



FRATERNITE NOTRE DAME

Christmas 2024

Very dear friends,
Did not Our Lord tell us that there is no greater love than giving one's life for those one loves?

He gave us the example; He was born for us in Bethlehem of the Virgin Mary; He died for us on the Cross; his Mother was standing close to Him and He has risen again for us, in order to prepare a place for us, near Him.

Christmas, is the gift of God's Love for men!

Christmas, is the Peace from the Heart of this Child-God, who is coming upon the earth.

Christmas, this is also the joy that invades our hearts, and which we celebrate with tenderness.

Christmas, this is again the gift of self to others, to those who suffer in their heart or

in their body; to the poor who are expecting, with their hand extended, a compassionate heart and a smile to comfort them.

That is to say, we, as Christians, must do a great deal to witness to this Child-God of Bethlehem, the Prince of Peace, who comes to console our heart and our families in these so troubled times.

That is why, be assured of my prayer, and I wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy year filled with divine blessings.

I bless you with all my heart, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit +

*Most Reverend Bishop Jean Marie +smd
Founder of Fraternite Notre Dame*



- Chicago, IL - Helping families in need -



- Peoria, IL - Our priests help distribute the food pantry for the less fortunate -



- The Hermitage, WI - Serving senior citizens -



- In Scranton, PA - We help families in difficulty thanks to good food pantry boxes -

Dear friends,

In this Christmas season, we are happy to celebrate the Birth of Jesus, our God and Savior. We are delighted to prepare gifts to please our loved ones and friends. We know from experience that we have more joy in giving than in receiving. We see it every day with our poor people.

Let us not forget that the most beautiful gift we receive on this Christmas Day is Jesus Himself. So, let us all be joyful, grateful and peaceful on these holy days of the Nativity.

Let us take a quick look at our different Houses and we will start with our Mission in Niger, Africa, which is experiencing many difficulties, particularly through unprecedented floods, but thanks to the Mother of God, our Sisters, always provident, have enough to relieve the needs of our neighbors and ensure that everyone is provided with what is necessary.

In Haiti, where there is real chaos in Port-au-Prince and its surroundings, it is a miracle to still be alive and to be able to continue giving a solid education to our dear children of the mountains and to be in a position to feed them. But what about the physical distress and the moral anguish of all these inhabitants who suffer so much and who are never sure to see the sun set.

In the United States, in Detroit, MI, the work of fitting out the convent continues thanks to the help and dedication of our benefactors. Our Brothers and Sisters faithfully continue to distribute packages to the many families in difficulty who are around them; they crisscross the streets of Detroit and its suburbs to feed the many homeless.

Joy is always present during our after-school programs - very lively, it must be said - with the children of the neighborhood who appreciate not only the activities but also the good meal that is served to them! Their interest is always evident when one of our Religious deploys all his energy to ring our beautiful bells during the Angelus. They remind all who hear them, that God is there, always present and how much He loves them.

In Scranton, PA, our students of Notre Dame Academy are actively preparing their Christmas show that they will present to their parents and guests. They have already made a lot of progress in many areas and this is a satisfaction for the teaching Nuns and the teachers. The Holy Virgin blesses these children from disadvantaged backgrounds; She has already proven it to them time and time again.

Here anew, we are happy to be able to support so many families in distress, who, thanks to our food distribution, capable of paying their bills. All these people are glad to attend the Sacred History classes, thus deepening their faith.

At the Hermitage in Wisconsin, our Religious are busy with the last care that the land and the animals require before winter. The fall was very laborious with the final harvests, the apple picking that will



- In Peoria, IL - Helping homeless veterans -

once again give a good juice appreciated by all and a vinegar no less excellent. As for our Religious, they are happy to prepare Christmas for all our protégés: the underprivileged families, the elderly abandoned by their entourage, the poor that we rub shoulders with every day; but they are also busy at their stoves for all the preserves and other good little dishes.

New York, NY and San Francisco, CA, likewise, have their procession of miseries to alleviate and our Nuns valiantly feed these poor and prepare them a good Christmas. We also bring meals to the homes of AIDS patients and of course distribute food to the homeless, which allows them not to despair for the days to come.

Thank you to all our dear volunteers, always so faithful and devoted, who have so well understood the joy that comes from helping those protected by the Heart of Jesus: the poor!

In Peoria, IL, our Friars and Nuns receive more and more people during the distribution of food parcels and all testify how precious this help is for them.

Likewise, our Religious regularly organize a good breakfast for our elders living around our church; we celebrate birthdays or other events and it is a time for joyful conversations. As for our faithful, they are always happy to meet at mass, of course, but also during Bible studies, just as the children who go to catechism and this whole small community has enjoyed picnics

in the shade of the beautiful trees of the Monastery of Saint Francis and Saint Clare. Now that winter has appeared, never mind, we meet inside the Monastery around a good table.

At the Notre Dame Monastery, in IL, the days are not long enough for the Religious, nor for the children and their teachers. The earth has given its last fruits and is going to rest but the bakery facility is never at rest and our Nuns, like diligent bees, are busy knowing how essential their work is to keep all our Houses afloat. The activities are numerous and very diverse, from the making of our religious habits, to the work of our television in our studios, from the overwhelming bureaucracy that must be faced daily, to the thousand and one humble, ordinary but nevertheless essential tasks, and to the smooth running of such a center.

When you read these few lines, we will probably still be trying to establish a new mission in Madagascar because of the great difficulties in moving our case forward. However, upon our arrival in the capital, the Bishop immediately asked us to go and feed the poor in the street, especially the children and their parents who sleep outside.

If you could see the smiles of all these little children and their parents who come to receive their soup and sandwich! It is truly incredible to see that despite such misery, they still have the strength to smile like this and it is for us a comfort after all the fatigue of our days. They really eat with good appetite because they are hungry.

Likewise, we provide some babies with bottles of milk, thus ensuring that they eat their fill, then we provide some basic care for people afflicted with purulent or very infected wounds and finally we offer after-school programs to poor children. And of course, Holy Mass is being celebrated every day.

In a word, everywhere within the Fraternite Notre Dame Order, priests, religious and nuns work ardently to relieve Misery but do not forget that they are also always busy praying. Yes, they ensure Eucharistic Adoration; they spread their Hail Marys like a good seed; they sing the Divine Office thus fulfilling the adage of Saint Benedict: "Ora et labora": Pray and work!

Thus, dear friends, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas in the joy and peace that the Birth of the Child God brings. It is also an opportunity for us to say a big Thank You for your help and support because the needs are immense. Moreover, we always ask the poor to pray for their benefactors and believe me, the prayer of the poor has great power over the Heart of God. Was He not the Poor Man par excellence,

entering this world, in a poor manger, warmed only by the breath of two poor beasts of burden!

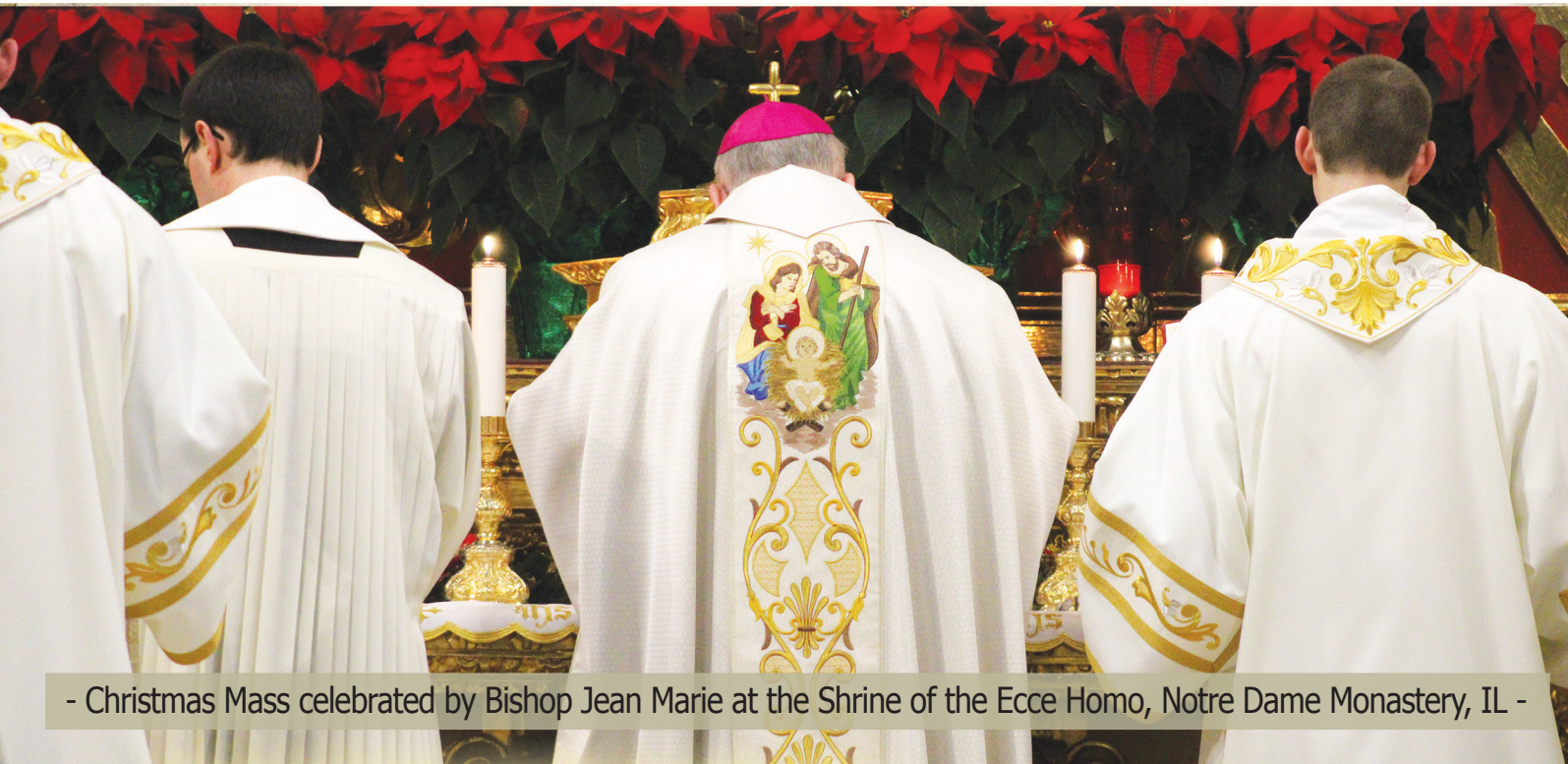
Dear friends, everything you do is appreciated and never forget that "he who helps the apostle will receive an apostle's reward!" This is a good incentive to help, isn't it?

Let us thank the Most Holy Virgin Mary for having given us her Divine Son, this little Child lying in the Crib, true God and true Man, who has come to save us.

And with our whole hearts, let us sing, together with the Angels: Venite Adoremus!

*Sister Marie Myriam
of the Holy Spirit +snd*

Fraternite Notre Dame
502 N. Central Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60644-1501 USA
FraterniteNotreDame.org



- Christmas Mass celebrated by Bishop Jean Marie at the Shrine of the Ecce Homo, Notre Dame Monastery, IL -

Written and designed by Fraternite Notre Dame
Pictures & Texts: All Rights Reserved For All Countries
Copyright © 2024 – Fraternite Notre Dame

Saint **micKael®** *Publishers*