November, 2025

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

To non-Catholics and even some practicing Catholics, Purgatory is looked on with dread and even fear. In fact, it has never been a punishment, but instead, a place of mercy, atonement, and forgiveness provided for us by our good God in order to purify ourselves before meeting Him in the place He has prepared for us in Heaven. It is a place to purge ourselves of any venial sins that remain on our souls at death.

The <u>Catechism of the Catholic Church</u> has this to say about Catholic teaching on Purgatory:

1031. "The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned. [Cf. Council of Florence (1439): DS 1304; Council of Trent (1563): DS 1820; (1547): 1580; see also Benedict XII, Benedictus Deus (1336): DS 1000.] The Church formulated her doctrine of faith on Purgatory especially at the Councils of Florence and Trent. The tradition of the Church, by reference to certain texts of Scripture, speaks of a cleansing fire. [Cf. 1 Cor 3:15; 1 Pet 1:7.] As for certain lesser faults, we must believe that, before the Final Judgment, there is a purifying fire. He who is truth says that whoever utters blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will be pardoned neither in this age nor in the age to come. From this sentence we understand that certain offenses can be forgiven in this age, but certain others in the age to come. [St. Gregory the Great, Dial. 4, 39: PL 77, 396; cf. Mt 12:32-36.]"

1472. "To understand this doctrine and practice of the Church, it is necessary to understand that sin has a double consequence. Grave sin deprives us of communion with God and therefore makes us incapable of eternal life, the privation of which is called the 'eternal punishment' of sin. On the other hand every sin, even venial, entails an unhealthy attachment to creatures, which must be purified either here on earth, or after death in the state called Purgatory. This purification frees one from what is called the 'temporal punishment' of sin. These two punishments must not be conceived of as a kind of vengeance inflicted by God from without, but as following from the very nature of sin. A conversion which proceeds from a fervent charity can attain the complete purification of the sinner in such a way that no punishment would remain. [Cf. Council of Trent (1551): DS 1712-1713; (1563): 1820.]"

In this month of November, dedicated to the prayer and remembrance of the Poor Souls in Purgatory – which may include us someday, if we are lucky! – let's resolve to pray for all those in Purgatory with charity and affection.

Volume 6, Issue 11



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,

We are expecting you!

November 8 – 8:45 AM

Our Lady Comforter of the

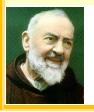
517 S. Belle Vista Ave.,

Youngstown, OH 44509

Afflicted Shrine

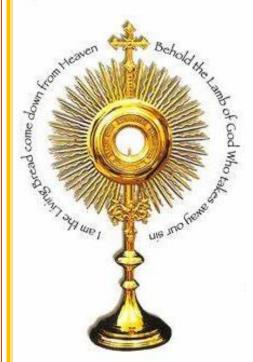
Franciscan Quote of the Month

"We must empty Purgatory with our prayers!"



St. Pio of Pietrelcina, OFM (1887-1968) – Feast Day September 23 Franciscan Friar, Priest, Stigmatist, Mystic, Bilocutionist, Devoted Confessor and Prayer Warrior – Patron Saint of Civil Defense Volunteers and Adolescents

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 <u>VITAL</u> 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.

November Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

Mary Cate Roberts, TOF - 34 Years

Jennifer Kerns, TOF - 8 Years

Jesse Kuhn, TOF and Denise Williams, TOF – 3 Years

Dennis & Carolyn Gacioch, TOF; Marlene Walker, TOF – 1 Year



Birthdays

Jesse Kuhn, TOF – 11/2

Stand for Life



There are no scheduled Stand for Life attendees until Spring because of harsh weather conditions. 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 <u>not</u> 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 November Gathering will be the Day of Recollection at the Shrine on November 8. We will enjoy the generous hospitality of the St. Padre Pio Fraternity of Youngstown. If you plan to come and have not signed up yet, please notify Mary Dye ASAP – a headcount is needed for food!!!



As often as you did it for one of my lease brothers, you did

The Little Portion ministry is suspended until Spring because of the harsh weather conditions. 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.

Profession rehearsal will be at Casa Ventosa on Monday, November 3 at 6:30 for those professing and their sponsors.

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:

November - Practice 11/3 Holy Permanent Profession 11/8

Formation Classes for Inquirers (Ten Inquirers!): November 10 and 24 December 15

2025 Day of Recollection

Our annual Day of Recollection is Saturday, November 8, which will also function as our November Gathering. 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. Our day will start at 8:45, when we will meet in the church for Mass. We will have the privilege of Confession and Adoration, and talks from Fr. Vit in the morning and afternoon. In addition, we will have the opportunity 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. We will also need assistance with coffee, break snacks, desserts, water and help with cleaning up at the end of the day – please contact Mary if you can help!

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

Council Treasurer Therese Harper, TOF will provide envelopes for normal monthly Gathering collections. They will be placed inside our badge box.

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!

Prayer Updates

Please feel free to contact Rick and Eileen Dunlap, TOF if you have personal prayer requests that you would like our members to intercede upon. It is always encouraging for us to get updates on those for whom we pray. Please don't text with updates – simply send an email to Rick or Eileen and they will let those who are praying know the results of their prayers!



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:

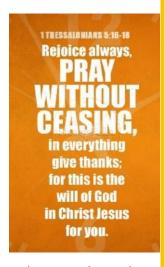
- 1. The spiritual protection of our fraternity and of all our members.
- 2. Those in our fraternity who are sick, and their families.
- 3. For the spiritual and physical health and protection of Pope Leo XIV.
- 4. Our bishops and their intentions: **Bishop David Bonnar**, **Bishop Robert Pipta**, **Bishop 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.



Did You Know?

Our Holy Mother, the Church, provides many opportunities to acquire Indulgences. According to the Chapter 4 of the Statutes:

- 4.9 The 1972 Grant of Indulgences for the Third Order Secular of St Francis of Assisi provides that:
 - a. A plenary Indulgence is granted to members of the Third Order Secular of St Francis, provided they make or renew, at least privately, their promise of Profession, having dutifully fulfilled the usual conditions: confession, communion, and prayer to the intention of the Supreme Pontiff.
 - 1) on the day of their admission (Investiture into the Novitiate) and of their Profession, and at the conclusion of an official visitation;
 - 2) on the feast-days of Blessed Luchesius, the first Tertiary (April 28); Saint Margaret of Cortona (May 16); Saint Clare of Assisi (August 11); Saint Louis, King of France (August 25); Saint Francis of Assisi (October 4); Saint Elizabeth of Hungary (November 17); all the Saints of the Three Orders of Saint Francis (November 29); and the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (December 8).
 - b. Should any condition for the plenary indulgence be lacking, the indulgence will be only partial. However, the prescribed spiritual work, i.e. renewal of Profession as specified, is to be fulfilled to gain the partial indulgence. (Norm 20 § 4)
- 4.10 Although not part of the specific indulgences granted to the Third Order, per se, it is worth noting here that the so-called "Portiuncula Indulgence" on August 2 was specifically retained for the benefit of all the faithful as part of the stipulations in Norm 15 of the apostolic constitution.

Please note that the Feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, our holy Patroness, is November 17, and the Feast of the Saints of the Three Orders of St. Francis is November 29. We as Tertiaries have the privilege of obtaining a Plenary Indulgences under the normal circumstances this month, including praying for our good Pope Leo XIV!





The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is December 8, a Holy Day of Obligation. Not only is this the feast day of the great and holy Patroness of the United States of America, it is also the anniversary of the Third Order Franciscans, and the feast day of our beloved Order of Friars Minor of the Immaculate Conception Province.

It is part of our duty as Third Order Franciscan Tertiaries to fast on December 7, the day prior, as a means of honoring Our Lady, the Holy Mother of God, and also our holy vocation. The usual rules are: two simple meals of small portions, and one regular meal without overindulging. We should do this with joy, as a small gift to God and Our Lady, in gratitude to God for His great mercy, and to Our Lady for her kind, gentle, and powerful care of us, more than any earthly mother.

Lord, it is Good for Us to be Together!

Our October Gathering took place on Sunday, October 19 at 1:30 PM at St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish. We had 31 in attendance, with several visitors and Inquirers, Gary Greathouse (Little Flower Parish), Donna Lopez (Prince of Peace Parish), Barbara Russell (Little Flower Parish), Michelle and Bill McBrearty (Little Flower Parish), Connie Corey (Little Flower Parish) and Tony Truman (Queen of Heaven Parish) – all Inquirers – along with our friends, Annie Butts (St. Mary, Wooster), Fred Kramer (St. Bernard) and Fr. Vit.

- 1. 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 judge and the persistent woman, Luke 18:1-8 "Pray without becoming weary."
- 3. We returned to the Hall in silence for our Lectio Divina discussion at each table.
- 4. Roberto Meza, TOF recognized and introduced our visitors.
- 5. Roberto then led us in Grace before our lunch.
- 6. Lunch was provided by our Novices, Andrea and the Js (Andrea Ferraro, John Wilson, Jack Kellogg, and Jerry Johnson), in addition to Rose Akins, TOF. We had a feast of salad, soups, bread, several desserts, and apple cider.
- 7. Roberto updated us on the Day of Recollection, which will take place on November 8 at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted in Youngstown, starting with Mass. We are asked to assemble in the Church at 8:45 AM.
- 8. St. Francis de Sales Parish was selected as the recipient of the food pantry collection. Kenny Green, TOF will deliver.

- 9. <u>Ongoing Formation</u> Rick Dunlap, TOF led Ongoing Formation on Articles 85 and 86 of the Constitution, which explores the our duties as tertiaries to the sick, disabled, elderly and their needs.
 - a. Care for the vulnerable expresses love of God.
 - i. Pope Leo frequently refers to the Good Samaritan and promotes care of the sick, elderly, and chronically ill.
 - ii. St. Francis of Assisi shaped his ministry by embracing the leper, recognizing the leper's suffering was the embodiment of Christ's suffering.
 - iii. St. Francis regularly visited leper settlements, distributing alms and mercy.
 - iv. He also begged scraps of food and clothing to share with the hungry and those in need.
 - v. Tertiaries are to care for the sick among them

b. St. Clare cared lovingly for the sick and infirm.

- i. She encouraged the sick and infirm with hope and spiritual devotion.
- ii. God's faithfulness sustains us in our suffering,

c. Franciscan Tertiaries are to imitate St. Francis and St. Clare in our vocations.

- i. We embrace illness and suffering in ourselves with detachment.
- ii. Sister Death is not to be feared, but accepted and recognized as the next step in our journey to God.
- iii. Illness and discomfort are opportunities to suffer well for Jesus and to participate in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.
- iv. If we remain complacent, we aren't doing our job.
- v. Contemplation Action Charity

10. Fr. Vit's Formation

- a. Satan does not recognize his sin.
- b. Persevere in prayer always.
- c. Jesus asked, "When I come back, will I find Faith?"
- d. Our Holy Church is broken by heresy and is split.
- e. Corruption infected the Church in the Middle Ages.
- f. Reformation and science replaces the religion for some.
- g. Placing these things ahead of the teaching of the Church results in Socialism, Fascism, and more evils.
- h. In the 1800s, there was an organized attempt to destroy the Church and resounds to this day.
- i. Read the papal encyclical on Modernism by Pope Leo XIII.
- j. Interior corruption is a danger to the Church.
- k. Masonry, from the time of World War I to this day, is one of the sources of this corruption.
- I. The Church must not be used to promote political ideology.
- m. Masons have infiltrated the highest levels of the Church, promoting unacceptable teaching.
- n. These unacceptable teachings include the promotion of yoga, reiki, and more at parish churches.
- o. We must pray without ceasing to protect our Church.
- p. Study Scripture for enlightenment,
- q. Pray the Rosary daily.
- r. Review and study The Catechism of the Catholic Church.
- s. Be sure to only use faithful sources on the internet, television, and radio.
- 11. <u>Formation Report</u> Carol Perrine, TOF announced that Monday is the last class for the Novices. Profession rehearsal will take place on November 3 and Profession will be November 8 at the Day of Recollection. Many thanks to Carol Perrine, TOF; Virgil Daniel, TOF; Rose Akins, TOF; Chris DeVore, TOF; Bill Marshall, TOF; and Denise Williams, TOF for their faithful instruction!
 - a. Denise Williams, TOF reported the Inquirers number 10 at the moment. The current Novices addressed and answered questions from the new Inquirers.
 - b. Tony Perez continues Formation and hopes to Profess in March of 2026.

12. Infirmarian Report:

- a. There has been no contact with Elizabeth Francis, TOF lately.
- b. There has been no contact with Jennifer Kerns, TOF. Roberto Meza, TOF sent emails to her but has not received any response.
- c. Judith Hoyt, TOF was not present to report on Sandy Pollino, OFS and Dorothy Takacs, TOF.

13. Profession Anniversaries and Birthdays

a. Betty DeMarco, TOF; Elizabeth Francis, TOF; Rose Akins, TOF; Chris and LeeAnn Devore, TOF; Cindy Russo, TOF; and Roberto and Maria Elena Meza, TOF all celebrated profession anniversaries in October.

b. Rick Dunlap, TOF; Rose Akins, TOF; and Bob Burtscher, TOF celebrated birthdays in October.

14. Intercessory Prayer

- a. For our Fraternity and its members.
 - i. For Debbie Ventosa, TOF who has been suffering with eye issues and shingles.
 - ii. For Teresa Ventosa, who is improving after sickness.
- 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. Chris Gaffrey, 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.
- I. For an increase of religious vocations, including those to the Third Order Franciscans, and for an increase in faithful Catholic marriages and families.
- 15. Roberto Meza, TOF led us in the Memorare, the St. Michael Prayer, and in our Closing Prayers.

Our November Gathering will be Saturday, November 8 at 8:45 AM at Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted!

Save the Date (November, the Month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory) Day of Recollection - Shrine of Our Lady, Comforter of the Afflicted - Youngstown November 8 *November Gathering Feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Patroness of the TOF (see article on Indulgences!) November 17 November 27 Thanksgiving November 29 Feast of All Franciscan Saints (see article on Indulgences!) December 7 *Fast for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (2 minimal meals and 1 simple meal) Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the United States of America December 8 (Holy Day of Obligation) – (see article on Indulgences!) Anniversary of the Establishment of the Third Order Franciscans, under the leadership and guidance of the Order of Friars Minor, Immaculate Conception Province Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of North and South America December 12 December Gathering, St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish, 1:30 PM December 21 Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord (Holy Day of Obligation) December 25 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation) January 1

