



# Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa Ex Corde Ecclesiae

ALL FOR JESUS, ALL THROUGH MARY

## *Laudentur Jesus et Maria!*

Dearest Friends in Christ,

From our hearts to yours, the Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa extend their sincere wishes for a joyous Thanksgiving Day and a holy Advent Season.

*"Be filled with the Spirit; speaking one to another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father" (Ephesians 5:18-20).*

I can think of no better words to open this edition of our newsletter than with these words of St. Paul as we feature, in this edition of our newsletter, so many reasons to thank Almighty God for the blessings of this past year.

As you enjoy these pages which feature our life of liturgical prayer and apostolic service, we hope you notice the special attention we are giving to those who serve with us in our labors of love.

Know of our deep appreciation for your prayers and financial support which make it possible for us to continue our community's growth and formation under the tender guidance of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

*Mother Teresa Christe MSSR*

Mother Teresa Christe, MSSR

*"Giving thanks always for all things in the name of our Lord..."*





# The Perfect Gift

*“How shall I make some return to the Lord for all that He has given to me.” (Psalm 115:12)  
“Offer to God the sacrifice of praise, and pay thy vows to the Most High.” (Psalm 49:14)*

Early in the morning, before the dawn begins to break, the Sisters silently come to chapel for our daily Holy Hour. We come to seek our Spouse, to offer Him the first moments of our day. He in turn has been waiting for us for all eternity and greets us, His beaming Face hidden in His Eucharistic Form.

God, Our Father and Creator, has called each of us into being, and by His love and mercy sustains us until He calls us home to be with Him forever, marking for us a special path through this life. God is the ultimate gift-giver and most gracious, generous benefactor; He gives to us with immeasurable liberality. His love and mercy are endless. His gifts are priceless. He is Priceless and it is for Him that we surrender all our earthly treasures.

Every gift requires some degree of sacrifice on the part of the giver, and the one who receives is called to respond with gratitude and love. The mystery of gift is the mystery of our life of consecration. The Redemptive mysteries showcase the ultimate gift of sacrificial love. In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Jesus redeems us by His Body and Blood, and offers Himself as a fitting holocaust to the Father. Jesus has given us the perfect gift of Himself in the Eucharist; an act of perfect thanksgiving to the Father.



We earnestly seek ways to repay the Lord for His abundant, lavish gifts to us, but we know that it is impossible to ever adequately thank Him. Each day, our Lord gives us the opportunity to join in His perfect thanksgiving to the Father through our participation in the Eucharist. Our hearts become united with His, and it is for this that we slip quietly through the breaking darkness into the light of His Presence.



# The Joys of Community Life

*Ecce quam bonum et quam jucundum habitare fratres in unum (Psalm 133:1)!* Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! Indeed, it truly is good to dwell together in unity, and we are blessed with our community life. The holy vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience mark the Religious life, but another essential element is community life. We are truly sisters, holding everything in common, loving and supporting each other, and striving together for the perfection to which God has called us. How wonderful it is to have companions on the journey!



A beautiful aspect of community is the convergence of unity and difference. Each Sister has been endowed with different gifts from God and lives out our charism in a particular way. It is beautiful to see our charism being expressed in each Sister. However, this is completely unified, for all is given to our dear King. All is directed towards the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Talents, skills, charisms, temperaments, etc. are all presented as one gift.



In the little things of community recreation or the sharing of our common greeting of “Praised be Jesus and Mary”, which is responded with “Now and forever”, our community life is fostered. By uniting our voices and hearts to worship the King of Kings in our common prayer, we are living community life in the deepest way. All of this and more fosters the family spirit that characterizes our community life.

Our constitution states that our convent will be a place where God is loved and sought above all things. By living this way, we can say in all truth that it is good when brothers dwell in unity. Deo gratias!

# Our Partners in Loving Labor

“... and be thankful.” (Colossians 3:15)

As we strive to make God’s tender love visible to the world, many people make His love visible to us, and we are grateful to God for showing His Goodness through them. Since our arrival in this Diocese just over seven years ago, the dedicated support of friends near and far has enabled us to become established in a variety of apostolates and made our convent home a place where Christ can be loved above all else. We are blessed by our esteemed Chaplain and all our priests, who, ably assisted by our dedicated servers, bring us Him Who is our Life and the source of all Good. The liturgy forms the heart of our lives, and in our liturgical ministries we are thankful to serve alongside other loyal servants of the Lord – choir members, sacristans, and those who serve Him in the little hidden ways. There are so many of you that it is impossible to thank you all individually, but we trust that you know who you are and know of our sincere gratitude for you.



To our families also we owe a special debt of gratitude. By your giving of your own lives that we might have life, you, our parents, made it possible for us to answer Christ’s call to give our lives in loving service. To our parents we owe a debt that we cannot repay, but through our lives of consecration, we ever hold our loved ones before the Throne of God, praying that He who is the Giver of every good gift would repay them abundantly for their sacrifice.



## A special thank you to the dedicated members of the MSSR Committee

We give particular thanks to God for those who serve the interests of the community by their committed service on the MSSR Finance Committee: Judy Barrett, Dan Catone, Bruce and Cindy Cunningham, Russ Ferreira, John Galten, Deacon David and Carlin Gould, Chuck and Ellen Haas, Laura Held, Anna Hickey, Fr. David Jenuwine, Chris Lagos, and John Osmer.

Our deepest gratitude goes out to each of you, dear friends. By your prayers and support, many times with gifts from your need, you make our life of consecration and apostolate in this Diocese possible. Truly, as we know from our faith, your support, both financially and spiritually, makes you participants in our ministries. Your generous gifts - gifts which in the temporal realm allow us to purchase our convent home, receive the education necessary for our apostolates, meet the physical needs of the Sisters, provide supplies and materials for our apostolic endeavors, and so much more - enable you, through us, to make God’s infinite love visible to His people in this Diocese. Each month, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is offered for our families, friends, and benefactors, and you are all remembered in our daily prayers.

67% of goal met

\$640,000 left to raise

Through the daily labors of love of the Sisters and the concentrated work of the Finance Committee, Regina Pacis Convent is well on the way to being paid in full. It is almost miraculous that we have come this far in two short years. We are anxious to complete the purchase of our convent home, and we invite you to join us in this effort by responding to this mailing or donating at [www.mariansisters.com/donate](http://www.mariansisters.com/donate). Every little bit helps, and every gift enables us to continue to be Mary’s hands and heart at work in this Diocese.

*Call for Jesus, all through Mary!*