



The Santa Rita Newsletter

Newsletter of the Trappist Cistercian Nuns of Sonoita, Arizona

Vol. XX, No. 1

December 2014



Dear Friends,

At this joyful season, we bring our love and smiles—and warmest wishes for every blessing as we celebrate Christ's birth. And for our dear Jewish friends, a blessed Hanukkah from each of us. And as we approach a New Year, we send along our prayer that 2015 bring you health, happiness, and all good things.



Our most recent community photo—Front row, left to right: Sisters Miriam, Jacqui, Clare, our newcomer Sister Hannah, Sister Denise our “snow bird” who has come from our motherhouse in Massachusetts to spend the winter with us in sunny Arizona, and Sister Pam. Back row: Sisters Rita, Margarita, Mother Victoria our prioress, and Sisters Kate, Cathy and Esther.

Our deepest thanks to all the many friends who have so kindly given us donations during this past year. We cannot thank you all enough for your generosity to us. Know that we keep you all very close in our prayer and in our hearts.

Be sure to check out website, www.santaritaabbey.org. We're adding new photos and getting the journal up and running again. We've also added an online link to this newsletter so that you can see the full-color edition. To sign up to receive our newsletter via email rather than through regular mail, send a message to our newsletter editor at SRAGoodnews@gmail.com.

And now, look inside to see our news for the year ...



New Golf Cars: First of all, thank you for the incredibly generous response to our Wish List request in last December's newsletter. It turned out to be the Providence of God that we receive two carts. We can now take care of retreat house needs without having to walk a quarter of a mile each way, and also have a cart for the general needs of the sisters to get around on the monastery grounds. Thank you, Katie & Butch Bjorlin and Dennis & Maggie Cozzetti for your generous gifts!

New Church Carpeting: A grant from the Elizabeth Anne Parkman Foundation enabled us to replace the carpeting in our church in January. As you can see in the photo above, it took quite a few strong men to remove (and later, re-install) our choir stalls and guest chapel pews so that the old carpet could be replaced. Our heartfelt thanks to Rosalie Parkman of the Parkman Foundation, and also to the Cozzetti family & crew for their help with the choir stalls.

A Special Joy in February: We welcomed Sister Jaqueline Moor as a permanent member of our community on February 2, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, with the transfer of her vow of stability to our monastery. Sister Jacqui came to us in 2011 from our great-grandmother house, Holy Cross Abbey, in Wales, U.K. She is a beautiful addition to our community!

Our dog Shana passed away at the end of April. She was fifteen years old and sweet and faithful to the very end. Every afternoon in recent years she would head out to stand guard at her favorite spot under the shade trees in front of the kitchen. Why? She was waiting for the UPS truck driver to pick up our altar bread shipments: he had dog biscuits!

New Refectory Tables: The month of May brought us a gift of beautiful new tables for our refectory (the monastery dining room). Clayton Landwehr volunteered his time and carpentry skills to make them for us. The photo below shows Clay and his wife Marcia attaching table legs on the day they delivered them. Thank you Clay & Marcia!

Trappist Cistercian General Chapter: Once every three years all the abbots and abbesses of our world-wide Order hold a three-week General Chapter. In September Mother Victoria traveled to Italy to represent our community at this important meeting. This time it was an historic meeting, the first in which the abbots and abbesses were officially one single chapter, rather than being two chapters (one of abbots, and one of abbesses) in a "mixed" meeting.



Blessed Mark Shin: Pope Francis was in South Korea in August to beatify a group of Korean martyrs, Blessed Paul Yun Ji-chung and his 123 Companions. One of these martyrs is Bl. Mark Shin Seok-Bok. Blessed Mark was martyred on Holy Saturday in 1866 at the age of 38. He is our Sister Cathy's great-great grandfather!

Our community retreat: Fr. Gerard, the Abbot of Our Lady of the Genesee in Piffard, NY gave us our annual week-long community retreat in mid-November. Each morning we enjoyed Fr. Gerard's retreat conferences, and then we spent the rest of the day in holy leisure. What a blessing!

Cistercian Altar Breads: As Trappist Cistercians manual labor is an important value in our life. Here at Santa Rita Abbey our Sisters have worked for over thirty years baking and selling whole wheat altar breads to be used in churches around the country. This is deeply meaningful work, and we do it with joy and prayerful attention. Information about our altar bread sizes and prices can be found on our monastery website, www.santaritaabbey.org. Churches may use the online order form, submit orders via email to cistercianab@gmail.com, or call the bakery at 1-888-878-1622.

Chaplains: As always, we are deeply grateful to our Trappist brothers and their monasteries for their generous service as our chaplains during the year. We still do not have a permanent chaplain, but having them periodically during the year is an enormous blessing, and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts. Fr. William from St. Benedict's Monastery in Snowmass, CO, was our Christmas 2013 & New Year's 2014 chaplain. We hope to have a Snowmass monk with us again this Christmas. Fr. Matthew from St. Joseph's Abbey of Spencer, MA, was with us for Holy Week and Easter, and Fr. Robert from Assumption Abbey in Ava, MO, was our summertime chaplain.



When we are without a resident chaplain, we enjoy attending Sunday Mass at our local parish of St. Theresa's in Patagonia and its mission church, Our Lady of the Angels, in Sonoita. Our gratitude to Fr. Bill and the parishioners who always welcome us most warmly.

Rosemont Copper Mine: the Santa Rita Mountains continue to be threatened by plans for a huge open pit copper mine. The mine has a new Canadian owner, Hudbay Minerals, Inc., but still does not have all the required government permits it needs in order to begin construction. We persevere in our prayers that the mine can be prevented and that the Santa Ritas and all who live in the entire area may be protected from future threats.

Our Christmas Wish for 2014: Our wish this year is for badly needed renovations in the monastery kitchen. The price tag will be at least \$9,000. If anyone would like to contribute to our Kitchen Fund, we would be most grateful! Donations may be sent to Santa Rita Abbey, 14200 E Fish Canyon Rd, Sonoita, AZ 85637-6545. Thank you!

God bless you, one and all!

Your Sisters at Santa Rita Abbey

Santa Rita Abbey
Cistercian Altar Breads
14200 E Fish Canyon Rd
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