



# Christmas 2023

**“It is Christmas every time we let God love others through us... yes, it is Christmas every time we smile at our brothers and sisters and offer them our hand.” -Mother Teresa**

Dear Friends,

We greet you with good tidings and peace!

In August, during the Feast of the Portiuncula or Our Lady of the Angels, our community was privileged to meet Fr. Larry Hayes, OFM, the newly elected Provincial of Our Lady of Guadalupe Province, the new name of the Province of the Friars of the United States. Fr. Mark Soehner came to celebrate Mass with Fr. Larry.

This year seems to be a time to catch up after the “Covid season”. In September, some sisters were able to attend the Federation Meetings at Graymoor. It was wonderful being able to have in-person meetings again. There was a lot of catching up to do, along with meeting new sisters. Then, a few weeks later, Sisters Beatrice, Luisa and Vickie attended the meetings in Maria Stein with our Poor Clare Sisters from Chesterfield New Jersey, Langhorne PA and Travelers Rest, SC. Sr. Margaret Carney, OSF and Dr. Pauline Albert were the presenters/facilitators.



Poor Clare Federation meeting at Graymoor, NY



Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift in Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift in Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Occasion: \_\_\_\_\_

(Memorial, Anniversary, Birthday, Baptism, Confirmation, etc.)

e-mail: [poorclareprayers@gmail.com](mailto:poorclareprayers@gmail.com)

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I/we support the Cincinnati Poor Clares in their ministries of prayer and evangelization.

I/we join you in prayer and/or enclose this gift.

October 4, the Feast of St. Francis, Fr. Mark Soehner, OFM came to celebrate Mass and with him were Provincial Fr. Larry Hayes, OFM and Fr. Larry Ford, OFM.

It was a time of sorrow in October when our Sr. Ann's brother, Fr. Louis Bartko, OFM met Sister Death. Fr. Louis was the only brother and sibling of Sr. Ann. It was a great loss for her and all of us. Our community went to the Funeral and met some of Sr. Ann's relatives from Michigan.

Mid- October, Fr. Tom Hartle, OFM was with us for our Community Retreat. It was a refreshing and Spirit-filled time of reflection and prayer. Also, during that time, the unification of the six Provinces of the Friars into the Our Lady of Guadalupe Province was happening in their Chapter at Kansas, Missouri. Several of our friars kept us informed, and we were able to see some of the videos posted, including words from the Minister General, Fr. Massimo Fusarelli, OFM. We pray for our brother friars as they adjust to this "new life" as Franciscan Friars of the United States.

In response to Pope Francis' invitation, on October 27<sup>th</sup>, our community observed a day of fasting and prayer for the end of war in Ukraine and the Holy Land and for the end of violence in our world. Let us all continue to pray that peace may reign and violence ends.

Our heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your untiring support of our way of life. We pray that you and your loved ones be filled with God's abundant love and blessings everyday especially this Christmas Season when we celebrate God's love as we commemorate Jesus' coming to earth in order to show the compassionate and loving God to all humanity. Merry Christmas!

With our prayers for all of you,

*Sisters Alma, Ann, Anna Marie, Anthony, Beatrice, Dianne, Doris, Luisa, Pia, Rita, Vickie*



Please consider putting the Cincinnati Poor Clares in your will or other planned giving arrangements. Your goodness will allow us to continue our ministries of prayer and evangelization.

- I have remembered the Cincinnati Poor Clares in my will or in other planned giving documents.
- I would like information sent to me about how to remember the Cincinnati Poor Clares in my will and/or other planned giving arrangements.

**All planned giving information is kept confidential.**

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