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## Christmas

# Newsletter 2014

*Dear Friends,*

As we enter into the joyful season of hope, it is so beautiful to raise our eyes to our Saviour who comes to us with so much love to heal us and raise us up to Him. We place into His Eucharistic Heart all your needs, your problems and your sufferings and ask Him to pour out His grace upon you. We are deeply grateful to all our dear friends and benefactors for your unfailing goodness to us .We

would also like to thank our dear parish priest, Don Donato, the Xaverian Fathers and all the priests who come to celebrate Holy Mass for us each day here in our little Chapel.

It is truly a great joy for us to be here in Rome during this special Year of Consecrated Life and to share in the events that Holy Mother Church is providing to promote and bear witness to this close following of our Divine Master in the pursuit of perfect charity. The Church herself reminds us that *“a life consecrated by profession of the evangelical counsels is of surpassing value”*. Its value is particularly relevant in the light of this season of Advent – for, as Pope Saint John Paul II wrote in his Apostolic Exhortation *‘Vita Consecrata’* we are able to bring hope to our brother and sisters *“who are often discouraged and pessimistic about the future”*, for ours *“is a hope founded on God’s promise contained in the revealed word: the history of humanity is moving towards ‘a new heaven and a new earth’ (Rev 21:1), where the Lord ‘will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away’ (Rev.21:4). “It is the duty of the consecrated life”* he wrote *“to show that the Incarnate Son of God is the eschatological goal towards which all things tend, the splendour before which every other light pales, and the infinite beauty which alone can fully satisfy the human heart”*.

And so by our life of prayer and sacrifice, entirely dedicated to divine worship in the liturgy and in the perpetual adoration of the Holy Eucharist, we seek to draw down, through the Heart of Jesus, abundant graces for the Holy Father, the Church and for the entire human family – and in a very special way- you who are our dear friends.





This year has been full of events, the main one being the election of our new Mother General. We, here in Rome have had the privilege of receiving Mother on her first visit as she goes around all our Houses. At the same time our hearts are full of deep gratitude also to our Mother Assistant and for the great gift of unity we have as one family in the Sacred Heart. Though our little community has changed somewhat with the other necessary changes in our various communities, we assure you that we are still the same in our loving remembrance of you all and all your needs.

We are still trying to cultivate a vegetable garden and we thought to give you a little laugh by enclosing for you a photo of our "big" carrots! But we have actually also found a real, big, ripe pumpkin. We had been hoping to find a pumpkin for years and the little baby green ones could never get beyond being "baby green" ones. So now there is hope for the pumpkins!



*Mother Colmcille and her organic vegetables.*

*RM Seraphim and the "big" carrots!*

We also wanted to show you our cute welcome brigade – that is, the cats who think that the monastery belongs to them and duly keep guard outside the gate by sleeping on the motorbikes that are parked there – they have a cat's life either there, or sleeping peacefully in the flower pots where they think no one can see them!

How delightful is God in His creation and how wonderful are the signs of His Love He leaves for us that we may know that He is close and near and never lose hope, no matter how dark things may seem.

May His Coming this Christmas bring the deepest peace and consolation to each one of you and may it remain with you always,

*The Benedictine Sisters of Tyburn.*

*PS: Part of our boundary wall is old and in disrepair and as it has become dangerous we have been asked to have it rebuilt. We would be very grateful for any help to cover the costs of this task.*



*Working hard.*