

CHRISTMAS 2011

*On that day God sent **love** and a song into the night, and we rejoice and are glad. For today we are given a beloved child most holy, born for us, wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in a manger. His name is **Emmanuel**, and God becomes one of us. Mary wraps her new born Son in the swaddling clothes of her **love** and rejoices in this great gift given to humankind. Let us take time to rejoice in the great **gift of God's love** and become this **gift of love**. Maybe we could place the swaddling clothes of our **love** on someone who needs it most – the alien, the poor, the outcast, the marginalized, and the estranged.*

*It is **CHRISTMAS** and **CHRISTMAS** means **LOVE**.*

On the 10th of August we celebrated the Transitus of St. Clare. The Transitus is Clare's passage from this life to eternal life. It was a dual celebration for us, as we also celebrated Sr. Doris' 50 years in Religious Life. After the Transitus Service, we hosted an Ice Cream Social for the 30 or so Friars who joined us for the celebration.

The next day, on August 11th, we celebrated the Feast of St. Clare. This too was a twofold celebration, as we officially marked the beginning of the celebration of the 800th anniversary of the Order of St. Clare. We were honored to have Archbishop Dennis Schnurr as our presider for the Eucharistic celebration. After Mass, those who were celebrating with us were invited to a reception in our meeting room, which provided us an opportunity to visit with our friends and benefactors.

This summer also produced the repairing of our driveway. We began to have large cracks and potholes appearing everywhere up and down the drive. Through your gracious generosity, all repairs were able to be made at one time.

On September 8th, the Birthday of the Virgin Mary, our community had the official celebration for Sr. Doris' Golden Jubilee of Religious Life. We had a special Mass with Fr. Jim Van Vurst, OFM as presider. Mass was followed by a festive dinner. In the evening we had a special community gathering.

October brought the 5K "Run for the Nuns." This year we had 290 walkers/runners participate in our Run. This was an increase of over a hundred from last year. As you can see the Run was a success. Each year the number has been increasing. We are most grateful to all who participated and helped with the Run. The Run is our only fund raising event each year. The day was somewhat cold, but the sun came out, and it turned out to be another wonderful family fun day. We hope to see you there next year!

Also in October was the Diocesan celebration for all religious and priests celebrating jubilees. Sr. Doris as a celebrant was present at this celebration. The presider for the Mass was Archbishop Dennis Schnurr, whose homily was excellent as it expressed well who religious and priests are for the Church. Mass was followed by a delicious catered dinner.

We have seen an increased use of our meeting room for which we are grateful, as it is another means by which we support ourselves. We, like all of you, have been greatly affected by the economic down turn in the past few years. This keeps your economic worries and concerns ever before us allowing us to bring these intentions to our daily prayers.

We are most grateful in the many ways you help us with your prayers, your concern for us, your support of us, and your love for us. As we celebrate the Great Gift of the Incarnation, know we are holding you and your intentions in our Masses, and in our daily prayers.

Wishing you all a very **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a most **BLESSED NEW YEAR!**

Your Poor Clare Sisters, *Ann, Anna Marie, Dianne, Doris, Kellee, Luisa, Pia, Rita, Vickie*

Prayer Requests: _____

Gift in Memory of: _____ We will send an announcement of a memorial or
_____ honorary gift, without mentioning the amount, to:
Gift in Honor of: Name: _____
_____ Address: _____
Occasion: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

