



Catholic Diocese
of Cleveland

Office of the Bishop

87/2021
4 February 2021

Mr. Robert Burtscher, TOF
Minister, SS. Francis and Clare Fraternity TOF
3862 Fairfield Dr.
Mogadore, OH 44260

Dear Mr. Burtscher,

On September 29, 2020 I received a letter from you, as Minister of the Saints Francis and Clare Fraternity, writing on behalf of the members of their emerging fraternity of the Third Order of St. Francis. This group which is presently in the process of transferring from the Secular Franciscan Order of Friars Minor, St. Frances Cabrini Fraternity, is located within the Diocese of Cleveland in Barberton, Ohio. Through a process of prayer and discernment and under the direction of Father Vit Fiala, OFM, the group wishes to commit themselves to live the Gospel according to the Franciscan Rule of 1883 approved by Pope Leo XIII. This fraternity will function under the vigilance and patronage of the Province of the Immaculate Conception, located in New York. Father Robert Campagna, OFM, the Provincial Minister, has approved the fraternity and appointed Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM as their Spiritual Director.

In accord with the Code of Canon Law, Canon 304, I am in receipt of and have become familiar with the Statutes of the Franciscan Tertiaries of the Order of Friars Minor, Province of the Immaculate Conception and the Letter of Establishment of an Emerging Fraternity, St. Francis and St. Clare of the Third Order of St. Francis (TOR) in Barberton, Ohio. It is my understanding that the group, with the permission of the Bishop of the Eparchy of Parma, Most Rev. Milan Lach, S.J. and the Pastor of the Parish, Rev. Miron Kurel-Kmec, will meet monthly at St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Barberton.

As a Community of Franciscan Tertiaries, the members of the Saint Francis and Saint Clare Fraternity have promised their prayer for my personal intentions, for the needs of our Diocese and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. I am most grateful for their prayer and will pray for their continued growth in holiness and witness to the Gospel. I also welcome their commitment to assist with the works of the Church particularly their respect for all life, ministry to the poor, the infirm and those who are incarcerated. May God continue to bless their work!

Let us continue to pray for many blessings upon this newly formed fraternity of Saint Francis and Saint Clare. I look forward to hearing from them annually, and know that Francis and

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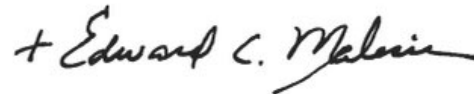
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Clare will inspire and intensify their desire to live out the Franciscan mission of restoring all things in Christ, living a life of simplicity and trust in the presence and goodness of God.

May God bless you and those you love.

Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward C. Malesic". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic, JCL
Bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland

cc: Rev. Robert Campagna, OFM
Rev. Vit Fiala, OFM