



P.O. Box 27, 408 Kretz St.
Washington, IN 47501

December 2007

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Mary's Children, Inc. and all the many volunteers who help, the Franciscan Friars and Sisters of the Immaculate, Ruth Ann and I would like to wish you a very Holy and Blessed Christmas and New Year.

As many of you may already know, Br. Rudy Talaga, C.S.C., went to his eternal reward on Sunday, October 21, 2007. Br. Rudy had spent the last 10 years of his life here at the Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center. Br. Rudy served as sacristan at the Sacred Heart Chapel. He came to the "Farm" the year we dedicated the chapel. He set up the sacristy with all the sacred vessels, vestments, etc. in order for us to be able to offer the Holy Mass and other services at the chapel. During that time he touched many lives through his example and dedication and the love he had for Our Lord, the Blessed Mother and the Church in general. He will be missed by all of us.

During the year 2007, the Retreat Center has received a new **Father Guardian, Fr. Elias Mary Mills, F.I.** has been sent to us as the superior of the Friary and **Mother Maria Rapheal, F.I.** has been assigned here as the **superior of the Convent.** We welcomed them! Fr. Michael Gauvreau, F.I., the former Father Guardian and Mother Maria Maximillian, F. I., the superior of the convent were reassigned to another friary or convent within the order.

The **Retreat Center** continues **to offer many excellent retreats on a monthly basis along with working with parishes and other groups wishing to use our facilities.** The friars and sisters assist the groups by offering spiritual talks, Holy Mass and confessions as requested. The friars and sisters do many activities with home school families throughout the year as well.

The **Franciscans of the Immaculate, led by Fr. Elias, F.I., undertook the tremendous task of offering a symposium titled "Behold Your Mother"**—this was an all day conference held at Our Lady of Greenwood Catholic Church in Greenwood, Indiana. The theme of the conference was Mary as Mediatrix, Co-redemptrix and Advocate. Around 1200 people attended this conference which featured some very well known experts on Marian Theology. Many volunteers from the Retreat Center helped Fr. Elias in this endeavor along with many people from the Greenwood parish. A big thanks to all of them.

We look forward to an exciting 2008 here at the Retreat Center. **On Sunday, December 2, 2007, an information meeting will be held for people interested in joining the MIM/3rd Order Franciscans.** The day will begin in the chapel with Holy Mass followed by an information meeting and ending with a pot luck lunch around 12:00 noon. The Sisters of the Immaculate will offer child care during the meeting. Please bring food to share on December 2nd. Meetings for those wishing to join the MIM/3rd order will be held on a monthly basis. Following the same format—Mass, meeting, lunch—child care will be provided each time. Join us for **complete information on the 3rd order Franciscans.**

In February, a **retreat designed for Home School Children as well as all children registered in Public or Parochial schools** will be provided at Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center. Information will be in the January Newsletter and in e-News messages.

We are very excited that **Archbishop Daniel Buechlein O.S.B. will be making an official visit to the Friary/Convent here at Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center on Sunday, January 27, 2008.** He will celebrate Holy Mass in the Chapel at 11:00 a.m. followed by a pot luck lunch in the Dining Hall. **We would be pleased if you would be able to join us on this joyous occasion.**



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On January 11, 12, 13th, 2008 (Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday till noon) a very special retreat will be given by **Doctor Paul Byrne who will provide the Catholic viewpoint when making decisions on "Medical Directives"** at Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center. The title of the retreat, "Life and Death Matters" (Catholic Morality at the Beginning and Ending Stages of Life) is information especially important if you are/will be responsible or have input on decisions in regards to "Medical Directives". If you have a position as a guardian, power of attorney, nurse, physician, social director, etc., this will assist you in decisions and advice grounded in the Catholic doctrine. You may register for one, two or three days of the retreat. See retreat information and/or sign up on the web site for e-News.

For all who have supported the "Farm": Since we're not sure of exactly what God's requests will be in 2008, we ask that you keep us in your prayers so that we may continue to do those things "that are requested." Please remember Brother Rudy and all the religious who have and are sharing their vocation with us. We have successfully completed our buildings, renovations, and are now in a different growth requirement. The Farm has been utilized by a tremendous number of people, organizations, seminarians, Church groups and so on. **We have our Franciscan priests, sisters, and minimal lay staff to support as well as the property maintenance, utility expenses, equipment, operational supplies, monthly newsletters.** Building and construction is more visible, but proper operation is equally imperative. For all of our faithful supporters, especially those that have committed monetarily each month, **we rely upon God in His generosity to reward you as only He can.** We promise you that we pray daily for all who have supported the "Farm" through prayer, volunteering or monetarily.

Ruth Ann and I would like to thank each one of you for your continued prayers and financial support for the work being done at Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center. We continue to pray daily for you and your families.

May God continue to bless us all!

Jim

With your prayers, help, and financial assistance we will accomplish all the challenges that will be our mission in the next 12 months:

I am willing to do the following over a 12 month period:

_____ Contribute \$ _____ **for support of the monthly message which I receive.**

_____ Contribute \$ _____ each month for operational expenses (heat, light, water, maintenance etc

_____ Would like to contribute \$ _____ for unrestricted support of any/all projects at the Farm

May we help you in any way?

If you would like more information on Retreats, visitation hours, directions, accommodations, religious activities etc. -Call 812-254-4642 ext 200. Leave a message and your call will be returned or you may place your request in the enclosed envelope and someone will contact you.

Check our Website that is updated each month www.maryschildren.com and also you may sign up for e-news. **Go to the web site and under messages, you will be able to enroll in e-news**

If you are receiving more than one copy of the monthly Newsletter, please tell us so that we may eliminate the extra one. (call 812-254-3474 and give us the name, address and zip code.)



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If you are receiving a copy of the monthly Newsletter and **do not wish to continue**, the name is incorrect, or you receive more than one copy, call 812-254-3474 and give us the name, address and zip code. We do not wish to offend anyone with unwanted mail. You are the only one that is able to keep our mailing list accurate. (leave message on answering machine) Thanks and May God Bless you for your assistance,

Jim Wade