



## 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,

December 2021

Making my way along a hospital corridor to visit some patients, I passed a large window and saw a staff member placing a baby on a scale, recording its weight and measuring its length. I watched as he pressed the tiny feet – one at a time – on an inkpad and created tiny footprint impressions on an official-looking form. Noticing me on the other side of the glass, he nodded at my awed interest and smiled; then continued to record the infant's vital information. I did not want to move away from this sacred moment of witnessing the first few minutes of life of this brand new child of God!

Mary's Child had nobody to document his vital statistics when He was born. However, He did have a host of witnesses who proclaimed His birth to all the world and for all generations.

He was proclaimed by all creation, as represented by the Star of Bethlehem;  
by all creatures, represented by the animals in the manger;  
by all the poor whom the shepherds symbolize;  
by all the rich, by the presence of the Magi;  
and by all who make Jesus the center of their lives as witnessed by Mary and Joseph.  
(From a homily on Christmas Day 2000)

This Christmas is a new opportunity to stand in awe at the miracle of a Child's birth. If you or I had been there with the shepherds, would we have wanted to remain longer in the presence of the newborn Jesus? How might we set time aside this Christmas to linger a little longer with Him to praise and thank Him for becoming at-one with us in his humanity?

Your financial support has assisted our community in witnessing that Jesus is truly at-one with us and helping all those we meet to draw closer to Him. We hope that we can rely on your ongoing support in the future that we may continue to share the message of Christmas throughout the year.

The Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement wish you and yours all the blessings Christ brings to all creation again this Christmas 2021.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sister Diane Bernier, SA  
*Development Director*

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

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