

January, 2025

Volume 6, Issue 1

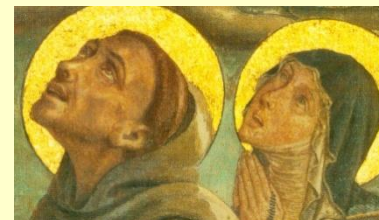
# Il Poverello

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

The Pope has declared a Jubilee Holy Year of Hope starting December 29, 2024 through December 28, 2025. This is a \*great\* blessing for all Catholics worldwide, because we will have the opportunity to obtain plenary indulgences.



Our fraternity is hosting the annual TOF pilgrimage, which will be held on May 17 at Nativity of the Lord Jesus Parish in Springfield Township, just south of Akron. Per Bishop Malesic's office, those of us who attend will be eligible for the indulgence since we are travelling to visit a holy site, we will have the great grace of Holy Mass, and we will pray for the intentions of Pope Francis, as long as we attend Confession 20 days before or after. The fact that the Nativity of the Lord is itself a superior example of the hope that is highlighted in this Holy Year adds to its significance as our pilgrimage site

In fact, according to the Office of Bishop Edward Malesic of Cleveland, we will have the opportunity to obtain a plenary indulgence every day of the Holy Year simply by attending daily Mass and observing the requirements - receiving Communion, going to Confession at least once per month, and praying for the intentions of the Pope (which are normally included at Mass).

Visiting designated Sacred Sites and observing the requirements listed above will earn indulgences. **In the Cleveland Diocese**, these are: St. Edward Parish (Ashland); the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist (Cleveland); St. Mary Parish (Chardon); Immaculate Conception Parish (Madison); Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish (Lorain); St. Colette Parish (Brunswick); Queen of Heaven Parish (Uniontown); Ss. Peter and Paul Parish (Doylestown); Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine (Euclid); Queen of the Holy Rosary Shrine (Parma Heights); and the Shrine of St. Ann (Highland Heights). **The USCCB has also designated the following Shrines as Sacred Sites for the Jubilee Year:** Immaculate Conception (Washington, DC); Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (Middletown, NY); St. Rita of Cascia (Philadelphia); Our Lady of Champion (Champion, WI); Our Lady of Prompt Succor (New Orleans); St. Frances Cabrini (New York City); Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (Philadelphia); Divine Mercy (Stockbridge, MA); Holy Relics (Maria Stein, OH); Our Lady of Czestochowa (Philadelphia); Mary, Mother of the Church (Laurie, MO); St. John Neumann (Philadelphia); and Our Lady of Guadalupe (La Crosse, WI);

Those who attend our picnic at Queen of Heaven Parish and pray a Franciscan Crown Rosary on that occasion and who observe the requirements attached to the indulgence may obtain a plenary indulgence as well!

We are urged by Pope Francis to observe works of mercy and penance throughout the year as well - which, as Franciscans, is part of our way of life. **More information is included in this newsletter on obtaining plenary indulgences during this Jubilee Holy Year of Hope!**

## 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, January 19 - 1:30 PM**

**St. Nicholas Byzantine Church**

**1051 E. Robinson Ave.**

**Coventry Twp. 44203**

**We are expecting you!**

## Catholic Quote of the Month

*"The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire.*

*That is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, Pilgrims of Hope."*

Pope Francis (born 1938)

Chemist, Priest, Cardinal, Vicar of Christ



## Eucharistic Adoration



### Sunday

Betty DeMarco, 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  
Larry McNutt, TOF  
Lucy McNutt, TOF  
Maria 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 25 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.**

## January Anniversaries and Birthdays

### Profession Anniversary

Bill Marshall, TOF – (33 Years)



### Birthdays

Eileen Dunlap, TOF – 1/7  
Chris Devore, TOF – 1/9  
Kenny Green, TOF – 1/12  
John Wilson – 1/13  
Roberto Meza, TOF – 1/16  
Pepe Ventosa, TOF – 1/20  
Lucy McNutt, TOF – 1/22  
Matthew Poletti, TOF – 1/23  
Maria Elena Meza, TOF – 1/25

## Stand for Life



The Stand for Life will be suspended until March because of uncertain winter weather. 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

Carolyn Gacloch, TOF; Marlene Walker, TOF; and Denise Williams, TOF will prepare our lunch for the January Gathering.

Betty DeMarco, TOF will prepare the Little Portion, and Kenny Green, TOF will deliver it. 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.*

## How to Obtain a Plenary Indulgence in the Jubilee Holy Year

**The Vatican has detailed how to obtain plenary indulgences – removing temporal punishment for sin through Christ's merits – during the 2025 Jubilee Year (12/29/24 – 12/28/25).**

**Requirements:** detachment from sin (even venial), confession within about 20 days, Communion, and prayer for the Pope's intentions (e.g., an Our Father and Hail Mary). Each indulgence requires a separate Communion and prayer, ideally on the day of the indulgenced act. Only one plenary indulgence can be obtained per day, but a second is possible if applied to souls in purgatory.

### WAYS TO OBTAIN THE INDULGENCE INCLUDE:

#### **Pilgrimages**

- 1. National.** The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., is the only nationally designated "Jubilee site" in the U.S. While there, participate in Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, Stations of the Cross, the Rosary or Akathist, a penance service, or a celebration of the Word of God.
- 2. International.** In Rome, visit St. Peter's, St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major or St. Paul Outside the Walls. In the Holy Land, visit the Holy Sepulchre (Jerusalem), Basilica of the Nativity (Bethlehem) or Basilica of the Annunciation (Nazareth).
- 3. Close to Home.** Visit any site designated for Jubilee pilgrimages by the local bishop.

#### **Eucharistic Visits**

- 4. Pilgrimage Sites.** At any site listed above, spend time in Eucharistic adoration, concluding with the Our Father, a Profession of Faith, and prayers to Mary.
- 5. Italy.** Do the same at any of six other churches in Rome (*Santa Croce, San Lorenzo, San Sebastiano, Divino Amore, Santo Spirito in Sassia, Tre Fontane*), the "Iter Europaeum" route (*28 churches connected to European nations*), the "Patronesses and Doctors" route (*seven churches dedicated to female saints*), the Roman Catacombs, or five churches outside Rome (*St. Francis and the Portiuncula in Assisi, St. Anthony in Padua, Our Lady of Loreto, Our Lady of Pompei*).
- 6. Close to Home.** Do the same at any church designated by a local bishop, or any basilica, cathedral or shrine (*Marian, national or international*) worldwide.

#### **Pilgrimages in Spirit**

- 7.** Those impeded by "serious reasons" – cloistered religious, the elderly, the sick, prisoners, caregivers – can get the indulgence by uniting spiritually with pilgrims, especially through EWTN or other media, and reciting an Our Father and Creed, "offering up their sufferings or the hardships of their lives."

#### **Works of Mercy and Penance**

- 8. Formation.** Participate in a study on the Vatican II documents or the Catechism, held in a church or other suitable place, "according to the mind of the Holy Father."
- 9. Visits.** Spend time with those in need – the sick, prisoners, lonely elderly, the disabled – "making a pilgrimage to Christ present in them."
- 10. Fasting and Abstinence.** In a spirit of penance, give up "futile distractions" (real or online) and "superfluous consumption" (through fasting, abstinence or almsgiving) for at least one day.
- 11. Defend Life and Volunteer.** Support efforts defending life at all stages or helping abandoned children, struggling youth, the needy, lonely elderly or migrants. Do acts of community service.
- 12. Blessing.** Receive the "papal blessing" from your bishop.

Source: "Decree on the Granting of Indulgence during the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025" (Mar 13, 2024)

Reprinted from the [National Catholic Register](#)

## Embrace Baby Shower

We will welcome a representative from Embrace at our January Gathering. Embrace is a pro-life organization located in Barberton that assists and counsels expectant mothers, fathers, and their children. They also provide clothing and supplies for children up through preschool age and home supplies for families in need of help. Embrace offers a much-needed alternative to Planned Parenthood and other organizations which promote abortion as the answer to to unplanned pregnancy or families in trouble.

As we do every January, we will offer baby shower items for Embrace for those members who wish to support Embrace and their pro-life work. These can include baby food and formula, children's clothing sized from newborn to 6T, diapers from newborn to toddler sizes, baby supplies such as diaper balm, baby lotion, baby wash, Dreft detergent, and items along these lines. And of course, monetary donations are always very welcome.

You are invited to our annual

## Annual Baby Shower For Embrace



**When:** January Fraternity Gathering

Embrace provides moral, spiritual, and practical support to pregnant mothers, their children, and the fathers of the children. In place of the food pantry collection, please consider bringing items or monetary donations to support Embrace. This can include baby supplies such as diapers, formula, clothing in sizes from infant to toddler, and anything else of use to a family, including a monetary donation.

## 2025 Pilgrimage News

The Ss. Francis and Clare Fraternity will host our annual pilgrimage on May 17, 2025. Council decided on visiting Nativity of the Lord Jesus Parish in Springfield Township (just south of Akron), where the founding pastor assembled a large collection of Nativities over the years. ***\*Those who attend will obtain a plenary indulgence if they follow the usual conditions attached to the indulgence – see the article in this newsletter!***

Our good St. Francis is responsible for the idea and implementation of the first Nativity in Greccio, a little village outside of Assisi, in 1223. The Church worldwide celebrated the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this in 2023.



Our tour guide will be Fr. David Halaiko, who is a retired priest of the Diocese of Cleveland and who is the founding pastor of Nativity parish. Father is a licensed tour guide in Israel – which, like Italy, requires tour guides to pass a rigorous test in order to be certified. He is very knowledgeable about the history and politics of the Middle East and Europe, and will also offer Mass for us.

← ***The Nativity of Greccio, St. Francis's loving representation of the birth of Jesus***

We hope to have lunch at Hartville Kitchen and will look into reserving a room for our pilgrims after the turn of the year. Stay tuned - more details TBA!

## Formation News

Novices Andrea Ferraro, John Wilson, Jack Kellogg, and Jerry Johnson continue to discern their call to the Third Order of St. Francis as they continue their studies in Initial Formation. They look forward to celebrating their Holy Profession in November, 2025 at the Day of Recollection. Please remember to pray for each of them every day as they grow closer to becoming Franciscans!

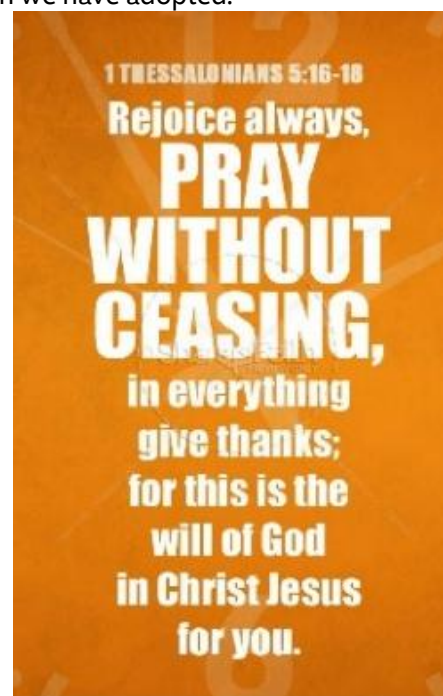
***Pictured clockwise from top right, Jack Kellogg; Chris Devore, TOF; Matt Poletti, TOF; Bill Marshall, TOF, Jerry Johnson, Andrea Ferraro, Carol Perrine, TOF; Susan Kramer, TOF; and John Wilson***



## **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. **Pope Francis** and his intentions.
4. Our bishops and their intentions: **Bishop David Bonnar** of the Diocese of Youngstown, **Bishop Robert Pipta** of the Eparchy of Parma, **Bishop Earl Fernandes** of the Diocese of Columbus, and **Bishop Edward Malesic, JCL** of the Diocese of Cleveland.
5. The Friars of the Immaculate Conception Province of the OFM, particularly **Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM, Fr. Dennis Arambasick, OFM, and Fr. Robert Campagna, OFM**, who is the Provincial Minister.
6. **Our beloved, hard-working pastors and parish priests, and our parishes**, including **Fr. Miron Kerul'-Kmec** of St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish (Eparchy of Parma), who hosts our fraternity every month. We also pray for **Fr. Daniel Dozier, TOF**, an Isolated Tertiary who is the pastor of St. George Byzantine Parish in Olympia, Washington and St. Irene Byzantine Parish in Portland, Oregon, as well as being a professor at SS. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Seminary and contributor to "Catholic Answers" on EWTN radio. And **Fr. Ryan Furlong, TOF**, who is pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Vienna, St. William Parish in Champion, and St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in Cortland (Diocese of Youngstown) and who is a member of the St. Padre Pio Fraternity.
7. **Fr. Gastor Temu Bahati** of the Diocese of Moshi who is serving on the staff of his bishop, whom we have spiritually supported for several years.
8. **Frater Francis Tumaini** of the Diocese of Moshi, who is the Moshi seminarian we have adopted.
9. **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 in North Canton) and **William Martzaklis** (St. Paul in North Canton) from the Diocese of Youngstown, **Joseph Rohan**, (St. Joseph Parish in Cuyahoga Falls), **Alex Krukemeyer**, (Our Lady of Victory Parish in Tallmadge), and **John Paul Antalek** (St. Mary Parish in Akron), all from the Diocese of Cleveland. These men, and Frater Francis of the Moshi Seminary, are the future leaders and servants of our Church.
10. Please add prayers **for the safety and protection of our Ukrainian brothers and sisters, and for the conversion of Russia** as Pope Francis has done in his Consecration of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Also, **for the spiritual and physical 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 being attacked.**
11. For the **protection of all life**, born and unborn, womb to tomb.
12. 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.**
13. 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!

## Profession of Joseph Zbasnik

Novice Joe Zbasnik will be making his Holy Profession as a Third Order Franciscan on Saturday, March 22 at the 12:00 Noon Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted. After Mass, there will be a reception in the basement meeting room of the Shrine. He will be Professed with two Isolated Novices, one of whom will be travelling from New York and the other from Arizona.

Joe has been a faithful attendee of our Gatherings since he started his Formation studies over two years ago, and is a familiar face to all of us. **All members of our Fraternity are heartily invited to celebrate this special day for our brother, Joe and our two Isolated Novices!**

## New Gathering Procedure

We will be starting the gathering prayers at the St. Nicholas Church beginning with the March Gathering. Members would report to the Social Hall as usual, pick their table number, leave their belongings at their table (except for the Gathering Opening Prayer and the Liturgy of the Hours book) and proceed promptly to the church with the Opening Prayer and Liturgy of the Hours book.

At the church, the men will sit on one side and the women on the other, and we will pray the Liturgy of the Hours and Lectio Divina. After this, members will proceed quietly back to the Social Hall and to our assigned tables in a prayerful manner to share our word or phrase from Lectio Divina with those at our assigned tables.

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

Our December Gathering took place on December 15 at St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish, with 35 in attendance, as well as our friends Jess and Carolyn Poletti, Annie Butts, and Fred Kramer. As we joyfully looked forward to the celebration of the Birth of Our Lord, this Gathering also functioned as our Christmas party.

- Our Minister, Roberto Meza, TOF led the Gathering Opening Prayer.
- Kenny Green, TOF led the Prayer Before Reciting the Office.
- Roberto Meza, TOF led the Daytime Liturgy of the Hours with the assistance of Kenny Green, TOF and Bill Marshall, TOF.
- Kenny Green, TOF led the Prayer After Reciting the Office.
- Virgil Daniel, TOF proclaimed the Gospel of the day, which was from St. Luke – “Share with others and treat others with dignity,” and “He preached Good News to the people.”
- We recited the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
- Kenny Green, TOF made his annual presentation of the first Nativity scene.
- Roberto Meza, TOF led us in Grace before our Christmas feast.
- As we enjoyed our meal, Virgil Daniel, TOF spoke to us of the indulgence attached to having a pilgrimage in the upcoming Jubilee Year of 2025.
- Roberto Meza, TOF presented the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Profession certificate to Mike Butts, TOF.
- Roberto Meza, TOF reminded us to pray for our excused members and friends of the fraternity, including members Jennifer Kerns, TOF; Elizabeth Francis, TOF; Julia Tarulli, TOF; and fraternity friends Dorothy Takacs, OFS; and Sandy Pollino, OFS, who have been unable to attend because of health issues. Roberto advised us that Deanna Hurley, OFS is now in a nursing home as well. Please pray for their improved health.
- There was some discussion on the Evangelizing Committee appearing at the upcoming Columbus, Youngstown, and Cleveland Men’s Conferences. A decision on this will be made later.
- Mary Dye, TOF accompanied Christmas songs on the keyboard. Several Council members and other fraternity members and friends led us in song, with Roberto and Maria Elena Meza, TOF leading us beautifully in “Feliz Navidad” as the finale.
- At Roberto Meza’s suggestion, we all discussed the Scriptural names of Jesus.



- We then prayed for the intentions close to the hearts of our fraternity members, including our excused members with health concerns and the intentions in our prayer journal. We also prayed for our country and asked God to bless us with the Gift of the Holy Spirit. And we remembered to pray for those in Formation, and for future Third Order Franciscans. We also prayed for Pope Francis, our local Bishops (Fernandes of Columbus, Bonnar of Youngstown, Malesic of Cleveland, and Pipta of the Eparchy of Parma). And finally, our adopted seminarians – Frater Francis Tumaini of the Diocese of Moshi, Tanzania, and our Borromeo seminarians – Arthur Bodenschatz and William Martzaklis of the Diocese of Youngstown, and Alex Krukemeyer, Joseph Rohan, and John Paul Antalek of the Diocese of Cleveland. And for our beloved parish priests, who care for our souls.
- We concluded with the Memorare and the St. Michael Prayer.



*Don't forget – our next Gathering is January 19 at 1:30 PM at St. Nicholas!*

### **Save the Date (January, the Month of the Most Holy Name of Jesus)**

January 19	January Gathering – 1:30 PM – St. Nicholas Parish, Barberton
March 5	<b>Ash Wednesday (Day of Fast and Abstinence)</b>
March 22	Profession of Joe Zbasnik, 12:00 Noon, Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted
April 18	<b>Good Friday (Day of Fast and Abstinence)</b>
April 20	<b>Easter – The Resurrection of Our Lord</b>
May 17	Annual TOF Pilgrimage – Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Springfield Township
June 8	<b>Pentecost</b>
August 22-24	Annual Tridua



**Luce, the Official Mascot of the Jubilee Holy Year of Hope**



## THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven,  
may the faith you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of charity enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed hope  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both  
humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

*Franciscus*