

Winter 2014



# Our Lady of the Angels Monastery Family Newsletter

Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration  
of Hanceville, Alabama  
[www.olamnuns.com](http://www.olamnuns.com)

Dear Family,

Can you believe that Advent is so quickly approaching? Here in the monastery, Advent quietly pervades the atmosphere with a joyful anticipation. In a particular way, through Holy Mass and the Divine Office, it seems as if the whole church leaps backward into the “B.C.” of time and unites with all those holy people of old in waiting for our Father to keep His promise. Our prayer becomes a great longing of the heart for the Messiah and we soon realize that, in this, the waiting is not the “twiddle-your-thumbs” kind! This dialogue with God leads to the discovery that He is longing to guide each of us personally. Maybe He will keep us busy this Advent encountering His love in new and powerful ways...

A Carthusian monk shares a gem of insight with us: “*All genuine love is a victory of weakness...*” I think that statement rocks our world a little, don’t you? Of weakness? Who wants to be weak? Yet, during this Season, we could look at this Baby who also wants to rock our world, it we’re up for it.

**“Love wrapped up in human flesh, To bring us to our Eternal Rest.  
Chubby hands, fat little cheeks,  
No one, would guess, -You are God- in the least!”**

This part of Sr. Emmanuel’s poem called, “Jesus,” says it all! This is the amazing reality of the tenderness of our God for us. He comes to live among us, in total weakness, because He is genuine Love. He comes as a Beggar, begging us to receive His Love! This is a love relationship that will set you on fire and there will be no turning back; not because He’s held you by force but because you simply won’t want to. So as we peer into the manger and look at this Baby, we may ask Mary, “What is Love saying to us?” Is Jesus showing us how to let our Father love us? That we too must become as a child and accept our own weakness and littleness? Then, through the trusting surrender of a baby, cherished and safe in the embrace of its Father, we can experience the joy of being loved!

Mary consented, “to surrender her littleness to the infinite Love and as a result to become the Mother of Christ,” wrote Caryll Houselander. What will happen when we desire to respond to our Father’s initiative within us, following this example of Jesus and Mary? Be careful! We may find that this Christmas our Savior has come and set us free to be fully alive, with our feet set on the joyful path of being transformed into genuine Love.

We will thank Jesus, truly present and so full of Love in the Holy Eucharist, for each one of you; begging Him to give you and your loved ones the best of His graces and joy this Advent and Christmas. (It won’t be hard to “twist His arm” with this request. I think He’s dying to do it! 😊) *Merry Christmas!*





# Mother's Corner

*"We look with wonder at the Wisdom of God as the Promised Woman gives birth to the Promised Messiah in a cold cave! Deprived of all material things, the Splendor of Heaven entered the world- that work of His hands- in abject poverty. Can we ever imagine the ecstasy of Mary as her eyes met the eyes of God in her tiny Infant? Sweet*

*Mother, we want to take our place*

*with the Shepherds to tell Jesus our love and gratitude. We want to reach out to the men of all nations just as the Infant reached out to the Wise Men of the East. We want to put aside our prejudice and bigotry and offer the gift of our love to all men."*

## Mother Update - "Jesus is coming"

Although she is bedridden, Mother Angelica is strong and doing well. Our good Friars celebrate Mass in her room on Sundays, and each morning she receives our Lord in Holy Communion, the Divine Life that sustains her and gives her strength.

Thirteen years ago on Christmas Eve, Mother said, "Jesus is coming today and I am going to the Chapel to wait for Him." It was there before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament that Jesus visited her with a stroke. Since then she has lived a life of silence in union with Jesus in His Sacred Childhood, waiting till He comes again.

In her later years, before the stroke, Mother Angelica developed a great devotion and love for the Divine Child and it seems that Jesus wants her to experience His own Childhood with all His helplessness, totally dependent on others.

So as she waits, Jesus continues to come to her in His hidden Presence in the Eucharist. It is Jesus who lives His life in her. With St. Paul she can say, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me."

(Gal. 2:20)



## Christmas Novena

December 16 - 24

*Father, at Christmas, You fill our hearts with joy as we recognize in*

*Christ the revelation of Your Love. No eye can see His glory as our God, yet now He is seen as one like us. Christ is Your Son before all ages, yet now He is born in time. He has come to lift up all things to Himself, to restore unity to creation and to lead mankind from exile into Your Heavenly Kingdom. In honor of the birth of Jesus, grant what we ask if it be Your Holy Will.*

*Amen.*

*Please join us and send in your petitions!*

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## Sr. Mary Regina's Golden Jubilee

Jubilees are a reminder to us of the joy to be found in fidelity. Though we live in a culture that doesn't value lifetime commitments, deep in our hearts there is still a longing for **a love which will last forever**. On August 15th, a radiant Sr. Mary Regina celebrated 50 years of faithfulness to her Divine Bridegroom with her renewal of Vows at our Conventual Mass and visits with family and friends.



## Gift Shop of El Niño

Help support the Nuns by doing your Christmas shopping at [www.nunsgiftshop.com](http://www.nunsgiftshop.com)

### Mother Angelica's Speciality Tea & Mug



Call to order: 256-352-0358