



**Christmas Blessing 2014** 

Dear Friends of the CND,

In T.S. Eliot's poem, "Four Quartets", he reveals in this short quote his limited understanding of the mystery of Christmas:

## "THE HINT HALF GUESSED, THE GIFT HALF UNDERSTOOD IS INCARNATION..."



The gift of God, our Father and Mother, is beyond our full comprehension yet we strive each year to understand a little more about the mystery of God's great love for us in sending His Son, Jesus, to be our Redeemer. In your prayer, we invite you to take some time during this busy season to ponder this great mystery and gift. While we are scurrying about for the perfect gifts for family and friends, remember why we hold this season so special in our hearts.

As in the past, this appeal is for our Sisters as they deal with retirement and health issues. You have said so often that our Sisters are a gift that you will never forget and they are grateful for your generosity. It has helped us in so many ways to provide the care that they need at this time in their lives.

For our Sisters, the "Golden Years" are a blessing, a time to acknowledge their age, to remember experiences with many of you, to feel pride in their accomplishments and to embrace a meaningful presence. As has been said so often by our Sisters: "We never retire," we never retire from loving God and each of you.



Srs. Marie Cafferty, CND - S. Edward, Rose Marie Kelly, CND - S. Rose Marie



Srs. Dorothy Siemsen, CND - S. Marie of the Ascension, Marie Eliane Lachance, CND -S. Augustine, celebrating her 101st Birthday!



Srs. Marie Eliane Lachance, CND, Mary Anne Powers, CND, Denise Conway, CND - S. Catherine Denise

Our Sisters' lives are joyful as well as purposeful. They talk, laugh, share books, enjoy television, read newspapers and magazines, visit with each other, celebrate holidays and keep in touch with family and friends through phone calls, emails, and Skype. They are also aware and pray for all those suffering in our world. You have provided the means for them to keep up with these important contacts.

It is also time when they can go deeper, to grow in new ways, mentally and spiritually. One of the ways they go deeper is in their effort to be more contemplative in their relationships with God, each other, our Church and the world.

The Special Intentions you write on the return slip with your gift are a very important way that our Sisters keep you in prayer. These intentions are taken very seriously and are in a special basket in our office area. Your intentions are remembered each day when we gather to pray at our offices at 11:55 A.M. and are remembered each First Friday at Mass in Andrus.

## Prayer is their gift to you each and every day. Thank you for your generosity which allows our Sisters to have full and active lives, to be cherished and loved.

Wishing you a deeper knowledge of Christ's gift this Christmas and always.

In gratitude,

Kathleen Murphy, CND

Kathleen Murphy, CND Mission Advancement Director