

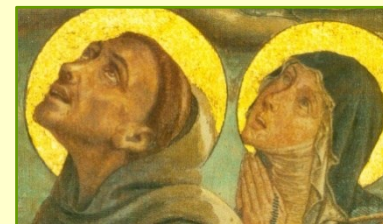
May, 2026

Volume 7, Issue 5

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: Consecration to Blessed Virgin Mary



According to Article 68: Every year in the month of May or December, each fraternity shall publicly make or renew its consecration to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary using approved prayers. Our fraternity will be renewing this consecration at our May Gathering.

Consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Catholic faith is a spiritual devotion in which a person entrusts themselves entirely to Mary so as to belong more fully to Christ. It is rooted in the belief that Mary, as the perfect disciple, leads believers closer to her Son. Through prayers, reflection, and a period of preparation (typically 33 days), individuals offer their thoughts, actions, and lives to God through Mary, trusting in her guidance and maternal care. St. Francis was very devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary, so why not also perform this longer consecration to the Blessed Mother in this month of May?

Many people follow the method taught by Saint Louis de Montfort, spending 33 days in prayer and reflection leading up to consecration. This can include simple daily prayers, reading Scripture, or using a guide like de Montfort's *True Devotion to Mary* or *33 Days to Morning Glory* by Michael E. Gaitley, MIC.

Ultimately, consecration to Mary is about deepening one's relationship with Jesus. By imitating Mary's humility, obedience, and faith, believers strive to grow in holiness. It is not a one-time prayer—it's a way of living. Pray regularly to our Blessed Virgin Mary for guidance and imitate her humility and trust in God like St. Francis did.

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,
May 17 – 1:30 PM
St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish
1051 E. Robinson Ave.,
Barberton, OH 44203**

We are expecting you!

Franciscan Quote of the Month (St. Joseph the Worker – May 1)



"In our time Our Lady has helped us comprehend and love her dear and chaste husband, St. Joseph. She has told us of the mystery surrounding him and of his greatness. She has let us know something of her love for St. Joseph, that most lovable saint who for years held the Word made flesh in his arms."

Blessed Gabriele Allegra (1907–1976) was a Franciscan friar (Order of Friars Minor) and a renowned Biblical scholar. Known as the "St. Jerome of China," he is best known for producing the first complete translation of the Catholic Bible into the Chinese language.

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.

May Anniversaries and Birthdays

Profession Anniversaries

"28" Years: Kenny Green, TOF; Pepe Ventosa, TOF; and Rose Zaratsian, TOF

"11" Years: Rick Dunlap, TOF; Eileen Dunlap, TOF; Susan Kramer, TOF; Larry McNutt, TOF; and Lucy McNutt, TOF



Birthdays

Mary Dye, TOF – 5/23

Stand for Life



Bill Marshall, TOF, and Bob Burtscher, TOF will be praying in front of the abortion clinic in Cuyahoga Falls the second week of May. 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, Annie Butts, and Cindy Russo, TOF, will prepare our Gathering Hospitality for this month's Gathering.



Rosie Zaratsian, TOF, will prepare the Little Portion this month and John McGough, 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.

As often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Mary Dye, TOF.

Our Fraternity Text Prayer Guidelines – Submitted by Eileen Dunlap, TOF

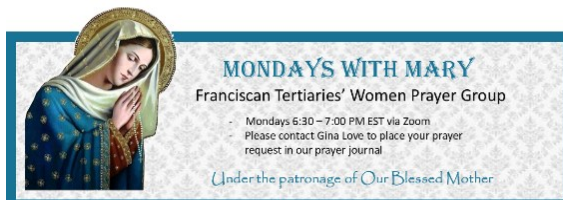


Please follow the guidelines below to ensure our Text Prayer Group runs smoothly.

- ◆ Submit your own prayer request between 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. (it will be quicker than asking Eileen or Rick)
- ◆ Refrain from replying to the whole group (so phones don't blow up) – you may consider a personal reply as is feasible to the individual asking for prayers to show your support
- ◆ Update the group on people we are praying for if you receive updates
- ◆ You can silence the text group notifications:
 - iPhone: Slide the conversation to the left and click the purple notification bell so there is a slash through it
 - Android: From the conversation list, long-press the group chat thread, then tap the bell icon (it may show a slash through it when muted) or select Mute notifications
 - Samsung: Open the group chat → three dots → Notifications → set to Silent or toggle off notifications
- ◆ If you require assistance, please contact Eileen
- ◆ If you want to be removed from the Prayer Text Group, please let Eileen know; she makes changes once per year and can remove you at that time

TOF Women Prayer Group – Submitted by Pepe Ventosa, TOF

The newly formed TOF women's prayer group will have their first prayer meeting on May 4th. The group will meet via Zoom every Monday from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. Eastern time to pray the Rosary. All female members (novices and professed) of the TOF community will receive the Zoom invite and are welcome to attend. A journal will be kept for prayer requests. Any TOF members with prayer requests can contact Gina to have their request placed in the prayer journal.





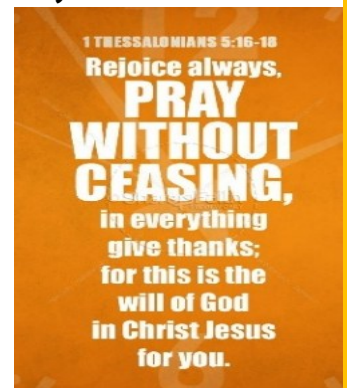
FRANCISCAN REMINDER

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 table. Please remember to keep **Holy Silence** during this transition until after sharing the word at your table.

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*) who was recently ordained a Transitional Deacon, 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*), and **John Paul Antalek** (*St. Mary Parish, Akron*), all from the Diocese of Cleveland. Please pray for **Eric Cormier** (he is in the Inquiry period with the *Isolated Tertiaries in the Archdiocese of Atlanta*). These men and all seminarians are the future leaders and servants of our Church.
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!

Important Reminders:

- ✦ Please contact Jim Miller, TOF, if you are unable to fulfill your monthly community gathering obligation.
- ✦ If there are any changes to your address, phone number, and/or email address, please contact Jim Miller, TOF.
- ✦ If you purchased the *Postulancy Student Manual* (\$14), *New Catechism of the Third Order* (\$13), and/or the *Supplemental Materials for Study and Clarification* (\$9) and have not yet paid, please endorse a check in the correct amount to St. Francis and St. Claire Fraternity and mail to: Therese Harper, TOF, 3647 Durham Road, Norton, OH 44203 – thank you!

Ongoing Formation Materials For ALL Members



Since ongoing formation is life-long for all Fraternity members, you are encouraged to purchase the *New Catechism of the Third Order* (\$13) and the *Supplemental Materials for Study and Clarification* (\$9). These will be available for sale at our May Gathering.

Lord, it is Good for Us to be Together!

Our April Gathering took place on Sunday, April 19, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. at St. Nicholas Byzantine Parish. We had over 40 members in attendance, along with our two guests invited by Carolyn and Dennis Gacioch, TOF: Chris and Don Freese.

After determining our table assignments in the Hall, we walked in silence to the Church for Mid-Day Office. Opening Prayer was led by our Minister, Roberto Meza, TOF. Daytime Liturgy of the Hours was led by Kenny Green, TOF. We then prayed the Renewal of Profession. Virgil Daniel, TOF, shared some information on the Byzantine Church Easter décor before conducting Lectio Divina, using Sunday's Gospel, after which we returned to the hall for discussion.

After saying Grace Before Meals, we enjoyed a wonderful meal prepared by Mary Cate Roberts, TOF, Bob Burtscher, TOF, and Mary Dye, TOF. Thank you!

Eileen Dunlap, TOF, discussed and distributed the passport listing Franciscan designated pilgrimage sites for the Year of St. Francis sponsored by the Diocese of Cleveland. She also passed out a list of Franciscan designated pilgrimage sites in the Dioceses of Youngstown, Steubenville, and Toledo. See page 11 for ideas to promote the Jubilee Year in our own parishes.

Franciscan University of Steubenville will host the "*Sister Death-Gate of Life*" conference November 5–7, 2026. This academic event, part of a designated Jubilee Year, will explore Franciscan perspectives on mortality and eternal life, featuring, among others, Sister Margaret Carney, OSF.

Louis Daniel, TOF, shared a National Geographic Magazine article that explores historic Italian monasteries.

Roberto reminded everyone about the TOF Women's Prayer Group starting Monday, May 4 – "Mondays with Mary" that will be meeting via Zoom to pray the rosary from 6:30-7 p.m. All women members of our fraternity will receive the Zoom invite by email the day prior to the prayer session.

Roberto also reminded members of our May 16 Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Lebanon Shrine in North Jackson, OH, sponsored by the Padre Pio Fraternity. The signup sheet was being passed around, along with the collection of \$20 per lunch. **Keep in mind that the Pilgrimage does not replace our May Gathering on May 17.**

Roberto and Pepe Ventosa, TOF, shared information about the upcoming Third Annual Franciscan Tridua, August 21 – 23, 2026, at the Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted in Youngstown. See pages 8 -10 for this information and the registration form.

This month's Food Pantry items will go to St. Francis de Sales.

Father Vit spoke to us about today's Gospel reading, emphasizing that Jesus was trying to teach his followers and the Pharisees about the afterlife, which was not a focus in the Jewish religion. Father provided four ways in which we can start our spiritual process: (1) contemplate beauty and peace; (2) reflect on what we see in the beauty and what we see in ourselves; (3) work on the shortcomings we see in ourselves; and (4) look for the opportunities that God creates in our lives to help us grow spiritually. He reminded us to practice martyrdom by developing a new attitude to help us make choices not by what we find pleasant, but rather by what is good for us (for example, we should start eating what is healthy for us, and not what just tastes good for us). Thank you, Father.

Father Vit also invited his friend Father Martin Davídek, who is visiting from the Czech Republic, to share a few thoughts about Catholics in the world.



Jerry Johnson, TOF, spoke about Article 29 - Renewal of Profession. He said that before following the Lord, we must set conditions like deep prayer and contemplation and focus on dying to ourselves so we become Christ-centered. Jerry reminded us that commitment to God must be at the center of our lives. God must come first, and He has to be the core of who we are. Like St. Francis, our relationship with Christ must rule our every thought and behavior. Thank you, Jerry.

We commemorated the following birthdays: John McGough, TOF, 4/1; Bill Marshall, TOF, 4/7; Andrea Ferraro, TOF, 4/13; Joe Zbasnik, TOF, 4/13; Betty DeMarco, TOF, 4/17; and Nettie Miller, TOF, 4/30.

We prayed for the following ill Fraternity members: Elizabeth Francis, TOF; Jennifer Kerns, TOF; Julia Tarulli, TOF; Larry and Lucy McNutt, TOF; Cindy Russo, TOF; Susan Kramer, TOF; Nettie Miller, TOF (she will have surgery on 4/22); and our friend Sandy Pollino, OFS.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the prayer intentions entered in our prayer journal, including:

The protection of our Fraternity and its members;

Our sick members mentioned above, along with Pope Leo XIV, our Bishops, Friars of the Immaculate Conception Province OFM, our Pastors, parish priests, and parishioners;

The members of our Confraternity of Priests;

The priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Moshi, especially Fr. Francis Tumaini and our diocesan seminarians;

For peace in the world, especially in the Middle East and for the safety of our Armed Forces;

For the protection of our Catholic priests and religious;

For the protection of all life;

For an increase in priestly vocations, TOF professed members, and for Catholic marriages;

And for the continued protection of Jakin Miller and all FOCUS volunteers.

We then closed our Gathering with Pope Leo XIV's prayer for the jubilee year, the Memorare, and the prayer to St. Michael.

Roberto led the Closing Prayers. Before the Closing Prayer, we also prayed Pope Leo XIV's Jubilee Year Prayer and The Memorare Prayer. Our next Gathering is Sunday, May 17.

Franciscan Wake Service Reminder – Submitted by Jim Miller, TOF



Welcome, My Sister Death! (11 Cel. 217)

As we immerse ourselves in our Franciscan life, we also have the privilege of also giving witness to this life and receiving the prayers of our Franciscan community at the time of our death. It is important to include this Wake service request in our end-of-life instructions so that your desires will be honored by your family. The burial Shroud and cord are available if desired (the present cost is \$85). We also keep a copy on file so that we can fulfill this desire. You can download the request from our website or you can request a form from via email. I also have copies available at the monthly gatherings. Jim Miller, TOF, jmillertof@outlook.com / Phone 330.353-0579

Save the Date!

May 1	St. Joseph the Worker
May 14	Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord
May 16	Annual TOF Community Pilgrimage – See Details Below
May 17	May Community Gathering (<i>Pilgrimage does not replace our May Gathering</i>)
May 24	Pentecost
August 16	August Gathering/Annual Picnic at Queen of Heaven Parish Pavilion (Green, OH)
August 21-23	Third Annual TOF Tridua Retreat – See Details on Pages 8 - 10

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026

OUR LADY OF LEBANON
2795 N. Lipkey Road, North Jackson, Ohio 44451



1:00 PM / **LUNCH**

\$20 (INCLUDES TIP)

PASTA, MEATBALLS, GREEN BEANS, POTATOES,
SALAD, ROLLS, DESSERT, COFFEE, WATER.

2:00 PM / **PRESENTATION**

BY CHORBISHOP ANTHONY SPINOSA

FOLLOWED BY AN OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT
THE CHAPEL, GIFT SHOP, AND WALK THE
BEAUTIFUL GROUNDS.

4:30 PM / **CONFESSION**

5:00 PM / **MASS**

IF NECESSARY: CONTACT KARA SERTICK, TOF
AT 330-501-7853

A FREE-WILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN
FOR THE CHORBISHOP AND THE SHRINE



If you have not paid in advance for lunch, please bring payment (\$20) with you. If You Require Transportation to the Pilgrimage, please contact: Therese Harper, TOF (for those near St. Nicholas), Rick Dunlap, TOF (for those in the N. Canton area), and Mary Dye, TOF (for those in the Akron/North area).

TRIDUA

Franciscan Tertiaries

OFM Province of the Immaculate Conception



What is a Tridua?

“As it is impossible for a great number of Tertiaries to be several days away from home or work, tridua, also known as public Tertiary retreats, have been introduced. On three successive days a sermon is preached in the morning and in the evening, or at least in the evening. During the day the members are to practice recollection and devote as much time to prayer as their condition allows. Special opportunities for confession are offered.” From: *Handbook of the Third Order Secular of St. Francis of Assisi*, p. 275.

As a simple Franciscan Tertiary retreat, most of the time in the Tridua is dedicated for individual prayer, recollection, spiritual reading and meditation. The object of the Tridua “is not only spiritual renewal in general but renewal in the spirit of St. Francis” *Handbook of the Third Order Secular of St. Francis of Assisi*, p. 276. Group activities are few and optional, and participation at these is left for the participant to discern. They are provided as an aid to keep your focus on God. The main talks for reflection will be provided by Fr. Vit Fiala, OFM. Attendees can stay at their homes or at facilities provided. Participants can attend one, two or the three days of the Tridua, as personal responsibilities allow.

Available During the Tridua:

- Daily Mass
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Confession
- Spiritual Direction
- Quiet areas for prayer and spiritual reading
- Station of the Cross for individual meditation
- Common areas for fellowship
- Simple meals

DATES:

August 21-23, 2026

Starts Friday at 5:00 pm with Opening Mass

Ends Sunday at 2:00 pm after lunch

PLACE:

Shrine of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted
Youngstown, OH

DONATION:

\$40

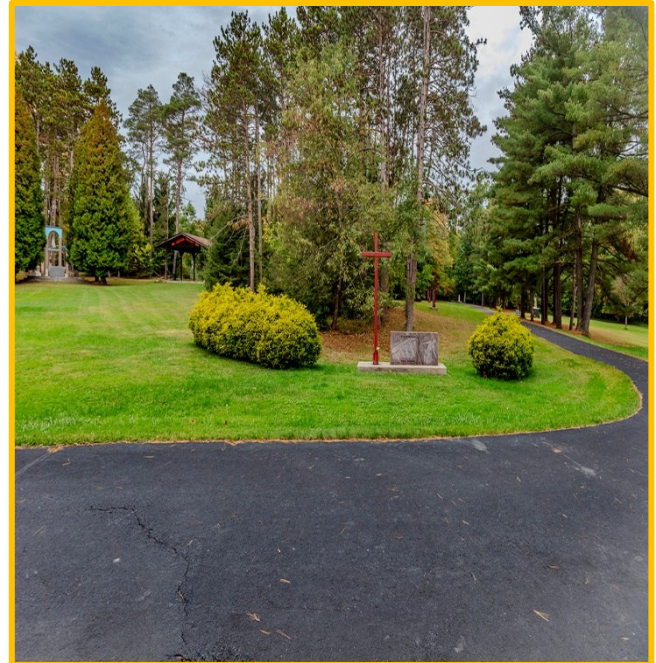
HOUSING:

- Camping at the Shrine's grounds
- House at the Shrine- there are just a few rooms available at this house, and bathrooms are shared. There are also steps in the house.
- Local Hotel: a retreat group discount is available at TownePlace/Springhill Suites by Marriott in Youngstown/Canfield for \$139/night plus tax. The rooms at TownePlace (not Springhill) have full kitchen. Please note that this special rate is only good for reservations made by Tuesday July 21, 2026. Please contact Pepe for the link to make a reservation.
- At your home or friend's house

REGISTRATION:

Registration deadline: July 20, 2026

Registration is available via Mat Posts or by completing the form on the next page.



REGISTER NOW

REGISTRATION FOR TRIDUA August 21-23, 2026

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: July 20, 2026

Name:

Address:

Email address:

Phone number:

Fraternity name (if applicable, or if Isolated Tertiary) - Please select:

- Professed member
- Attending Initial Formation, please specify:
 - Inquirer
 - Postulant
 - Novice

ATTENDANCE

I will be attending the following days (place an "X" inside parenthesis for all that apply):

- Friday
- Saturday
- Sunday

HOUSING INFORMATION

I will be staying at (place an "X" inside parenthesis that applies)

- at my home or friend's home
- I will make my own reservations at a local hotel
- I would like to stay at the house next to the Shrine. If a room is available, please let me know. I'm aware that steps are involved and that bathrooms are shared.
- I will camp on the Shrine's grounds and will bring my own camping gear.
- Other plans (please specify):

MEALS

Meals are included, but unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate special dietary restrictions. You are welcome to bring your own meals if necessary.

DONATION

Donation for the Retreat is \$40. Please make check payable to Jose Ventosa and write "Tridua Retreat" on the memo line. Please mail registration along with donation to Pepe Ventosa, TOF

Suggestions for Franciscan Dedicated Pilgrimage Site Visits During the Jubilee Year of St. Francis – Submitted by Eileen Dunlap, TOF

As TOFs, we should be excited to celebrate the Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi, and we can do this by helping to promote visits to the Franciscan designated pilgrimage sites located on the Jubilee Year passport from the Diocese of Cleveland! **Here are some ways we can do this:**



- We can ask our friends if they want to accompany us on a visit to a Franciscan Jubilee shrine
- We can obtain permission from our parish to organize a parish pilgrimage visit to a Franciscan site (and possibly invite our parish priest to attend)
- We can include information about the Jubilee Year Franciscan prayer and sites to visit in our church bulletin or as a handout
- We can speak with the various committee groups in our parish and encourage them to visit a Franciscan site as a group
- We can encourage a Homebound pilgrimage as described in the plenary indulgence information (see last page of the newsletter)

Prayer for the Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi by Pope Leo XIV



Saint Francis, our brother, you who eight hundred years ago went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace, intercede for us before the Lord. You recognized true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano. 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 raises up boundaries. In this time afflicted by conflict and division, intercede for us so that we may become peacemakers: unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ. Amen.

If you did not receive the physical copy of the passport and Franciscan designated pilgrimage sites for the Jubilee Year of St. Francis, please see the next six pages for the information.

What is a Pilgrimage?

A pilgrimage is a transformative journey to a sacred place reminding us that we are pilgrims on a journey that begins and ends with God. Pilgrimages are an opportunity for contemplation of one's life and for transformation.

What do I do on a pilgrimage?

The journey to and from the pilgrimage site is an occasion for communal prayer or devotional practices.

How can I gain an indulgence?

In observance of this Holy Year, the Church offers pilgrims the gift of indulgences as a chance to open themselves to the purity of heart and penitential spirit associated with this special year.

When visiting a Jubilee site, the usual conditions for receiving the Plenary Indulgence are:

- A spirit detached from sin
- Sacramental Confession (as soon as possible)
- Eucharistic Communion (as soon as possible)
- Prayer for the Holy Father's intentions

In addition, the faithful may participate in:

- Eucharistic Adoration and meditation at a Jubilee site
- Parish missions, spiritual exercises and formation activities on the Catechism and Vatican II documents
- Works of mercy, particularly visiting the sick, elderly homebound, and incarcerated
- Acts of penance such as fasting

Pilgrimage should conclude with the Our Father, the Creed and invocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Clare and all the Saints of the Franciscan Family.

dioceseofcleveland.org/francis

Year of St. Francis Jubilee Prayer

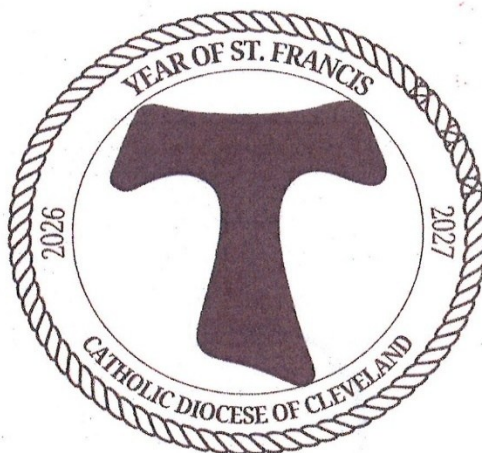
St. Francis, our brother, you who eight hundred years ago went to meet sister death like a pacified man, intercede for us with the Lord.

You recognized true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano, 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 afflicted by conflicts and divisions, intercede so that we may become peacemakers: unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ.
Amen

- Pope Leo XIV, 7 January 2026



THE JUBILEE YEAR OF
St. Francis

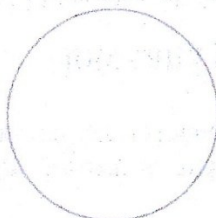


Catholic Diocese
of Cleveland

NAME: _____

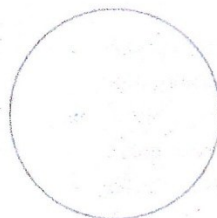
PILGRIMAGE SITES

Collect stamps from each of the jubilee sites you visit:



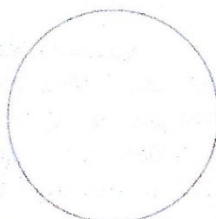
OUR LADY OF ANGELS
Cleveland

DATE: _____



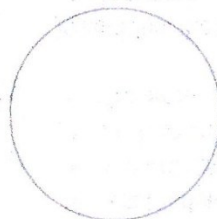
ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
Akron

DATE: _____



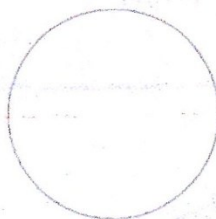
ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
Fairport Harbor

DATE: _____



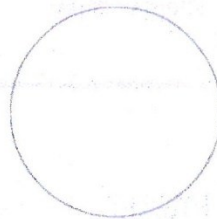
ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
Lorain

DATE: _____



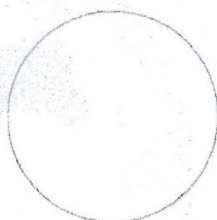
ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
Parma

DATE: _____



ST. CLARE CHURCH
Lyndhurst

DATE: _____



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
Gates Mills

DATE: _____



POOR CLARE MONASTERY
on Rocky River Drive, Cleveland

DATE: _____



POOR CLARE MONASTERY
at Conversion of St. Paul Shrine, Cleveland

DATE: _____

Cleveland Diocese

Our Lady of Angels Church

3644 Rocky River Dr.,
Cleveland, OH 44111 (216) 252-2332

St. Anthony of Padua Church

83 Mosser Place
Akron, OH 44310 (330) 762-7277

St. Anthony of Padua Church

316 Fifth St.
Fairport Harbor, OH 44077 (440) 354-4525

St. Anthony of Padua Church

1305 East Erie Ave.,
Lorain, OH 44052 (440) 288-0106

St. Anthony of Padua Church

6750 State Road,
Parma, OH 44134 (440) 842-2666

St. Clare Church

5659 Mayfield Rd.
Lyndhurst, OH 44124 (440) 461-0066

St. Francis of Assisi Church

6850 Mayfield Rd.,
Gates Mills, OH 44040 (440) 461-0066

Poor Clare Monastery (Conversion of St. Paul Shrine)

4120 Euclid Ave
Cleveland, OH 44103 (216) 431-8854

Church hours 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM This church has a Relic Oratory with MANY Franciscan +Saints
Weekday Mass: 12:00 PM Noon
Sunday Mass: 10:00 AM
Confessions: 11:15 AM (Mon - Sat)

Poor Clare Monastery

3501 Rocky River Dr,
Cleveland, OH 44111 (216) 941-2820

The Cleveland Diocese has wonderful information on the Jubilee year. Please go here for more info:
<https://www.dioceseofcleveland.org/year-of-saint-francis>



Youngstown Diocese

(Info from their website no passport available)

Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration of Sancta Clara Monastery

4200 N Market Ave. Canton, OH, 44714

Events:

August 10, Jubilee Mass and Picnic

Masses

Every day of the week at 9 AM

(no vigil mass on Saturday for Sunday)

Public Adoration Hours

Every day of the week

7:15 AM — 5:30 PM

Main Office Hours: 10 AM — 4 PM (M- F)

Phone: 330-492-1171

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Canton (2 churches, St Anthony & St Benedict)

Phone: (330) 452-9539

Events:

May 16 Virtual Tour of Assisi

June 20 Sippo Lake event

End of Sept, Novena

St. Anthony Church

1530 11th St. SE • Canton, OH 44707

Masses

Fridays • 8:30am

Saturday Vigil • 4:00pm • St. Anthony

Sunday • 11:00am • St. Anthony *(Spanish)*

Confessions

Saturday

3 :15pm-3:45pm • St. Anthony

Sunday

10:15am -10:45am • St. Anthony

St. Benedict Church

2207 Third St. SE • Canton, OH 44707

Masses

Tuesdays • 8:30am

Sunday • 8:00am • St. Benedict

Confessions

Sunday

7:15am-7:45am • St. Benedict

The Shrine of Our Lady, Comforter of the Afflicted

517 S Belle Vista Ave

Youngstown, OH 44509

Ph: (330) 799-1888

Events:

Oct. 3, 2026 Transitus

Masses

Sunday 7:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 12:00 PM

Weekdays Monday-Saturday 7:00AM & 12:00PM

Vigil Mass Saturday –

5:30 PM April to October

4:00 PM November to March

Holy Days of Christmas and Easter TBD.

Confession Monday – Saturday 11:00 – 11:55 AM; any other time by appointment..

Morning Hour Prayers

Monday – Friday 5:00 – 6:45 AM – Adoration

Monday – Sunday 7:45 – 9:00 AM – All Decades of the Rosary

Tuesday - 9:15 – 10:15 AM – Prayers for Ukraine

Wednesday -11:00 – 11:30 AM – Rosary Prayer Group

Thursday & Saturday 11:00 – 11:45 – Adoration

Toledo Diocese

(Passport available on their website)

Make a pilgrimage to the Franciscan Pilgrimage Sites in the Diocese of Toledo, as designated by Bishop Daniel Thomas. At each site, present your passport and receive a stamp to mark your journey. Collect all three stamps to commemorate your pilgrimage and celebrate the Franciscan spirit of prayer and service.

MOTHERHOUSE EUCHARISTIC CHAPEL

On the grounds of the Tiffin Franciscans
200 St. Francis Avenue, Tiffin, OH 44883
Chapel Open Wednesdays & Sundays
from 10:00am to 2:00pm with
Mass at 11:00am;
Grounds Open Every Day

PORTIUNCULA

On the Motherhouse grounds of the Sylvania Franciscans
620 Convent Blvd, Sylvania, OH 43560
Open Every Day from 8:00am to 5:00pm

The Basilica & National Shrine of
OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION
The Conventual Franciscan Friars
of the Province of Our Lady of Consolation
315 Clay St, Carey, OH 43316
Open 24/7

Diocese of Toledo

toledodiocese.org/francis.

passport :



Steubenville-The Portiuncula

(Information on their website)

The Portiuncula is **open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.**, except during the school year when perpetual adoration begins and it is open 24/7.

Steubenville website More info:



“Franciscan University is excited to serve as a pilgrimage destination during this jubilee year. We have designated three chapels on campus as jubilee pilgrimage sites where Catholics may come to receive this plenary indulgence: our historic Portiuncula Chapel, the recently renovated Christ the King Chapel, and the Sacred Heart Chapel in our Christ the Teacher academic building in Steubenville.

In addition to serving as a pilgrimage site, the University will hold a major academic event this fall. From **November 5–7, 2026**, Franciscan University will host the “Sister Death–Gate of Life” Conference, marking the anniversary of St. Francis’ death and entrance into eternal life. “*Welcome, my Sister Death!*”, the conference will explore Franciscan perspectives on death, the Christian understanding of the end of life, and the ongoing relevance of Franciscan spirituality across disciplines and vocations.

Franciscan University invites all the faithful to join in these Jubilee Year of St. Francis observances, to seek the abundant graces offered in this extraordinary time, and to be renewed in faith, hope, and love through the witness of St. Francis.

Plenary indulgences during the Jubilee Year of St. Francis (January 10, 2026 – January 10, 2027) offer a complete remission of the temporal punishment due to sin for those who meet the conditions. This is a special grace proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV via the Apostolic Penitentiary for the 800th anniversary of St. Francis's death. It applies to the faithful (and can be offered for souls in Purgatory) and is available at Franciscan-linked sites worldwide, including those in Ohio.⁷

Standard Conditions for a Plenary Indulgence (the “Usual Conditions”)

These must be fulfilled with a heart **completely detached from sin** (even venial sin)—this is essential:

1. **Sacramental Confession:** Go to Confession (to be in a state of grace). This can be within about 8–20 days before or after the pilgrimage visit (practices vary slightly by source; aim for close timing).
2. **Eucharistic Communion:** Receive Holy Communion, ideally on the same day as the pilgrimage or visit (during or after Mass is recommended).
3. **Prayer for the Pope's Intentions:** Pray for the intentions of the Holy Father (Pope Leo XIV). Commonly, this includes an *Our Father* and a *Hail Mary*, but any devout prayer suffices.

Note: One Confession can cover multiple indulgences, but Communion and prayers for the Pope are typically needed per indulgence. You can gain only one plenary indulgence per day.⁶

Specific Requirements for the St. Francis Jubilee Indulgence

In addition to the usual conditions:

- Make a **pilgrimage** (a devout visit with intention) to any **Franciscan conventual church**, or a place of worship dedicated to St. Francis (or connected to him, such as those served by Franciscans—OFM, Capuchins, Conventuals, Poor Clares, etc., or named after St. Francis, St. Clare, St. Anthony, etc.).
- There, spend a **reasonable period in pious meditation and prayer**, focusing on St. Francis's example of love for Christ, charity toward neighbors, and peace. Or participate devoutly in Jubilee rites/celebrations.
- Conclude with:
 - The **Our Father**
 - The **Creed** (Nicene or Apostles')
 - Invocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary, **St. Francis of Assisi**, **St. Clare**, and all saints of the Franciscan Family (e.g., “St. Francis of Assisi, pray for us,” etc.)

This can be done at the Ohio sites mentioned previously (e.g., St. Francis of Assisi Church in Gates Mills, Basilica of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, Portiuncula Chapels at Franciscan University of Steubenville, etc.).¹

Special Provisions for the Homebound, Sick, Elderly, or Caregivers

If you cannot physically visit due to serious reasons, you can still obtain the plenary indulgence by:

- Spiritually uniting with the Jubilee celebrations (e.g., through prayer, Mass via media, or Franciscan devotions).
- Offering your prayers, sufferings, or daily difficulties to God.
- Fulfilling the usual conditions (Confession, Communion, prayers for the Pope) as soon as possible, while remaining detached from sin.²

Additional Notes

- The indulgence is **applicable to yourself or for the deceased** (as suffrage for souls in Purgatory).
- Many dioceses and Franciscan sites provide “passports,” guides, or suggested prayers. Check local parish or diocesan websites (Cleveland, Toledo, Steubenville) for events, Mass times, and Confession schedules.
- Focus on the spiritual fruits: deeper conversion, charity, and peace, following St. Francis's example—not treating it as a “spiritual shortcut.”

For the most authoritative text, refer to the Apostolic Penitentiary's decree. Contact a priest or your local diocese for personalized guidance, as practices can have slight pastoral variations. This Jubilee is a beautiful opportunity for renewal—safe and blessed pilgrimages!