



Holiday greetings! Once again, I come to greet you with a Christmas letter. The year, 2020, has been an interesting year - but in ways we never imagined. However, as we enter the Christmas season, we do have many things to be grateful for, first, that we are here to celebrate another Christmas.

I read recently that **feeling** gratitude and **not** expressing it is like wrapping a present and **not** giving it. So, I begin by telling you that you **still** remain a part of my life through happy memories and in my prayers.

Staying close to home this year has helped us to focus more on family values and appreciate little things that we often took for granted (toilet paper, paper towels, eating out, etc.)

I found this quote by Buddha: "Let us rise up and be **thankful**, for if we didn't learn a lot today, at least we learned a **little**, and if we didn't learn a little, at least we **didn't get sick**, and if we got sick, at least we **didn't die**; so let us all be **thankful**." Yes, we're still **alive**, so let's be grateful that we get to celebrate another **Christmas** with family and friends.

This was a big year (2019) for our community as we moved and became a new community, **Our Lady of Peace**. We moved from St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee to a lovely new home about 2 miles away. Our grounds are beautiful. We can walk to the river and sit in the Pavilion and enjoy the Kankakee river and all the beauties of nature. When weather is nice, I do this each day. I love deer so I always get excited when I see any, which isn't too often. However, I did see four one day.



My ministry is different now because of the pandemic. Since I cannot go to the Hospital to visit, I decided to write a **weekly letter** to all the employees. I try to find topics that are uplifting. I have written about faith, hope, trust, compassion, gratitude, wisdom, living in the present moment, etc. If any of you would like a copy, let me know and send me your email address.

I also have a **text ministry!** **How about that!** When praying in the morning, I often read something that strikes me and I think this might comfort someone who is on chemotherapy, praying to get pregnant, expecting twins, recovering from surgery, grieving the loss of a spouse or family member. So, I send the quote to them and then continue with my prayers. The Holy Spirit keeps me busy!

There are 7 sisters in our community. The oldest is 93, I am next, 92 and then the rest are in their 80's, and one in her 60's. The sisters take turns cooking and on Sunday we have a cook. I asked not to cook, so help by setting the table and doing dishes. We are doing well. No one has been sick. God continues to spoil us, especially me. I am grateful.

We are blessed because we have a priest living on our grounds. This means we can have **Mass** in our **chapel** every **Sunday**, on Holy Days and special feasts, like Thanksgiving. Yes, God is taking good care of us.

Joy and peace at Christmas and throughout the New Year!