

Winter 2017



Dear Friends,

**You too?** Change and uncertainty continues to be at the forefront of our world; things both in and out of our control. It affects each of us daily; our actions, attitudes, our health and our relationships. While the weight of all we see, hear and know can be overwhelming and frightening it also gives us a remarkable opportunity to effect change. **We can choose to respond to these challenges in a way that makes a difference in the world.**

Over fifty years ago the Monks and Nuns of New Skete chose a path that wasn't always easy or popular or even safe. Ultimately, our course and existence has been influenced by many events including...

- Founding the communities from scratch based only on a vision, passion and faith.
- The sudden tragic death of a young founding Monk and the sad passing of a vibrant Nun to illness.
- Changing our ways to be self-sustaining over the years- beginning with farming and sewing and adapting as we needed to.

But even now as we continue on our path we wouldn't change the hardships or challenges we have come through because they have allowed us to empathize with others who strive to be the leaven in the world.

Through prayer and hospitality, central to our vision, we continue to be here as a place of healing to bring people together. In the coming year and beyond, we will provide hope and comfort, peace and acceptance to you and many others. Our church has and continues to be a symbol of openness, a sign of what reconciliation looks like. Visitors to New Skete experience varying levels of hospitality: attending church services, an event, a seminar, a personal retreat, spiritual direction, bringing a puppy into their family, or training their dog to be a good companion.

**You make us grateful, every day.** The renovations for New Skete's Transfiguration Chapel, "the little church" continue toward completion. Funds raised to date are \$172,000 toward the needed goal of \$400,000. As you may know, meeting this goal will enable us to accomplish the renovations that will allow the church to be a structure of hope for the future and a symbol of renewal for all who visit.

**You are hope.** We pray for guidance, strength and clarity for you and for all those making their way on a new or continued path. At this time, we are reminded of your previous generosity and we ask you to consider a gift *today* in celebration of hope and reconciliation in this world. Your gift to the Monks and Nuns of New Skete will help us meet the financial goal needed for the Transfiguration Chapel renovations and other monastery buildings in need.

Friends, please know we keep you in our thoughts and daily prayers. We pray that God may bless you abundantly for your generosity of prayers, kindness, and friendship!

In Christ's love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bro. Christopher".

Brother Christopher  
Monks of New Skete

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sr. Cecelia".

Sister Cecelia  
Nuns of New Skete