

Advent/Christmas Season 2024

Dear Relatives, Friends and Benefactors,

As trees surrender their leaves, they then stand naked. The only protection from the Winter’s cold is their strong roots. As we reflect on the Season let us always be mindful that we are like those trees, we are nothing without God’s mercy and grace, the roots of our lives. We have experienced this grace and mercy this the past year in many ways through:

You who have helped us supply a well pump motor for three families who needed a new well pump but their budget could not handle the expense.

You who have funded car repairs so mothers and fathers could get to work to support their families.

You who have offered prayers and sacrifices for distressed men and women who come to the door desperate since they have no other place to go, those who need a listening ear or fervent prayer.

You who have helped to keep St. Michael House open for the annual Vacation Bible School, this year for 47 children of all or no faith.

You who send items of food, gifts or funds for our monthly food pantry, Thanksgiving and Christmas distribution.

You who have been so faithful to our cause by volunteering to help with activities at St. Michael House or the Fertile Farms Thrift Shop

We rejoice and are grateful for the 56th annual “Friends” Fashion Show Luncheon which netted $168,000, half of this designated for the Rural Parish Clinic which serves the uninsured in five counties.

Much of our program remains the same as when Alice and LaDonna first came here in 1949. There are still those in need of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, but others have changed. We are grateful to you who have been a part of our ministry then or now by your assistance in whatever way you have helped.

Just recently a young mother rang the doorbell. I recognized her immediately, only the last time I’d seen her she had dark circles under her eyes and was drugged out. She looked happy and healthy and when she came in told me she had gone through an intensive drug rehab program, was able to have her three-year-old son with her, had a place to live and a steady job. She saw her other children regularly who were in foster care. She was grateful for what we had done for her years ago and grateful for the program which helped her resume a normal life. She left smiling.

Yes, there is much to be thankful for (Thanksgiving), there is more to seek and find of Christ’s love in our everyday lives, (Advent) and there is much to rejoice about (Christmas), as we reflect on our hope Jesus Christ. We cannot take this journey of hope without you. Your support has touched the lives of many who come to the door or call.

In Thanksgiving for your many kindnesses. three Holy Masses will be offered for your intentions at our parish church, St. Joachim’s in Old Mines, during the Christmas Season. May your life continue to be rooted in God’s mercy and grace as we celebrate the coming of God among us in the person of Jesus Christ.

Joyfully in Christ,

Rural Parish Workers of Christ the King



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