

'Twas the week before Christmas

'Twas the week before Christmas
And all through the house;
Every creature was stirring, yes, even a mouse;
The Sisters made plans for the week with all care
For they knew very soon Christmas Day would be here.

Then began through the convent a great preparation,
With dusting and cleaning and bright decoration.
All things that lay hidden away through the year
In ways quite mysterious began to appear.

From boxes came ornaments, shining and bright,
To vie with the gay-colored Christmas tree lights.
There was straw for the manger, and snow made of cotton,
Statues of plaster, the year long forgotten.



Ev'ry Sister was busier than ever before,
The protresses ran from the phone to the door.
While tempting aromas began to arise,
A delectable hint of a coming surprise.

Though 'twas hustle and bustle throughout the whole day,
When the bell loudly summoned the Sisters to pray.
Sweetest peace did our Jesus to each one impart,
"Come soon" was the prayer in each Pink Sister's heart.

How lovely the altar with candles and flowers,
Thereon would God rest within just a few hours;
The hymns were all practiced, the note sheets pulled out;
The house was enveloped in silence devout.

And as each one ascended the stairs for the night,
Every heart was contented, expectant, and light.
For they knew 'ere the dawn of the day would appear,
That their Lord, as a wee little Babe, would be here.

~Holy Spirit Adoration Sister



You and your loved ones
will be remembered in our
Advent and Christmas liturgies
from
December 16-24

and
December 26-January 3,
and in our Eucharistic
Liturgies on Christmas Day.

In the love of the Infant Christ,
Sister Mary Catherine
and Sisters



Mount Grace Newsletter

December 2010

Come Let Us Adore Him!



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Bishop Dominic Garmon,
S.V.D.



Little did we know the treat in store for us when Bishop Carmon from New Orleans requested to celebrate a Mass with us during his Jubilee year. He was in town for the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus and brought with him seven concelebrating priests. Although this was our first time to meet the Bishop, we did not feel like strangers since we have the same spiritual father.

Br. Joel Giallanza, C.S.G.



We welcomed back Brother Joel for our annual retreat. He is a friend of our Congregation from our former convent in Austin, Texas. He gave us new insights into our Constitutions and refreshed us in our Eucharistic life and spirituality.
All is grace!

Sister Mary Leticia



We bade farewell to Sister Mary Leticia as she left for our convent in Corpus Christi, Texas. With the exception of a few years, Sister has been at Mount Grace since 1989 when she was transferred from the Philippines. Sister is well known by those who visit us for her beautiful organ playing and her friendly face at the door. We welcomed Sister Mary Christine from Corpus Christi on the same day. Sister Mary Christine is a native of the Philippines as well. She will be guiding the first steps of our young Sisters as Formation Directress. May St. Lorenzo, the first saint of the Philippines, pray for our missionary Sisters!

Sister Mary Christine



Father Joseph Jiang



We enjoyed a visit from Fr. Joseph, the youngest newly-ordained priest in the U.S. It was a delight to hear his story of how he came to be ordained here. We, in turn, told him that China was the first mission land of the SVDs and in 1932 to 1949 we had a convent there. Since Father is from the same province as our former convent, he informed us of the current needs of the province and told us a little about China. May the Lord abundantly bless his priestly ministry.



Fr. Jack Farley,
S.V.D.



Fr. Farley came in September to give private-directed retreats. After many years it was wonderful to see him again. Although only a few Sisters had a retreat with him, the entire community was able to enjoy the fruits of his prayerful life through his homilies.

Immaculate Spouse of the Holy Spirit, Pray for Us



The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is the foundation day of our religious congregation. Even before St. Arnold Janssen founded the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) in 1875 he felt the effectiveness of the Society in the missions would depend on prayer for "prayer is the key to all grace." On December 8, 1889 he founded the Sister-Servants of the Holy Spirit (Holy Spirit Mission Sisters) to be co-workers with the SVD's in the missions. From these Sisters he chose Sisters for his cloistered community: the Sister-Servants of the Holy Spirit of Perpetual Adoration (Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters). This religious congregation at last fulfilled his dream of someone praying before the Blessed Sacrament, especially for the missions and for priests. 114 years later we have twenty-two convents in twelve countries around the world. Fr. Arnold set Mary before us that we might imitate her, the first contemplative-missionary. Our white veil and scapular is in honor of Mary: "they were to remember the purity of Mary, the Immaculate Spouse of the Holy Spirit, whose name was added to their own." May we, like Mary, be constantly open to the Holy Spirit's action.

