

We Have Seen His Star!



*Our first chapel
Log cabin monastery Christmas 1987*

Christmas 2015

Dear Friend:

You are fellow citizens of the saints and members of the household of God.

You form a building which rises on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the capstone.

Through him, the whole structure is fitted together and takes shape as a holy temple in the Lord. (Eph 2:19b-21)

How often we have reflected on these words of St Paul during the past year. There are so many people of good will striving now to build a new world order of mutual care and concern, a world of respect for the value of every human life and of all creation. We see the building of our new church as a part of this, providing a place of prayer for all people of good will and affirming the trust in God which must undergird all our human efforts. Once again, our heartfelt thanks to all who are helping us build this house of prayer. We appreciate your continued assistance so that we may bring this project to a happy conclusion.

One of the most beautiful features of the new church will be the stained glass windows – lovingly designed and executed by a master artist and craftsman, Fr Methodius Telnak of Holy Spirit Monastery in Conyers, GA. The windows are based on designs from the early centuries of our Order, employing pastel shades of translucent glass, and will bestow soft and glowing color on the white interior of the building. As you can see, the arches are ready and awaiting the arrival of the windows!



In addition to all the time and attention necessarily given to the construction of the church, this has been an eventful year in many respects. On April 9, our Sr Sophy became an American citizen! Over half of our community trooped to the Charlottesville Federal Court House to cheer her on. We returned home to a festive meal in our dining room bedecked in red, white and blue in her honor.

Then on May 30, Sr Myriam made her first profession of vows – another very special occasion. In July her family came for their first visit – her mother, brothers, sisters and their families, including all the nieces and nephews! We thoroughly enjoyed their stay and the wonderful Haitian feast they prepared for us, and it was good for them to see Sr Myriam in her new surroundings.



In late September, Sr Maria, who came to us from Spain 5 years ago, had the opportunity to visit her family, including her new niece and nephews. While in Spain she also attended the beatification of the martyrs of Viaceli, members of that Spanish community of our monks who died for their faith in 1936. We were grateful she could represent us on that special occasion and also meet our Abbot General Fr Eamon Fitzgerald who was present for the ceremony.

We had the blessing of receiving two new members this year, Susanna from North Carolina and Valerie from Washington. Please keep them in your prayers and also the others who are seeking to join us here. Finally, in November our very dear chaplain, Fr Charles Cummings, celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his monastic vows.



As we prepare for the peace and joy which is the message and gift of Christmas, we are mindful of the areas in our world where there is sorrow and distress of so many kinds. We hold this and all of you in our hearts and in our prayer. May Christmas bring the whole human family closer to Christ and to one another, as St Paul says:

In him you are being built into a temple, to become a dwelling place for God in the Spirit. (Eph 2:22)

The Sisters at Our Lady of the Angels Monastery – Crozet, Virginia



Sr Barbara (with Amber), Srs Maria, Francis, Joanna, Kathy (with Jesse James), Srs Kay, Sophy, Susanna, Claire, Myriam, Mother Marion, Sr Mary David, Jo Ann (with Juniper)