



St. Padre Pio Press

January, 2025

January Meeting

Our January meeting will be held at St. Christopher Catholic Church in room 6 on Sunday, January 12th at 11:30 AM. We will celebrate Epiphany with our Epiphany Party. Janet Serros will take care of the Epiphany Bookmarks. Jim Harr will speak on Franciscan Prayer, and Jeanne Joslin will continue with her lesson on purgatory. Please attend.

Short History of the Epiphany “Party”

The Epiphany Party is not really a party as we would think of it. It celebrates the arrival of the Three Kings and the end of the Christmas season. Originally, it was introduced to us by the Conventual friars who were in our area. It began with the singing of We Three Kings. The king wore a crown. Everyone gets a Bible verse to guide them throughout the year, a Franciscan saint to watch over them through the year, a deceased Franciscan to pray for throughout the year, and a prayer partner. You pray for the needs of your partner throughout the year. You may let them know who you are or you may choose to pray privately. Meditate on your verse. Learn about your saint. If you need to know about the deceased Franciscan, please ask. We will be happy to share our memories.

Upcoming Events

- January 12th Epiphany Party
- January 18th Profession at Our Lady of the Assumption, Claremont, 12:00 Noon-Please attend
- March 9th Daylight Saving Time/meeting
- April 13th Palm Sunday/April Meeting
- May 4th Meeting change due to Mother’s Day-First Sunday

Letters to My Brothers and Sisters



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy New Year 2025! Boy, do I remember the year 2000 and Y2K. Can you remember the panic businesses were so worried about? The changing from the 1900s to the 2000s worried people. Well, 2000 was also a year for the Church; a great jubilee year. Every 25 years is a Jubilee year. So this year is another year of Jubilee! Why is the Jubilee year so important? It is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation where Catholics are encouraged to deepen their faith through pilgrimage, repentance, and receiving sacraments. It is a time to renew their relationship with God and others. It is an opportunity to receive a plenary indulgence (full forgiveness of sins) under certain conditions (look up plenary indulgence for more specifics).

This Jubilee year starts on December 24, 2024 and continues through January 6, 2026. The theme of the Jubilee is “Pilgrims of Hope”. I believe the following reflections speaks to this year of Jubilee.

Renouncing the World

St. Clare of Assisi states, “Do not let the false delights of the world deceive you.”

Reflection: The world was created to be good, but because of sin it has become ambiguous. Things that should lead us to God can easily mislead us when we use them guided by our passions.

We have to learn to say, “No!” to certain things so that we can always say, “Yes!” to God and His love.

Prayer: Only You, O Lord, only You!
Only a few words more: Let us make good use of this wonderful gift of the Jubilee Year!
Happy Jubilee Year 2025!

Your Sister in Francis and Jesus!

Denise

Ongoing Formation
Franciscan Prayer

Presenter Jim Harr

There is not a “how to” book for contemplation. When in contemplation, we see and love what we see. In Article 8 of the Rule, it says, “Let prayer and contemplation be the soul of all they do.” Francis and Clare focused on Christ. When reading the Gospel, we see the way to live. When we gaze at Christ on the cross, we see the sacrifice He made to ensure our salvation. Having seen Him on the cross, we contemplate His sacrifice and His acceptance of God’s will. We love Him for what he did and how his life showed us the way. We may wonder if we can sacrifice for the Lord. This may lead us to consider how we may sacrifice for the Lord, and if we can accept His will. We are still and listen for God’s wisdom and guidance. We open ourselves to whatever God’s plan for us is. The way may not be easy, but we accept His will. From there, we imitate the life of Christ. We bring the way of the Lord to the world. We realize that we are not here to struggle by ourselves. Only God can save the world. We can live as Jesus taught us by loving, not judging, being gentle, and forgiving. We know that we need His help in all that we do. Daily, we spend time with him, just enjoying being in His presence.

The Franciscan’s Climb to God

Henrique Golland Trindade

Conall O’Leary

In chapter XI, Daily Mortification, we begin to oblige our thoughts to fix on one point only and not to wander or fix on things of the world. We avoid all thoughts against charity, purity, and truth. We begin to kindle the fire of divine love. We practice mortification of the tongue by making our speech “prudent, humble, chaste, charitable, sincere, and respectful.” As we do this, our victories will fill the soul with joy and give it more energy to continue its journey to the peak of Alvernia.

We also need to practice mortification of the eyes, ears, and the palate. We do not seek easy living. We give up the love of our vanities, ostentation, opinions, curiosity, and dissipation. We are careful of what we read or see on television or the computer. We are careful to use our time in a way that glorifies the Lord. Eventually, we overcome our worldly likes and desires.

We are challenged to practice this ordinary mortification for one month. St. Francis and the saints have shown us that it is possible. As we do this we light the fire of divine love that will permit us to ascend to the heights.

In chapter XII, Avoiding Falls, we learn that if we try to climb Alvernia on a whim or because we fancy the experience, we are headed for a fall. We must let faith direct our climb to the peak of Mt. Alvernia. True faith teaches us prudence, caution, humility, and confidence in God. To extend the metaphor, imagine physically climbing a mountain. You would be cautious about where you placed your feet. You would be alert to where you were going. You would be aware that you were but a small part of nature, and you would trust in God that you would follow the right path. Humility is our safeguard. It rejects the ostentation and hypocrisy of the world, and allows us to go our own way and to mind our own business. We come to know the peace of God. Other’s opinions do not matter. We live in the light of truth.

Humility beatifies every soul. It is especially befitting to the Franciscan. It is the essence of the Franciscan way of life. Humility blocks the fall and makes our ascent possible.





Saints' Corner



St. Angela of Foligno

Many saints show marks of holiness at an early age. This was not true of Angela. She was born into a prominent family in Foligno, Italy in 1248 and grew to become immersed in a quest for wealth and social position. She continued her "life of distraction" even after she became a wife and mother.

Near the age of 40, she became aware of the emptiness of her life and asked for God's help in the Sacrament of Penance. Her Franciscan confessor helped her to seek God's pardon for the way she had lived and to dedicate herself to prayer and works of charity.

Soon after her conversion, she lost her husband and her children to death. She sold most of her possessions, and entered the Secular Franciscan Order. She alternated between meditating on the crucified Christ and by serving the poor of Foligno as a nurse and as a beggar for their needs. A religious community grew as other women joined her.

On the advice of her confessor, she wrote a book called *Book of Visions and Instructions*. She recalled some of the temptations she suffered after her conversion. She also spoke of her thankfulness to God for the Incarnation of Jesus. Because of this book, she earned the title of "Teacher of Theologians." She was beatified in 1693 and canonized in 2013. Her feast day is celebrated on January 7th.

Reflection

As Angela followed the path of the world and tried to accumulate money, fame, and power in order to increase her sense of self-worth,

she became more self-centered. When she realized that she was priceless because God had created her and loved her, she became penitential and charitable to the poor. Things she used to see as foolish, now became important. The path of self-emptying she followed is followed by all holy men and women.

January Calendar of Saints

- 3 Holy Name of Jesus
- 7 St. Angela of Foligno
- 12 Bl. Bernard of Corleone
- 14 Bl. Odoric of Pordenone
- 16 St. Berard, priest and companions, protomartyrs
- 30 St. Hyacinth of Mariscotti

January Birthdays



None

January Anniversaries of Profession



- 1/3/04 Germaine Thompson
- 1/18/20 Katy Nelson

2025 Jubilee of Hope



"If God can visit us, even when our hearts seem like a lowly manger, we can truly say: 'Hope is not dead; hope is alive and it embraces our lives forever!'" Pope Francis, on opening of the Holy Door. Source: Vatican News, by Deborah Castellano Lubov

Please Pray



Rest of Soul

Joanne Kmiecziak

Those Who Mourn

The Leslie and Kmiecziak families

Health and Healing

Julie Bash

Joe Leslie

Jeffery Kmiecziak-Hospice

Barbara Turkowski-home hospice

Tom Turkowski

Don Stanley

Fr. Ray Tintle

Victor Cisneros

Maria Torres

Mary Pluegar

Susan Solomua

Charlie Hale

Janis Morris

Dora Sheppard

Kathryn Grosz

Lisa Hernandez

Julie O'Connor

Lilia Guzman

Lily Aldaz

Caretakers

Barbara Jr. and family

Melissa Torres

All who care for the ill and dying

Peace of Spirit

Cecily Frank

Jordan Frank

Other Intentions

Peace in the world

End of abortion

Those who suffer from natural disasters and fire

Those who are hungry and/or homeless

In thanks for all blessings great and small

In thanks for Jesus, for His sacrifices, and for our salvation

Wisdom of the Aging

Today it seems sometimes that the world is a dark and frightening place. Many have given up on hope for a brighter future. Older people have seen so much and we know that this too shall pass. God has sent us the Holy Spirit to fill us with faith and hope in our future.

Sometimes we need to live through the bad times to learn to cherish the good. We need to know that each part of life is necessary and is part of God's plan. We do have free will.

Sometimes we do not choose well. We become confused. There is always hope.

A Poem on Hope by Hope C. Oberhelman

HOPE is reaching out for God
And knowing He is there;
Hope is searching for release,
And finding it through prayer.

HOPE is happiness and joy,
And rainbows in the sky—
Hope is feeling God is near
When you begin to cry...

HOPE is looking for a dream
That someday will come true;
Hope is waiting on the Lord
When your days are sad and blue...

HOPE is wishing for a star
That will bring you peace and light
Hope is striving for God's love
To uphold you day and night!