



### ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR IN THE U.S.: AN HISTORIC UNIFICATION

Beginning approximately eight years ago, six of the Franciscan Provinces in the U. S. began a process toward unification. That process was completed at the Chapter of Unity in Kansas City, MO. that took place from October 16-20, 2023. At that Chapter meeting, in the presence of our Minister General from Rome, all the previous Provinces were unified. The newly appointed leadership team took office and the previous leadership teams concluded their terms of service. The name of our new province is Our Lady of Guadalupe and is headquartered in Atlanta, GA.

In 2008, during the discussion & dreaming time prior to opening Poverello House in Tucson, the then Provincial and Definitorium of the Santa Barbara Province gave the project their blessing. They allowed Poverello House to operate under the province's not-for-profit status. This was done with the proviso that should Poverello House continue into a second year, that we would get our own 501 (c) 3 status and develop our own Board of Directors. And that is what we did and have been doing for the last 15 years.

The Poverello House Board of Directors is working hard to complete the transition to our new house. We closed the Lee Street house in June anticipating that we'd be able to open at our new location in November. Unfortunately, we've had delays, and we now anticipate opening in the early spring. Since we have not been able to offer any direct service and are looking at that delay for another four or five months, the Board is considering ways we can assist (until we can reopen) current efforts that are serving our traditional guests.

For these past few months, I have had the privilege of living in St. Louis with my elderly mother. It is a time of grace. I plan to return to Tucson when Poverello House opens. For the first couple of months, I expect to assist the staff and volunteers.

Thank you for your continued support as we work toward reopening in our newly renovated location. It is so very important to us at this time of transition.

Yours in Christ and Francis



Br. David Buer, ofm



**267 Blacklidge Drive**

***The Future Poverello House***

We are making progress toward reopening the Poverello House at our new location. Finalized plans for major renovations have been submitted to the City of Tucson. We will be expanding the footprint of the new house to accommodate guests and onsite staff more comfortably and to create a meeting area where additional services and programs can take place. The new house design will also feature an expanded kitchen and food pantry area. All this is in addition to basic needed upgrades such as new plumbing, electrical, windows, landscape improvements, etc.

Our goal is to have a home that is sufficient for our needs for years to come. We are moving as quickly as possible to speed the renovations along and are optimistic that construction will start early in the new year. In the coming months, we will know more about expected timelines for reopening. Soon we expect that our final plans will be approved by the City of Tucson and our selected contractor will confirm a course of action for the work. We are eager to reopen and to start the next chapter of our journey of providing needed services for the Tucson Community!

A big thank you for all your donations! We couldn't do it without you.

Please donate on line or mail checks to

**Poverello House**  
**PO Box 50782**  
**Tucson, AZ 85703**

Poverello House is a 501-c-3 non profit. Your donations may be tax deductible. Arizona residents can claim a \$421 state tax credit for an individual or \$842 for a couple on their 2023 income taxes if donation is made before April 15, 2024.

