

The whole of creation is awaiting this moment



The God of Mercy in the Face of Jesus

Our God is merciful and tender, and will cause the bright dawn of salvation to rise on us (cf Lk 1:78). In Jesus, the babe of Bethlehem, we contemplate the face of the God of Mercy. With the whole Church, we welcome with gratitude, the Jubilee Year of Mercy that opens before us. At this hour of the history of our world, humankind with all of creation longs, more than ever, for the liberation that God offers us in God's beloved Son who enters our world in our own flesh and blood, a member of our human family, to bring us the gift of peace, love and unity.

It is in and through very ordinary things of everyday life that we experience the mercy and tenderness of our God. With thankfulness, we share with you some of these experiences.

During the **season of Advent**, the sisters and communities of the Vicariate were invited to "Re-visit the Mystery of the Incarnation and Nativity" in the light of faith, in the context of the emerging vision of the universe. The reflections proposed accompanied by prayer and contemplation, helped us to live with greater awareness the presence and action of our Creator God at every instant, and in every being in the universe as also the presence of the Incarnate Word that shines in the heart of all things!

Hospitality is an important part of our life. The Monastery is God's House. We welcome



everyone who comes, offering not only a material space but also, everything that



makes us live – personal and community prayer, a sisterly presence, an attentive listening, with the consciousness that we are all pilgrims on the way...

The Year of Consecrated Life

This year, we have had more people who came here, individually or as group, for an encounter with the Lord. The seminarians of the diocesan Seminary of St. John Vianney came regularly for days of prayer and reflection. At week-ends, it was mostly groups of lay people, and recently, some groups - adults and youth - for formation in personal encounter with God in silence and solitude.

We are thankful for their presence and their confidence; they awaken us to greater fidelity to our own way of living the contemplative call.

We walked closely with our sisters and brothers during the Year of Consecrated Life. In March, our monastery was chosen as the venue for the first meeting of the members of consecrated life in the diocese. It was a simple get-together at which sisters, and brothers shared their hopes and desire to serve Christ and his kingdom. This also gave

us an opportunity to come to know the different religious congregations in the diocese, their charisms and ministries.

In May, the Editorial staff of the Diocesan Magazine "SIGNO" came to our house to interview some of us regarding our vocation, presence and life-style. Their publication carrying this interview had an impact on our immediate milieu - to get to know the monastery with its 22 years of presence in the Diocese of Posadas. At various times, our bishop, Mgr. Juan Ruben Martinez, said that "the contemplative life is one of the two lungs necessary for the life of the local Church. And we add: to be in good health and work effectively, it needs mutual support, trust and complementarity.

Spiritual Family of Pierre Bienvenu Noailles

In order to maintain and strengthen the bonds of communion among the different vocations of our Spiritual Family, every five years there is a meeting of the members of the four vocations present in Argentina – Apostolic religious, contemplatives, Consecrated Seculars and Lay Associates.



This year it was held in July at Residencia.

The meeting well prepared by the Family Team, lived with the active participation and enthusiasm of all present, was indeed a real celebration of being ONE FAMILY, with the same Charism and same Mission of COMMUNION, lived in the diversity of vocations. May we continue, even with greater commitment to work for unity and fraternity in our respective milieus!

In October, we had our Spiritual Exercises, accompanied by Sister Adela Vanaclocha, an Apostolic sister, member of the Spirituality Center of the Holy Family, Martillac, France.



A few of our apostolic sisters joined with us three of Argentina, one of Brazil and one of Paraguay. Diversity and joy of "drinking at our own source"!



A special blessing: On 4 December, the diocese of Posadas celebrated the priestly

ordination of three seminarians, Michelangelo, Pedro and Sebastian – occasion for great joy and gratitude to God. We assure them of our prayer and sisterly support as we work together, in the same vineyard of the Lord.

On 19 December, one of the newly ordained, Father Miguel Angel, came to celebrate the Eucharist with us. He expressed his thanks and confidence inspired by the words of the psalm of the day, "Lord, be my rock of refuge".

The Eucharist and the Word of God are our daily bread strengthening us on our journey, urging us to proclaim the merciful love of God, living this same love in community. Once again, we thank our Jesuit Fathers of the Parish of Santos Martires who provide us with the service of their priestly ministry.

The first and third Saturdays of each month, we participate in the Eucharist celebrated in the Chapel of San Isidro Labrador (next door to our house), by Father Alejandro Cañete, parish priest of San Roque Gonzalez, and with the people of our village, the majority of them poor and simple people. It is good to pray with them as one community of God's people, and to take them in our prayer too.

We also wish to express our gratitude to Father John Bielski who returned to his homeland, Poland, after several years of service in Posadas. We appreciate his closeness, discretion and fraternal service. May our Blessed Mother accompany him in his new mission

Also a Benedictine monk, Father Osvaldo Donnici, ex-prior Tupasi Maria, Monastery of

Paraguay, and who, since 10 February this year, is the Abbot of the monastery Santa Maria de Los Toldos, Argentina, stops at our monastery from time to time when he passes through Posadas on his journeys. It has always been a joy and encouragement to us to share experiences and to be encouraged in our search for God in everything.

At Christmas we sing: "Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for born to us is Jesus, our Savior. Today, true PEACE has come down to the earth." May we all open our hearts and our homes that this PEACE may enter and remain always!

We rejoice because our ever- Merciful God accomplishes what has been promised, and manifests it each moment and to each one. Hence the need to

- open our eyes to recognize
- listen with your heart
- open our eyes to recognize
- listen with your heart
- welcome in whatever form it comes
- serve Christ in the lowly and the little ones.

Living thus, true is possible! Peace will be not just a wish, but a REALITY!



Holy Family Contemplative Sisters
Monasterio Sagrada Familia
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Happy Christmas
&
Happy New