



Common Letter # 32
Norfolk Priory
December 20, 2011

Shalom!

“Mary’s pregnancy is a period of unbroken contemplation, of continual attention to the Son. And yet it is a time of action, for she went to Elizabeth in order to bring the Son to her, the gift she had received from God to hand on to others.”- Adrienne von Speyer

Dear Sisters,

I greet you all with this beautiful painting showing the meeting of the two pregnant women and above them in blues their adult children John and Jesus. We are in the last day before Christmas and the liturgical texts are so intense reminding us of our salvation history. The barren woman Elizabeth and the young pregnant mother of God, Mary; let them inspire us for contemplation, attention and action. They are guiding us to the God of miracles. May the God of Miracles bless us and keep us these days of Christmas and throughout the year.

Now I have to update more than one month. Sr. Jania attended the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis where she met with many young people from November 17 - 20.

On November 17, the feast of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, we honored Sr. Philomena on her 80th birthday with some special treats.

During the thanksgiving week Fr. Quentin went to Conception Abbey and the Fr. Dan Andrews, Parish priest came to celebrate the Eucharist with us. Sr. Kevin went to be with her aging mother this week.

November 21 to December 3rd Sr. Rita Marie was in Rome for the International Treasurer’s meeting.

On Wednesday, November 23, some sisters went to De Moines to be with our Glenna Soukop at the funeral of her son Brian.

As we began Advent we were happy to bless our new Monastic Bookstore before 1. Vespers of the 1st Sunday of Advent, November 26th. With its opening a long dream became reality.

On November 30th we said good-bye to our loving young volunteer Miriam Haerlein, from Germany who stayed with us for 5 months.

December 6 – 7 our core team working with Mike Brown went to the Gallup Organization Headquarters in Omaha for an intense workshop on management and technology.

On Monday December 12 Dan Unger, our faithful brother in Christ participating almost daily in our Mass, bought Pizza for all the sisters and we had lunch together.

Wednesday evening, December 14th we had our employees Christmas Party with a delicious dinner, prepared by our sisters. Sr. Jania prepared some games for entertainment. It was a wonderful and harmonious evening with our small group of employees and their spouses and we could show them our appreciation for all their work for us.

During our Renewal Chapter last Friday I asked all the sisters for intense prayer support in our law-suite against Hoffman. The deadline of the extension given to them to come up with a new agreement is today. As we only got their proposal on Thursday, we only could discuss it on Friday with the lawyer and he came up with our proposal yesterday. This was approved by us and sent to Hoffman. Due to the holiday season this morning we decided to give once more some time until January 13th, 2012. But this will be the definitive last time. Please, include this in your prayers.

Sr. Fidelis Marie finished her first semester at UDS at Vermillion. She will go to the Cleveland Clinic in FL after Christmas for a second opinion in her health problems. Another concern to pray for!

Athanasius said about the incarnation of our God who sent his only begotten Son into our World, "He became what we are that he might make us what he is." With this I wish you all a peaceful and joyous Christmas filled with grace to become more Christ-like during these days.

Lovingly,

Yours,

S. Pia Postuma OSA