



## 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,

September 2021

Though we are still not out of the woods relative to the pandemic, we are pleased to have reasons to celebrate the joyful times in our community that renew our hopes for the future.

On August 11, the feast of St. Clare, we celebrated the Perpetual Profession of Sister Lynde Ates as a Franciscan Sister of the Atonement. On September 8, we will celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Sister Margaret Sikora's arrival at Graymoor. Both will be featured in our next "Graymoor's Well."

Early in 2020, when the pandemic struck the United States, and everyone quickly learned what "life under quarantine" entailed, our community found it necessary to temporarily close our retreat houses and our chapels, as well as other income-producing ministries. At the time we expected that we could weather the impact of the pandemic, believing that in a few months everything would return to normal. Little did anyone foresee the long duration of curtailed public activities and the extended adverse impact on our community's financial health.

We were fortunate to be able to continue to employ our essential workers by applying for and receiving a loan from the Paycheck Protection Program to help pay wages and benefits.

Though some return to normal routines has begun - for example our Washington Retreat House in DC is beginning to schedule some small groups - it is still too soon to resume retreats at Our Lady of the Atonement Retreat House at Graymoor. Neither have we been able to welcome people of the area back to attend Sunday Mass at St. John's Church, or to open our Motherhouse chapel to friends and other visitors. We will keep you informed about future developments in this regard.

During this extended time of reduced income, our Sisters are especially grateful for your support; we put our trust in your continuing generosity. We place our hope in you and in our providential God as we repeat the words our Sisters have so trustingly prayed throughout the years ~

Providence did provide; Providence does provide; Providence will provide.

Sincerely, in Christ,

Sister Diane Bernier, SA  
Development Director

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

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