



## Fund Development Office

### Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement

St. Francis Convent ~ Graymoor ♦ 41 Old Highland Turnpike ♦ Garrison, NY 10524

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Dear Friend,

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*“The reign of God is like a mustard seed which someone took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest seed of all, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes so big a shrub that the birds of the sky come and build their nests in its branches.” (Matthew 13:31-32)*

The Society of the Atonement consisted of only the Founders, with one other Friar and four Sisters when they joined the Roman Catholic Church in 1909. Yet when we look back over our history since 1898, we know it has grown like the small mustard seed; and our message of “at-one-ment” and our ministries have been instrumental in spreading the reign of God in many nations.

Each Sister’s individual efforts have grown beyond what we could have imagined. What we planted is still bearing fruit. When we were assigned to a new ministry, we often left a place without having seen the growth of that small seed; so it is truly a blessing when we hear from persons whose lives we touched in years past, and learn that our labors have borne good fruit.

I often think of all the towns where our Sisters ministered – some for only a brief time, others for many years. I picture the countless people whose lives we touched and the many roots and branches that extend outward even today. Through all these people, our Sisters’ efforts continue even when we are no longer present with them. In fact, one of our goals has been to train and encourage others to “tend the vineyard” after we leave.

What you offer in support of our community and our works also grows like the mustard seed beyond what you might imagine. Those whose lives have been touched by your kindness will never know who to thank for the good they experience, but I hope you know that the effects of your generosity live on and bear much fruit. Imagine the countless people who will find shelter in the branches that come forth from the seeds you help us plant!

Sincerely, in Christ,

Sister Diane Bernier, SA  
Development Director

**Please remember the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement in your Will**

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