Easter 2013

"Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He is not here. See the place where they laid Him." - Mark 16:6

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

Christ has risen from the dead, trampling down death
by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing everlasting life.

CHRIST IS
RISEN!

TRULY HE IS
RISEN!

Dear Family and Friends,

We pray that your Journey of Lenten Pruning produces an Easter Harvest of Abundant Fruit.

It seems like it was just yesterday when we were writing our Christmas letter to you. Our days since Christmas have been very rich and blessed. During Christmas season, we watched snow come and go, making the view from our Chapel windows exceptionally beautiful this year.



Fr. Mark Soehner, ofm presides at our Christmas Eve Mass

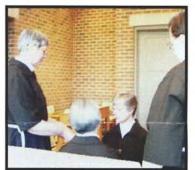


Our Chapel (first snow) during Christmas Season



Cardinals lining up at the bird feeder

January 22nd brought us to Sr. Vickie's renewal of vows. We had the renewal during our 8:15 morning Mass, and our "8:15 Regulars" were grateful to be able to witness this event. This spring Sr. Luisa will renew her vows, and this summer Sr. Anna Marie will celebrate her 50th Jubilee as a Poor Clare. We are indeed blessed! We pray that our Monastery continues to grow and thrive as we live our Franciscan/Clarian way of life here in Cincinnati. On Sr. Luisa's 2nd anniversary here, we began her Green Card process. As many of you know, it can be a lengthy and expensive process. Please join us in prayer that it goes smoothly and that her approval comes soon.



Sr. Vickie renews her vows

Guardian Angels kept watch over two of our sisters while traveling at the end of January. Srs. Anna Marie and Vickie traveled to our Monastery in Travelers Rest, South Carolina for their annual retreats. As they were driving through Knoxville, Tennessee, they were side swiped by a semi-trailer truck. We think the driver was not paying attention, then realized he was passing his exit, quickly cutting into their lane and hitting them. Sr. Anna Marie was driving. She managed to keep the car under control and was able to drive the car to the shoulder of the interstate. The truck driver never stopped, so the police listed the accident as a "hit and run." There was extensive damage done to the front of our car, but the Sisters were not hurt and were able to finally reach their destination that evening. As we write this letter, our car is still undergoing repairs.

February brought us visitors. On February 9th Sr. Margaret from our Monastery in Minneapolis, Minnesota, arrived with Sr. Monica, a visiting Sister from our JeJu Island, South Korea, Monastery. Sr. Margaret is our Federation Archivist and came to work on the Federation Archives, while Sr. Monica came to see our Monastery and visit with us.



Mardi Gras Festivities begin after Mass on February 9, 2013 Left to Right: Srs. Luisa and Dianne, Fr. Fred Link, ofm, Srs. Margaret, Monica and Rita



Fr. Jim Meade and his Corpus Christi Parish Staff gather in our Meeting Room on February 16, 2013

The Lunar New Year was on February 10th this year, and since there were four Asians in the Monastery at that time, we had a traditional Lunar New Year celebration orchestrated by Sr. Rita, our Korean sister. We are grateful to be an "international" community, and are blessed to share our different cultural (and culinary) backgrounds.

After the Lunar New Year, February 12th brought us Mardi Gras! We had a Mardi Gras party filled with good food and plenty of laughter. When our "Fat Tuesday" festivities came to an end, we gathered in the Chapel to pray the Office of Readings for Ash Wednesday, which signals for us the beginning of our time of communal and personal Lenten fasting, prayer and penance. Realizing violence can take many forms in our lives, we included this as one of our Community Lenten practices (and the theme of our Lenten practice will continue throughout the year):

Lenten Practice:
As an expression of non-violence, we will mindfully cultivate an attitude of peacemaking both within ourselves and in our actions.

We continue our discernment of a more comprehensive Development Plan for our Monastery, which we hope to implement in the coming months. We are grateful and thank you for the many ways in which all of you have helped us to sustain and continue our Poor Clare Way of Life. May the Risen Lord bless you abundantly each day!

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

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