

November 2025



Dear Friends,

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them..."

As quickly and predictably as the colorful Autumn leaves cascade to the ground and are replaced with sparkling snowflakes, the hustle and bustle of the holiday season is once again thrust upon us. Regardless of where you live, seasonal cues are everywhere.

For most, daily life already includes the stress of managing complex responsibilities involving; family, work, finances, home, car, health, relationships, community and ourselves. In the weeks leading to Christmas and year's end, something happens. We start questioning, is this gift I'm giving, *enough*? Should it be more expensive and extravagant? Do I need to think *bigger*, do *more*? Be more?

Perhaps today we might broaden our paradigm of what actually makes a meaningful gift and start thinking outside of the box.

...There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.

Intentional or otherwise. At some point, we have all been dismissed by the words and actions of others. How did that make you feel? Embarrassed? Frustrated? Resentful? Worthless? Even vulnerable? These painful feelings linger and can become the negative, personal dialog in your head. These moments can undermine your confidence, your future words, actions and reactions towards others and yourself.

Alternatively, how do you feel when you experience the immediate warmth of being truly seen and heard while in the company of someone who is fully *present*? Appreciated? Understood? Loved? Someone is listening to your words with genuine interest and curiosity! Providing that feeling and giving THIS moment to someone else is a genuine gift.

Spiritual gifts this year instead of material things? Maybe both. Whether it's a family member, friend, acquaintance or even stranger, when you listen and observe them with full attention, very often what someone needs most becomes unmistakable. Even small gestures remind them, they were heard and they are important. Imagine the unique, positive synergy that would grow from this type of movement.

...There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work".

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

As Monks and Nuns, we are nourished by God's love and light daily. We strive to humbly devote our lives to prayer and working to build community during a turbulent time. We consider it a tremendous privilege to share this hope with you and with all those in need. It is with immeasurable gratitude that we ask you to consider a donation today to benefit the Monks and Nuns of New Skete.

As 2025 comes to a close, your thoughtful gift may be given In Honor or In Memory of someone you love or for wishes of health and happiness for the new year or simply, in the name of Peace. Illustrated on the following page are just some of the many ways your support brought inspiration and comfort to so many during this past year. We pray that God may bless you abundantly for your generosity of prayers, kindness, and friendship!

In Christ's love,

Brother Christopher
Prior, Monks of New Skete

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 to the Monks and Nuns for personal retreats.
- Received new candidates to New Skete to begin their journey into monastic life.
- Continued the tradition of holding a New Skete “Companions only” Retreat. Attendees participated in the day long retreat in person and by Zoom.
- Gathered for our annual Pilgrimage and welcomed guest presenter, Fr. Geoffrey Ready.
- Broadened our availability for personal Spiritual Direction both virtual and in-person, to those who continue to seek and further their relationship with God.
- Blessed an abundance of pets and their humans during a perfect autumn day.
- Hosted Two, five-day, E-Collar workshop which continues to be a favorite course for both beginners and experts alike to learn “The Art of Training Your Dog.”
- Amassed and provided online stories, insight, updates, and diversions for the monthly Newsletters.
- Created cheesecakes, fruitcakes and other foods for people all over the country to enjoy or to gift to families and friends afar. (Including seasonal flavors).
- Gratefully had 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.
- Created new hiking trails while also maintaining the existing ones for monastics, guests, and visitors who enjoy hiking.
- Shared our resources, as we were able, in the fight against food insecurities that many in our local communities are experiencing.
- Helped organize the 1700th Anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea.
- Hosted two Iconography Workshops, one for Beginners and one for Advanced.

We pray daily for the good health, happiness, and safety of you and all of God's creatures in this world.