



This is what is asked of us: to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with our God....

Christmas 2018

Dear Friend,

This familiar paraphrase from the prophet Micah could be summed up in one word: integrity. Isn't this the quality we most cherish in others and strive for in ourselves? It is the basis of trust. The lack of integrity is what most erodes allegiance and loyalty. With you we pray for a renewal of integrity in our country and in our church. We pray also for all those whose trust has been betrayed and who are in need of healing, peace and the ability to trust again.

Last year saw the completion and dedication of our new church. This year's project was the renovation of our former small chapel area for use as office space and a visiting area. In addition, 2018 was also the year of the garden! We had a bumper crop of lettuce and tomatoes, squash and beets, cucumbers and peppers – plus some delicious blueberries, strawberries, and even the first nut harvest from our almond tree. The local deer population was somewhat offended by the 7 ft high mesh fence we put up to protect the garden, but it did save the vegetables! (Our peaches did not fare as well – the neighborhood black bear helped itself to half of that crop....)



Mother Kathy



Sr Jacqueline

We are happy to introduce you to Sr Jacqueline from Colombia and Eve Marie from New York, who came to us this year and are a wonderful addition to our community life. Sr Jackie is fast becoming a very good cook, and our Golden Retriever Amber has found a new hiking companion in Eve Marie – together they explore our woods and fields.

Monastery Country Cheese continues to be a good source of support for us and enables us to give some assistance to those who are in need, at home and abroad. The cheese-making together also builds community among the Sisters and among the generous friends who help us. Many of you who send us your cheese orders also request our prayers for your needs and those of your families and friends, and this outreach of prayer is an important part of our vocation.



Eve Marie and Amber

As we seek to answer the call to encounter the young – and not so young – and to make our monastic life better known through social media, you can now visit us at www.pinterest.com/OurLadyoftheAngelsMonastery/ and www.facebook.com/olamonastery/ in addition to our website www.olamonastery.org

In 1958 Sr Barbara made her first vows, so 2018 was the 60th anniversary of that happy event. The celebration of her Diamond Jubilee added sparkle to our season of gratitude this November! Abbot Joseph and several of our brothers from Holy Cross Abbey joined us for a special liturgy, festive meal and much gratitude to God for the blessings of all these years of love and service. Still looking forward, Sr Barbara echoes St Paul's proclamation "My entire attention is on the goal as I run towards the prize to which God calls me – life on high in Christ Jesus!"

We thank you once again for your friendship and generosity. Let us pray for one another. And may the peace of Christmas be yours now and throughout the coming year.



Sr Barbara and Fr Joseph

— The Sisters at —

Our Lady of the Angels Monastery

Crozet, Virginia



Front: Srs Barbara, Claire, Amber (!), Mother Kathy, Srs Francis, Kay
Back: Srs Myriam, Sophy, Marion, Eve Marie, Maria, Jacqueline, Jan, Joanna