



Hope and Courage for a New Year Ahead

Reflecting on last year's kindness, perseverance and blessings

In the midst of this last year that brought challenges to everyone, there are positive things that have happened and have helped us to see the Providence of God in our daily lives.

We are blessed by the prayerful support of each one of you, your generosity, your willingness to help others in whatever way you can, and we are blessed to have your part of our extended family of collaborators.

Taking a moment to reflect on this reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians can continue to offer us encouragement and the grace to continue onwards:

*“Rejoice in the Lord always! I say it again. Rejoice!
Everyone should know how unselfish you are. The Lord is near.
Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Present your needs to God
in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude. Then God's own
peace, which is beyond understanding, will stand guard over
your hearts and minds, in Christ Jesus.”*

Please know that you, your loved ones, and your special intentions have been in our daily prayers during the Christmas season and throughout the year. Happy New Year!



A memory from Christmas 2019.

A Year dedicated to St. Joseph

We couldn't have been happier to learn that this year is dedicated to one of our patron saints: St. Joseph.

On December 8, 2020 Pope Francis published an apostolic letter on St. Joseph, entitled *Patris Corde (With a Father's Heart)*. He responded wholeheartedly to the changing needs of Mary and Jesus, like when he found a lodging for Mary in Bethlehem as she prepared to give birth. When Jesus' life was in danger, they fled to Egypt during the night and stayed there until it was safe to return to Nazareth.

Since the very beginnings of the Congregation, St. Joseph has played a special role in the life of the Congregation. As a father,

he is the constant intercessor for our many needs — both material and spiritual. Each Little Sister carries a small statue of St. Joseph in her pocket, and confides to him her many needs. We cherish many stories of how St. Joseph has provided for our "little family" down through the years. To this day, St. Joseph continues to provide for our daily needs.

We invite you to confide your many intentions to St Joseph using this prayer suggested by Pope Francis, and please share with us the blessings you have received through his intercession.

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;*



*In you Mary placed her trust;
With you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,
Show yourself a father
And guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
And defend us from every evil.
Amen.*

Cultural Corner: The Shoe Game (winter tradition)

The Navajos rely heavily on tradition, and there are certain things that happen during certain times and seasons. During the winter months, a game is usually played called the shoe game. It's a game that brings generations together for laughter and joy. It's a time where the elders are able to teach the younger ones valued lessons in a way they can also have fun.

According to Navajo legends, the animals did not understand cycles on earth and half of them wanted it to be night all the time, while the others wanted day all the time. So, they created the game to see who would win. Whoever won got to have their wish fulfilled (day all the time or night all the time) and was considered more powerful. In the end, the animals realized the importance of balance in cycles and that neither was more powerful than the other. They needed each other.

The gist of the game is to have two sandboxes on opposite sides, put down shoes, and fill them with sand. There



is a certain ball placed in the shoe and covered with sand. The person from the opposite "team" guesses which shoe has the ball. While the person is guessing, there are usually animal songs sung, in Navajo, to distract the person from guessing right and to tell old stories. The two teams represent

day and night. The losing team has to give the winning team yucca roots after each game. After a certain amount has been reached, the winning team has to give all their roots to the losing team. By doing this, it shows that there is no winning team. Both won and both lost. It's a balance.

Roof Update

We are finally ending Phase 1 of the roof project, which was delayed due to weather and the COVID outbreak at our Home. As you may recall, Phase 1 focused on replacing the most damaged part of the roof.

We need your help for Phase 2. Once adequate funding is achieved, Phase 2 will hopefully begin in the spring before the monsoon and windy seasons. In Phase 2, 43,800 square feet of pitched asphalt shingle will be replaced and the flat roof section will be replaced with 3,800 square feet with TPO. There will also be at least one mechanical unit replaced as well as three small skylights. Please help us keep our Home water tight for the wellbeing of our Residents.



Words of Wisdom: Gratitude to All Thanking God Everyday



Baa Ahééh Nisin *I am thankful in Navajo*

Gratitude means to appreciate and cherish what is given to you and what you have. I have a lot to be thankful for...a lot! My parents are always in my prayers. My dad is 96 years old and my mom is 87. They are still with us — for which I am grateful. My kids for being there for me and with me through thick and thin. The beauty of our town. The scenery and the autumn weather are so pretty! There are so many things to mention but these are my main ones. And for the Little Sisters for taking great care of us during these scary times. Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart. Many blessings!



Trusting God's Goodness

- In trusting the goodness of God's love-gratitude must grow everyday-covers everything.
- Most grateful for the presence of God in the Little Sisters' lives. Whatever you are doing, we see God in our lives. You are His love, His loving care.
- God bless Fr. Walker during this pandemic — it has been hard on him — hard on us all because we can't do the "little things" we did for our friends (ie. push a wheelchair, pour a glass of water, or give a smile).

I wouldn't want to be anywhere else.



Many Reasons to say "thank you"

The word "gratitude" works in my mind the passage of scripture where Jesus asks of the Samaritan Leper, "where are the other nine?" So, where the word, "thank you" is omitted after a favor or a blessing there is, of course, a hurt to the giver. I have often wondered where I could find an even more expressive word than our traditional "thank you."

As I review last Thanksgiving the many reasons for one to say a heartfelt "thank you" to God, among these comes to my mind the enormous grace of living here, at Villa Guadalupe of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Mother's Message



To all our Friends, benefactors Associates and Families here and abroad,

This past year has certainly brought it shares of challenges to our world with COVID-19. The Sisters, Residents and Employees at Villa Guadalupe join me in expressing our sincere thanks and humble appreciation to all of you who have been the intermediaries of God's goodness and generosity towards the mission of the Little Sisters.

Thanksgiving Day was one of the best days of the year. The gifts of God are manifested in each one of you and your families and it showed forth the greatness of our God in yourself-giving towards those in need.

The Residents in our home are doing fine, although there are a few cases of COVID among Residents and Staff. We are keeping up with all the directives given to us by the Department of Health for the safety and wellbeing of the Residents and for everyone in the home during this time of the Pandemic, as the surge of covid-19 positive cases is going high here in McKinley County.

We have passed through the season of advent, the time of waiting in joyful hope for our Savior Jesus Christ; Christmas followed and then we entered into the New Year. In this New Year let us not lose heart. In faith let us keep in mind the beautiful gift this season brings — the gift Jesus becoming one of us to lift us up with his redeeming love in the midst of these worrisome times.

Once again, our prayerful wishes to each and every one of you for your continued support. May you and your families be blessed in this New Year, and may 2021 bring you good health and God's ultimate gift of Goodness.

A Happy & Prosperous New Year 2021!

God bless you,
Mother Sarah Maria, l.s.p.

Our Wish List Items

- * 8 oz cold cups
- * 8 oz hot cups
- * Disposable silverware
- * Non-latex, powder-free gloves: M, L
- * Ritz or saltine crackers

Thank you very much for your generosity providing some of our urgent daily needs.



"See how Jesus, Mary and Joseph loved one another; all three, how happy they looked, with what kindness and gentleness they spoke to each other. In our little family, it must be the same."

-Saint Jeanne Jugan

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