



**To Our Dear Families and Friends,**

**We pray the peace and joy that are Jesus' gifts to us fill your hearts and your homes as we celebrate this Holy Week and Easter Season!**

**This will be a very special Palm Sunday for us as we begin the commemoration of the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of our Order. It was on Palm Sunday, 1212, that Clare of Assisi left her home in the dark of night to join St. Francis and his brothers at the Portiuncola. She was the first woman to become part of his new fraternity and, many years later, the first woman to write a Rule, or Form of Life, which was approved by the Pope. As a community, we are reading and reflecting together on a new book by Sr. Diana Papa, OSC, The Poor Sisters of St Clare: Their Form of Life and Identity. Though not our "legal" name, "Poor Sisters" is the name Clare gave us and we are seeking ways to grow in our fidelity to the Way of Life she is calling us to make visible in our world today.**

**Though this winter has been VERY long, it has been grace-filled for us. On January 22<sup>nd</sup> Sr. Vickie made her first profession of vows. We were happy to share this special day with her family and close friends. Three of our Poor Clare sisters from South Carolina made the long drive up without getting snowbound and Sr. Sharon enhanced our celebration with the beauty of her voice.**

**On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Candlemas Day, Sr. Kellee received the habit and began her novitiate. She is now Sr. Kellee of the Holy Spirit, OSC. It truly was a Candle-Mass Day because we lost all power the night before and Kellee received her habit by candlelight: that is why the pictures on the other side of this letter are dark! It was also very cold and we were soon piling on sweatshirts to keep warm. Thank God we have a gas stove in the kitchen so we could boil water!**

**Now that Spring is officially here, we will finally be able to have our driveway resurfaced. Because of the weather and some unforeseen expenses, we were not able to do it last year as we had planned.**

**After many years as a Poor Clare, Sr. Judith has discerned that God is calling her to a different way of life. We are grateful for the joy and sisterhood she shared with us and we are happy that she is happy in her new life.**

**As we bring our Easter letter to a close, we want you to know how grateful we are for your love and friendship and generosity to us. You make it possible for us to live St. Clare's charism in our world today. She calls us "to be mirrors and examples for others" and you are that mirror of God's love for us. Be sure of our continued prayer for you and your loved ones.**

**Your Poor Sisters of St. Clare,**

**Ann, Anna Marie, Dianne, Doris, Kellee, Luisa, Pia, Rita and Vickie**