Dear Friends,

There is a place in our hearts where we keep our fondest memories of Christmas – happy memories of times spent with family and friends.

Christmas is the time of year when holiday traditions established years ago are cherished and with the changing times, new traditions are created too and which will be passed on through the years. Christmas is coming! Just saying those three words instantly fills our minds with scenes of Christmas' past. They fill us with the anticipation of this year's holiday celebrations and the thoughts of the many things that have to be done in time for Christmas Day.

As we go dashing around in preparation for the holiday season, it is fitting, to slow down and take the time to reflect on the true spirit and meaning of Christmas – The Birth of Our Savior, Jesus Christ. He came into the world to serve humankind and to give us an example of the meaning of love, friendship, and the giving of one's self for others. At St. Joseph's Home, the Little Sisters each day show their love for Jesus in their compassionate service and care for the elderly poor. Through your selfless charity, you also experience the real spirit of Christmas – the sharing of your blessings and friendship with our dear Residents.

Pope Francis said, "Joy springs from a grateful heart. Truly, we have received so much, so many graces, so many blessings, and we rejoice in this..." One of the real joys of the Christmas season for us, is the opportunity to say 'Thank You' from our grateful hearts, to all of those near and dear to us without whom we would not be able to make a loving and caring home for our Residents. It is the perfect time to remember with fondness, all of you who have touched our lives in so many special ways, through your generous giving and your prayers. The Little Sisters and the Residents of St. Joseph's Home thank you for your thoughtful consideration, kindness, friendship and generosity. We do this by offering our heartfelt prayers for you, your families and for your special intentions. We also pray that your Christmas will be filled with love and traditions shared with family and friends.

May the peace of Christmas wrap you and those you love, within its calm and gentle blessings now and through the New Year.

Gratefully,

Sr. Man Thomas l.s.p.

Sister Mary Thomas, l.s.p. Superior Little Sisters of the Poor

2023 Events: Irish 50/50 Raffle on March 17th and St. Jeanne Jugan 50/50 Raffle on August 30th. Please visit our website for information. www. littlesistersofthepoortotowa.org

