



# OFS: Secular Franciscan Order (& YouFra)

*The Third Order of St. Francis in Ireland.*

## **National Newsletter November 2025**

“To follow Jesus in the footsteps of St. Francis”

Website: [ofsireland.org](http://ofsireland.org)



*Picture shows Michael, with his wife Rosaleen, receiving a certificate commemorating his long membership from local President, Maurice O'Brien.*

### **An inspiration to us all**

#### ***Michael Linehan's 75th Anniversary of Profession***

Cork OFS member Michael Linehan celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Profession on 15<sup>th</sup> October. At the end of the Fraternity Mass recently, Michael renewed his profession promise and received anew the Blessing of St. Francis from Spiritual Assistant Fr. Michael Holland. At a function afterwards Michael shared memories of his early years in the Fraternity which he joined when he was sixteen. His father and two brothers were also members. He was one of twenty-one professions on that night in 1950, Fr. Henry OFM being the Director at the time. As was customary at the time members took a new name on profession, Michael taking that of Ambrose. Michael explained that membership of the Third Order was seen as a natural expression of Catholic practice for young men. His long and loyal commitment is proof of the great value he has placed on his membership up to this day.

*Ad Multos Annos (For many more years)*

### **Indulgences for the Holy Souls**

Catholics in this life have the extraordinary gift of being able to help the Holy Souls by carrying out prayers and works authorised by the Church (ref. CCC 1479). A Plenary indulgence (which **will release** a soul from **purgatory**) is available on each of the **first 8 days** of November subject to the usual conditions. Let us help the Holy Souls this November with our prayers. What the Church requires is not difficult and besides, we will have eight new very grateful friends in heaven! A **partial** indulgence, such as praying the Rosary, performing a work of charity and other acts of piety approved by the Church can be offered for the Holy Souls at any time. The revised Apostolic Constitution of Pope St. Paul VI is available on the Vatican website: [Indulgentiarum Doctrina \(January 1, 1967\)](#) More recently, in the 2024 *Bull Spes non confundit* (Ordinary Jubilee of 2025) Pope Francis again emphasized the remedial power of indulgences: “the indulgence... removes the residual effects of sin... always by the grace of Christ”. He links this removal to a renewed call to forgiveness: “the experience of full forgiveness cannot fail to open our hearts... to the need to forgive others ( *ref Magisterium AI*).

### **The Perils of Google Catechetics**

The proliferation of search engines and AI chatbots has raised concerns about believing the results of *googling*. This is especially true when it comes to matters of faith. However, there are many reputable resources especially the Vatican Website [The Holy See](#) . If you would like to try artificial intelligence, Magisterium AI ([Magisterium](#)) comes well recommended and the App is available for a smartphone.



*Magisterium AI*

#### **Suggestion for this month:**

Advent starts on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November.  
**Bring back the true Feast of Christmas by bringing back the Season of Advent.**

**The Church's liturgy of Advent is so beautiful - full of expectation and hope.  
Don't forget to light the Advent candle!**



#### **Franciscan Feast Day on 17th November**

##### ***Our patron: St. Elisabeth of Hungary***

In her short life, she showed such great love for the poor and suffering that she has become the patroness of Catholic charities and of the Secular Franciscan Order. The daughter of the King of Hungary, Elisabeth chose a life of prayer and penance instead of luxury.

**Thanks to all contributors.** Items ideally 50 to 100 words. Feedback welcome. Send items to [irelandofs@gmail.com](mailto:irelandofs@gmail.com)