



Graymoor's Well ...

a spring of living water!

FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE ATONEMENT ~ GRAYMOOR ~ 845-424-3625

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May 2018

Issue #1

Dear Friends,

This communication may come to you as a surprise since it has been quite a while since you received a newsletter from us! I take this opportunity to share a new 'mini-newsletter' ~ *Graymoor's Well*. It will be shorter in length, but more frequently distributed to keep you updated about the happenings of our congregation! It is my hope that *Graymoor's Well* will provide a real connection ~ a spring of living water ~ as we collaborate for the sake of the Mission.

Recently I was at our missions in Chigasaki, Japan and Paliparan, Cavite, Philippines as part of the Canonical Visitation of our congregation. It is always a joy to share time with our Atonement Missionaries at various missions throughout the world. The passion and commitment to ministry is thriving at our missions. Wherever our Sisters are there is a strong and vibrant connection to our Motherhouse at Graymoor. The heritage and charism of our congregation is strong and grounded in each and every Sister; as it is with the story of the 'well' at Graymoor ~ it is truly foundational to our being!

Historically speaking, it is clear that without this well at Graymoor, there would have been no *Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement* at this site. The words of our Foundress, Mother Lurana White, accentuate the centrality of this well: "That night, after I went to my cell {room}, I prayed ... and my prayer was: *O show me that Your blessing rests upon this thing and us by sending the water, the symbol of the Holy Spirit, tomorrow. If this place is not Your chosen one, do not let it come at all!*" This profound faith of our Foundress speaks deeply to all of us as Sisters of the Atonement. *Graymoor's Well* ~ the spring of living water ~ stands as a living testament to God's abundant blessings on this Holy Mount of the Atonement. Often in my letters to you I refer to your partnership with us for the sake of the Mission! Your supportive prayers and financial gifts allow us to minister to those in need as well as provide for the needs of our Atonement Missionaries, thus you become at-one with us in our missionary vocation! For this blessing we are ever grateful to you as we daily lift you in prayer.

With sincere gratitude,

Sr. Mary Patricia Galvin, SA
Minister General



*"We could not be true Franciscans
without being missionaries."*

Mother Lurana

We believe ... that you appreciate the opportunity to partner with us in our efforts at our various missions. Without your steadfast support, our endeavors are truly limited due to financial constraints. Together ... we can continue to do amazing things! Please consider your options as you look at your charitable endeavors. Might you make a commitment to our mission? Please take the time to consider how you might solidify such a commitment ...

YOUR NAME: _____ (May 2018)

ADDRESS _____

✓ Please check all applicable lines:

- Please add my name to your monthly mailing list.
- Please use the enclosed donation wherever most needed.
- Please use the enclosed donation for the Philippines Mission in memory of *Sr. Susan*.
- Please send me general information about your mission in the Philippines.
- Please count on my monthly donation of \$ _____.
- The *Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement* are included in my Will.
- Please send me general information about the *Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement*.

Please cut this section and return it to: “Fund Development Office” ...

Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement ... 41 Old Highland Tpke. Graymoor Garrison, NY 10524

We remember ... *Sr. Susan Boyle* with gratitude for her dedicated commitment to our mission in the Philippines ~ this Mission has previously been highlighted in *Lurana’s Star* newsletter, so you may be familiar with the history of its founding.

Those of you who have been in communication with us over the years will readily recall the name of *Sr. Susan Boyle* who was the Director of our Fund Development Office from 2002 to 2010. Sr. Susan went on to be a founding member of our Philippines Mission in September 2010; she gave her entire being to that Mission until serious illness struck her, resulting in her passing on to the gift of eternal life on May 26, 2017. The legacy of Sr. Susan is amazingly present in Paliparan!



During my March visit I felt extremely blessed ~ all is alive and well with an engaging local community of seven Sisters (three are our Novices and two are Sisters in the transfer process considering a commitment to our congregation). Our ministry there is multi-faceted with outreach to innumerable people in need; I would venture to say miracles happen there on a daily basis!

Over these seven years since its foundation, many services have been provided to the people of Paliparan. It is our goal to strive to respond to the needs of the times, adapting the present reality to accommodate the true needs of those whom we encounter. Out of that ‘need’ we presently have three primary areas of ministerial focus at the Mission! Within the next page I would like to share some basic information regarding these programs ... if you have a specific interest in assisting us with this mission’s needs please utilize the form above to request further information.

FEEDING PROGRAM: Children ranging in age from toddlers to teens partake of a balanced meal five days a week. Often soup is served along with rice, veggies and fish, chicken or pork. The average number of meals served per day is 225 at a cost of P100.00 (\$2.00 US/dollars) per meal. The cost of food for an average week is P112,500 (\$2,250 US/dollars) serving on average 4,500 meals.



Often siblings come together to share the meal together at table.



Children enjoy their meal with one another as they engage in lively conversation.



15 young adults assist the Sisters with this Program.



Social Worker Robert instructing some parents of the children who participate in the Feeding Program.



RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM: Ten boys ranging in age from 6 to 16 reside at our facility. Some of the boys have no parents ~ some come from single-parent homes ~ all are from dysfunctional families where their needs are not met. The cost of care per child per month is \$500 US/dollars.



Sr. Yna teaches the eager-to-learn boys about the solar system!



Boys enjoy some 'gifts' from the USA!



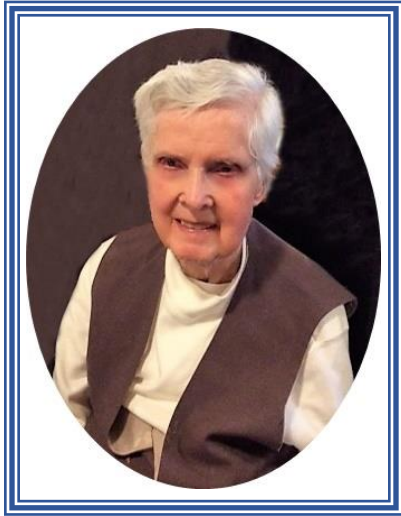
This multi-person vehicle transports program children wherever needed.

LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM: 

Twelve women gather as sew-ers to produce items for sale. The weekly cost of this program is \$300 (US/dollars). The women gain skills and occasionally they are able to make a meager profit from their labors.



In Memory of our recently deceased Sisters ...



Sister Patricia Shaughnessy
3/26/1926 – 6/22/2017

*“The Lord bless you and keep you,
let his face shine upon you,
be gracious to you,
and give you peace!”*

Numbers 6:24-26



Sister Edmund McGourty
2/19/1918 – 6/26/2017

*“That they may all be one ... as you,
Father, are in me and I am in you,
may they also be one in us,
so the world may believe you sent me.”*

John 17:21



Sister Maria Albina Paris
10/11/1926 – 9/24/2017

*“We JOY in God
through our Lord Jesus Christ
by whom we have received
the ATONEMENT.”*

Romans 5:11



Sister Margaret Ann Ryan
8/21/1934 – 12/20/2017

*“Having nothing,
yet possessing all things.”*

2 Corinthians 6:10



Sister Eileen Waldron
11/21/1931 – 1/3/2018

*“Preach the Gospel at all times,
sometimes use words.”*

St. Francis of Assisi



Sister Mary E. Stewart
8/29/1947 – 2/27/2018

*“With God all things
are possible.”*

Matthew 19:26

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord!

**Please visit our website (www.graymoor.org) for further information about our Sisters and our Missions.
*Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement ... 41 Old Highland Tpke. Graymoor Garrison, NY 10524***