

Jesus, Lord, at Thy Birth

Christmas, 2013

He comes in Splendor.

The King who is our peace;

The whole world longs to see Him!

1st Antiphone for Christmas E.P. 1

Dear Family and Friends,

The whole world longs to see Him!

He is our peace!

Every age before Christ was born has longed for peace. Every age *still* longs for peace – the peace that only God can give! Let us open our hearts to let Him enter – *to give us His Peace!* To do so it is wise to take Mary as our model.

Let us reflect on what Mary did as a very young maiden...

The Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and said, ***“Rejoice highly favored daughter! The Lord is with you!”*** *Lk. 1:28* Mary was deeply troubled and wondered what his greeting meant.

Mary was troubled - it's OK to be troubled!

She wondered...she did not understand - it's OK not to understand!

So she asked - it's OK to question!

Even with the Angel's response, she still did *not really* understand,

but at this point she submitted to God's messenger – to God's Will with her Fiat!

She opened her heart to let Jesus in!

That's what life is all about – to listen, to reflect, to question, to listen again, and even when not *fully understanding* your situation, *trusting* as Mary did, then submitting. There are many mysteries in life we will never fully grasp, but taking Mary as our model, we need to trust in God's Wisdom,

Then we are free to open our hearts to let Jesus in!

This is the *real work* of life! In fact all of life is a preparation for our final, personal Christmas – the moment ***Jesus comes to take us into His Heart!***

So as to help each of us to be better prepared for that precious moment, and to help us in all the moments on the way ...

Our Christmas Gift to you is
Two Christmas Novenas of Masses
December 16 – 24
December 25 – January 2

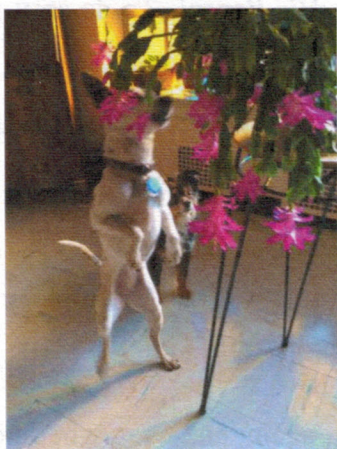
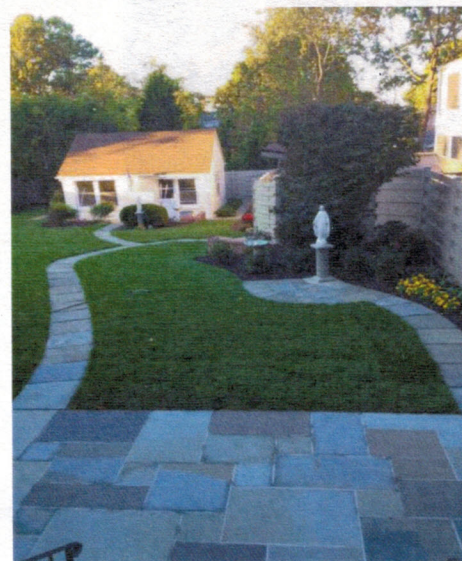


It was not possible for us to greet you for the Feast of St. Clare this summer. God was very busy at the time gifting several Sisters with health issues. The rest of us were 'head over heels' trying to fill in for all their duties! Perhaps God wanted us to experience firsthand what so many of you have suffered in your own lives! We thank God for this experience and are grateful we can empathize more fully with you! We praise and thank Him for His tender love and mercy for all of us!

After Easter, our community was highly blessed by having two Cardinals come to offer Mass in our chapel, Theodore Cardinal McCarrick before the Conclave and Donald Cardinal Wuerl after the Conclave! Both stayed to have breakfast with us, during which they shared thoughts and experiences about the Conclave. How blessed we are to have two world renowned Cardinals spend time with us sharing their views and experiences!

Another joyful event this year was an unexpected visit from one of our own PCPA Sisters from Cherthala, India, who was in the USA visiting her Mother, who is no longer able to travel to visit her! What a pleasant joy to share first hand news from our Sisters in India!

We miss the golden carpet in our cloister yard! In an earlier letter we mentioned the need to have our beautiful, huge Norway maple tree cut down because it was dying, and had become a threat to the monastery building. The removal of the huge roots left a black mound of dirt. Not a pretty sight! However, through the expertise of hard workers, the golden carpet is now replaced by healthy grass, with flowers and bushes deftly placed to enhance our outdoor Marian shrine. What a beautiful sight to behold from our glass doors leading into our cloister yard, inviting us to enjoy a bit of fresh air, or play Frisbee/ball with our two little dogs, Marlie and Dixie!



Speaking of our dogs, they are now seven and eight years old. Time for new beds! What an experience to see them decide which bed would be theirs! Dixie, the eight year old Alfa dog, made the decisive choice! Marlie, being the male, graciously submitted to Dixie's choice! We are blessed in the fact that they really get along so very well – never a fight! They are excellent watch dogs, and real buddies. However, they can get a little *too loud* when protecting us! Here they are exploring the Christmas cactus!

Now, we saved the best until last – *you!* We are so very grateful to each of you! First of all, for those who care for our spiritual needs – the faithful Dominicans for our daily Mass, the Franciscan Fathers 'up the hill' and Capuchins who are our confessors. Then there are those of you who faithfully and generously supply us with material needs of all kinds. Very especially there are those of you who offer your time to help us – answering the doorbell, giving us rides to our Doctor appointments, keeping our yard clean and beautiful. We are grateful too for all those who find time to Adore Jesus in our little Chapel, those who entrust your concerns to our prayer, either verbally or written. God has surely blessed us in many ways through you. Therefore, we ask Mary to present you to her Divine Son, trusting He will generously bless you and all your loved ones this Christmas, and throughout the New Year!

Lovingly and gratefully in Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,

*Mother Mary Angela
and Sisters*