



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

December 2008

Dear Friends,

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

I'd like to share with you the loss of a very dear friend and priest. **Father John Emge was the first retired priest to minister to the Farm and he died in Evansville, IN on August 30, 2008 at the age of 82.** He ministered here for five year before his health failed.. He will be very much missed by his many friends in the Evansville diocese.

During 2008, Fr. Elias Mary Mills F I was appointed as the Father Guardian of the Friary at the retreat center. The other friars assigned here are Fr. Joachim Mary Mudd F I and Fr. Jacinto Mary Chapin F I. Fr. Jacinto serves as the vocation director for the United States.

The sisters continue to minister here as well. They help us in many areas of the ministry, such as serving as sacristans for the chapel, helping in the bookstore, child care for retreats, MIM Cenacles, and in the dining hall. Mother Maria Raphaela FSI serves as the superior of the convent. **There are currently five sisters assigned to this convent.**

During 2008, Fr. Elias began classes for those who were interested in becoming MIM members (Mission of the Immaculate Mediatrix.) About 40 people made their first consecration to the Blessed Mother in August of this year. A new class will begin in January 2009; anyone interested is encouraged to contact Fr. Elias at 812-825-4642 ext. 232.

As in past years, the retreat center is a very busy place. In addition to the retreats conducted by Mary's Children and the Friars, the facilities are used by many other Catholic parishes for youth and confirmation retreats, CHRP prayer groups, individual retreats, for spiritual direction, as well as for retreats for priests and seminarians.

Many will remember **Br. Rudy Talaga CSC,** who passed away in October of 2007. **In his will he left the Friars money to be used to remodel the sanctuary in the Sacred Heart Chapel.** Much of that work is completed and includes a High Altar, a communion railing, changing the stairways to the balcony, as well as redoing some of the shrine areas and adding some additional ones.

Fr. Elias is also researching the possibility of adding ten stained glass windows in the sanctuary area. At the printing of this letter, he is still waiting on some estimates of cost per window. Some people have expressed an interest in being able to pay for a window in memory of a loved one. When the details are worked out and a definite amount per window is known, by way of the newsletter and e news, we will notify everyone as to how contributions may be made.

Some exciting news is that **Mary's Children, Inc. has just been awarded a permit to construct a 24 hour Catholic radio station** that will serve the Monroe County, IN area. We hope to get "on the air" just as soon as is possible. We will broadcast EWTN programming and about four hours per day of Catholic programming produced locally.

Ruth Ann and I would like to thank each 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 for you and your families' intentions on a daily basis.

May God continue to bless all of us.

Jim and Ruth Ann Wade



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On January 16, 17, 18th, 2009 (Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday till noon) a very special retreat will be given by **Doctor Paul Byrne MD and Father Peter Damian Fehlner, F.I. who will provide the Theological and Medical Aspects Regarding Life Issues in Health Care** at Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center. CME credits will be granted to all physicians attending the retreat. CEU's for nurses are pending. Additional information is available on the Web Site and eNews.

For all who have supported the "Farm": Since we're not sure of exactly what God's requests will be in 2009, we ask that you keep us in your prayers so that we may continue to do those things "that are requested." Please remember Father Emge and all the religious who have and are sharing their vocation with us. We are now in the process of developing a 24 hour Catholic Radio Station. Each year, God provides us with new challenges. 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, and 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.

This year we plan to have one day each month to pray specifically for the intentions of those that financially support the work of the Franciscans and the Farm.

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.

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)
_____ Contribute \$ _____ for the development and operation of the Catholic Radio Station.
_____ 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 812-825-4642 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 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