

Soldiers of Christ

Newsletter of the
Isolated Franciscan Tertiaries
of the OFM Province of the
Immaculate Conception

November 2026 Sandy Baden, TOF, Editor. Vol. 6, Issue 11

ALL SAINTS' DAY, ALL SOULS' DAY, AND ALL HALLOWS EVE
November 1, and November 2, 2026



All Saints' Day *is always celebrated on November 1 followed with* ***All Souls' Day*** *November 2nd. Of course, we have* ***All Hallows Eve****, known as Halloween, October 31.* ***"All Hallows Eve"*** *was given to us by Pope Gregory III and refers to the evening before* ***All Saints' Day,*** *to honor saints and martyrs.*

Hallows means holy or sanctified and Halloween refers to the night before the feast of ***All Saints' Day****. However, we should keep in mind, the Catholic Church views Halloween as all things good, joyful and pure. Children should dress up in celebration as a particular saint to ward off celebrating anything of superstition, witchcraft, magic, or the occult.*

All Saints' Day *is a solemnity in the Holy Catholic Church and is also a festival in Lutheranism. November 1 was dedicated by Pope Gregory III, (731-741) in the Old St. Peter's Basilica to the relics of the holy apostles and all saints, martyrs, and confessors.*

All Souls' Day *commemorates the faithful departed and those believed to be in purgatory. It has the tradition of praying for the departed and visiting graveyards of our loved ones. The liturgical colors are black, violet or white. Black for mourning, violet represents penitence, and white for hope of resurrection.*

Sandy Baden, TOF

Source: Wikipedia

SAINT FRANCIS ANTHONY FASANI, OFM, CONV.
August 6, 1681—November 29, 1742



Donato Antonia Giovanni Nicola Fasani was born in the Neapolitan town of Lucera, Italy, to poor peasants, Giuseppe Fasani and Isabella della Monaca. His father had passed away when he was nine yeas old, and It was his stepfather who sent "Johnnie," as he called him, to the Conventional Franciscans for his education.

He entered the Franciscan novitiate at Monte Gargano and took the religious names of Francis and Anthony at the age of 15. He had professed his vows in 1696 and began his religious studies in the General Study Centre in Assisi, which was close to the tomb of St. Francis. He was ordained into the priesthood in 1705 and completed his theological studies in 1707. It was in Rome he received his doctorate in theology at the college of St. Bonaventure.

Francis Anthony Fasani, OFM, had held various offices in the Franciscan order. He was appointed lector of philosophy at the Franciscan College in Lucera and became known as "Padre Maestro" or "Father Master." He held the office of provincial superior from 1721 to 1723, then master of novices, and later as pastor of the Church of St. Francis in Lucera. He had been offered bishopric and declined. Eventually, he was elected Minister Provincial of his province in the Franciscan Order.

Fr. Fasani was known for his life of prayer, his love for the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which was not a dogma of the Church at the time. He had a devotion for the infant Jesus, the Holy Eucharist and considered to be a mystic similar to the spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi. He cared for the poor, encouraged confession, the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, and was greatly in demand as a confessor and preacher.

An illness in 1742 took his life. In 1746 bishop of Lucera instituted a procedure to investigate the virtues and miracles of this Servant of God, Fr. Fasani. Pope Leo XIII proclaimed the decree of his heroic virtues in June 1891. He was beatified April 15, 1951 by Pope Pius XII, and was canonized by Pope John Paul II, April 13, 1986. Feast Day: November 29.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, SPECIAL JUBILEE YEAR
WHAT ABOUT ST. FRANCIS, PART VII
January 10, 2026—January 10, 2027



St. Francis of Assisi was a remarkable man in his time and to us today. He preached with simplicity and lived by embracing poverty and his love for the Catholic Church.

Today we could not follow exactly the life he was committed in living the Gospel, but we live the Gospel according to our station in life and the chaos that surrounds us. In the life of St. Francis we see his spirit of obedience in "God's Will" which he lived in his deep commitment to God.

The people of his time, in the 13th-century, were not familiar with the way St. Francis preached. He preached to the rich and the poor in a simple language everyone could understand, while also preaching to animals and nature. He emphasized living a life of poverty, humility, and spirituality in "God's Will."

Thomas Celano, OFM wrote as his biographer of St. Francis, ***"his sermons were not merely academic lectures but were intended to inspire an inner transformation, urging listeners to embrace the Gospel as a living word that demanded both personal conversion and active service to the marginalized."***

St. Francis spoke about Gospel living, Lady Poverty, Humble peace, creation, and care: A Christ-centered life, Heavenly virtue, Instrument of peace, and Gratitude for creation.

Thomas Celano, OFM continues, ***"St Francis of Assisi built his preaching ministry on a foundation of humility, constant prayer, and a radical identification with the life of poverty of Jesus Christ….He emphasized that true joy of spirit was essential for a believer, as it protected the conscience form the "deadly venom" of negativity and dispare.***

As St. Francis began to preach, many miracles were recorded by his biographer Thomas Celano, which the people of his time believed he was given divine intercession from God. He healed the sick, calmed storms, and communicated with the animals.

One miracle was one of his own, Brother Elias, who had been rejected by the people because of the affliction of leprosy. St. Francis prayed for his healing and he was cured. Multiple times, he brought various people back to life after death. A young girl, Pica, had died of a fever. St. Francis was concerned for the family who were devastated by her death. He prayed for her resurrection and she was brought back to life.

St. Francis, by only making the sign of the Holy Cross, cured a woman of blindness, a man of his paralysis, and in the town of Toscanell cured the crippled son of a gentleman who had given him a place to stay. During his preaching, it was known while St. Francis preached, some of the people were so moved as to convert to Christianity and dedicate their lives to the Catholic Church, one was St. Clare of Assisi.



Two years after the death of St. Francis, because of the many miracles that were performed, Pope Gregory IX, by decree, canonized St. Francis of Assisi on July 16, 1228.

Thomas of Celano through his writings about St. Francis of Assisi, ***"emphasized the saint's profound spiritual life and the miracles attributed him, which played a significant role in his canonization."***

Sandy Baden, TOF

Source: Wikipedia

GETTING TO KNOW OUR NOVICES
Patricia Dax Schauble



My name is Patricia Dax Schauble. For most of my 68 years I have lived in or near Sewickley, PA. In 1983, I married my high school sweetheart, Tom Schauble. I worked as a CPA before quitting to stay home with our children, Drew, Lindsay, and Sarah. I now also have five grandchildren, with one more on the way. I am blessed that all my children and grandchildren live in the Sewickley/ Pittsburgh area.

I learned about the TOF in April 2025. I had been at daily Mass, and afterwards while I was praying, a young woman went up to the altar rail and took part in a ceremony. I had no idea what was going on. Afterwards, I left the church and as I was pulling away, I almost ran into the priest who had performed the ceremony! I rolled down my window and asked him what I had just witnessed. He said that it was a profession ceremony with the Third Order Franciscans. As he was talking to me, the woman and her husband came over and introduced themselves as Anne and Andrew Ewell. They were excited to talk to me about the TOF, especially after I told them that St. Francis was my confirmation saint and that I always had a special devotion to him! Two months later, I received a text from Andrew asking me if I was interested in learning more about theTOF because a new inquiry group was beginning. Since I had been praying for a while for guidance and direction, I felt maybe God was now answering those prayers.

My faith journey began as a cradle Catholic. When I was in high school, however, I started skipping Mass. Over the next 20 years, except for a few exceptions, I never needed to go to confession (hadn't gone in years). It took several calls but I found a church that said a priest would hear confessions after blessing Easter baskets. I grabbed the kids and headed to that church. During my confession I only mentioned that I had missed Mass, but after he absolved me, he told me that I might find what I was looking for a new church called Saints John and Paul. I didn't understand why he thought that I was looking for something, but I realized later that

God was using this priest to help me find my way, even though I didn't know that I was lost!

Six weeks later, I finally went to that church! I went alone because I was pretty sure it would be a one time thing, but God surprised me and I went back the following week with my two children, and the third week my husband joined us. We eventually registered and it's where we are registered today. The priest at that church became instrumental in my spiritual journey. Since I had been away from the Church for a long time, he invited me to attend RCIA to learn more about our faith, and eventually, I was asked to help lead the RCIA group, which I did for several years. I was filled with joy and zeal for Our Lord and for our faith! I started going to daily Mass, I joined our choir, was a Lector, a Eucharistic Minister, and was on our Pastoral Council.

My prayer now is that God will help me to better follow St. Francis, most especially by reading daily the Gospels and incorporating Our Lord's teachings into my life. I'm trying to live a simpler life of prayer (LOH, daily Mass, rosary adoration, meditation, stations of the cross), penance (fasting, mortifying my senses and my will, and sacrifices), good works (caring for my family, visiting the sick and dying, and praying for the souls in purgatory).

I also hope, with God's grace, to bear my sufferings not only with patience and resignation, but with joy; detach myself more and more from earthly things and give my whole heart to God; to be obedient to His will and become the person He wants me to be.



KATHLEEN RIGGLE, NOVICE



My name is Kathleen Riggle, I am widowed with two grown children and a grown grandchild. My companion is a Westipoo dog named Quincy.

I came into full communion with the Catholic Church in 2020. I was raised Catholic until I was 11, and wanted to become a nun. Then my parents began attending a non-denominational Christian church (with a very anti-Catholic leaning). The remainder of my youth was spent trying to unlearn what I thought I knew was specifically Catholic in favor of the new church. For the next 50 years, I experienced many Protestant churches, but I never felt fully satisfied. I was never away from God; I was always seeking, but never found a home.

Finally, I came home to the Catholic Church, attended RCIA (during COVID), and received my confirmation. Once I'd returned, I knew I wanted to find a way to deepen my walk. I had no interest in being a nominal Catholic or just doing the minimum to "get by."

I was researching to find out where I could join a community of some nature. I didn't even have a word for what I was seeking. I "happened" to talk to someone at the TOF. The more we talked, the more I realized this was exactly the community I was seeking. I didn't look any further. I believed that God had ordained that conversation.

Throughout my inquiry phase, and looking forward, everything I've learned and seen, had convinced me that this is the community where I belong. Mind you, this is not because I have any right to be here. However, I desire to strive for perfection while I know I'll never reach it. I think the tools are available, the Formation offered, and the community of the TOF, a person would have both hope and a continuing challenge to that goal. My ambition and intent is to do everything I can to find and follow in the footsteps of St. Francis by implementing in my own life the principles he taught.

I entered the Novitiate on September 15, 2026 (Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows) at St. John the Evangelist Church in Philadelphia, PA. The Priest was Fr. Thomas Betz, OFM, Cap., who also happens to be my cousin.

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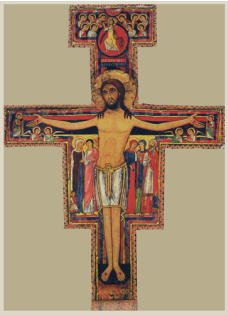


Congratulations to ***Rosa Guadalupe Malaga Salazar*** *for her Entrance into the Novitiate on October 2, 2026 at St. Bernard, Church, Wabash, In. with Fr. Jay Harding as celebrant.*

Patron Saint: Blessed Juana de la Cruz Vazquez Gutierrez, TOF, May 3rd, 1481—May 3, 1534, a Spanish Abyss of the Franciscan Third Order Regular…Beatified November 25, 2024 by Pope Francis: Feast Day: May 3rd



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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

VIRTUAL MONTHLY ZOOM GATHERING, NOVEMBER 5, 2026

Our topic for our Virtual Monthly Zoom Gathering will be presented by: Sandy DeWaal, TOF, HOW ST. FRANCIS FOLLOWED JESUS CHRIST.



Sandy DeWaal, TOF, is our Coordinator for our Monthly Zoom Gatherings and we are grateful for all Sandy does for us. Sandy is a cradle Catholic, born in GreenBay Wisconsin. She attended NWTC in nursing and was employed in three hospitals, all Franciscan, and one clinic. Sandy and her husband, Arie, who has passed away, raised a grown son, Christopher, and Derek who passed away into the loving arms of our Lord Jesus Christ at the age of 5.

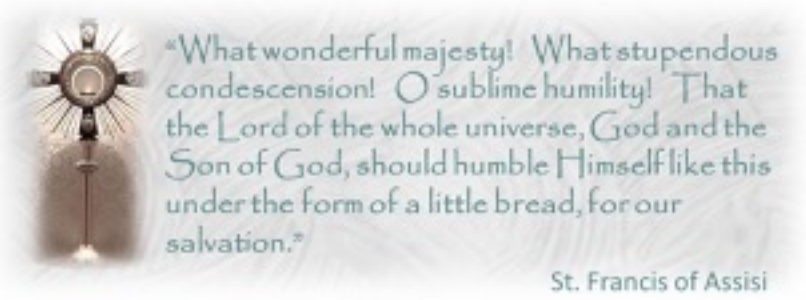
We look forward to Sandy's presentation, How St. Francis followed Jesus Christ.

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COMMEMORATION OF ALL SOULS OF THE SERAPHIC ORDER
November 5th

On November 5th the Franciscan Family remembers all the deceased members of the Franciscan order. Our Tertiary Community will be offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass via the Seraphic Mass Association for all the souls of the Order. Please remember them in your prayers. For more information about this Franciscan commemoration click the following link:

https://www.franciscantradition.org/blog/commemoration-of-all-souls-of-the-serephic-order/



EUCHARISTIC ADORATION TERTIARIES SCHEDULE

MONDAY	***Nancy Caraballo, TOF*** ***Judith Ingelsby, TOF***
TUESDAY	***Linda Menser, TOF***
WEDNESDAY	***Luis Guzman, TOF*** ***Paul and Mary TAG, TOF***
THURSDAY	***Mary Colon, TOF*** ***Bob Zupanek, TOF*** ***Lisa Bute***
FRIDAY	***Sandy DeWaal, TOF*** ***Pepe Ventosa, TOF***
SATURDAY	***Peter Emau, TOF*** ***Ericka Witover, TOF***
SUNDAY	***Linda Menser, TOF***

Please pray for the intentions for our Pope, bishops, and priests. Also pray for the community of friars of the Immaculate Conception Province for an increase in religious vocations in their community and the intentions of the members of the Isolated Tertiaries Community.

ADMONITION XXVII, VIRTUE AND VICE

(Study on Admonitions of St. Francis of Assisi, Lothar Hardick, OFM by: Sandy Baden, TOF



Where there is love and wisdom
there is neither fear or ignorance.
Where there is patience and humility,
there is neither anger nor annoyance
Where there is poverty and joy,
there is neither cupidity nor avarice.
Where there is peace and contemplation,
there is neither are nor restlessness.
Where there is the fear of God to guard
the dwelling (see Lk 11:21) there no
enemy can enter.
Where there is mercy and prudence,
there is neither excess nor harshness.

Part I

"Where there is love and wisdom, thee is neither fear nor ignorance"

This is where we begin, where there is love and wisdom there is neither fear nor ignorance. As you can see there are six parts to Admonition XXVII, Virtue and Vice. In reading Part I, it became perfectly clear that a person can absorb all that is said by Fr. Lothar Hardick, OFM, and each person would come up with a different explanation of a virtue or a vice. Love and wisdom or fear or ignorance may have an impression to one person and to another would have completely different thoughts or ideas.

As Fr. Lothar Hardick, OFM, tries to read the mind of St. Francis, he first analyzes what kind of fears are we looking at in this Admonition. As we grow in our Spiritual lives as Tertiaries, fear in our lives would seem to be diminished as we become closer to our Lord. Lothar Hardick, OFM states, ***"where there is love…, there is no fear…Fear causes us to run away—far away. Love causes us to come closer and become united to God."*** *Would this also mean that love also brings wisdom? This would then sum up all what needs to be said about love and wisdom, fear or ignorance.*

However, in our own weaknesses we falter into our own will and not that of our Lord. It seems like and endless journey toward the will of God in all that we do. When praying the rosary and in each decade we meditate, the distractions in our minds cause us to drift. We say, the next decade I will do better, but it happens over and over again. Lothar Hardick, OFM reiterates with this statement to give us hope, ***"A very large part of our love for God must, after all, be believing in His mercy and expecting Him to help us. We stand before him with empty hands. We love him most of all when we let Him fill those empty hands with his love."***

Reflecting on Lothar Hardick, OFM and his analyzes of Ignorance with wisdom and calling Ignorance foolishness, which makes perfect sense, as he takes from scripture, (Sir. 21:26), ***"The mind of fools is in their mouth, but the mouth of the wise is in their mind."*** *This is a clear summarization of all the illustrations given on foolishness.*

*So what is wisdom? Lothar Hardick, OFM states, "****it is a gift of Gods grace,"*** *but we have to be prepared to receive this grace. With this we must be open to God's will and 'be not afraid.' We should be open to God's will in our prayer and daily lives. Love and Wisdom can not be separated, therefore, it takes away our fear or ignorance, foolishness). As Lothar Hardick, OFM states:* ***"Where there is love and wisdom, there is neither fear nor ignorance (=foolishness.)***

Prayer in the Magnificat

May the God of infinite goodness drive far from us the darkness of vice and illuminate our hearts with the light of virtue. Amen.

Serenity Prayer

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

SAVE THE DATE

NOVEMBER 1&2: ***ALL SAINTS' DAY & ALL SOULS' DAY***

NOVEMBER 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30: ***MONDAY'S WITH MARY:*** *6:30 PM Eastern Time, 3:30 Pacific Time*

NOVEMBER 5: ***IT ZOOM GATHERING:*** *7:00 PM Eastern time, 4:00 PM Pacific Time. Discussion topic to be presented by: Sandy DeWaal, TOF, "How St. Francis followed Jesus Christ"*

NOVEMBER 5: ***COMMEMORATION OF ALL SOULS OF THE SERAPHIC ORDER***

NOVEMBER 12: ***NOVITIATE GROUP 6:*** *7:00 PM Eastern time, 4:00 PM Pacific time*

NOVEMBER 14: ***ANNUAL DAY OF RECOLLECTION:*** *Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted, Youngstown, OH*

NOVEMBER 19: ***NOVITIATE GROUP 5:*** *7:00 PM Eastern time: 4:00 PM Pacific time*

NOVEMBER 29: ***SAINT FRANCIS ANTHONY FASANI, OFM, CONV.***