



Angel Whispers

Benedictine Sisters of Clear Creek

Winter 2015

“The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light...”

Dear Family and Friends of the Clear Creek Sisters,

We want to express our gratitude to all who made our annual Christmas Boutique such a success. First of all, we want to thank God, Our Blessed Mother, and St. Scholastica (to whom we pray for good weather and also for rain when we need it!) for a beautiful day. The sky was clear blue, the sun kept us warm, the wind blew a little to make our coffee and hot chocolate so much the more appealing to our shoppers! We also appreciate the many dear friends who came to help us set up, decorate, display the items in the Gift Shop, and serve the drinks to the visitors. May God bless and reward each of you.



*On the Feast of the
Immaculate Conception*

*we honor Our Lady with
luminaries at our Priory*

Happy Advent! As we walk during this time of anticipating the birth of Jesus, we are heading for the Light, for the Great Light – the Light of the World – our Savior, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, Jesus Christ. We must not remain in the darkness of false teaching, of following the world’s ways, of materialism and consumerism. We must not choose the road of darkness, of violence, of malice, of death. We must follow the path that leads to peace, to forgiveness, to kindness, to charity, to love, to Christ, the true and only Light.

As St. Paul said in his letter to the Romans: *...it is now the hour for us to rise from sleep. For now our salvation is nearer than when we believed. The night is passed and the day is at hand. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light. Let us walk honestly as in the day...put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ.*” (Romans 13:11-14)

We, you and I, individually, have to be lights. We have to be filled with the Light in order to shine forth to all around us – to witness to the true Light, Jesus Christ. A friend of ours wrote in her blog: *“The only real candles are you and me (sic). If we are not the light of the world, the world will perish in darkness. Be light, allow God to make you into light, be purified, follow the Light of the World in every way. Desire to be like Christ.... The key is love, not hate, charity, not malice, wisdom...or willful blindness...If you are not light, if you are not loving and reaching out, you will perish....All who want to live in eternal light with God in Heaven, need to choose it now....”*

As you know, November is the month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory. Our Father Abbot, Dom Philip Anderson, O.S.B., kindly said a Requiem Mass in our Oratory. After the High Requiem Mass at the Abbey on November 2nd we processed out to visit the monks' cemetery and again on the anniversary of our beloved Father Francois De Feydeau. His grave was adorned beautifully with flowers and greens, to which we added our yearly Hawaiian lei (a tradition we started in the last few months Father De Feydeau was with us). *"It is a good and wholesome thought to pray for the dead..."* (2 Mach.12:46)



Father Abbot offering the Requiem Mass

For our annual retreat we were privileged to latch on to the monks' retreat conferences. This year Monsignor Arthur Caulkins preached very inspiring conferences on devotion to the Sacred Heart and to the Immaculate Heart. He spoke also of Our Lady's presence at Mass. It was all very uplifting and gave us a lot upon which to meditate.

December 8th – Feast of the Immaculate Conception is always a big celebration here in Clear Creek. In the morning Father Abbot was the Celebrant at the Solemn High Mass. Father Abbot came to our Oratory to preside at our Renewal of Vows. After Vespers there was a Procession and a Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We at Queen of Angels lit up the evening with bright luminaries on the stone walls surrounding Priory. Compline at the Abbey was particularly special, with candle light only in the monks' Oratory. This was a beautiful way to launch the Year of Mercy here in Clear Creek.

As you may know, the Holy Father, Pope Francis celebrated the Opening of the Door of Mercy in the Basilica of St. Peter on December 8, 2015, marking the official start of the Jubilee of Mercy. The initial rite of the Jubilee is the opening of the Holy Door. This door is one which is only opened during the Holy Year and which remains closed during all other years. Each of the four major basilicas of Rome has a Holy Door: St. Peter's, St. John Lateran, St. Paul Outside the Walls, and St. Mary Major. The rite of the opening of the Holy Door illustrates symbolically the idea that, during the Jubilee, the faithful are offered an "extraordinary pathway" toward salvation.

Pope Francis has asked that in every diocese and in churches and shrines designated by the diocesan bishop, there will also be a celebration of the rite of opening the Holy Door in unity with the Universal Church. This is to allow all to be able to participate and obtain the indulgences allowed in this Jubilee Year. In line with that, our Bishop Slattery has given permission for Clear Creek Abbey to designate the door of its Oratory as a "Holy Door of Mercy." Thus, we are blessed to be able to obtain the indulgences granted as we enter the Oratory door here in Clear Creek.

This is the Year of Mercy, this is the "Age of Mercy." As we walk out of the darkness of confusion, of sin into the Light of Christ, Who is Mercy, may we all shine forth to each other the mercy and love of Christ. Please be assured of our grateful prayers for all your support.

May the Infant Jesus, the Light of the world, illuminate your hearts and your homes with His Light, His Mercy, His Love, and His Peace. May Our Lady, Mother of Light and Mercy protect you.

In Conspectu Angelorum,

Sister Annuntiata, Prioress

Sister Annuntiata, prioress



Our dear friends celebrate with us.



Our annual Renewal of Vows

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P.S. Our apologies for the tardiness of this newsletter. By the time you receive this it will be after Christmas and we will have completed our Novena for you. Please know too that you will have a special remembrance at Midnight Mass. Have a very grace-filled 2016!