

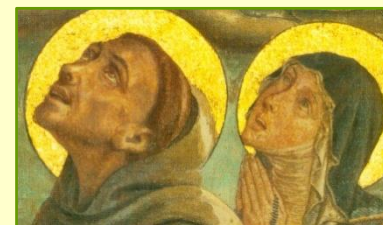
July, 2026

Volume 7, Issue 7

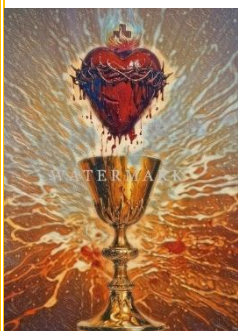
Il Poverello

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 Abouna.org



The ancient devotion to the Blood of Jesus received official recognition in the liturgy when Pope Pius IX instituted the Feast of the Most Precious Blood in 1849, setting it for July 1. Later, with the 1969 liturgical reform, Pope St. Paul VI merged this feast with that of Corpus Christi. Today, Jerusalem remains the only place where the feast continues to be celebrated separately, as the Basilica of the Agony at the foot of the Mount of Olives preserves the site where Jesus sweat blood.

"From Nazareth to Gethsemane, from Gethsemane to Calvary, from Calvary to the altar and to each of us."

With these words, the Custos of the Holy Land began his homily, emphasizing how the Precious Blood of Jesus, from his incarnation, runs through every stage of Christ's life until it reaches each of us, transforming human history into a history of salvation.

"This is the Most Precious Blood of Jesus," the Custos continues, "his life wholly given, which now becomes the gift that heals our lives, puts us back in touch with God, [...] through that blood it is divine life itself that flows in us."

On this solemnity we celebrate the living encounter with Christ: in his given blood we receive the grace that transforms us inwardly, reconciles us with God and makes us partakers of his own divine life.

Finally, the Custos wanted to recall the dramatic reality currently affecting the Holy Land, pointing to the Eucharist and the blood shed by Christ as the way to build peace and respect for every life.

"For us who live in a context where human blood is spilled too easily and without scruples, in a context where words like forgiveness and reconciliation sound distant and almost unattainable, the words of Jesus take on an even stronger meaning—the meaning of a possible hope for reconciliation and peace, the meaning of a possible respect for every human life, the meaning of a new covenant."

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,
July 19 – 1:30 PM
St. Nicholas Byzantine
Parish
1051 E. Robinson Ave.,
Barberton, OH 44203
We are expecting you!**

Franciscan Quote of the Month

"Every time a creature offers up the Blood by which he was redeemed, he offers a gift of infinite worth, which can be equaled by no other"

St. Peter of Alcántara (1499-1562) – Spanish Franciscan Friar, Priest, Minister Provincial, Patron Saint of Nighttime Eucharistic Adoration



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.

July Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

Judith Hoyt, TOF – 26 Years

Debbie Ventosa, TOF – 23 Years



Birthdays

Fred Kramer – 7/6

Therese Harper, TOF – 7/20

Cindy Russo, TOF – 7/21

Marlene Walker, TOF – 7/28

Stand for Life



Mike Butts, TOF and Rick Dunlap, TOF will participate in the Stand for Life on July 18. 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.

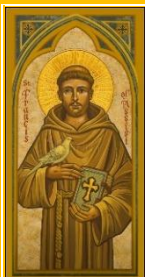
Hospitality and Little Portion

Therese Harper, TOF; Rose Akins, TOF; and LeeAnn Devore, TOF will prepare our Hospitality for the July Gathering.

Betty DeMarco, TOF will prepare and Kenny Green, TOF will 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.



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.

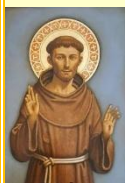
Ladies, we welcome you to log in with us every Monday night at 6:30 PM (EDT or EST, whichever is current) with your Rosary. Be sure to check your email for the invitation and the link. If you do not receive an invitation, send me an email and I will add you

to my list (please contact Pepe for Gina's contact info). **We believe in the power of prayer!!!**

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.

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.

Jakin Miller Podcasts!



As you know, we pray daily for Jakin Miller, who is the FOCUS missionary our fraternity sponsors. The Fellowship of Catholic University Students sends its missionaries to American public universities to foster support among Catholic students and to ultimately encourage them not to abandon their Catholic Faith, which is so often attacked and forgotten with the changes in the students' lives. The missionaries are trained in apologetics by well-known Catholic theologians, including Dr. Edward Sri.

Jakin has concluded his commitment at MIT in Boston and is reassigned to Rhode Island University in Providence starting the Fall term. He has put together several podcasts on his work, and Jim and Nettie Miller, Jakin's proud grandparents, have shared the links for those who may be interested:

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/35qByUr2cPXnyQfBkiAlfa?si=67c8fb1a59274f6a> (Varsity Catholic Podcast)

<https://mailchi.mp/60f8d86a18d0/new-mission-placement?e=dacd017227> (New Mission Placement)

<https://mailchi.mp/f9fa4d6efcae/final-weeks-of-the-semester?e=dacd017227> (Final Weeks of the Semester)

Local Seminars on St. Francis of Assisi

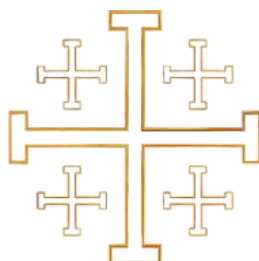
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish (1905 Portage Trail, Cuyahoga Falls) will be hosting a series of seminars on St. Francis of Assisi, starting Wednesday, July 8 from 9:30 AM to 11 AM and continuing for a total of six Wednesdays. Tickets are \$20, with light refreshments served. For more information and to register, go to www.tobecle.org

Constitution Spotlight

Article 1. The Third Order Secular of Saint Francis is an association of the faithful who try to achieve Christian perfection in the world, under the direction of the Franciscan Order and according to its spirit, but in a manner suited to life in the world. This they do according to the Rule drawn up for them by the Seraphic Father Francis, as approved and interpreted by the Apostolic See (cf. Can. 702, §1).

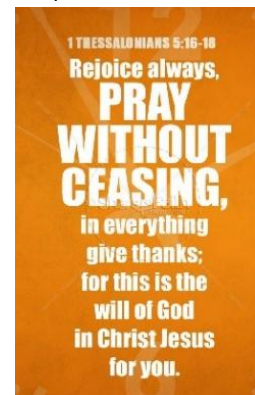
Franciscan Movie Night

Debbie and Pepe Ventosa were our generous hosts for the Movie Night, held at their home on June 24. We viewed "St. Francis of Assisi – Sign of Contradiction", which was narrated by Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR, who is currently President of Franciscan University of Steubenville. Over the last several years, Fr. Pivonka has produced a series of Catholic films and other media resources. Several of our members enjoyed the very interesting film and a discussion following. We all learned something interesting about our good St. Francis! Many thanks to Pepe and Debbie!



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), Jonathan Green (Holy Family Parish, Stow)** and **John Paul Antalek (St. Mary Parish, Akron)**, all from the Diocese of Cleveland. And Archdiocese of Atlanta seminarian **Eric Cormier**, who has been attending Initial Formation with the Isolated Tertiaries. 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 June Gathering on Sunday, June 14 at St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish. We began our afternoon with the Liturgy of the Hours, led by Kenny Green, TOF, Denise Williams, TOF, and Bill Marshall, TOF. Before we started our prayers, Vice Minister Jim Miller, TOF gave us a refresher course on proper chanting, emphasizing we should maintain the key throughout the chant until we reach the end of each individual prayer component. Bill Marshall, TOF then proclaimed the Gospel of the day for our Lectio Divina focus, which was from the Gospel of Matthew 9:36-10:8 – “Without cost you have received, and without cost you are to give,” and “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few.” We then returned to the social hall to our tables to discuss what word of the Gospel particularly touched us and prayed on that.

Jim and Nettie Miller, TOF offered 18 dozen eggs to whomever wanted them, asking only a small donation to the fraternity for those wishing to do so.

Following our discussion, Roberto Meza, TOF led us in Grace before we enjoyed our delicious lunch, which was prepared by Andrea Ferraro, TOF, John Wilson, TOF, Jerry Johnson, TOF, and Jack Kellogg, TOF. We enjoyed

cellophane noodles, chicken, hot dogs with chili sauce and coleslaw, watermelon, macaroni salad, potato salad, brownies, and more!

Roberto reminded us that we will be celebrating our annual picnic on August 16, which will also be our August Gathering. We will return to Queen of Heaven parish in Green. Mary Dye, TOF will be contacting us soon with food assignments and other information. We hope everyone can make it!

The annual Tridua will take place on August 21 through 23 at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted. Mary Dye, TOF provided a registration sheet for those who would like to attend. Pepe Ventosa, TOF will need a headcount and names of those attending asap.

Pepe and Debbie Ventosa are hosting a movie night at their home on Wednesday, June 24 at 6:30 PM. Please be sure to contact Debbie if you plan to attend!

The parish selected for the June food pantry offering was St. Augustine in Barberton. Rose Akins, TOF will deliver. Bill Marshall, TOF led the Grace After the Meal.

Fr. Vit, OFM blessed spiritual articles including salt, water, books, rosaries, and other items.

Fr. Vit, OFM then offered his Formation talk on how angels and demons operate in the world.

- Demons are secretive. They often disguise themselves in what appears to be beauty and innocence.
- There has been a slow redefining and corruption of our Faith.
- When persecuted, the Church remains faithful and true, as demonstrated in countries such as Poland and Ireland.
- State religions often become corrupt because of human ambition and because politics can take precedence over the teaching of the religion.
- Prior to 1880, atheism was more of a personal view and was not widespread.
 - Theologians were uncertain how to respond to atheists.
 - They sometimes attempted to reconcile Science with Faith.
- Vatican II produced a change in theology.
 - The actual teachings that came from Vatican II were misinterpreted and misunderstood.
 - Some Catholic leaders resorted to mythologizing Scripture.
 - These leaders presumed to second-guess Jesus' miracles, such as the miracle of the loaves and fishes.
 - They taught that real knowledge comes only from science.
 - Scientists sometimes manipulate facts to support agendas.
- We should fill our leisure time with good Catholic books, study, and prayer.
- Do everything for the Glory of God.
- It is easy to become a saint if you want it more than anything else.

Dennis Gacioch, TOF led us in Ongoing Formation. His subject was the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

- The Twelve Promises of the Sacred Heart as given to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque by Jesus are:
 - "I will give them all the graces necessary for their state of life."
 - "I will establish peace in their families."
 - "I will comfort them in their trials."
 - "I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all, in death."
 - "I will bestow abundant blessings upon all their undertakings."
 - "Sinners shall find in My Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy."
 - "Lukewarm souls shall become fervent."
 - "Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection."
 - "I will bless every place where a picture of My Heart shall be set up and honored."
 - "I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened of hearts."
 - "Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart, never to be effaced."
 - "I promise to you, in the excessive mercy of My Heart, that My all-powerful love will grant, to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Friday of nine consecutive months, the grace of final perseverance; they shall not die under My displeasure, nor without receiving the Sacraments; My Heart shall be their assured refuge at that last hour."
- The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has consecrated the United States of America to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in June, 2026.

- o Eileen Dunlap, TOF encouraged family consecrations to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and related the strong devotion of the Irish Catholic people and her own family which has carried them through the most difficult of times.

We then reviewed the Infirmary Report and received updates of some of our homebound members:

- Elizabeth Francis, TOF has suffered two falls. Bob Burtcher, TOF spoke to Elizabeth's brother, who said that he will undergo a hip operation on June 25. Bob asked our women members to consider assisting Elizabeth while her brother is away from home during his operation and recovery.
- There has been no recent communication with Jennifer Kerns, TOF, who has lost the use of one eye and is suffering other eye issues.
- Judith Hoyt, TOF reported that Sandy Pollino, OFS is waiting for her MRI results. She remains optimistic and deeply appreciates the fraternity's prayers.

Roberto then announced the Profession Anniversaries for June:

- Mike Butts, TOF, Virgil and Louise Daniel, TOF, Mary Dye, TOF, Therese Harper, TOF, Betty DeMarco, TOF, and Matt Poletti, TOF

And the June Birthdays:

- Elizabeth Francis, TOF and Susan Kramer, TOF

The Little Portion was prepared by Mary Dye, TOF, Mike Butts, TOF, and Annie Butts. Roberto asked for a volunteer to deliver.

Mary Dye, TOF and Joanne Angeletti, TOF attended the June Stand for Life.

Roberto then led us in prayer for our list of intentions:

- For our fraternity members and families.
- For our sick and homebound members and friends (*Elizabeth Francis, TOF, Jennifer Kerns, TOF, Sandy Pollino, OFS, Mary Cate Roberts, Annie Butts, and Cindy Russo, TOF.*)
- For Pope Leo and his intentions.
- For our local bishops – Bishop Robert Pipta of the Eparchy of Parma, Bishop Earl Fernandes of the Diocese of Columbus, Bishop David Bonnar of Youngstown, and Bishop Edward Malesic, JCL of the Diocese of Cleveland.
- For the Friars of the Immaculate Conception Province of the OFM, especially Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM, Fr. Christopher Gaffrey, OFM, Fr. Dennis Arambasick, OFM, and Fr. Patrick Boyle, OFM Provincial Minister.
- For our parish priests and pastors, including Fr. Miron Kerul-Kmec, Fr. Daniel Dozier, TOF, and Fr. Ryan Furlong, TOF.
- For Fr. Gastor Bahati and the priests of the Diocese of Moshi.
- For all seminarians worldwide, particularly those we have adopted:
 - o Transitional Deacon Arthur Bodenschatz of the Diocese of Youngstown
 - o William Martzaklis of the Diocese of Youngstown
 - o Joseph Rohan of the Diocese of Cleveland
 - o Alex Krukemeyer of the Diocese of Cleveland
 - o Jonathan Green of the Diocese of Cleveland
 - o John Paul Antalek of the Diocese of Cleveland
 - o Eric Cormier of the Archdiocese of Atlanta
 - o Frater Francis Tomaini of the Diocese of Moshi
 - o Nathan Dias of the Jesuit Seminary of the Three Companions of Culver City, California
- For peace worldwide.

Roberto then led us in the Gathering Closing Prayers, the Memorare, and the St. Michael Prayer.

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

Save the Date (July is Dedicated to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus)

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)

Our fraternity is having a picnic
and would love to have you join us!

SS. Francis and Clare
Fraternity
Annual

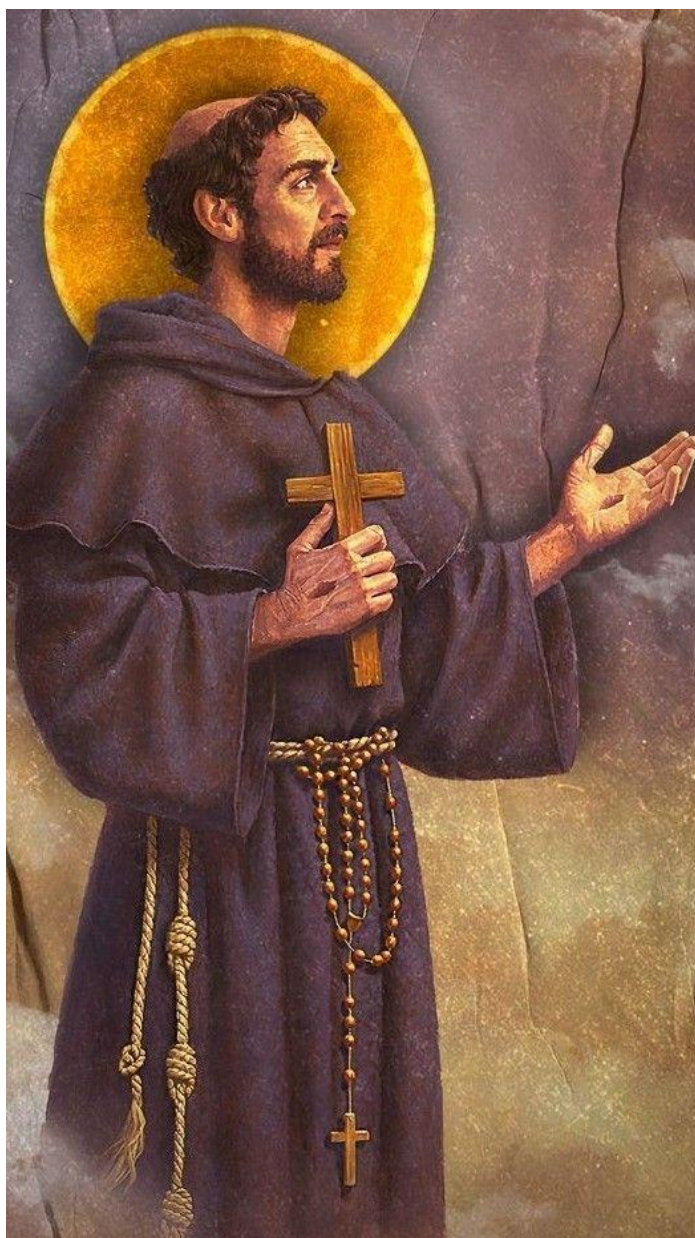


Date: Sunday August 16, 2026
Place: Queen of Heaven Parish
1800 Steese Road,
Uniontown, OH
Time: 1:30pm



Prayer for the Jubilee Year of St. Francis

By Pope Leo XIV



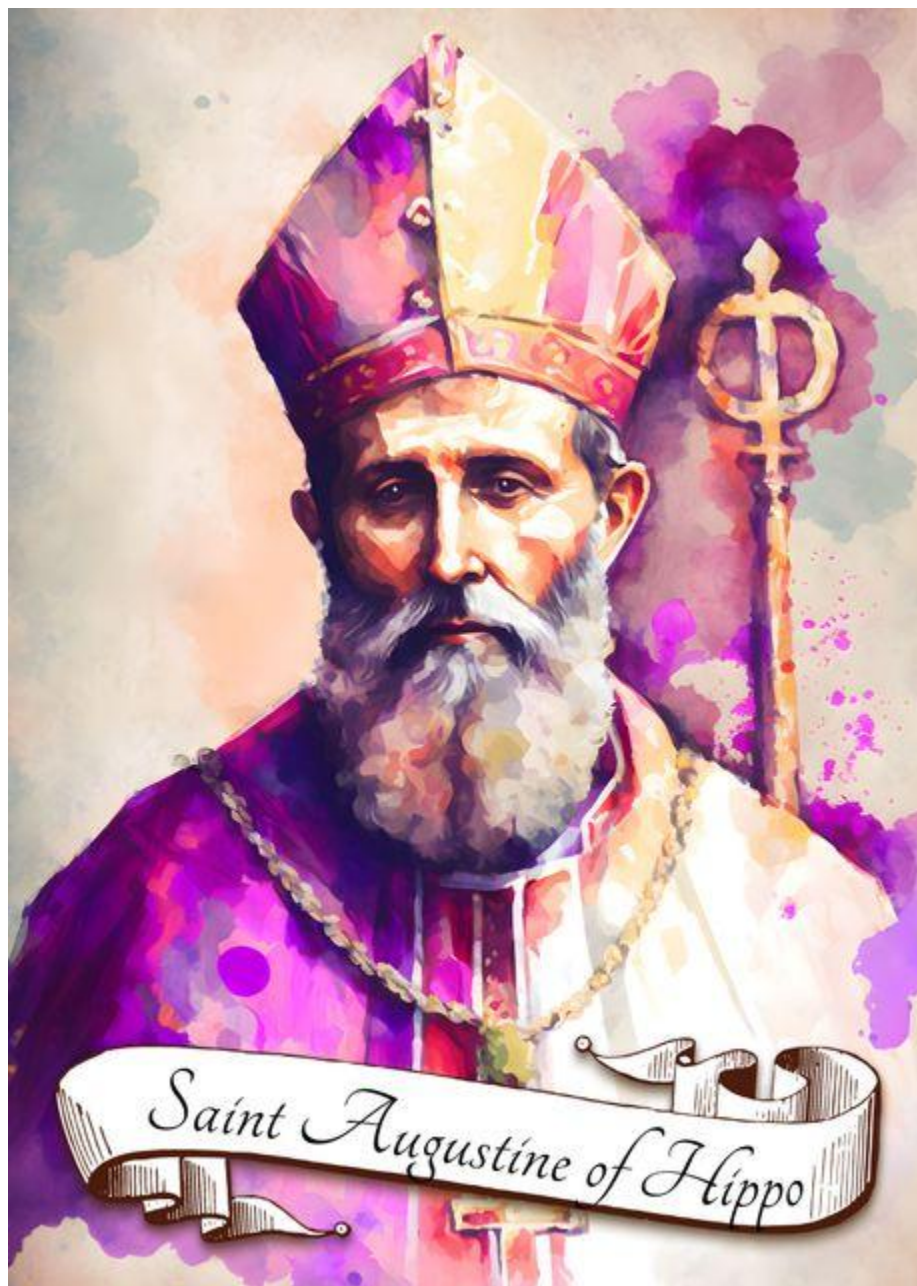
Saint Francis, our brother, you who 800 years ago
went to meet Sister Death as a man of peace,
intercede for us with the Lord.

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!



“Don’t hold yourselves cheap, seeing that the creator of all things and of you estimates your value so high, so dear, that He pours out for you every day the Most Precious Blood of His only-begotten Son.”

St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430) – Theologian, Philosopher, Bishop, Doctor of the Church, One of the Four Great Latin Church Fathers.