



Dear brothers and sisters!

May is devoted to Mary. "She was embraced by Francis with indescribable love and declared the protectress and advocate of his family. The Secular Franciscans should express their ardent love for her by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently" (OFS Rule 9). Let us entrust ourselves, our families and fraternities, our entire Order, our Church, and the whole world to the intercession of the Virgin Mary. May She guide us as She did for St. Francis!

We hereby remind you that the Secretariat for Communications is publishing a monthly electronic newsletter distributed via email. It features news and updates from CIOFS. Members of the Franciscan Family are invited to subscribe by clicking on [this link](#). We recommend that OFS national fraternities create an official email address. In this way, National Councils will always receive our e-newsletter regardless of the change of their composition every three years. Please notify us of your official email by contacting us at communications@ciofs.org.

*With fraternal wishes of peace and good,
CIOFS Secretariat for Communications*

PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MAY

The Pope's monthly intention: For working conditions

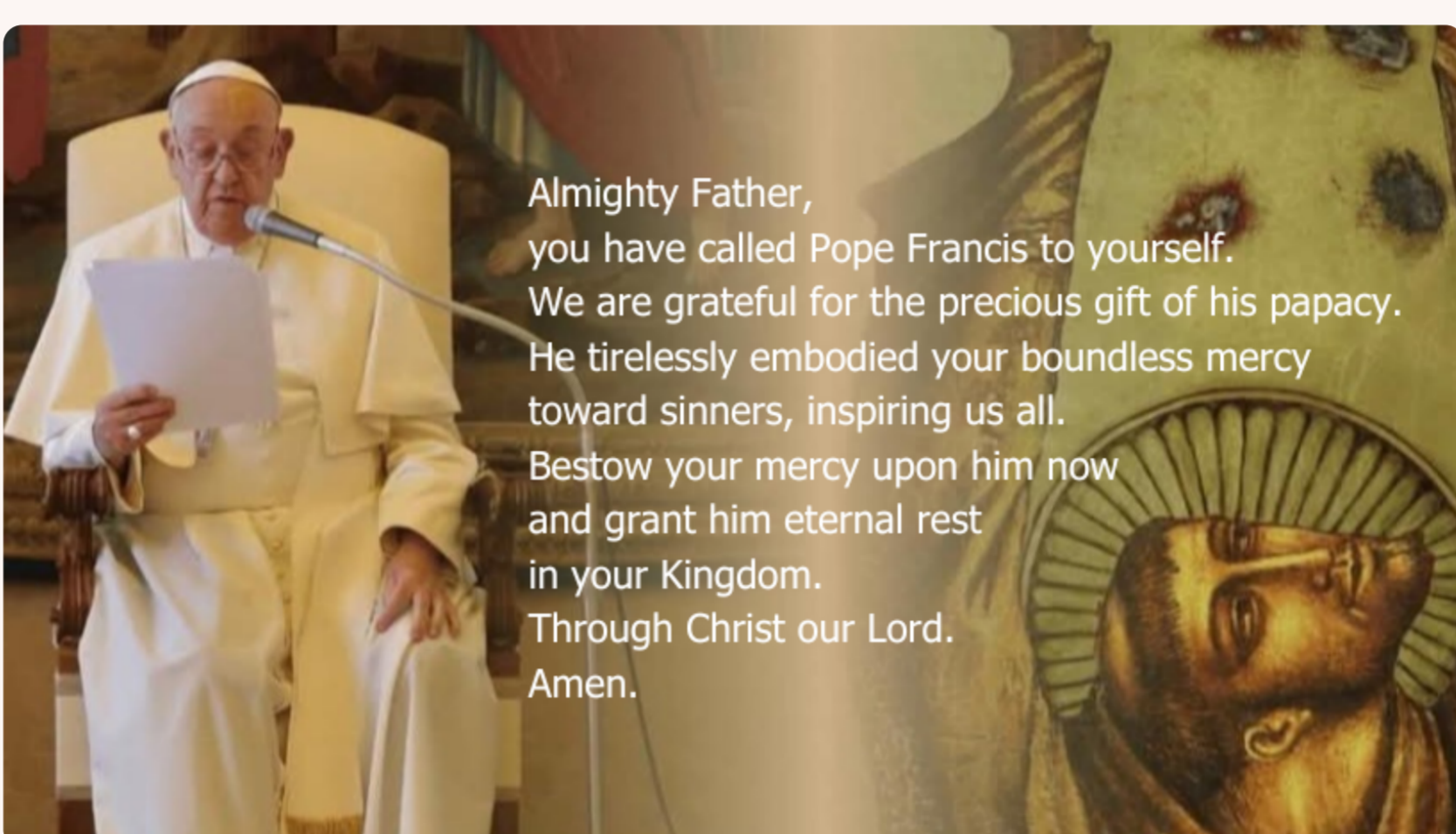
Let us pray that through work every person may be fulfilled, families may be maintained with dignity and society may become more human.

OFS:

For the national fraternities of Romania, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, El Salvador. *Our Father...*

Vocational promotion:

For the development of the culture of vocations in our fraternities.



Almighty Father,
you have called Pope Francis to yourself.
We are grateful for the precious gift of his papacy.
He tirelessly embodied your boundless mercy toward sinners, inspiring us all.
Bestow your mercy upon him now and grant him eternal rest in your Kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us pray this month, with the intercession of Our Lady, the Virgin Mary, for those entrusted with the mission of electing the new Pontiff of the Catholic Church. May they be guided and enlightened by the Holy Spirit to elect a holy Pastor of Our Church. Let us pray for all the graces for the new Pope.

Official Prayer for Election of a New Pope:

*O God, Eternal Shepherd,
Who govern Your flock with unflinching care,
Grant in Your boundless fatherly love
a pastor for Your Church
who will please You by His holiness
and to us show watchful care.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

SAINT AND BLESSED SECULAR FRANCISCANS



**Venerable Servants of God
Sergio and Dominica Bernardini
May 5th**

An Italian married couple of Secular Franciscans who raised 10 children have been recognised as venerable by Pope Francis. The Bernardinis are the third married couple in the history of the Church to receive this title.

[Read more](#)

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Secretariat of Formation of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin offers the **free online course of formation**. The course is devoted to a comprehensive consideration of the Canticle of Creatures. Classes are held several hours a month (on Saturdays). The language of the course is Italian. The program for May: *Christ in the Canticle of the Creatures. A song as a subtle Creed* (speaker – Fr. Niklaus Kuster OFMCap) – May 17th, at 14:45 Rome time.

[To join, please follow the link](#)



The CIOFS Presidency has approved the establishment of the **International day of Secular Franciscan Solidarity**. The Day will be held at all levels on November 17 of each year, the Feast of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary. This Day has been established to meet those in various difficulties inside and around our fraternities present in various parts of the world. "The main goal is to help in any form, to bring hope with concrete actions" (OFS General Minister Tibor Kauser).

[Read more](#)



From April 30 till May 4, 2025, the **XIIth Latin America Congress and IInd American Congress** is held in Colombia. The motto of the Congress is: "We are brothers and sisters in the heart of Mother Earth". We invite you to follow the congress updates on our official social media.

CIOFS WEBSITE UPDATES



Franciscan general ministers remember Pope Francis

[Read more](#)



How to celebrate 8th centenary (Canticle of Brother Sun)

[Read more](#)



Trials and sufferings of families: Stigmata and Passover

[Read more](#)



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