



Graymoor's Well ...

a spring of living water!

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

Editors ... Sr. Mary Patricia Galvin, SA ~ Sr. Roberta Southwick, SA developmentoffice@graymoor.org

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Issue #3

Dear Friends,

Having journeyed through the holiday season, we now enter into the blessing of a new year ~ an opportunity to perhaps slow the pace and savor the moments ~ would that we could manage such a feat! With this communication I attempt to do so, for you as our partners in mission, by providing some focus on *World Mission Sunday* (October 21st this past year). The concept was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1926; the annual day encourages prayers and assistance for the missions. The day also reminds all Christians about the fundamental missionary character of the Church and of every baptized person. In his message addressed to all Christians, Pope Francis reminds us that “we are not in this world by our own choice,” and hence there is “an initiative that precedes us and makes us exist.” Each one of us, he says, is called to reflect on the fact that ‘I am a mission on this Earth,’ which is why we are here in this world. In fact, the Pope says, “every man and woman is a mission.” Pope Francis goes on to say: “No one is so poor as to be unable to give what they have, but first and foremost what they are.”

The *Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement* is certainly a missionary congregation; our mission continues to our last breath as we strive to ‘give what we are’! As I was reflecting on these words of Pope Francis with reference to *World Mission Sunday*, I thought you too might appreciate such an awareness as you partner with us in our mission! Your prayer, presence and participation by way of monetary contributions enables us to reach out to so many in need at missions throughout the world. The next two pages, as written by Sr. Roberta Southwick, SA (our Mission Appeals Coordinator pictured on page 3), provides you with an overview of this concept. We are deeply grateful that you choose to be in partnership with us ... for the sake of the mission!

With sincere gratitude,

Sr. Mary Patricia Galvin, SA
Minister General



*“We could not be true Franciscans
without being missionaries.”*

Mother Lurana

Missions Appeal through Mission Appeals

Jesus came to earth on mission from His Father -- to bring all on earth to unity with God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Every Christian -- by virtue of Baptism -- participates in the mission of Jesus.

The Church guides and governs the missionary activity of the Church throughout the world.

There are four Pontifical Missionary Societies which oversee the missionary activity of the Church in every diocese throughout the world: **The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Missionary Childhood Society, the Society of St. Peter the Apostle, and the Missionary Union of Priests and Religious.** They are all charged with raising awareness of the missions "ad gentes", i.e. "to the people". Archbishop Giovanni Pietro Dal Toso is the current president, with a Vatican office in Rome, Italy.

The Peter's Pence Collection gives the Pope funds to distribute as he sees fit, throughout the world.

From the foundation of the Society of the Atonement, **our Episcopalian founders, Father Paul Wattson and Sister Lurana Mary White, promised to send one penny out of every dollar that came in for the missionary activity of the Friars and Sisters to our holy father the Pope, for the Peter's Pence Collection.** This was most unusual for Protestants at the time, and it became a factor in their acceptance into the Roman Catholic Church in 1909. Their first check was for \$10, and the pope's secretary of state, Cardinal Merry del Val, remembered and reminded Pope St. Pius X of their annual contribution, as Protestants.

This practice continued from 1898, through our 1909 Corporate Reception into the Roman Catholic Church, and continues today.

As Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement, we make no apology for begging funds for the people we serve.

Franciscans and Dominicans are known as "**the mendicant orders**" in the Church; we beg for the people we serve -- and by choice we minister among the poorest of the poor, i.e. those who cannot sustain the services we provide for them. Initially, they cannot maintain us, form new missionaries from their own countries, build necessary facilities to help grow the mission, and so forth.

The Propagation of the Faith Collection gives missionary communities funds for specially approved projects in the mission lands of the Church.

"Founded in France in the 19th century, the original idea was to awaken the missionary spirit in every baptized person; the economic support to the missions followed. The Papal Mission Societies are called today to keep these two aspects alive, and are, therefore, very current."

Archbishop Giovanni Pietro Dal Toso



The Society of the Atonement has a long history of involvement and collaboration in missionary activity in the Catholic Church -- in parishes at home and abroad. We know how to evangelize, and we have experience doing it for over a hundred years. The Sisters and Friars have worked together in parishes, dioceses, and national bishops' conference secretariats and committees. Though small in number, the Franciscan Sisters and Friars of the Atonement are well-known and respected as Catholic Franciscan Missionaries who promote AT-ONE-MENT with God.

Congregations of missionaries working in the mission fields of the Church have the obligation to make their needs known to the bishops. The bishops have the obligation of creating opportunities for the faithful to exercise their right to be part of the mission work of the Church. These obligations are fulfilled every summer through the Mission Cooperative Plan implemented in every diocese.

For over fifty years, some of our Sisters have travelled to parishes assigned to us by the Propagation of the Faith office of some dioceses, to deliver the mission appeals on behalf of the Church, the diocese, and the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement. This past summer, Sr. Diane Bernier, SA was able to make our appeal in her home parish in Waterville, Maine. Sr. Roberta Southwick, SA, who coordinates the applications and assignments, spoke in Winslow, Maine, and also spent a day teaching classes on mission in the parish school. Sr. Mary Sarah Dolan, SA and Sr. Paul Teresa Hennessee, SA spoke in Yonkers and Narrowsburg for the Archdiocese of New York, and they also spoke in the Albany Diocese, along with Sr. Roberta.

The money collected this year has been earmarked for the support and development of our newest mission in Paliparan, in Cavite, Diocese of Imus, The Philippines.

In Memory of our recently deceased Sister ...



Sister Christina Marie Fuoco, S.A.
7/23/35 - 9/8/18

"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

Eternal Rest grant unto her, O Lord!

The Great Commission

Go into the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation.

- Mark 16:16

New beginnings ... For the sake of the mission ...

As you know, we closed out year 2018 and started the new year with our Christmas Novena of Masses from December 25th to January 2nd. Each day we pray in gratitude for the blessing of our families, friends and benefactors ~ these Masses were offered for you and your intentions! With the onset of this 'new year', we are implementing some 'new beginnings' in our Fund Development Office.



Sr. Diane Bernier (pictured to the left) has replaced *Sr. Mary Pat Galvin* as the Departmental Director as of January 1, 2019. Sr. Diane may be familiar to you as she has been a member of the Congregational Leadership for a number of years, including a five-year term as our Minister General; most recently in this term, Sister is our Treasurer General. Our part-time staff of *Margaret Purvis* and *Sr. Roberta Southwick* (pictured below) will continue their ministry in the Development Office. Surely we are grateful for each of these individuals who come together 'for the sake of the mission' with a focus on our Fund Development Department.

Watch for additional changes in the coming months, including the ability to donate online, when we initiate a donor button on our website. We look forward to this new year as we trust your presence with us, and your support of us, will continue. May you be abundantly blessed as we pray in thanksgiving for the blessing you are as we partner together for the sake of the mission.



Margaret



Sr. Roberta

YOUR NAME: _____ (January 2019)

(Please Print)

ADDRESS _____

✓ Please check all applicable lines:

- Please add my name to your monthly mailing list.
- Please use the enclosed donation wherever most needed.
- Please include the following intentions in the *Monthly OLA Novena*:

- The *Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement* are included in my Will.

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

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