

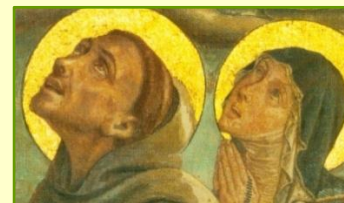
October, 2026

Volume 7, 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 whom You have given to me in the world; they were Yours and You have given them to me. And the words which You gave to me I have given to them. - St. Francis of Assisi
www.thirdorderfranciscans.com



Something to Consider – A Prayer to St. Francis (Anonymous)

Beloved Seraphic Father,

As I prepare my soul to celebrate your **Transitus** and feast, and gaze upon your statue, my heart is filled with emotion and joy. In you, I see poverty, humility, innocence, and complete surrender to our beloved Master, Jesus Christ.

Your heart was willing to leave everything behind to follow and imitate Him. You learned to recognize His presence throughout creation and to love Him above all things. Your life became an offering of love, shaped by the desire to live **with Christ, for Christ, and in Christ.**

When I contemplate your devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of your beloved Master and King, I see in her the purity, poverty, humility, and holiness you desired to embrace. In Mary, you recognized a heart wholly given to her Divine Son and perfectly receptive to God's will.

Dear Father Francis, your example moves me toward deeper conversion. Teach me to recognize my littleness and fragility with humility and confidence in God's mercy. As a Franciscan Tertiary, help me embrace the spirit of penitence that marked your life—not as an end in itself, but as a loving response to God's mercy and a continual turning of my heart toward Christ.

Help me recognize the attachments, habits, vanities, and selfish desires that keep me from belonging entirely to Him. Give me courage to renounce whatever separates me from Christ and grace to accept the sacrifices, inconveniences, mortifications, and acts of self-denial that come each day. May I offer them lovingly to Jesus, united with His sacrifice, so that by dying to myself, Christ may live more fully in me.

I do not wish merely to admire your penitential life. As your son in the Franciscan family, I desire to follow your example in simplicity, detachment, poverty of spirit, and love. Teach me that true penitence is rooted not in fear, but in the love of a soul longing to be purified so that it may love Jesus with an undivided heart.

You also teach me that following Christ is never a solitary journey. You said, **“The Lord gave me brothers.”** Help me receive others as brothers and sisters, loving and serving them, bearing patiently with their weaknesses, and walking together toward Christ. May I recognize my Franciscan vocation as a call to fraternity and receive those God places in my life with gratitude, humility, patience, and genuine love.

Your life reminds me of the dignity I received through Baptism and the vocation to which God has called me. Teach me that recognizing my littleness and the dignity of my calling are not contradictions. The more deeply I understand that everything is grace, the more freely I can surrender myself to the One who has called me to belong entirely to Him and to live in communion with others.

As I prepare to celebrate your **Transitus**, dear Father Francis, intercede for me. Obtain for me poverty of spirit, humility, innocence, fraternal charity, and burning love for Jesus. Obtain also the grace to become a true penitent—one who continually turns away from whatever separates the heart from God and turns toward Christ with trust, gratitude, and love.

With joy, I look forward to celebrating your **feast** on October 4 with the whole Franciscan family. May this feast renew my desire to follow Christ in your footsteps, deepen my love

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–
October 18 – 1:30 PM
St. Nicholas Parish
1051 Robinson Ave.,,
Barberton, OH 44203**

We are expecting you!

for Jesus and His Blessed Mother, strengthen my commitment to the Franciscan way of life, and increase my gratitude for the fraternity God has given me.

Seraphic Father Francis, pray for me. Help me remain faithful to the grace of my Baptism, to my vocation as a Franciscan Tertiary, and to the continual conversion, penitence, and fraternity to which God calls me.

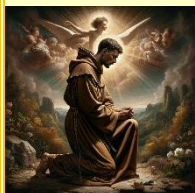
As I contemplate your passing from this life into the arms of your Beloved, help me understand that each day is preparation for that final surrender. May my daily dying to self prepare me to place everything confidently into God's hands when my own hour comes.

Teach me to embrace poverty, humility, penitence, sacrifice, and fraternity—not for their own sake, but because they open my heart to a greater love of Christ and of those He has given me as brothers and sisters. May I spend my life seeking to belong entirely to Him, walking faithfully with those He places beside me.

And when my final hour comes, may I surrender myself with the same confidence and love with which you placed yourself into the hands of your Beloved, grateful for the grace of having known Him, loved Him, and journeyed toward Him with the brothers and sisters He has given me.

Pax et Bonum - Your little brother in Christ, and your son in the Franciscan family.

Franciscan Quote of the Month



"We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart, and to bring home those who have lost their way."

St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) – Salesman, Soldier, Deacon, Founder of the Franciscan Order, Servant of the Church and the Poor, Patron Saint of Italy – Feast Day October 4

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 Burtcher, 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.

October Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

Elizabeth Francis, TOF – 36 Years
 Roberto & Maria Elena Meza, TOF – 13 Years
 Rose Akins, TOF; Betty DeMarco, TOF – 10 Years
 Chris & LeeAnn Devore, TOF;
 Cindy Russo, TOF – 8 Years



Birthdays

Rick Dunlap, TOF – 10/2
 Rose Akins, TOF – 10/3
 Bob Burtscher, TOF – 10/13

Stand for Life



Bill Marshall, TOF will participate in the Stand for Life on October 17. He is in need of a partner to pray with him. Please contact him if you can be there. 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

Denise Williams, TOF, Cindy Russo, TOF, and Carolyn and Dennis Gacioch, TOF will provide our October Gathering luncheon. If you would like to help in some way, please contact one of them.

Therese Harper, TOF will prepare and Mary Dye, 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.

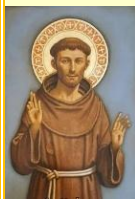
Franciscan Reminder!

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!



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 Ss. 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.

Postulant Classes

The Formation Team has submitted the following dates for Formation Class for our Postulants:

October 12 and possibly October 26

Professed members are always welcome to attend and support the Formation of our students – and it is a good way to strengthen and update the formation of every Third Order Franciscan!

Constitution Spotlight

Article 4. It is the duty of the Third Order, as a leaven of the Gospel perfection put into the world, to give stability and strength to Christian life within the Church, and to maintain and spread Christ's kingdom by setting before others a pattern of genuine holiness.



Fraternity Treasury Update

Council is very thankful for the generous support for our monthly Gathering collections, especially in these times. Due to ongoing running expenses and their rising cost, our Fraternity funds remain low.

The **Common Fund** is our Operational Fund. It pays for hall rent, clerical donations, mailing supplies, postage stamps, toner, the purchase of kitchen supplies, textbooks and other miscellaneous expenses to keep a healthy fraternity operating. This fund is currently in need of donations. Kindly pray and respond in kind.

The **St. Maximilian Kolbe Charity Fund** is used for all expenses associated with the charities we support, including Bibles for prisoners at Christmas, and various other charities in which our Fraternity takes an active interest. The **St. Carlo Acutis Ministry for Youth Outreach** is supported by the St. Maximilian Kolbe Charity Fund, and currently is used to fund the sponsorship of the FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) missionary we have taken on, Jakin Miller, who spoke at the July Gathering. FOCUS actively, specifically reaches out to university students whose Faith is under attack and subject to worldly distractions, and keeps them close to our holy Faith.

The **St. John Vianney Fund** is used to support a Diocese of Moshi, Tanzania seminarian as part of our commitment to nurturing our priests and seminarians worldwide, for whom we also pray daily at Mass and private prayer.

The Council is grateful for the generous sacrifices our members have always made, and we ask you to remember that the cost of nearly everything has risen. We deeply appreciate anything you can do to help.

For those members who receive a hard copy of the newsletter every month: For those members who have a home computer, we encourage you to receive your monthly newsletter via email due to increasing printing costs and mailing costs that will only continue to rise. If you are able to switch to email, notify Susan Kramer. If you need a hard copy, please consider adding more monthly to the Common Fund to defray the cost – and please contact Susan Kramer regarding the need to continue the hard copy.



MONDAYS WITH MARY

Franciscan Tertiaries' Women Prayer Group

- Mondays 6:30 – 7:00 PM EST via Zoom
- Please contact Gina Love to place your prayer request in our prayer journal

Under the patronage of Our Blessed Mother

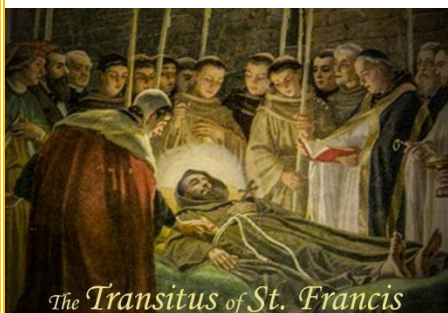


The Franciscan Sodality of the Hidden Cross

Of the Third Order of St. Francis
Under the Patronage of
Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted

For more information or to participate
in this apostolate please contact us through
our website: www.thirdorderfranciscans.com

The Transitus of St. Francis of Assisi



Our Fraternity will prayerfully remember the death of our good St. Francis on Saturday, October 3 at St. Nicholas Byzantine Church at 7 PM.

We are all warmly invited by our Byzantine Rite members to attend Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas at 5 PM ahead of the Transitus service. We of the Latin Rite are reminded that attending this Divine Liturgy fulfills our Sunday duty. We may receive Jesus in Holy Communion if we are in a State of Grace, by standing – Fr. Miron will offer the Communion by intinction on a small golden spoon into the open mouth of the person receiving. **Reliable sources inform us that our own Virgil Daniel, TOF will cantor!**

Please be aware that there will be another event at the same time in the parish social hall. If necessary, you may park in the driveway in front of the church – but be sure to leave a lane open.

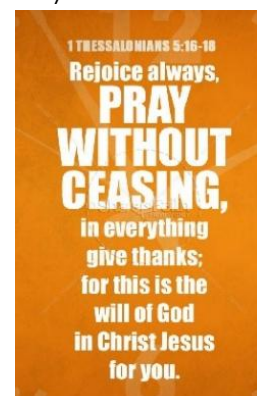
***If you wish to attend the Transitus at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted, Bishop Bonnar of the Diocese of Youngstown will celebrate a Mass for the 800th Anniversary of the death of St. Francis at 5:30 PM. The Transitus will follow after Mass. His Excellency wishes to especially honor St. Francis in this Jubilee Year. Please check the Shrine website or the Diocese of Youngstown website for more information.**

Also – EWTN will air a Transitus Service on Saturday, October 3 at 6:30 PM for those who are homebound or unable to attend a Transitus Service in person!

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, Bishop John Michael Botean of the Eparchy of St. George, 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 serve 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 locations 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.
13. For the members of the **TOF Sodality of the Hidden Cross** and their needs.

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 September Gathering on Sunday, September 20 at St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish. Roberto and Maria Elena Meza, TOF were excused because they were visiting family in Mexico. Virgil Daniel, TOF led the Gathering in their absence. There were 29 in attendance. We quietly walked to the church for Liturgy of the Hours and Lectio Divina.
- After we prayed the Liturgy of the Hours, we meditated on the Gospel reading of the day, Matthew 20, the parable of the vineyard workers ("Why do you stand idle – go to my vineyard.") We then returned to the Hall to discuss the message of the Gospel.
- Virgil led us in the Prayer Before the Meal, and we enjoyed a feast of tacos, nachos, and other delicious items prepared by Andrea Ferraro, TOF; John Wilson, TOF; Jack Kellogg, TOF; and Jerry Johnson, TOF.
- While we ate, Virgil introduced our guests and new Formation students: Bernadette and Charles (Formation), Matt (discerning the Diaconate and a member of St. George in Canton, Formation), and Chris and Don Fries (Formation).
- Virgil then picked a recipient for the food pantry offering, which turned out to be St. Barnabas in Northfield. Mary Dye will deliver it.
- October 3, St. Nicholas will host our Fraternity's Transitus on Saturday, October 3 at 7 PM in the Church.
 - We may attend the Divine Liturgy of the vigil of Sunday at 5 PM to fulfill our Sunday duty.
- There was a form passed around to determine a headcount for the Day of Reflection which will take place on November 14.
- Virgil led the Grace After Meals.
- Virgil told us there is a plenary indulgence available on Sunday, October 4 for Franciscans.
 - To obtain the indulgence, we must renew our Profession in addition to the usual conditions (Confession and receiving the Eucharist in a State of Grace within 10 days of October 4,)
- Virgil reminded us that October 3 is a fast day in accord with our Rule.

- LeeAnn Devore, TOF led us in Ongoing Formation. Her topic was the Exaltation of the Cross and the Stigmata of St. Francis.
 - LeeAnn informed us an indulgence is available for Franciscans at Sancta Clara Monastery if we participate in Mass and Liturgy of the Hours through February in this Jubilee Year of St. Francis.
 - We sang "Lift High the Cross".
 - We prayed the Prayer of San Damiano.
 - "Who is like God?" – St. Michael the Archangel
 - LeeAnn explained that St. Francis received the stigmata at Mount Alverna while in private prayer.
 - The Feast of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross was September 14, the day St. Francis received the stigmata.
 - LeeAnn told us the history of the True Cross, which was discovered by St. Helena.
 - Mt. Alverna is a small distance from Assisi, and is remote.
 - St. Francis desired to suffer for Jesus, and the stigmata was given to him for this reason.
 - Jesus, in the form of a seraph, gave the stigmata to St. Francis.
 - Jesus spoke to St. Francis before He departed.
 - Iron nails were present in St. Francis's hands in the stigmata wounds.
 - LeeAnn led us in a closing prayer at the end of her formation talk.
- As we moved on to the Formation Report, Virgil congratulated Tony Perez, TOF on his Holy Profession which took place on August 23 at the Tridua.
 - Denise Williams, TOF reported that four Postulants are requesting to enter the Novitiate – Connie, Donna, Paula, and Gary.
 - These four will Profess next year.
 - Formation Class meets every other Monday at St. George Hall on the grounds of St. Nicholas Parish.
 - Professed members are always welcome to attend Formation Class!
 - The new Inquirers include Matthew, Don, Chris, and Bernadette.
 - We are expecting 11 on Wednesdays for Initial Formation.
 - This class will Profess in 2028.
 - Dennis Gacioch, TOF; Jack Kellogg, TOF; Virgil Daniel, TOF; and Debbie Ventosa, TOF will be the Formators for this group at St. Nicholas.
 - Professed members may contact Debbie if they wish to assist.
- Infirmary Report
 - Kenny Green, TOF spoke to Elizabeth Francis, TOF, who told him she is doing well.
 - No report on Jennifer Kerns, TOF nor on Sandy Pollino, OFS.
 - Rose Akins, TOF reports that Betty DeMarco, TOF feels well most days.
 - ***If a member of the Fraternity is unable to attend the Transitus, EWTN will air a televised Transitus at 6:30 PM on October 3, 2026.***
- Virgil announced that Denise Williams, TOF prepared and will deliver the Little Portion.
- He then reported that Therese Harper, TOF and Mary Dye, TOF prayed at the abortion clinic for the Stand for Life in September.
- We then prayed for our Fraternity intentions:
 - Spiritual protection of our Fraternity members and our loved ones.
 - The sick and homebound of our Fraternity.
 - For our current and future Formation students.
 - The intentions included in the Eucharistic Adoration and Daily Prayer list.
 - For the spiritual and physical health and protection of Pope Leo XIV, as well as:
 - Bishop Bonnar of Youngstown, Bishop Pipta of the Eparchy of Parma, Bishop Botean of the Eparchy of St. George, Bishop Fernandes of Columbus, and Bishop Malesic of Cleveland
 - Our parish priests, including Fr. Miron Kerul-Kmec; Fr. Daniel Dozier, TOF; Fr. Ryan Furlong, TOF; and Fr. John Rickert, FSSP, TOF.
 - The Friars of the Immaculate Conception Province of the OFM, including Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM; Fr. Christopher Gaffrey, OFM; and Fr. Patrick Boyle, OFM.
 - Fr. Gastor Temu Bahati, Fr. Matthew Munishi, Fr. Augustine N'Depatanisho, and Frater Francis Tumaini of the Diocese of Moshi, Tanzania.
 - All seminarians, particularly Deacon Arthur Bodenschatz and William Martzaklis of the Diocese of Youngstown; Joseph Rohan, Jonathan Green, Alex Krukemeyer, and John Paul Antalek of the

Diocese of Cleveland; Eric Cormier of the Archdiocese of Atlanta; and Nathan Dias, a Jesuit seminarian.

- All FOCUS missionaries, in particular, Jakin Miller of the University of Rhode Island.
- Members of the TOF Sodality of the Hidden Cross and their intentions.
- All those who suffer for our Catholic Faith worldwide,
- We then prayed the Prayer for Seminarians, the Memorare, and the Prayer of St. Michael before the Concluding Prayers.
- Virgil reminded us to be prepared to pre-pay for the Day of Recollection, hosted by the St. Padre Pio Fraternity of Youngstown at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted.

Our next Gathering will be Sunday, October 18 at 1:30 PM at St. Nicholas Parish.

Save the Date (October is Dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary)

October 3	Transitus – St. Nicholas Parish Church – 7 PM (Divine Liturgy at 5 PM – fulfills Sunday duty – Day of Fast for the Third Order Franciscans)
October 4	Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (Plenary Indulgence – usual conditions of Confession, Receiving Holy Communion, praying for the intentions of the Pope in addition to Renewal of Profession)
November 14	Day of Recollection – Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted

SS. Francis and Clare Fraternity Franciscan Fall Fire



Come out to beautiful Loyola Retreat House for an evening of fellowship around a fire.

- Enjoy over 70 acres of woods, farmland, gardens and walking paths.
- Permanent fire ring with seating: feel free to bring your favorite camp chair
- Outdoor Stations of the Cross
- Shrine to Our Lady of Fatima
- Indoor Chapel and restrooms located close to the fire ring.
- Asphalt parking a short walk, within sight of the fire ring.
- Campfire foods: cider, doughnuts, hot cocoa, etc.

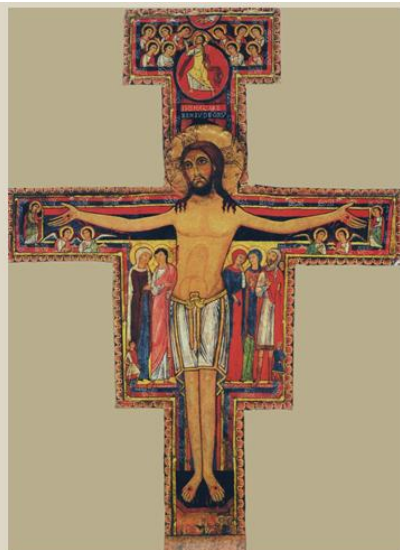


Loyola Retreat House

700 Killinger Road
Clinton, OH 44216

Saturday October 10th, 2026
5:00 pm

Rain Date; Thursday October 15th, 2026, 5:00 pm



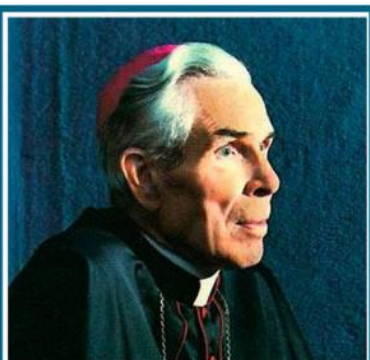
Annual Day of Recollection

Franciscan Tertiaries of the Province of the
Immaculate Conception

When: November 14, 2026

Place: Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted
Youngstown, OH

Speaker: Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM



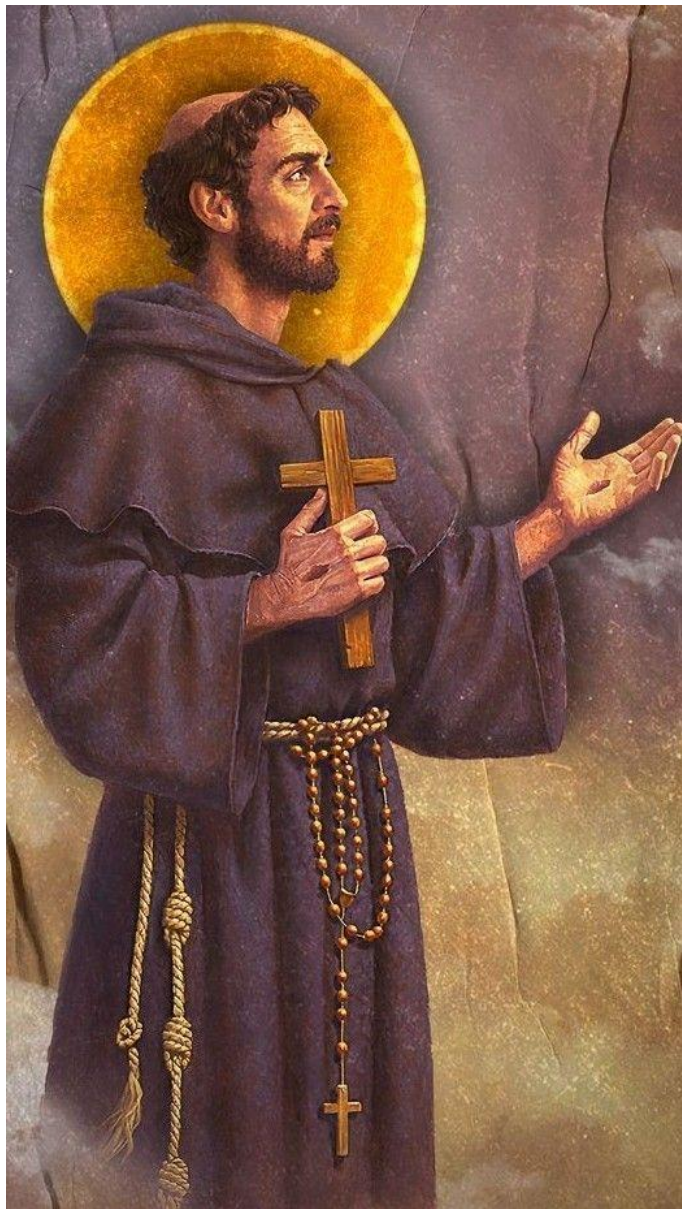
**"Who is going to save our Church?
Not our bishops,
not our priests and religious.
It is up to you, the people.
You have the minds, the eyes, the
ears to save the Church.
Your mission is to see that your
priests act like priests,
your bishops like bishops and
your religious act like religious."**

Blessed Peter "Fulton" John Sheen

(1895–1979) – Priest, Philosopher, Seminary Teacher, Auxiliary
Bishop of New York, Bishop of Rochester NY, Emmy Award
Winning Television Evangelist (*who memorably credited his "writers
– Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John"*)

Feast Day, December 9

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!