

Winter 2022



Dear Friends,

*"Monasteries prove that it really is possible for people to live together and strive to base every action on fraternal charity, on the love of God and his word, without trying to escape the realities of life, but instead learning to embrace them."*

*In The Spirit of Happiness*  
Monks of New Skete

For generations, people have connected to monasteries. They sought out monasteries for the spiritual renewal that a retreat would provide them. People also found that in addition to their devotion to studies and prayer, the Monks and Nuns of the monasteries provided valuable services to those in their community; copying manuscripts, creating art, caring for the sick, the poor and offering hospitality to those just traveling through. Whether it was cooking, cleaning or laundry, there was no task beneath them. Always with mindful intent, they worked together to meet the needs of all. They stepped into unfamiliar roles such as looking after animals, growing and harvesting food, fishing, and building shelter. Each of these provided opportunities to learn and lighten the burden of others while ensuring the continuation, health and betterment of the entire community.

**Monasteries have a crucial message to offer our culture.**

The same basic needs of our communities still exist today, but how these needs are met has changed. In modern times, monasteries witness to how action and outreach has expanded to include new ways of reaching people made possible by technology. With today's sophisticated communication and travel technology, communities don't need to just be the people in your geographical area but can also be people from across town, the country, the world, and cyber space. These innovations create countless opportunities for people to learn, grow, prosper and do good work. However, to accomplish that, we can't lose sight of the human factor behind all of it. More than ever we need to accept our responsibility to be compassionate, patient, and gracious to others, as well as ourselves. We must recognize and value the strengths and differences between us. Whether this means shoveling your next door neighbor's driveway or facetimeing a friend who needs a listening ear three thousand miles away, the time, talents and resources shared with others can also nurture our own mind, body and spirit.

With hope in our heart, we ask you to please consider a gift to benefit the Monks and Nuns of New Skete. This donation from you, In Honor or In Memory of those you love, will assist us as we continue to tend to those in need during these arduous times. Illustrated on the following page are some of the many ways your donation brings joy, hope and comfort to those in need. Click here to make your donation safely online. [2022 New Skete Winter Appeal](#)

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  
Prior, Monks of New Skete

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

Sister Cecelia  
Prioress, Nuns of New Skete

We thank God each day that you, our friend, have chosen to bring and keep the Monks and Nuns and New Skete into your life. We are humbled by the many ways you enrich us and enable us to provide for you and many others.

During this past year, with your kind generosity we:

- Welcomed guests: back to the Monks and Nuns for personal retreats.
- Invited four new candidates to New Skete to begin their journey into monastic life.
- Commemorated our annual Pilgrimage with an esteemed presenter, virtually “Zooming” information to more than 100 people across the country.
- Offered personal Spiritual Direction both virtual and in-person, to those who continue to seek and further their relationship with God.
- Initiated long needed renovation plans to the Monks living space to insure a safe, healthy environment for many years to come.
- Blessed dozens of pets and their humans under a beautiful, autumn sky.
- Hosted two, 5-day E-Collar: workshops, which brought dozens of beginners and experts alike to learn “The Art of Training Your Dog.”
- Released a new book by the Monks, along with Marc Goldberg, “The Art of Training Your Dog: *How to Gently Teach Good Behavior Using an E-Collar*”
- Strengthened our resolve as we repair the extensive damage from the lightning strike at the Nun’s monastery to enable us to get back to serving those who come to us in need.
- Newsletters: continued to provide online stories, insight, updates, and diversions.
- Crafted cheesecakes for people all over the country to enjoy or to gift to families and friends afar. (Including seasonal flavors).
- Delighted in the privilege of training dogs from people entrusting us with their canine family member.
- Whelped German Shepherd puppies and matched them with their forever families.
- Maintained existing and created new hiking trails: for monastics, guests, and visitors who enjoy hiking.
- Trimmed tree canopies and foliage throughout the New Skete property allowing more air and light for healthier growth for years to come.
- Continued grading of the road to allow for wider, brighter, safer passage specifically on the one mile road from Emmaus House to the Puppy Kennel.
- Shared our resources, as we were able, in the fight against food insecurities that many in our local communities are experiencing.
- Completed a new area of the Nuns’ bakery: to allow for more efficient cheesecake packing and shipping.

We pray daily for the good health, happiness, and safety of you and all of God’s creatures. May the joy surround you, your friends and family during this cherished time of year.