



St. Ann's Novitiate
December, 2019

Dear Friend in Christ,

As we approach the feast of the Word-Made-Flesh, we think of all of you with fondness and include you even more mindfully in our prayer.

Here in the novitiate, we relish keeping Advent! In this time of expectancy we try to enter more deeply into the spirit of littleness that marked our Mother Foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, so that we can receive the Word of God in a new way this Christmas. Little by little, we hope to learn to discern his face in the elderly we are preparing to serve and in all people.

A special grace for us as a Congregation was a private audience that our Mother General Maria had with Pope Francis on December 5th in his private library. Our Homes all over the world had taken up a collection so that each of our 17 provinces could offer him a chalice for his 50th anniversary of priesthood on December 13th. (He usually gives a chalice as a gift to the dioceses he visits around the world.) In addition, the monies left over were to be given to him for the poor. What a delight for Mother General to be able to have four other Little Sisters accompany her, as well as five of our Residents from our Homes in Rome and Marino, to offer him these gifts. The Holy Father greeted them all with much affection. He gave Mother General advice also, in order to increase vocations to continue the work of St. Jeanne Jugan, telling her to ask the parish priests to arrange regular contacts between the young people of the parishes and the Residents of our Homes— he was confident that this will bear fruit!

We count on your prayers, also, to increase vocations, and welcome any ideas for initiatives that you may have. We would be grateful if you would spread the word that we will be hosting a Epiphany Discernment Weekend from January 3-5, with Father Frederick Miller as Saturday retreat master. Young women aged 16-36 may obtain more information by emailing vocationsbrooklyn@littlesistersofthepoor.org. We thank you for your prayers and your support of our novitiate community, including the five novices the Lord has blessed us with.

We'd like to invite those of you who are in close enough proximity to Queens to join us for Holy Mass on the feast of the Holy Family, December 29, at 10:45 a.m. This will be followed by tours of our crèches, caroling and light refreshments. Please let us know if you can join us by calling (718) 464-1800.

This year the Church rejoiced at the canonization of St. John Henry Newman. May his wish become our own:

May each Christmas as it comes
find us more and more like HIM
Who at this time became a little child for our sake—
more single-minded, more humble,
more holy, more affectionate,
more resigned, more happy,
more full of GOD.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your loved ones!

In Jesus and Mary,

St. Mary Richard, Lsp
and Little Sisters and Novices