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Ave Maria

Prot. 69/2026

Rome, March 19, 2026
Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

TO THE SISTERS AND BROTHERS OF THE SERVITE FAMILY

Dear sisters and brothers,

May our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!

1. The General Chapter of the Order of the Friars Servants of Mary, celebrated in November 2025, in view of the 300th anniversary of the canonization of St. Peregrine Laziosi which took place on 27 December 1726, decided – among other initiatives – to ask the Prior General to *"forward a request for plenary indulgence to the Apostolic See for our churches and shrines"*.

By letter prot. 10/2026 dated January 21, 2026, I forwarded this request to the Major Penitentiary, His Eminence Cardinal Angelo De Donatis, in order to obtain from His Holiness Pope Leo XIV the possibility to gain indulgence for the Jubilee Year that will begin on May 1, 2026 and will end on May 4, 2027.

On January 22, the Apostolic Penitentiary responded that it had *"the honor to communicate that it (the request in question) was granted as requested, so that the indulgence can be announced publicly."* When the decree arrives it will be communicated promptly.

2. The opportunity to gain an indulgence - as requested from the Apostolic Penitentiary - is granted under the usual conditions, including for the repose of the souls in Purgatory, by devoutly visiting - in the form of a pilgrimage - a church or shrine entrusted to the care of the Order of the Servants of Mary anywhere in the world and on that occasion, participating in a jubilee celebration or spending a meaningful amount of time in Eucharistic adoration and meditation, concluding with the *Our Father*, the *Creed*, and devout invocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Peregrine.

The same letter requested that *"the elderly, the sick, and those unable to participate in person (as well as those who assist them) be granted the Plenary Indulgence, allowing them to join the Jubilee celebrations spiritually by reciting the prescribed prayers and offering their sufferings and difficulties to the Lord. They should intend to fulfill the usual conditions as soon as possible."*

3. Therefore, according to the response from the Apostolic Penitentiary prot. 67/26/I, **from May 1, 2026 to May 4, 2027, it will be possible to gain a Plenary Indulgence** in every church and shrine of the Order.

4. In order for the Jubilee Year to be more than just an opportunity to gain an indulgence, I would like to remind everyone that commemorating St. Peregrine Laziosi, especially this year, should inspire spiritual renewal, deepen our life of grace and support us on our journey to become more like Christ.

We - brothers and sisters of the Servite Family - all invoke St. Peregrine, especially in times of cancer. However, we know that even before the miracle, St. Peregrine's journey was marked by an inner transformation and a realization that violence, whether expressed or repressed, only begets more violence.

Thus, the invitation extended to us by the figure of St. Peregrine offers various perspectives: self-knowledge as a means to attain peace of heart and become peacemakers; courageously acknowledging one's own mistakes and knowing how to ask for forgiveness, as Peregrine did with Filippo Benizi; and committing to a deep relationship with the Lord through listening to the Word of God and personal and communal prayer. This allows one to be transformed according to the words of the Apostle Paul: "*I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me*" (Gal 2:19-20).

St. Peregrine's relationship with the Virgin Mary - as described in the Legend of Blessed Peregrine - also holds significant importance for our journey of conformity to Christ, inviting us to understand the *Marian inspirations* that Peregrine Laziosi experienced, thereby becoming, for us as well, not only an expression of devotion but above all a Gospel witness in a Marian style.

In this jubilee year of St. Peregrine, I would also like to inform you of my intention to send a letter to the entire Servite Family. This letter, in addition to the 1995 letter from my predecessor, Br. Hubert M. Moons, titled *Get up and Walk*, will accompany us on our journey as a Family.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us open our hearts to God's Grace so that, like St. Peregrine, we may allow ourselves to be renewed by the Lord Jesus *in spirit and truth*, and thus become men and women capable of spreading the Gospel of Love through our lives. May St. Peregrine protect us and may the Lord Jesus Christ bless us.


Br. Sergio M. Ziliani, O.S.M.
Prior General


Br. Javier M. Badillo, O.S.M.
Secretary of the Order

