



Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity

Secular Franciscan Order

December 2014

Volume 1, Issue 3

NAFRA Theme for 2015: "Be the joyful face of Christ to all."

Inside this issue:

- Queen of All Saints 25th Anniversary 2
- A Message from VM 3
- "Happy Hour" in Assisi 3
- A Message from Sr. Agnes Marie, OSF 4
- News and Views from Around the Region 5
- Holy Family Fraternity 6
- Franciscan Enrichment 7
- Regional Calendar 8

Our Regional Prayer — a Gift from St. Francis

Holy Virgin Mary, among all women born into the world, there is none like you. Daughter and Handmaid of the Most High, sovereign King, the heavenly Father, Mother of our most holy Lord Jesus Christ, Spouse of the Holy Spirit.

Pray for us with St. Michael the archangel and with all the powers of the heavens and with all the saints together with your most holy beloved Son, Lord and teacher.

A Message from our Regional Minister: Kathleen White, OFS



Fraternity Councils

Let's talk about fraternity councils. We reference the General Constitutions, Articles 49-51. Realizing that each fraternity is unique, and thusly each council is then also unique, we acknowledge that our council is not like another fraternity's council. Nor is our council modeled after a corporate board of directors or a civic organization strictly following *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Let's think more along the line of Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:14-26. The hand. The foot. The ear. The eye. All parts making up the whole body; all needed, all necessary, all honored.

Ongoing formation for the council and the fraternity is foremost, of course. But should the program be a yearlong study or would, perhaps, a three month topical study be better suited to their needs? Is

audio-visual equipment needed/available, and does someone know how to operate the equipment? Are our members being fed by formation, or simply nibbling on a portion of a topic or theme?

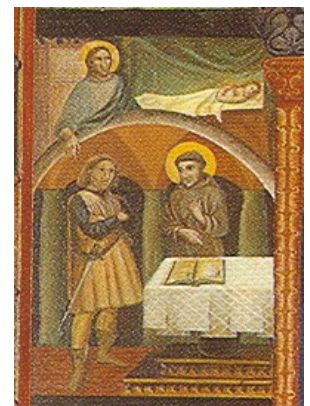
Look at your fraternity's strengths and needs. Building on strengths and fulfilling needs should always be done with charity and for the good of all. Care of the fraternity begins with care of the council. Is someone struggling with fulfilling their council responsibilities? How can we help them?

As with the fraternity, does the council gathering have the elements that make up our gatherings: prayer, formation, fellowship, business? Are we jumping into the business aspect before we take the time to pray, to share our faith and reflect on the Scripture, to be comforted by a beverage and perhaps a light snack? *Con't on page 2*

What We Have Promised to Live . . .

The rule and life of the Secular Franciscans is this: to observe the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by following the example of St. Francis of Assisi, who made Christ the inspiration and the center of his life with God and people. Christ, the gift of the Father's love, is the way to

him, the truth into which the Holy Spirit leads us, and the life which he has come to give abundantly. Secular Franciscans should devote themselves especially to careful reading of the gospel, going from gospel to life and life to the gospel. (RULE, ¶14).



Con't from page 1.

Are the council members discussing ways to reach out to excused and lapsed members? Are all members of the fraternity kept up to date regarding the prayer needs of its members? Do shut in members of the fraternity receive cards, phone calls, and visits (with Eucharist?) from a council member or another member of the fraternity?

Are council members aware of the responsibility to attend Regional Fraternity gatherings? The Minister or

Vice Minister (by right), or another elected member of the local council is called to attend Chapter of Mats, and the Formation Director and team members are called to attend the annual Formation Workshops. Is a request made to the Regional Executive Council for a triennial pastoral and fraternal visitation, and a presider for the triennial fraternity election?

In Indiana we have the advantage of being close geographically. Fraternity councils could easily plan a combined Day of Reflection, mini-pilgrimage, or a summer picnic. Where two or more are gathered, He is in

their midst. Two or more fraternities that are close geographically can plan activities, and councils can gather to study essential documents, talk over responsibilities of their respective offices, or any number of programs.

O Lord, you have called us to serve the Secular Franciscan Fraternity as its leaders. Through our good example, wise decisions, and courageous action may we faithfully animate and guide our fraternity in observing the gospel in the spirit of St. Francis. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Ritual, pg. 39) Do we as council mem-

bers give good exaple? How do we know that our decisions are wise? And in what ways do we exercise courage? Again, topics for discussion, formation, and growth.

Peace and all good,

Kathleen



Queen of All Saints Fraternity, Logansport, recently celebrated its 25th anniversary of canonical establishment.

Pictured from left to right: Eldona Fox OFS, Kathleen White OFS, Kathy Engle OFS, Dave White OFS, Don Fox OFS and Mike Wolfe OFS. Not pictured: Maxine Bahnaman OFS, Mary Kubsch OFS, Theresa Kuhn OFS, and Bill Murphy, OFS.

CONGRATULATIONS DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS

“At last, the site of the manger was consecrated as a temple to the Lord. In honor of the most blessed father Francis, an altar was constructed over the manger, and a church was dedicated.



“This was done
so that where animals once ate the fodder of the hay,
there humans henceforth
for healing of body and soul
would eat the flesh
of the immaculate and spotless lamb,
our Lord Jesus Christ,
who gave *Himself* for us
with supreme and indescribable love . . . “

(FA:ED, Vol. 1, p. 257)

Thoughts from our Regional Vice-Minister, Dave Dieringer, OFS



RETREAT

This past Thanksgiving weekend, I went on retreat. Again! This happened to be my second retreat in as many months. Someone inquired, “Jeepers! How many times do you go on retreat each year? I am envious.” I replied, “As many as I need!”

I was then asked, “How do you make that work?” I replied, “I just do it!”

Mark 6:31

“Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.”

As I thought of that conversation, I considered how many retreats I HAVE gone on this year. There was the week when my wife went to visit her sisters in Baltimore and I went on retreat.

Then, there was the couple of days I

went on retreat while she spent a couple of days helping our daughter.

And of course, the two times I went away to a retreat house for the weekend. But then, I realized I had escaped many times during the course of the year. An evening here, a Saturday and/or Sunday there. Whenever I needed it! Sometimes, I never left the house or the back yard. I even put up a tent once!

A few months ago, a line of the Gloria during Mass dropped me to my knees. I’ve been stewing over that line ever since. A retreat experience? I think so! It has changed me and I continue to share that experience with others.

Sometimes, people share with me that they don’t have time to go on retreats or reflection days. I share

with them, “How can you NOT have the time for them?” I have seen you make time for bowling, sightseeing, or the casino. MAKE TIME to examine where you are on your journey. MAKE TIME for a week (longer if needed), weekend, day, or evening learning how much God loves you. MAKE TIME to grow in your relationship with your God!

May all your experiences be retreat experiences!

Your servant,

David J. Dieringer, O.F.S



“I wish to . . . see as much as is possible with my own bodily eyes the discomfort of his infant needs, how he lay in a manger, and how, with an ox and an ass standing by, he rested on hay (FA:ED, Vol. 1, p. 54)



After a day of visiting the sacred sites in Assisi, weary pilgrims enjoy a “Happy Hour’ on the front patio of Hotel Windsor Savoia before praying Evening Prayer of the Passion by St. Francis. It appears that they’re bouncing back very well!



Regional Spiritual Assistant: Sr. Agnes Marie, OSF

"Welcome to Rome: a Beggar, a Leper, or Jesus?"

He was the first to greet us as we stepped off the bus from Fiumicino International Airport and arrived at St. Paul Outside the Walls, but he was far from the last. Everything in our hearts cried out "Do something to help him. Do anything!" However, that kind and generous gesture would come later before leaving Assisi when the "passing of a hat" yielded a generous donation left with the friars at the Basilica of St. Francis for their outreach to those in need. It's always difficult at a time like this in Rome to distinguish between the legitimate needy ones, and the ruthless, professional thieves seeking an opportunity to relieve you of your wallet, camera, and other belongings.

It begs the question: why should one of the oldest, most prominent, significant and beautiful cities of the world have countless men, women, and children without homes, food, and work wandering its streets day after day begging from everyone they meet. The answer is, of course, more complex than one could treat in this brief reflection.

But inside my pretty-little-head, I'm wondering if Mr. R ("Roman" or is that "leper"?) ever gets a warm bath and a bed softer than concrete on which to

sleep, a satisfying meal, or the companionship of other caring men and women?

Pope Francis's mandate to provide showers at St. Peter's Basilica is surely one step in the direction of the "warm bath" issue, and other citizens of Rome also step forward day after day with soup kitchens and clothing to a degree we cannot imagine. Though we cannot provide coins in their outstretched hands, we can include these "poorest of the poor" in our thoughts and prayers as well as remembering those generous persons who provide whatever they can to meet their needs.

Jeff's picture is an excellent reminder of all the men, women, and children throughout the world who suffer the indignity of poverty every day of their lives while we, in most Western nations, are overfed, over-luxuriated, over-saturated with every possible item and form—both needed and unneeded as well as totally superfluous. The mad commercial Christmas rush in which we presently find ourselves is a good reminder to stop frequently to treasure deeply those persons and values which exceed anything we can wrap in a

package with sparkly tinsel and bows.

And inside my pretty-little-head, I'm still wondering if Mr. L ("leper" or is that "Roman"?) is still pacing back and forth in front of St. Paul Outside the Walls wearing only his tattered tunic with an outstretched hand to meet and greet every tourist bus that comes his way?

Right now, a line from Tevye's song and dance on the rooftops in "Fiddler on the Roof" echoes through my head, "If I were a rich man..." I'm not, but I still need to ask myself the question: "What will I do for others less fortunate than I during this Advent / Christmas Season?" It may not be a gift of money, but giving of oneself and one's time is also precious in God's sight as well as the sight of whoever receives the gifts that each of us was created by God to give and to be.

Little wonder that St. Francis could fall into an ecstasy of love when he thought about the Incarnation: God did not shop for expensive gifts at Macy's, nor surf the world-wide-web for bargains, nor sit and sleep outside retailers for days on end



Photo by Jeff Shafier, OFS, Pilgrim, Assisi 2014

to find the perfect gift. He gave the best gift of all — HIMSELF! And He wrapped that gift in the humble form of a child in the manger because He wanted to be one of us and to be with us. Just think of it: the Almighty Lord of the Universe gifted us poor, raggedy human pilgrim-beggars with Himself and the promise of eternal life in Heaven. What a deal!

I wish each and every one of you, my dear Franciscan sisters and brothers, a joy-filled, blessings-filled, Jesus-filled Feast of the Incarnation. May He be your very best and favorite Gift!



News and Views from Around Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity . . .

OUR LADY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT FRATERNITY in Indianapolis celebrated a Welcoming Ceremony for OFS Inquirers: At the Sept 6th gathering OLBS professed members read from the "Ritual of the Secular Franciscan Order" book expressing the Fraternity's hospitality and cordiality toward new inquirers. OLBS fraternity welcomes Mary, Debra, Carol, Theresa, and Mark with our prayers & support.

We are blest with five interested persons in their formation program who are being directed by Patricia Marchino, OFS.

We are very pleased that Sr. Veronica Lopez joined the gatherings of OLBS Fraternity (9-22-2014).

ST. BONIFACE FRATERNITY in Lafayette enjoyed an outing to visit the Shrine of the Passion in St. John, IN, on Sunday, October 26 (9-17-2014). They also celebrated two significant Profession anniversaries in the last two months: (1) Joe Wippel, OFS, (26 years), and (2) Mary Stewart, OFS, (23 Years). Congratulations to both of you and may you be blest with many more.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FRATERNITY in Mishawaka joyfully celebrated the Permanent Profession of the Gospel Life of Mary Ann Pajot, OFS, Lillian Leap, OFS, and Julie Jarvis, OFS, on November 15 in the chapel of St. Francis Convent in Mishawaka (11-24-2014).

HOLY FAMILY FRATERNITY in Fort Wayne had a twofold celebration on the evening of November 15. At the 5:00 p.m. Mass in St. Therese Church, they celebrated their 50th Anniversary of Founding as a fraternity, and afterwards, celebrated the Rite of Admission to Candidacy of seven wonderful men and women. A joyous evening of sharing and celebrating followed at the home of one of the fraternity members (11-24-2014).

SACRED HEART FRATERNITY in Indianapolis is deep into their annual "Bird Seed Project". St. Francis wanted all of creation to celebrate the birth of Jesus and wanted extra grain scattered for the birds to eat. Sacred Heart members will continue their custom of distributing these lovely seed packets at the various parishes to which their members belong.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES FRATERNITY in Cedar Lake has some powerful anniversaries among their members during November: Laura Kadelak, OFS, 49 years, Jim Donner, OFS, and Mary Ann Mesche, OFS, 41 years, Joan Hamnik, OFS, 40 years, Carole Donner, OFS, 39 years, Judy Doolin, OFS, 38 years, Mary Mahoney, OFS, 18 years, and Kathy Domingues, OFS, 10 years. Congratulations to all!

ST. CHARLES FRATERNITY in Fort Wayne is rejoicing with Delores Mungovan, OFS, (37 years) Jerry Welch, OFS, (49 years) and

ST. ROSE OF VITERBO FRATERNITY in Terre Haute continues to serve the hungry with their hearty pancake and sausage breakfasts. The number of persons coming to eat continues to grow but these good brothers and sisters do not count the cost of getting up in the dark and working for four or five hours on a Saturday morning to help those who need a warm meal. God bless you, dear brothers and sisters!



QUEEN OF ALL SAINTS FRATERNITY in Logansport recently celebrated its 25th anniversary of canonical establishment. Congratulations, dear brothers and sisters.

“
[Francis] was so overcome by sweet devotion toward the infancy of that King, that whenever he had to speak the name of Jesus Christ, he would, as if stuttering, call him “the babe of Bethlehem,” out of an excess of loving tenderness (“Life of St. Francis by Julian of Speyer”, FA:ED, Vol. 1, p. 406



...the winner is...

Betty Mitchell, OFS
(62 years)

Featuring: Holy Family Fraternity — 50 years and Growing

HOLY FAMILY FRATERNITY - FORT WAYNE

Established: January 31, 1965

Fr. Jovian Weigel, OFM from St. John the Baptist Province, Commissary and Fr. Malachy Brogan, OFM Spiritual Director established the Fraternity and twenty novices (term used then) were professed into the Third Order of St. Francis on December 20, 1964. The Fraternity consisted of all married couples and their focus was marriage and family life, hence the name Holy Family.

At that time they became involved with the Cursillo movement, which helped them in their calling to Third Order. The monthly meetings consisted of a Scripture Service with Father commenting on the readings in his homily. Then there were group discussions, along with songs and coffee. Also, a volunteer would report from a reading from Celano's life of St. Francis, short business meeting, and a visit to the Blessed Sacrament.

In 1974 single people (not part of a couple) were admitted into the Fraternity.

As a Fraternity, the Rule was studied, days of recollection with St. Charles Fraternity, Fort Wayne were held, visits to the Poor Clares in Kokomo were conducted, centerpieces were made for a nursing home, dinners to celebrate anniversaries of profession were held, and many interesting speakers shared with us.

The Fraternity has been blessed

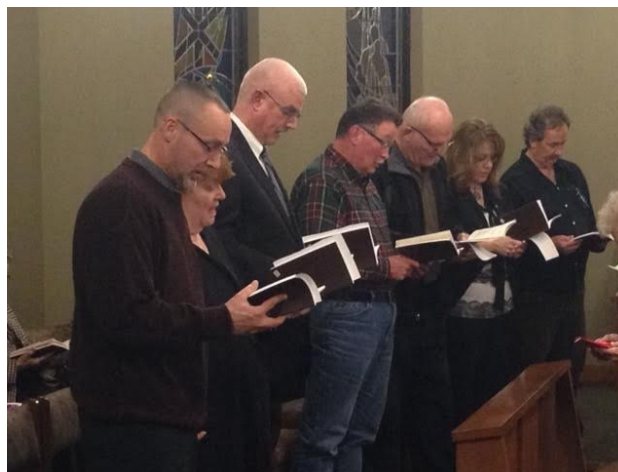
with many wonderful spiritual assistants.

The Holy Family Fraternity, Fort Wayne, was host to the Provincial Conference, August 7-10, 1986. At this time the Province consisted of Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, New Mexico, Kansas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas. The conference was held at the Sheraton Inn (no longer in existence). The theme was "Set Yourselves Free to Love God and your Sisters and Brothers." Bishop John Michael D'Arcy (Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend) gave a warm welcome to the visitors. There were representatives of the Province: Fr. James VanVurst, OFM, Vicar Provincial; Fr. Larry Landini, OFM, Provincial Assistant; Fr. Maynard Tetreault, OFM; Fr. Nicholas Lohkamp, OFM; Fr. Oliver Banbenek, OFM Cap.; Fr. Marian Douglas, OFM, Associate Provincial Assistant; plus the lay mem-

bers of the Provincial Council.

Currently the Fraternity has finished the study of the Rule, visits and donations to the Poor Clares in Kokomo, donations to a parish in Hazard, Kentucky, preparing food once a month for the Ave Maria House, and making blankets for a variety of other service organizations. In addition, parishes are chosen for the celebration of the Quarterly Masses for our living and deceased members as well as a means to acquaint the local parishes with the Fraternity. At the conclusion of the celebration the celebrant is invited to dinner.

Our Fraternity continues to grow. We have seven candidates in formation at this time.



Holy Family Fraternity welcomed the following Candidates on November 15, 2014 after celebrating their 50th Anniversary of Founding: Scott and Iris Dirig, Francis Albert, Jim Gigli, Tom Freistroffer, Susan and Mike Maloney.

Franciscan Enrichment Possibilities

Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity is offering all our brothers and sisters an opportunity for enriching and deepening their understanding of the Franciscan calling and charism.

Originally the basic purpose of these Study Days was and remains to provide additional spiritual enrichment possibilities for the training of Spiritual Assistants for those fraternities in Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity who are without a Spiritual Assistant. However, it was soon recognized that the presenters and topics for these sessions would be of value for each and every brother and sister of Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity.

Therefore, there will be several of our brothers and sisters preparing, with the assistance of their respective Provincial Spiritual Assistants (OFM/ TOR) for the possibility of being assigned as a Spiritual Assistant. Others will be joining them for the Study Days to take advantage of the wonderful talents of our Franciscan brothers and sisters within Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity.

Following is a brief description of the five Regional Study Days as they presently look, subject, of course, to God's plan(s) for all of us:

STUDY DAY I: January 10 , 2015

Topic: "Masseo's Question: Why is Everyone Chasing After You?" or "What is it that draws others to follow in the footsteps of St. Francis?" Presenter is Fr. Giles Zakowicz, OFM, Conv.



STUDY DAY II: April 25, 2015:

Topic: "Fraternity and St. Francis" and "Penitence and Conversion". Presenter: Fr. Maurice Richard, OFM, Conv. After lunch our very own Bill Fink, OFS, will reflect on some words that are essential in our Franciscan vocation, "Order, Secular, Franciscan, Rule: What do they REALLY mean? And How Do They Challenge Us?"



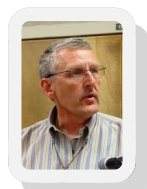
STUDY DAY III: July 11, 2015

Topic: "The Vocation, Charism, and Mission of Secular Franciscans" and "Forming Franciscans in the Spirit of St. Francis". Our presenter will be Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM, Provincial Spiritual Assistant of Assumption Province.



STUDY DAY IV: October 24, 2015

Morning Topic I: "The Role and Responsibilities of a Spiritual Assistant". Presenters are our very own brothers, Dave Dieringer, OFS, and Bill Jannausch, OFS. *This session only for potential SAs.*



Morning Topic II: "Getting to Know our Brother Bonaventure". Presenter is Sr. Felicity Dorsett, OSF, Faculty of the University of St. Francis in Fort Wayne.

Afternoon: Topic: "Pathway to Profession: A Beginning, but a Way of Life for All of Us" as presented by our Regional Minister, Kathleen White, OFS.



From

Our Regional Fraternity,

Sister Death has welcomed home .

St. Boniface Fraternity:

Oct. 28, 2014: Audrey Blizzard, OFS (Audrey would have celebrated her 30th Anniversary of Profession on November 11)

Holy Family Fraternity

Nov. 24, 2014: Mary Smith, OFS

Immaculate Conception Fraternity

Dec. 13, 2014: Emily Nowak, OFS

Queen of All Saints Fraternity

Dec. 17, 2014: Maxine Bahnaman, OFS

If any one of our dear deceased brothers or sisters has not been included, please let us know their name and date received into the arms of Sister Death on the way home to our Father in Heaven.

May they all rest in the peace of Christ!

STUDY DAY V: January 23, 2016

Topic: "Franciscan Prayer: the Heart and Soul of Our Franciscan Vocation". Our very own brother Rev. Mr. Bill Gallagher, OFS. Deacon of Sacred Heart Parish, Notre Dame, IN.



If you still would be interested in joining us, please contact Sr. Agnes Marie, OSF, to register so that sufficient materials may be prepared.

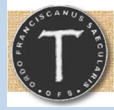
Email: agnes.marie.regan@gmail.com
Telephone: 574-259-5427

Pictures of all presenters were not yet available.

Our Lady of Indiana Regional Fraternity



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send a blank email to:

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Walking in the
footsteps of
Saints Francis
and Clare of
Assisi as Secu-
lar Franciscans.

Like and follow us on
Facebook

Dates to Remember

January 10, 2015: SA Formation / Enrichment at St. Joan of Arc in Kokomo: Fr. Giles Zakowicz, OFM, Conv. will be our Presenter. Topic: "Masseo's Question: Why is Everyone Chasing after You?"

February 14, 2015: Regional Executive Council

March 14, 2015: Formation Worship for all Formators and Formation Team members: Regional Formation Director, Bill Jannausch, OFS

April 11, 2015: Chapter Of Mats, Kokomo. All local ministers are called to attend.

April 25, 2015: SA Formation / Enrichment at St. Joan of Arc in Kokomo

June 12-13-14, 2015: Triennial Visitation - St Francis University, Ft. Wayne. All local ministers are called to attend on Saturday, June 13.

July 11, 2015: SA Formation / Enrichment at St. Joan of Arc in Kokomo: Fr. Jerome Wolbert, OFM, will be our Presenter; Topic: "The Vocation, Charism, and Mission of SFO" and "Forming Franciscans in the Spirit of St. Francis"

August 8, 2015: Unity Day. All Franciscans are invited.

September 12, 2015: SA Formation: MODULE I: for those in the Spiritual Assistant Track: Presenters: Dave Dieringer, OFS, and William Jannausch, OFS. Topic: "The Formator, the Spiritual Assistant/ Role and Responsibilities". MODULE 2: for Enrichment Participants: Presenters and Topic : TBA. Afternoon MODULES 3 and 4: Presenter: Kathleen White, OFS, Regional Minister. Topic: "Pathway to Profession" .

October 10, 2015: Regional Executive Council

November 14, 2015: Chapter of Mats. All local ministers are called to attend.



Sharon Roberts , OFS, and Linda Grady, OFS, are all smiles as they enjoy Brother William Short, OFM, at a lecture he presented at the Secular Franciscan National Retreat August 21—24, 2014 in Bellville, IL.

Brother Bill focused the retreat on "Francis of Assisi and Francis of Buenos Aires". During the course of the weekend he compared the two as he focused a lot on the pope, how he lives the Gospel as St. Francis did, and how he challenges us to do the same.

Christmas Message from our Holy Father, Pope Francis

"Dear brothers and sisters, today, in this world, in this humanity, is born the Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Let us pause before the Child of Bethlehem. Let us allow our hearts to be touched, let us not fear this. Let us not fear that our hearts be moved. We need this! Let us allow

ourselves to be warmed by the tenderness of God; we need his caress. God's caresses do not harm us. They give us peace and strength. We need his caresses. God is full of love: to him be praise and glory forever! God is peace: let us ask him to help us to be peacemakers each day, in our life, in our families, in our cities and nations, in the whole world. Let us allow ourselves to be moved by God's goodness."



From URBI et ORBI Homily on Christmas of 2013