

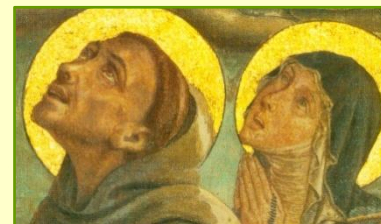
June, 2026

Volume 7, Issue 6

# 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](http://www.thirdorderfranciscans.com)



## Something to Consider

Monday, May 25, which was Memorial Day in the US, Pope Leo released his first encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, addressing the rapidly-growing Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology, and linking it to the unchanging Church doctrine protecting the dignity of life. In doing so, he became the first world leader to identify the danger and moral unacceptability of AI when it is used irresponsibly or with the intent to harm others.

According to Linda Bordoni of Vatican News, "Pope Leo XIV presents "Magnifica Humanitas" as the Church's response to the challenges posed by artificial intelligence, calling for AI to be "disarmed" from logics of domination, exclusion and war. Drawing parallels with *Rerum Novarum*, the Pope urges the global community to place technological progress at the service of human dignity, solidarity and the common good."

Artificial Intelligence is the act of artificially altering photographs, written words, audio recordings, and videos in a realistic manner which is increasingly undetectable to most people. It creates the possibility of plagiarism of not only words but of art and photographs of celebrities and of non-celebrities. It has been used to create pornography without the knowledge and permission of those whose legitimate, innocent images are altered. And far more.

Pope Leo XIV, who was inspired by our fellow Third Order Franciscan, Pope Leo XIII, to take on his papal name, was also inspired by Pope Leo XIII's outspoken care for workers and the poor in his own encyclical work, particularly *Rerum Novarum*.

His Holiness recognizes the good of technology when it is used for good and honorable purposes, such as spreading knowledge that helps others, in the area of medical care, for example – or warns us of danger.

But using images to steal the work of others – whether it is art, music, writing, patented inventions, or anything else – is morally wrong and unwelcome in civilized society. Not to mention those who use images of innocent individuals to make money by ruining reputations and putting others in danger. And using AI to wage war and create misery for the innocent is never acceptable.

## 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,  
June 14 – 1:30 PM**

**St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish  
1051 E. Robinson Ave.,  
Barberton, OH 44203**

**PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE!  
We are expecting you!**

## Catholic Quote of the Month

***“There is in the Sacred Heart the symbol and express image of the infinite love of Jesus Christ which moves us to love in return.”***



Pope Leo XIV (born 1955) – Augustinian Friar & Priest; Theology & Mathematics Teacher; Missionary; Pastor; Bishop of Chiclayo, Peru; Diocesan Administrator; Prior General; Prefect of the Dicastery of Bishops; President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America; Cardinal; 1st American & Peruvian Pope

***\*His Holiness plans to consecrate the US to the Sacred Heart of Jesus this year!***

## 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, TOF  
Larry McNutt, TOF  
Lucy McNutt, TOF  
María 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 27 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. He will never abandon us.**

## June Anniversaries and Birthdays

### Profession Anniversaries

Mike Butts, TOF – 24 Years

Virgil & Louise Daniel, TOF; Mary Dye, TOF;  
Therese Harper, TOF; Matthew Poletti, TOF;  
Jim & Nettie Miller, TOF – 5 Years



### Birthdays

Elizabeth Francis, TOF – 6/13

Susan Kramer, TOF – 6/29

## Stand for Life



Joanne Angeletti, TOF and Mary Dye, TOF will participate in the Stand for Life on June 13. 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

Andrea Ferraro, TOF; Jerry Johnson, TOF; Jack Kellogg, TOF; and John Wilson, TOF (Andrea and the Js!) will prepare our Gathering Hospitality for the June Gathering.

Mary Dye, TOF; Mike Butts, TOF, and Annie Butts will prepare and deliver the Little Portion this month. 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.**

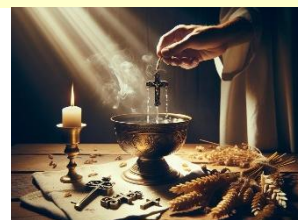


*As often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.*

## Important June Gathering Information!!!

Father Vit has kindly offered to bless items at our June Gathering. If there are any spiritual items you would like blessed, now's your chance! You may want to bring water, salt, oil, bells, or other religious articles.

And don't forget – our June Gathering will be one week early because we want everyone to enjoy Father's Day with their favorite fathers or with their families if they are fathers themselves! **WE WILL MEET FOR OUR JUNE GATHERING ON SUNDAY, JUNE 14 AT 1:30 AT ST. NICHOLAS!!!**



## 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 tables in the Hall.**

**Please remember to keep Holy Silence during this transition until sharing the word at your table!**

## Lectio Divina by Debbie Ventosa, TOF

Fraternity Council created small cards to serve as a guide for the Lectio Divina sharing time. The cards will be available at each table in the Hall. They will serve as a reminder of the focus prayer of Lectio Divina and also to allow everyone at the table time to share. Please remember to limit your response to the two items on the card. Once everyone around the table shares his or her word and meaning, conclude with a prayer together as a group!

### LECTIO DIVINA

#### Please share:

- 1- The word or phrase that stood out for you
- 2- What was God telling you through His word or phrase

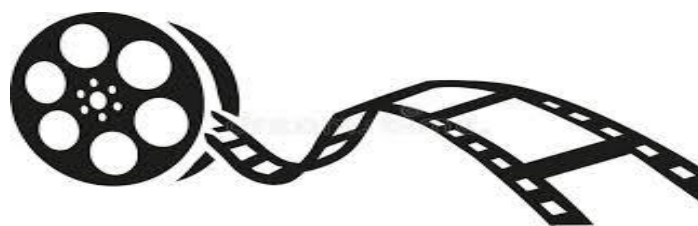
## Mondays with Mary by Gina Love, TOF



We are so blessed to live in a time when we can take advantage of some of the most sophisticated technology the world has ever seen, for the purpose of praying for one another and giving glory to our God in heaven. The first week of May, we began a women's Rosary ministry named Mondays with Mary. Using Zoom, women from all three of our fraternities and the isolated tertiaries of the Immaculate Conception Province of the OFM from around the world can now log in together, pray together for all our intentions, and connect with one another in a way that was impossible just a few years ago.

Tertiaries, if you have a prayer intention you for which you would like us to pray, please send it to me. It will be recorded in our book, and our women will pray every Monday with our Blessed Mother, the Queen of Heaven, for those intentions.

Ladies, we welcome you to log in with us every Monday night at 6:30 PM (EDT or EST, whichever is current) with your Rosary. Be sure to check your email for the invitation and the link. If you do not receive an invitation, send me an email and I will add you to my list (please contact Pepe for Gina's contact info). **We believe in the power of prayer!!!**



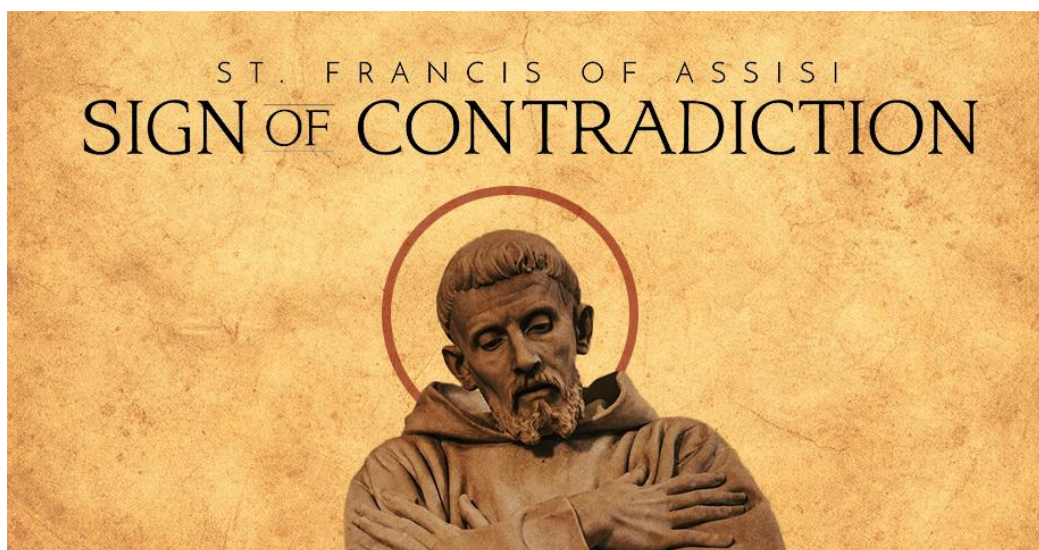
# Movie Night

Back by popular demand!

**When:** Wednesday June 24, 2026 - 6:30 PM

**Where:** at the Ventosa's

***Please RSVP!!!***



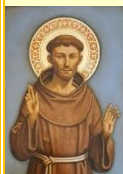
## ***Books For Sale!***

Therese Harper, TOF will have formation books for sale at the monthly Gathering for anyone who is interested. They are a great resource for ongoing formation for those of us who transferred from the OFS to the TOF. They range in price depending on size and shipping.

## ***Memorial Mass***

Wednesday, July 8 at 12 Noon, Fr. David Durkee will celebrate a Mass at Queen of Heaven Parish in Green near the outdoor shrine of St. Francis of Assisi to celebrate the Jubilee Year of St. Francis and the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death. A pizza social will follow the Mass. All are welcome!

## ***Wake Service by Debbie Ventosa, TOF***



As you organize your end-of-life planning documents, remember the Franciscan Wake Service that is available for all professed members. If you are interested in purchasing a full habit, please contact Jim Miller, TOF. The cost for the full habit, including the cord, is currently \$85. Checks can be made care of Sts. Francis and Clare Fraternity, and given to Therese Harper, TOF. There are men's and women's sizes available. As Third Order Franciscans, it is an act of charity to put our end-of-life arrangements in order.

## TOF Pilgrimage by Debbie Ventosa, TOF

The St. Padre Pio Fraternity of Youngstown sponsored the Fifth Annual TOF Pilgrimage, which took place on May 16, 2026. Forty Third Order Franciscans enjoyed a day of prayer, fellowship, lunch, a lecture, and Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon. We were warmly welcomed by Kara Sertic, TOF, Minister of the St. Pio Fraternity and pilgrimage organizer, who led us in prayer before our meal and distributed the agenda for the day.

Virgil Daniel, TOF reminded us of the plenary indulgence attached to the feast of St. Margaret of Cortona, which could be fulfilled with Confession and Mass that day. Our delicious lunch was filled with sharing and reconnecting with our extended Third Order Franciscan family.

After lunch, we walked the grounds, prayed, visited the gift shop, and reconvened at 3 PM in the main chapel for the chorbishop's lecture. His Excellency beautifully related many stories of the Shrine and the daily miracle of the Eucharist that takes place during the Consecration. He wove the year of St. Francis into the lecture and encouraged us to be ambassadors of peace. The Bishop and Fr. Vit heard Confessions, and we prayed the Renewal of Profession and Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary together in the Chapel.

Our day concluded with the reverent Sacred Liturgy at 5 PM. We are grateful to all our brothers and sisters who attended, including our Isolated Tertiaries Tien and his family from Harrisburg, PA, Patricia from Pittsburgh, and Bob from Ohio. **Many thanks to Pepe Ventosa for the photos!**



## Eucharistic Adoration and Daily Prayer

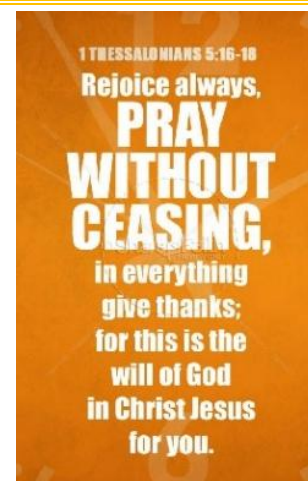
Council asks those of us who participate in Eucharistic Adoration – and the rest of our fraternity - to remember the following intentions every day when you pray:

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, Fr. Matthew Munishi, Fr. Augustine N'Depatanisho 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. We have also been asked to pray for **Nathan Dias**, a Jesuit seminarian from California.

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!



### **Lord, it is Good for Us to be Together!**

We met for our May Gathering on Sunday, May 17 at St. Nicholas. We began our afternoon with the Liturgy of the Hours, led by Kenny Green, TOF and Denise Williams, TOF. After discussing Pentecost from a Byzantine aspect, Virgil Daniel, TOF then proclaimed the Gospel of the day for our Lectio Divina focus. We then returned to the social hall to our tables to discuss what word of the Gospel particularly touched us and prayed on that.

Following our discussion, Roberto Meza, TOF led us in Grace before we enjoyed our delicious lunch.

We were given updates on our homebound and members who have been unable to attend the Gathering.



#### **The following are Debbie Ventosa's notes on Fr. Vit's ongoing formation:**

- Choirs of Angels: There are nine choirs of angels they have a one-track mind. These three have an intimate experience of God.
  - The Seraphim have a burning love for God a purifying fire of desire
  - The Cherabim have a mind I can penetrate the greatest mysteries of God
  - The Thrones sign of authority and judgment they command the next group.
- Next Group of three Angels are Dominions, Virtues and Powers
  - Dominions take command and prepare a program how to execute that program,
  - Virtues are the bodyguard the force behind the command they enforce the decision they have unshakable fortitude
  - The Powers protect the plant against enemies they are watchful against forces from the outside they were nightmare for demons.
- The next Group of three is Principalities Archangels, Angels, and Guardian Angels
  - Principalities execute the plan deal with people government state tribe sand laws
  - Archangels are given a special mission to special people
  - Angels deal with people they illuminate – “angel” means “mission” for God
    - Guardian angels illuminate and guide. For those who turn against God they tried to guide them back toward God they watch over our well-being.
- The command comes from God and it is sifted through the choirs of Angels. They have inflexible obedience to God and His plan.
- Demons are so ugly they take what they are and turn it into the opposite. The memory of God drives them crazy and they know they are enemies of God.
- Angels look at themselves and fully use their potential. They look at themselves and all the beauty and knowledge that they possess through being created by God. Angels cannot read your thoughts.
- Satan is in the center of the web of demons the demons work for him because they will be punished by him. There's an

army of demons – perversion, occult, stealing, war. There's a hierarchy of demons they have names that relate to bigger struggles

- Story from the Desert Fathers
  - There was a senator from Rome who desired salvation so he went to a desert father. The desert father told him to put a stone in his mouth. For 30 years he had the stone in his mouth and it barely curved his talkativeness.
- We must fight the vice/ name the vice demon of laziness or lust, etc.
- Psychology talks like the virtual belongs to us
- Faith says “this doesn't belong to me I want to get rid of it” so we name our demons so we can cite them and that way we can fight against vice.



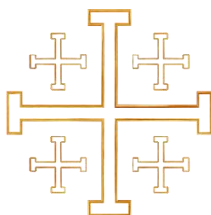
- How to defend ourselves vs. temptation
  - Renounce in the name of Jesus Christ
  - Reject
  - Bind
  - Cast out
  - If it is real the change is immediate. We need to learn how to deal with reality
  - Go through childhood and look at your vices and figure out what has happened in your life.
  - When you react do not go back to the attitudes of childhood.
  - Get to know these vices and about yourself. You name it and then you reject it. “I reject the sin of pride, attention seeking behavior”, etc
  - “I don't want those that they are not mine “. To purify your past takes time. It is a process.
  - Demonic Darkness: demons use this on a daily basis. The demon will change your perception of a conversation.
    - For example, your husband could say “how did you park the car in the garage?”
    - And you could hear “Don't you know how to park a car in the garage?”
- Be aware of this strategy.
- With your children - You have authority over them as a parent. You know your children's strengths and weaknesses. You need pray “(the name of the child) and you could say something like “in the name of my child I reject the demon of\_\_\_\_\_.

Roberto Meza, TOF then led us in prayers of intercession for our fraternity, our loved ones, the sick and homebound, and our beloved Pope Leo, our local bishops, our parish priests, and our seminarians, particularly those for whom we have pledged daily spiritual support.

We concluded the day with the Gathering Closing Prayers, the Memorare, and the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be.

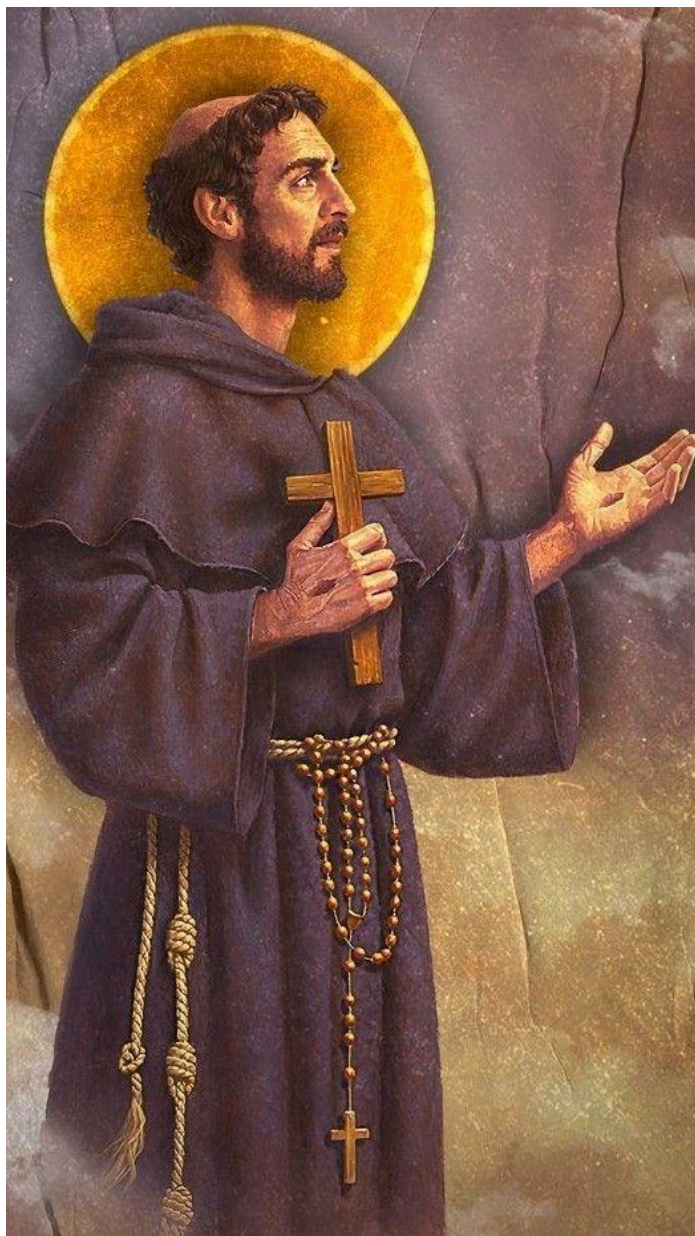
### **Save the Date (June is Dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus)**

June 14	Feast of St. Anthony of Padua
June 14	June Gathering, St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish, 1:30 PM
June 24	Movie Night @ the Ventosas – “Sign of Contradiction”
July 1	Feast of St. Junipero Serra
July 15	Feast of St. Bonaventure
July 16	Feast of the Canonization of St. Francis of Assisi
July 19	July Gathering, St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish, 1:30 PM
August 2	Portiuncula Indulgence (Universal Church)
August 11	Feast of St. Clare (TOF Indulgence)
August 15	Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady – Dormition of Our Lady (Eastern Rites)
August 16	Fraternity Picnic (August Gathering) – Queen of Heaven Parish
August 21-23	Tridua – Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted
August 25	Feast of St. Louis IX (TOF Indulgence)



## Prayer for the Jubilee Year of St. Francis

By Pope Leo XIV



Saint Francis, our brother, you who 800 years ago went to meet Sister Death as a man of peace, intercede for us with the Lord.

In the crucifix of San Damiano, you recognized true peace. Teach us to seek in Him the source of all reconciliation that breaks down every wall.

You who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war and misunderstanding, give us the courage to build bridges where the world erects borders.

In this time plagued by conflict and division, intercede so that we may become peacemakers, unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ. Amen.

*St. Francis of Assisi, Pray for Us!*

# TRIDUA

Franciscan Tertiaries - OFM Province of the Immaculate Conception



## ***What is a Tridua?***

“As it is impossible for a great number of Tertiaries to be several days away from home or work, tridua, also known as public Tertiary retreats, have been introduced. On three successive days a sermon is preached in the morning and in the evening, or at least in the evening. During the day the members are to practice recollection and devote as much time to prayer as their condition allows. Special opportunities for confession are offered.”

From: *Handbook of the Third Order Secular of St. Francis of Assisi*, p. 275.

As a simple Franciscan Tertiary retreat, most of the time in the Tridua is dedicated for individual prayer, recollection, spiritual reading and meditation. The object of the Tridua “is not only spiritual renewal in general but renewal in the spirit of St. Francis” *Handbook of the Third Order Secular of St. Francis of Assisi*, p. 276. Group activities are few and optional, and participation at these is left for the participant to discern. They are provided as an aid to keep your focus on God. The main talks for reflection will be provided by Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM. Attendees can stay at their homes or at facilities provided. Participants can attend one, two or the three days of the Tridua, as personal responsibilities allow.

## **Available during the Tridua:**

- Daily Mass
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Confession
- Spiritual Direction
- Quiet areas for prayer and spiritual reading
- Station of the Cross for individual meditation
- Common areas for fellowship
- Simple meals

**DATE:** August 21-23, 2026

Starts Friday at 5:00 pm with Opening Mass

Ends Sunday at 2:00 pm after lunch

**PLACE:** Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted - Youngstown, OH

**DONATION:** \$40

**HOUSING:**

- Camping at the Shrine's grounds
- House at the Shrine - there are just a few rooms available at this house, and bathrooms are shared. There are also steps in the house.
- Local Hotel - a retreat group discount is available at TownePlace/Springhill Suites by Marriott in Youngstown/Canfield for \$139/night plus tax. The rooms at TownePlace (not Springhill) have full kitchen. Please note that this special rate is only good for reservations made by Tuesday July 21, 2026. Please contact Pepe for the link to make a reservation.
- At your home or friend's house

**REGISTRATION:**

**Registration deadline: July 20, 2026**

Registration available via Mat Posts or by completing the form included.

**REGISTRATION FOR TRIDUA**  
**August 21-23, 2026**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: July 20, 2026**

Name:

Address:

Email address:

Phone number:

Fraternity name (if applicable, or if Isolated Tertiary):

Please select:

- Professed member
- Attending Initial Formation, please specify:
  - Inquirer
  - Postulant
  - Novice

**ATTENDANCE**

I will be attending the following days (place an "X" inside parenthesis for all that apply):

- Friday
- Saturday
- Sunday

**HOUSING INFORMATION**

I will be staying at (place an "X" inside parenthesis that applies)

- at my home or friend's home
- I will make my own reservations at a local hotel
- I would like to stay at the house next to the Shrine. If a room is available, please let me know. I'm aware that steps are involved and that bathrooms are shared.
- I will camp on the Shrine's grounds and will bring my own camping gear.
- Other plans (please specify):

**MEALS**

Meals are included, but unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate special dietary restrictions. You are welcome to bring your own meals if necessary.

**DONATION**

Donation for the Retreat is \$40. Please make check payable to: Jose Ventosa, and write "Tridua Retreat" on the memo line.

***Please send registration along with donation to Pepe Ventosa, TOF***