Miron Kerul'-Kmec, Fr. Daniel Dozier, TOF, Fr. Ryan Furlong, TOF, and Fr. John Rickert, FSSP, TOF** of Illinois, who is an Isolated Tertiary.
7. **Fr. Gastor Temu Bahati and Frater Francis Tumaini** of the Diocese of Moshi.
8. **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, North Canton) and **William Martzaklis** (St. Paul, North Canton) from the Diocese of Youngstown, **Joseph Rohan**, (St. Joseph Parish, Cuyahoga Falls), **Alex Krukemeyer**, (Our Lady of Victory Parish, Tallmadge), and **John Paul Antalek** (St. Mary Parish, Akron), all from the Diocese of Cleveland. These men and all seminarians are the future leaders and servants of our Church.
9. Please add prayers **for the safety and protection of our Ukrainian brothers and sisters, and for the conversion of Russia.** Also, **for the 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 attacked.**
10. For the **protection of all life**, born and unborn, womb to tomb.
11. 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.**
12. 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!



FRANCISCAN REMINDER

We begin our monthly gatherings with prayer inside the Church. As we pray Lectio Divina, we continue meditating on the Word of God as we return to our table. Please remember to keep **Holy Silence** during this transition until after sharing the word at your table.

A Message from Frater Francis Tumaini of the Diocese of Moshi, Tanzania

Frater Francis Tumaini is one of the seminarians we pray for daily, in addition to a group of local seminarians. He took the time to remember us on the Feast of St. Francis, October 4. He currently is honored to study in Rome, representing his Diocese.

Peace and Good...

Good morning, I hope you all are doing well, I thank God that by His Graces and blessings I'm in good spirit, and a healthy body.



I wish you all the best and many blessings and prayers on the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi.

I'm on the fifth day of the six days annual retreat (Spiritual exercise); as I celebrate also St. Francis as my patron saint, I pray for you in this spiritual journey in a special way during the Holy Mass and ask Our Lord Jesus Christ to give joy and peace in your life for you and your loved ones.

Next week we are set to start the new academic year which for me is the second year. I really need your prayers to start, continue well and prosper in this year.

Thank you again sincerely for your support and encouragement, prayers and dedication with which I thank God for having you in my journey towards priesthood and above all towards Holiness.

Here attached is the photo with Formator and friends in the city of St. Francis (*Editor's note: Frater Francis is at the right*) Pax et Bonum.

Francis J. Tumaini
Moshi Seminarian, 2nd Year Theology
Rome, Italy

Lord, it is Good for Us to be Together!

Our September Gathering took place on Sunday, September 21 at 1:30 PM at St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish. We had 30 in attendance, with several visitors and friends, including Jess Poletti, Abby from Akron St. Vincent, Gary from North Canton Little Flower, Paula from Norton Prince of Peace, Renee from the Youngstown area, Alex Krukemeyer, Maureen Walsh, Annie Butts, and Fred Kramer.

1. Vice Minister Jim Miller, TOF, greeted us and led the Gathering in place of Roberto Meza, TOF, who is out of town. After determining our table assignments in the Hall, we walked in silence to the church for Liturgy of the Hours. Kenny Green, TOF; Denise Williams, TOF; and Bill Marshall, TOF led our prayer.
2. Virgil Daniel, TOF proclaimed the Gospel of the day, which was the story of the dishonest steward – "The person who is trustworthy in small matters is also trustworthy in great ones."
3. We returned to the Hall in silence for our Lectio Divina discussion at each table.

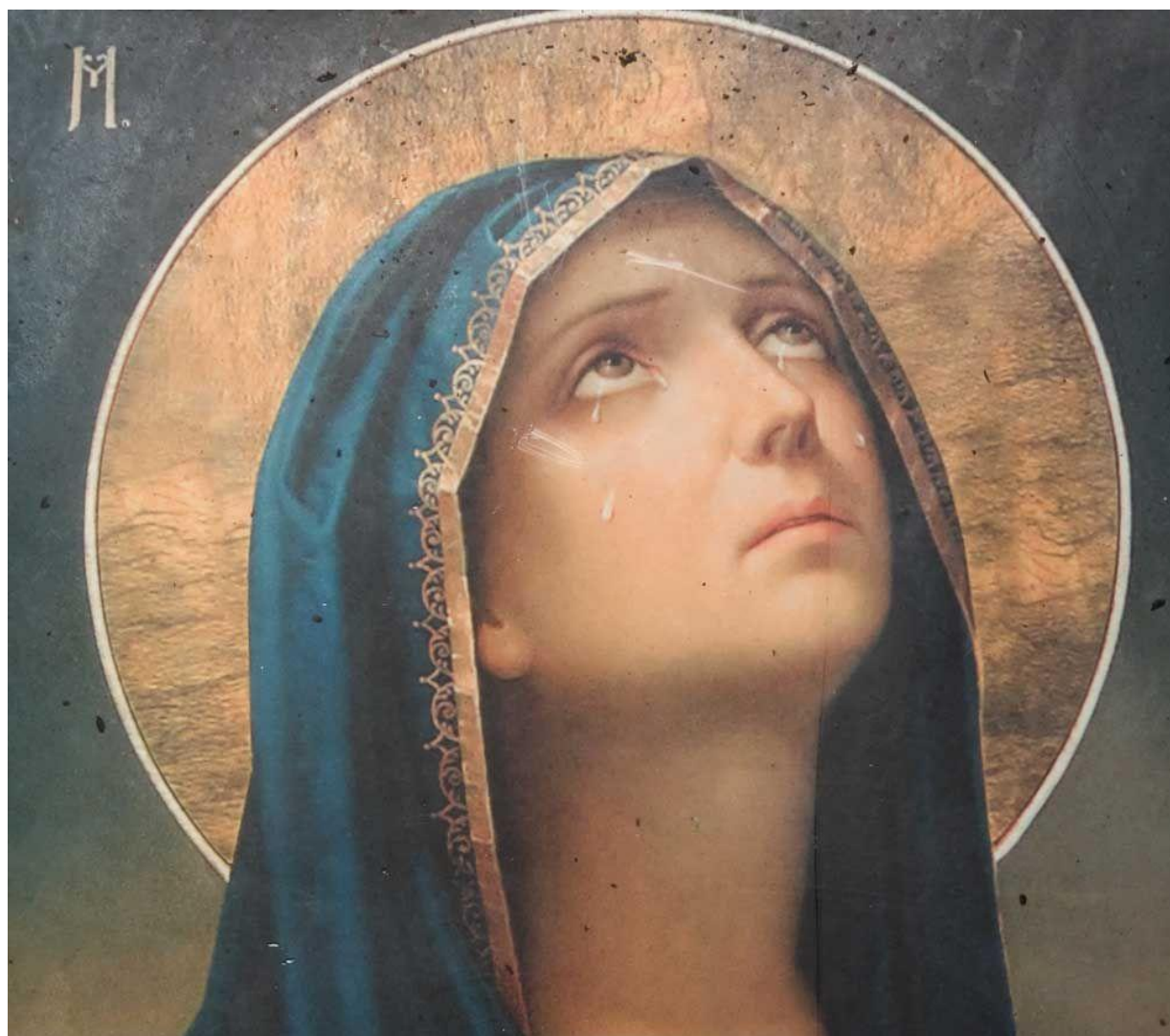
4. Alex Krukemeyer, who is one of the local seminarians we have spiritually adopted, spoke to us briefly on his vocation. He grew up as one of five children of devout Catholic parents, who passed their Faith to Alex and his siblings. He first began to discern the priesthood at his Confirmation, when his Sponsor suggested it would be wonderful for a priest to have a nice parish like Alex's, whose home parish is Our Lady of Victory in Tallmadge. Alex kept thinking about what it would be to live the life of a priest. After he graduated from high school, he decided to enter the seminary and is now in his 7th year of formation and study. He is currently assigned for his pastoral formation year to St. Bernard and St. Mary Parishes in Akron under the oversight of the pastor, Fr. Chris Zerucha. Alex has been a great help and blessing to Father, the staff, and parishioners of both parishes. Coincidentally, he and his brothers and sisters grew up knowing John Paul Antalek and his family – another seminarian we have spiritually adopted – who lived nearby in the same neighborhood.
- 
5. Alex then led us in Grace before our lunch.
 6. Lunch was provided by Therese Harper, TOF; Mary Dye, TOF; LeeAnn Devore, TOF; and Joanne Angeletti, TOF. We had a feast of salad, pulled chicken, ham and Swiss sandwiches, fresh fruit and vegetables, and spice cake – yum!
 7. Jim Miller, TOF reminded us that Saturday, November 8 will be our annual Day of Recollection. Jim passed around a sign-up sheet so that the St. Padre Pio Fraternity in Youngstown, our hosts, will have a headcount of who to expect.
 8. Mary Dye, TOF provided St. Francis medals from the Padre Pio Prayer Group, and told those who took them they will need to be blessed.
 9. Matt Poletti, TOF explained the goals of Franciscan Works, and had raffle tickets for sale for those who were interested.
 10. Jim Miller, TOF announced that the Transitus will be Friday, October 3 at St. Nicholas at 7 PM. This year it will include the Franciscan Crown Rosary.
 11. **Ongoing Formation** – Bob Burtscher, TOF led Ongoing Formation on Article 71 of the Constitution, which explores the Franciscan Spirit.
 - a. **Family** – There are no limits to who we bring to God, including via marriage.
 - i. We meet Jesus and influence society for the better in a good and faithful marriage.
 - ii. Sacrifice, faith, hope, and charity are virtues necessary for a strong Catholic family.
 - b. **Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance** are cardinal virtues that maintain strength in the family. They keep us balanced and close to God.
 - c. **Detachment** leads to surrender and the enjoyment of the good things of life without being devastated if we lose those things.
 - d. **Imitation of Jesus** comes in part from Marian devotion, remembering what would Jesus do. To Jesus through Mary,
 - e. **Prayer** is necessary for a rich spiritual life. There are four kinds of prayer:
 - i. **Petition**
 - ii. **Adoration**
 - iii. **Thanksgiving**
 - iv. **Praise**
 - f. **Self-knowledge** – We cannot advance in spiritual progress without knowing ourselves.
 - g. **Fraternity** – Treating others with respect, humility, and love.
 - h. **Sacrifice** can be painful or pain-free.
 - i. **Simplicity** opens us up to God.
 12. **Formation Report** – Rose Akins, TOF reported the Novices are rapidly approaching Profession Day. Fifteen Inquirers showed up for the recent Come and See in August. Professed members are always welcome to attend classes and prayers are even more welcome!
 13. **Infirmarian Report:**
 - a. Elizabeth Francis, TOF is doing well according to Kenny Green, TOF. She cannot travel alone. She uses a walker because of balance issues.
 - b. No further information on others we have been keeping in prayer.
 14. No Profession anniversaries to celebrate, but we wished Rose Zaratsian, TOF; Larry McNutt, TOF; and Virgil Daniel, TOF happy birthdays!
 15. **Little Portion:** Rose Akins, TOF prepared the Little Portion, and Bob Burtscher, TOF delivered it.
 16. **Stand for Life:** Rick Dunlap, TOF and Mike Butts, TOF participated in the Stand for Life on Saturday.
 17. **Prayer Intentions:**

- a. For our Fraternity and its members.
 - b. For our members who are homebound or who have health challenges.
 - c. For Pope Leo and his intentions.
 - d. For our Bishops – Bishop David Bonnar of Youngstown, Bishop Earl Fernandes of Columbus, Bishop Robert Pipta of the Eparchy of Parma, and Bishop Edward Malesic of Cleveland.
 - e. For the friars of the Immaculate Conception Province of the OFM, particularly for Fr. Peter Boyle, OFM; Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM; and Fr. Dennis Arambasick, OFM.
 - f. For our pastors and parish priests, including Fr. Myron Kerul-Kmec of St. Nicholas, Fr. Daniel Dozier, TOF; and Fr. Ryan Furlong, TOF.
 - g. For all seminarians, especially those we have spiritually adopted: Frater Francis Tumaini of the Diocese of Moshi; Arthur Bodenschatz and William Martzaklis of the Diocese of Youngstown; and Joseph Rohan, John Paul Antalek, and Alex Krukemeyer of the Diocese of Cleveland.
 - h. For our Catholic family in Ukraine, Gaza, and worldwide who face war, persecution, and poverty.
 - i. For the conversion of Russia.
 - j. For Jakin Miller and all FOCUS missionaries.
 - k. For all human life, born and unborn.
 - l. For an increase of religious vocations, including those to the Third Order Franciscans, and for an increase in faithful Catholic marriages and families.
18. Jim Miller, TOF led us in the Memorare, the St. Michael Prayer, and in our Closing Prayers.

Our October Gathering will be Sunday, October 19 at 1:30 PM at St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish!

Save the Date (October, the Month of the Holy Rosary)

October 3	Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi – 7 PM, St. Nicholas Byzantine Church
October 4	Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
October 19	October Gathering, 1:30 PM, St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish
November 8	Day of Recollection – Shrine of Our Lady, Comforter of the Afflicted - Youngstown



There is no problem, I tell you,
no matter how difficult it is,
that we cannot solve
by the prayer
of the Holy

Rosary

Sister Lucia