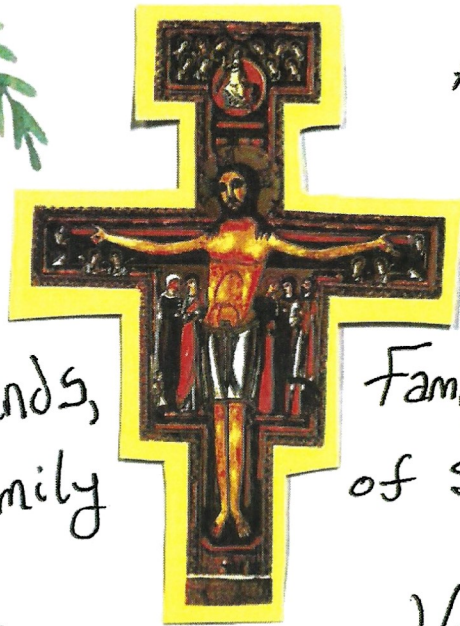


Advent + Christmas
2022



Dear Family, Friends,
my parish family

Family Friends, and
of St. Mark's,

May the Lord give you His peace!

This letter is to express my gratitude for each of you and the support and gift you've been to me as well as to share the news that my sisters and I are re-locating to a fully established monastery in Kokomo, Indiana. While there has definitely been grief in leaving the good people of Fort Wayne, I am very excited for this move, I recently spent a week in the Kokomo monastery which is located out in the quiet farmlands on over 10 acres of property. This monastery was designed with lots of windows and handicap accessibility which will meet the needs of my older sisters as they age. More than that, the sisters in Kokomo have been extremely warm and welcoming. There are also more sisters there who are my age and who share some of my interests. I felt perfectly at home immediately!

There will be some adjustments but for the most part my life in Kokomo will be a continuation of the life of prayer and penance of Poor Clares that I've been living the last 10 years. The sisters' day revolves around Holy Mass and the Divine Office, praying the psalms in common seven times a day including breaking sleep to sanctify the midnight hour. A nun is set apart for praise, adoration,

thanksgiving, and supplication primarily for the glory of God who is worthy of our all, but also to be a sign of the union of Christ and His Church as it will be lived out in Heaven and to intercede on behalf of those in the world with so many various needs and intentions. Manual labor, study, the arts, and a daily recreation period also make up the simple, gospel-centered life. I've found that the time given to silence and contemplation is a life-giving path for me. I'm deeply thankful for my vocation which has expanded my heart and, paradoxically, from the enclosure I know an expanse of freedom for the moment and for what lasts into eternity.

I humbly beg prayers at this juncture as I will be going through formation again for this fully established monastery though hopefully at an accelerated pace. This means I will be entering as a postulant again and letting go of my religious name until I become a novice. So after January you may call me "Megan" again! It is a blessed reminder to me that no matter what paths we take on our spiritual journey, our baptism remains the foundational grace when we became sons and daughters of God. And so I am happy to go by my baptismal name again, also as a tribute to my parents who brought me not only natural life but also spiritual life in the faith.

I am looking forward to the opportunity to be even more withdrawn and hidden in the things of God in this new monastery's traditions, which also include fostering more awareness of global needs and universal intentions. While I may receive mail and prayer intentions any time, typically these sisters wait until Christmas to respond. I thank you ahead of time for understanding that I may not always be able to respond personally to the amount of correspondence I currently enjoy. You can trust that I carry each of you in my heart and that love only grows in God.

Let us remain always united in prayer until we reach (God willing) our one true and Lasting Home.

In Christ,

Sr. Karolyn Grace of the Immaculate
Conception
(Megan Wertner)