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Dear friend of Our Lady,

Mille grazie (as the Italians say), a thousand thanks for the many warm greetings which came our way in celebration of Christmas, 2000, the new year, 2001 and the Feast of the Epiphany, 2001, which saw the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, close the Holy Door of the Vatican Basilica, thus bringing to a close the Great Jubilee of the year 2000. It boggles the mind, but statistics published by the Vatican reveal that upwards of 30 million pilgrims visited the Eternal City. Apparently this is a record! And a substantial number of them received the Sacrament of Penance, in fulfillment of one of the conditions for gaining the jubilee indulgence. On the Feast of the Epiphany, the Holy Father also issued an Apostolic Letter, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*. You may read it by contacting our web site, www.omm.org.

In our last issue we reprinted the Cantic of the Three Young Men. We forgot to point out at the time that this Cantic is one of the suggested forms of prayer contained in the traditional Roman Missal for thanksgiving after Mass. We continue these prayers in this month's issue and will print the rest of these prayers along with the prayers suggested as preparation for Mass in the next few issues.

In this month's newsletter we want to suggest a number of **action items** for individual members and chapters: the first has to do with the new document issued by the Pontifical Council for the Family, *On Marriage, Family and "De Facto" Unions*. It deals with the attempt being made in many countries to grant juridical equivalence to people living in "de facto" unions (cohabitation, in other words, whether of the opposite or same sex). In this document, the Vatican underlines

