



# Christmas 2016



*To our dear families and friends,*

*As we celebrate this Advent/Christmas season, we wish you much peace and joy. We hope and pray that this past year has been filled with many graces and blessings for you as it has been for all of us.*

*On August 20, 2016 we had the joy of celebrating Sr. Mary Pia's Silver Jubilee. The weather was perfect and her friends came from far and near.....Canada, California, Michigan, Chicago.....to celebrate with us. Sisters Kathy Ann Horvat, OSC and Kathy DeLancey, OSC from our monastery in Travelers' Rest, SC were also able to be with us. It was obvious that Sr. Pia has touched many hearts with her quiet, gentle spirit.*



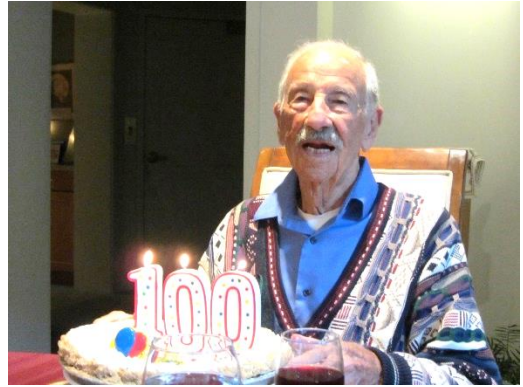
*Soon after Sr. Pia's jubilee, we had our annual preached retreat on "The Five Priorities of the Franciscan Family". Fr. Gilberto Cavazos- Gonzalez, OFM from Sacred Heart Province guided us with his input and our evening reflections together. It was such a rich experience that we have invited Fr. Gilberto back next July to do a workshop on The Spirituality of the Enneagram. He is "home" during the summer, but spends the rest of the year teaching at The Antonianum in Rome.*



*One of our greatest blessings of this past year was being an official Diocesan Pilgrimage Site for the Year of Mercy. As the year was drawing to a close, many more people came to go through our Holy Door and pray in our Chapel. When we had the Mass for the official Closing of the Year of Mercy on November 13<sup>th</sup>, our chapel was filled to overflowing with old friends and new, young families who had never been here before. Happily, we had to keep going out to bring in more chairs, like it was Christmas already! We felt truly blessed throughout this year to be able to share our liturgies and our life of prayer with so many new friends.*

*Sadly, this was also a year of loss for us in the passing of some dear family and friends. Sister Mary Pia's father went home to God in January and thankfully, she was able to be with him in his final days. Sister Doris also lost her nephew-in-law, Ken Schuchter, who was the founder of Valley Vineyards. For years Kenny generously provided our Mass wine for us. We miss Ron Auer who used to come to Mass quite frequently with his wife, Pat. He had a beautiful voice which enriched our choir, especially when he sang the Ave Maria for us. Barbara Sonnenberg, one of our Secular Franciscans, died on the evening before the Feast of St. Francis. Truly St. Francis was waiting for her after her many years of Franciscan life. Last, but definitely not the least, this was the first*

*Feast of St. Clare that Bob Hartlaub was not physically with us. We met Bob at St Vivian's parish festival the very first night we moved into St. Vivian's convent on June 24, 1990.....we didn't have any food in the house! On August 11, 2015, the Feast of St. Clare, Bob and his loving daughter, Julie, celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with us. We felt an emptiness this year without him, but know that he and all our dear ones are rejoicing with the Lord and interceding for us.*



*As we bring this letter to a close, we want to thank you for your goodness to us throughout this past year. Your friendship and your generosity sustain us in so many ways. Be sure that you and your loved ones are ever in our hearts and in our prayers. We count on your prayers for us also. As "we wait in joyful hope" for the coming of Jesus again into our hearts, we pray that you will be filled with every blessing of His love and peace this Christmas and throughout the New Year!*

*Your Cincinnati Poor Clares,*

*Ann, Anna Marie, Dianne, Doris, Luisa, Pia, Rita, and Vickie*



Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Gift in Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift in Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Occasion: \_\_\_\_\_

(Memorial, Anniversary, Birthday, Baptism, Confirmation, etc.)

E-mail: [poorclareprayers@gmail.com](mailto:poorclareprayers@gmail.com)

Website: [www.poorclarescincinnati.org](http://www.poorclarescincinnati.org)

I/we support the Cincinnati Poor Clares in their ministries or prayer and evangelization.

I/we join you in prayer and/or enclose this tax exempt gift.

Please send a card announcing this honoray gift without mentioning the amount to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check the box and send back to us if you do not wish to receive our newsletter.**

Please discontinue sending me the newsletter.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_