

WINDS OF CHARITY

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Sisters of Charity
of Our Lady
Mother of the Church

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Together we are light in the darkness

These past two years have been challenging, to say the least. Just when we thought we were coming out of the pandemic, we find ourselves now faced with war and devastation.

Since February, this terrible war in Ukraine has cast a long and dark shadow over the whole world. Will we ever get back to 'normal'?

We find ourselves experiencing great compassion for those who are suffering, especially our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.

We see horrific footage of citizens arming themselves; soldiers forced to fight against those they once called brother and sister; families torn apart.

Images and news of food shortages, lack of water, heat and electricity fill our television and computer screens. We feel helpless as we watch a regime seeking illegitimate power, purely for the sake of power. All this can make us feel desperate and hopeless.

I don't know what our world will look like in the coming weeks. But I do know that we will have seen an incredible outpouring of love and sacrificial charity for the people of Eastern Europe.

Who can ever forget that

image of the line of empty baby carriages and strollers awaiting the exhausted, displaced Ukrainian women, arriving by bus in Poland, carrying infants and toddlers? Or the courage of men and women who fought in the freezing cold to protect the country that gave them birth?

Will the sight of strangers comforting children, and refugees gathering donated food ever be blotted from our minds? In the midst of it all, we see countless acts of mercy, mirrors of the love of God for every person, without exception.

In the faces of the homeless, the wounded in mind and body, the elderly, the stricken children, we will forever see the image of Jesus who suffered death to bring us mercy in the face of situations just like these. All of this is light in the darkness that brings peace where there was no peace.

Contd. on p. 6



These Fifth Grade students at St. Joseph School, Baltic, CT are light in the darkness. They are raising funds for the people of Ukraine.

You are light for our young Sisters



We often ask you to help us prepare our young Sisters to carry on the mission of the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady, Mother of the Church. Meet some of these beautiful Sisters and see what you are making possible through their ministry.

Sister Gabriela, originally from Mexico, met the Sisters of Charity when she was a senior in high school. At that time, her heart was set on becoming a news reporter—an anchor some day for CNN or NBC. However, the thought of herself being a Sister stayed with her. After a period of prayer and discernment, she came to realize that she was called to be a Sister of Charity and so she joined the Community. Now, in her ministry with youth and as an educator, Sister Gabriela will tell you that she has indeed become an anchor, not for a television network but for God, as she daily brings the good news of His love and mercy to her students. ***Through your support, you helped prepare her for this very important ministry. Thank you!***



Sister Mary Kathleen met the Sisters of Charity at a conference and was immediately attracted to them. About her first visit to the Motherhouse, she says, *“I knew without a doubt that I was home.”* Sister is one of our Master Teachers. Through your generosity, you have made it possible for her to earn advanced degrees in Reading and Language Arts, Dogmatic Theology, and Special Education with an emphasis on autism. These programs have enriched her as an educator and prepared her to meet the needs of all learners in her classroom. Sister Mary Kathleen wants you to know: ***“Our benefactors are in my heart and prayers each day. Together we build up the Kingdom of God. I am so grateful for their support.”***

In the summer before her senior year in high school, **Sister Kateri** visited one of the convents of the Sisters of Charity and spoke at length with some of the Sisters. *“I was so filled with joy during this meeting. For hours afterwards I thought about it and something inside me just knew God was calling me to be a Sister of Charity.”* The Sisters invited her to visit the Motherhouse in Baltic, CT and the rest is history, as they say. Sister Kateri is now a teacher and the Admissions Director at the Academy of the Holy Family, also in Baltic, CT. She says: ***“I am grateful to our donors for helping to provide the young Sisters like myself with an excellent education so we can carry on the mission of the Sisters of Charity. I wish I could thank each of them personally.”***



You are light for our senior and infirm Sisters

You also help us care for our senior and infirm Sisters. See what your most recent caring gifts to us have accomplished!

Mattresses! 37 of them, and some box springs as well. Many of the Sisters were sleeping on mattresses that should have been recycled years ago. You should have heard the “ooh’s” and “aah’s” and seen the smiles when the mattresses arrived! Two truck-loads. *“I didn’t realize my mattress was bad until I slept on a good one. This is the first time in a long time that I woke up without an achy back,”* said Sister Gabriel on the morning after the first night with a new mattress. **All our Sisters, especially those with hospital beds, want you to know that they are very grateful.**

Top right: Sister Marie Celeste getting right into the truck to help unload the mattresses. **Below:** Mother David checking to make sure the delivery is correct and complete.



You gave us the gift of an electric hoier. A hoier is used to lift immobile patients, in order to transfer them from a bed to a wheelchair or for personal care.



Our hoier had to be cranked up manually in order to lift the Sisters. Besides the effort required to crank it up, the transfer was a very jerky and taxing experience. There was often a lot of wincing and fussing because of the discomfort. Now, because of your goodness and generosity, after the Sister is secured in the hoier, at the simple pressing of a button the transfer is made—smooth, gentle and effortless. Sometimes even without her realizing it. **Our nurses tell us that every time they use their new electric hoier, they offer a prayer for you. Our infirm and senior Sisters also pray for you.** They know you are helping to care for them.

Left: Sister Josephine (standing) explains to Sister Bernadette the ease of transfer with the electric hoier, as compared to the manual hoier.

Another wonderful gift! A **heavy-duty transport wheelchair.** It fits securely and safely in that beautiful wheelchair van you provided for us a couple of years ago. Although heavy-duty, these chairs are light-weight and easily maneuverable when wheeling patients in and out of the van. They are made to be strapped securely in the vehicle. We had been using ordinary wheelchairs which are quite cumbersome. How easy and safe it now is to take our Sisters to their doctors’ appointments. **We can’t thank you enough for your goodness in helping us care for our infirm and senior Sisters.**

Right: Sister Peter (seated) and Mother Joan Clare showing off the new transport wheelchair. Thank you.



The Sisters of Charity...

The last time we were able to gather for our annual Family Blessing Mass and Donor Gratitude Luncheon was in 2019! We were looking forward to seeing you in 2020 and again in 2021 but, because of the persistence of the Corona virus, that was not possible.

We, however, are just as persistent. God willing, the virus will continue to decline and we will be able to gather once again in the Fall.

With profound gratitude for your goodness to the Sisters of Charity, we invite you to join us at our 2022 celebration of a *special Mass for you and your family, to be celebrated on Saturday, October 8th, at 11:00am, in the Chapel of our Holy Family Motherhouse, 54 West Main Street, Baltic, CT.*

As in the past, immediately following the Mass, we will continue to honor you and express our appreciation and thanks to you and your family with a Donor Gratitude Luncheon, served by our Sisters and the students of the Academy of the Holy Family, to be held in Saint Michael's Center located on our Motherhouse campus.

Please RSVP online by October 4th at: <https://sistersofcharity.com/family-blessing-mass/> so we can reserve a place at the table for you and those who will accompany you. **You can also call us at 860-822-6323. If you are not able to attend, you can participate in the Mass by live stream at www.sistersofcharity.com.**



are light for You



Family
Blessing
Mass
of Thanksgiving
and
Donor
Gratitude
Luncheon

2018

§

2019



You are light for those in need



Sister Marie Celeste and students enjoy preparing goodies for our Food Pantry guests.

Imagine the stress and embarrassment for a Mom or Dad who has always provided for their family to find themselves in a situation where cupboards are bare, children are hungry, and hope is thin. How our hearts go out to these dear people. They have always been independent and now they have to visit a Food Pantry in order to put food on the table for themselves and their families. We understand their pain, their embarrassment and we try to make it a little easier for them.

You help us do that. Through your goodness we were able to renovate our Food Pantry to make it a more dignified space, not just a store room where food is distributed.

Some of our Sisters, with their students, very often prepare goodie bags for them filled with home-baked goods—an expression of our care for them. Attached to the bag of cookies or to each cupcake is also a verse from Scripture to remind them of their dignity and God's infinite, unconditional love for them, especially now when they find themselves in this very unfortunate and unhappy situation. One Mom said, with tears: ***"Thank you. This is such a nice treat to slip into my daughter's lunch box."***

This ministry is possible through your goodness. ***You help to make life just a little bit easier for these good people. You are light for those in need. Thank you.***



From p. 1

On March 25, 2022, the bishops of the world united with Pope Francis to consecrate Russia and the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Millions of faithful people prayed to bring peace to our broken world, and to return it to the Heart of Jesus through Mary. ***That moment was light in the darkness.*** Many of you, our faithful friends, sent us prayer requests for the conversion of Russia, for peace in Ukraine, for the children who suffer because of war. ***That was light in the darkness.***

In the end, the Immaculate Heart of Mary ***will*** triumph. Every prayer whispered in the darkness is light for our world. ***May the light of the love and prayers of faithful people like you,*** lit from the Cross of Jesus, fanned into flame by the power of the Resurrection and carefully, tenderly guarded by Our Blessed Mother be the hope of the world.

May peace begin with me, and with you, and with every faithful soul who lives for the love of God. ***Thank you for the light that you are for the Sisters of Charity and for those we serve.*** We are light for you. We daily carry your intentions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary.



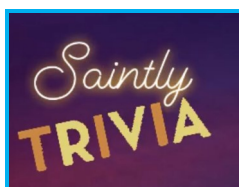
United with Pope Francis, Bishop Cote, our bishop, led the people of the Diocese of Norwich in consecrating Russia and the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

You are light for the Sisters of Charity



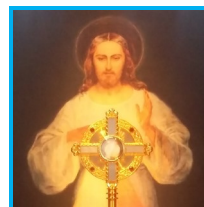
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We will be working on the website over the next few months. This will not affect your ability to use the website, but you will be seeing some exciting changes. When completed, we will send out an email with more information. If you would like to receive that email, as well as other updates, reflections, etc. from the Sisters of Charity, you can do so by completing the form found [here](https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/hwudyPZ/Signup).

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/hwudyPZ/Signup>

Connecting for Good

Margaret Cuccinello sheds light on your concerns

Dear Friends,
I have a confession to make. I struggled with my article for this edition of our Newsletter. And, as usual, my Mom came to my rescue.



It's likely that any home with children has that one wall with pencil marks recording the height and date of the child. Mine did. It was quite a ceremony every time my mother told my brother or me to "stand against the wall." She did this when we complained of aches or pains, to see if we had grown. ***What does this wonderful childhood memory have to do with fundraising? Stay with me.***

All your gifts inspire in us a deep sense of gratitude, not only for your generosity, but also for your confidence in us. You honor us with your gifts. But ***sometimes, unfortunately, we cause upset, and for that I am deeply sorry.***

Last week I received a letter from an upset benefactor. It was written in all capital letters, with lots of underlining and exclamation points!!!!!! She had received two appeals from us within days of each other. We take each and every concern seriously. We hear you. ***In a spirit of transparency and accountability, I'd like to address this concern.***

As you know, the main way that we raise funds is through mail solicitations. Each year we prepare a mail plan that is designed around the calendar of Church celebrations. We sometimes send our appeal with a devotional gift, such as our very popular prayer books, as a way of thanking you for your support and helping you deepen your prayer life. We space these mailings out every six weeks or so, but with the recent USPS mail and shipping delays, the timing has been off and a few of our appeals were mailed too close together. ***I apologize for the upset this has caused.***

Mail service slowed down with the start of the pandemic and continues today. Perhaps you've experienced this with your personal correspondence. When this happens, we get a bit behind with our gift processing and order fulfillment. Covid-19 also hit our staff, and we have been recovering from staffing shortages. We are working very hard to ensure that we acknowledge your gifts as quickly as possible.

So what does this have to do with recording my height on a wall? All this is to say that we, like children, have growing pains and growth spurts. ***Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention.*** My job is to listen, even when it's difficult to hear when we may have gotten it wrong. When you call or write, please be assured that we hear you. ***Again, thank you for every gift you make to the Sisters of Charity – past, present and future.***

Gratefully,
Margaret Cuccinello
Director of Planned Giving

*The Lord is my light and my salvation,
whom should I fear?
The Lord is my life's refuge,
of whom should I be afraid? (Ps. 27:1)*