



Christmas 2022

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through Him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and His life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. So, the Word became human and made His home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. We have seen His glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son. (Gospel of St. John)

We know the Son; His name is Emmanuel, God with us. Glory to God in the highest!

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that we are almost into another year. So many things happen from one week to the next. Here are some of the happenings around the monastery since we last wrote to you.

We were privileged to be videotaped for National Religious Retirement Fund for our Archdiocese. Sisters Dianne and Doris were interviewed, and the community was recorded at prayer. This was our way for promoting the Elder Care Fund for retired religious.

October brought the Feast of St. Francis. On the night before, some sisters joined the Friars at St. Anthony's Shrine for the Transitus of St. Francis. The Transitus is a service in which we remember the death of Francis. The next day was the Feast and a Solemnity for us. Mass in our Chapel was celebrated by the Provincial Minister of the Friars, Fr. Mark Soehner, OFM. As part of celebrating the Feast of our Father St. Francis, we watched the documentary, "The Letter" which is based on Pope Francis' encyclical on Laudato Si. The Pope wrote a letter to four people from different countries. They came together to talk with Pope Francis on how climate change was affecting their part of the world.

Later in the month, we had our community eight- day retreat. Sr. Margaret Carney, OSF was our retreat director. She used the Encyclical Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis' latest letter to the Church. Sr. Margaret reflected on each chapter. Then in the evening we shared on how St. Clare would respond to what Pope Francis had said.

Hurricane Ian did great damage to our Monastery in Fort Myers Beach, FL. The four Poor Clares there stayed and weathered the storm with the two parish priests who joined them. They have many a tale to talk about survival. We ask prayers for them. They will have a long journey in rebuilding.



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Sisters with Friar Alessandro, Friar Eunan and Friar Mark Soehner



Sr. Rita with Samuel & Stella



Sisters while visiting Sr. Alma

After a five-year wait, mostly due to Covid, Sr. Luisa was finally able to go home for a family visit. She arrived safely in the Philippines and is enjoying the time with her family. The little ones are so happy to see their aunt.

Stella and Samuel Lee, longtime friends of Sr. Rita came for a visit from California. They enjoyed their visit with Sr. Rita and the community. Both Stella and Samuel are members of the Order of Secular Franciscans. They hope to return for a retreat in the future.

Fr. Mark Soehner, OFM came for Mass on Nov. 1st. He surprised us by bringing with him Friar Alessandro Brustenghi, OFM a world-renowned opera singer. He was accompanied by Friar Eunan McMullan, OFM. Friar Alessandro performed at the Cathedral of the Basilica of St. Peter in Chains here in Cincinnati and at the University of Miami in Oxford Ohio. You can find Friar Alessandro in concert on You Tube.

On November 24, Sr. Vickie, along with twelve other Poor Clares from around the world, will travel to Rome to continue their work on the International Commission. They will meet with the Minister General of the Friars Minor on December 1. After the meetings in Rome, Sr. Vickie will travel to our Poor Clare Monastery in Arundel, England and meet with Federation Presidents and Sisters in England and Ireland.

We continue to visit our Sr. Alma who is in the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Care Center. Sister is in her 90's but is still alert and engaged. She has a great sense of humor.

We close this letter with prayers that all of you will have a very Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with many blessings.

Your Cincinnati Poor Clare Sisters:

Alma, Ann, Anna Marie, Anthony, 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.

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