



From the desk of: Sister Claire Marie, OP

Through the intercession of Mary Queen of Peace, we pray for peace. Peace in our hearts, peace in our communities, peace for humanity, and peace with, and for, all of creation. God's purpose is peace.

Each year, as climate changes, we watch through our chapel window as the shining glaciers recede, and we are threatened with floods and fire. We can hear creation groaning in the hope that it will be set free from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God (Rm 8:20-21). Naturally, we ask ourselves what we can do to live in peace with creation. We search to understand the mind of God and the relationship He intended us to have with the rest of creation. We believe it has something to do with love. Being created in His likeness, it is fitting that I should love what He so loves and has confided to our care.

For centuries monastic and religious communities have been signs of the kingdom and have modelled a way of life that is sustainable for the earth. We live in simplicity and poverty, hold all things in common and seek the common good. Nevertheless, we have definitely been impacted by the consumeristic society which surrounds us and we are trying to become more intentional about the way we are living so that we contribute to bringing about the peace that God has established through Christ.

We had some interesting
Come and See
weekends...



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Joyful Praise



Dear Friends,

"Lord, send forth Your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth." We wish you all a blessed Pentecost, and pray that you experience our Risen Lord's gift of peace and joy.

Just as our fall newsletter went to print, our community celebrated the election of Sr. Claire Marie of Jesus as our new prioress for three years. Originally from Camrose, Alberta, Canada, Sr. Claire entered the Dominican Monastery of Sainte-Catherine in Langeac, France. In 2007, she returned to her homeland of Canada and served as our community's first prioress. You can "meet" her on the back page of this newsletter. We are grateful to Sr. Marie Tersidis for her years of service, and ask your prayers for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in this new prioral term.



The very next day, we welcomed Sr. Olivia Marie Oculien. Originally from Trinidad and St. Lucia, she will spend the next year settling in as she begins her transfer process to our community. We pray that she will find joy and peace in our Dominican monastic life.



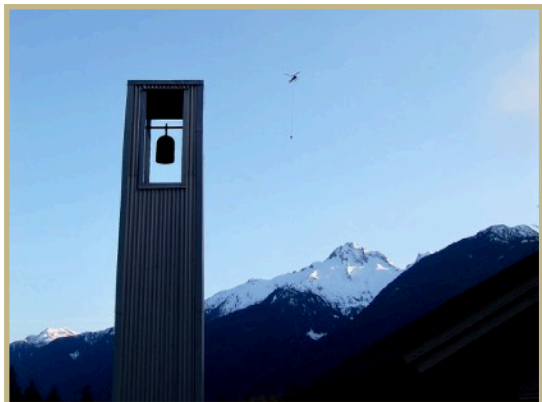
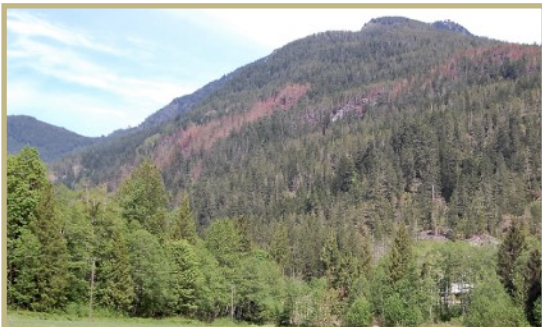
At the beginning of Advent, we received our government permit to build a micro-hydroelectricity project on Pilchuk Creek, which runs through our property. This is an immense answer to seven years of prayer and waiting. Our hope is that this small turbine will mostly offset our energy usage, reducing both our environmental impact and one of our biggest daily expenses, the electricity bill! We are very grateful to our benefactors who are making this project possible.



We celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception "à la Lyonnaise", with a candlelit supper and sparklers at recreation. The custom of celebrating this feast with light began in Lyon, France in 1852 after the Blessed Mother saved the city from the plague.



The Nativity of our Lord blessed us with snow, and the harmonics of "Word of the Father, we adore You" could be heard drifting vaguely up from the sledding hill throughout the Octave (in between the squeaks and crashes, that is).



In the novitiate, after a well-attended vocation weekend in January, we've continued welcoming young women for personal discernment retreats throughout the winter and spring. Please keep praying for the young women in discernment and formation with our community, especially those coming as aspirants this summer.

The snow and slush put a stop to most outdoor work in the winter, but pottery, woodworking, candles, paper making and weaving made regular appearances at recreation as sisters shared new techniques and products for our gift shop. Fr. Thierry-Marie Courau OP visited again over Christmas, and turned out to be an excellent one-week apprentice in tea bowl throwing! A professional potter from the next valley over, Sandra, is generously giving us weekly lessons in the pottery, and under her tutelage the sacristy gained a new font for the Easter Vigil. Meanwhile, "wool bunnies" roam the corridors as Sr. Claire washes and cards a bag of raw wool we received from our farmer, Adam. No one quite expected the bag to be *this* big! The prioral office is now home to a refurbished spinning wheel and, with the help of a sister's oma, the rolags are being spun into yarn.

In February, we hosted the Council members of the North American Association of Dominican Monasteries for a week of meetings. The Association coordinates friendship and mutual support between twelve different monasteries in Canada and the USA. From a summer theological study program for sisters in simple vows, to helping monasteries understand *Cor Orans* (new norms issued by the Vatican for contemplative nuns) and providing some sisterly "elbow grease" when needed, it is a wonderful way to support each other. A bit of bad weather and rerouted flights cut the meetings short, so we unfortunately have no pictures of the full council. However, to the delight of our novitiate (and the refectory), one of the remaining sisters happens to specialize in cheesemaking! With the expert instruction of Sr. Mary Catherine from our Summit NJ monastery, we soon had hand-stretched mozzarella ready in time for supper.

Lent is always a good time to take a step back and assess what is truly necessary, spiritually and materially. On April 1, Divine Providence gave us a bit of unexpected help in the form of a forest fire. A routine spring burn a few properties over spread into the forest, and headed south towards our property. We jumped into boots and worked with neighbours to soak down our roofs with garden hoses. Meanwhile, a helicopter was making trips overhead from the Squamish river to the flames with a monsoon bucket. It was really something, to look around our monastery and remember that our community is not walls and roofs, but the call of God that binds us together in love. As difficult as it would be, the buildings could be rebuilt, icons repainted, instruments replaced. Thanks be to God, it did not come to that. After another day of soaking and praying, a spring rain put the fire out just one ridge over from us. We are deeply grateful for the heroism of the BC wildfire crews and our neighbours, especially those who came to make sure we were okay. As fire season begins in earnest, we are praying that it may be a gentle year for all at risk (and installing permanent sprinklers on our roofs)!

After a beautiful Paschal Triduum with our chaplain, Archbishop-emeritus of Lipa Ramón Arguelles, we are looking forward to hosting at least seven Dominican friars in our guesthouse throughout the summer. It is always such a joy to be able to provide our brothers with a place of rest and renewal, just like the first nuns did for St. Dominic and his companions. Throughout the year, our guesthouse is also a preaching for us as Dominicans, enabling us to welcome those who want to seek God in silence and beauty in the heart of the Canadian wilderness.

At the same time, as we implement *Cor Orans*, our community has been reflecting on how we can live our enclosure more fully. It is clear that, to do so, we will need to move our guesthouse. We have studied various possibilities as to where guest and priests quarters could be located. The simplest solution would be to build a new guesthouse on our property; unfortunately, our flat land is prone to serious annual flooding (eg. 2017, bottom right). We are praying that Divine Providence will provide a way for us to obtain some land immediately to the west of our chapel. This property would be ideal for our monastic welcome and create a 'buffer zone' between our property and any future development, protecting our silence and providing a wildlife corridor for our valley. Given that we are still working at paying off our original debt from constructing the monastery, we are not yet sure how this dream is possible. However we know that "*for God all things are possible*" (Mt. 19:26) and that all good things begin and end with prayer. We ask you to please join us in praying to St. Dominic (and of course, St. Joseph). With your help, and theirs, we know that God will find a way to make the dream a reality.

With the assurance of our prayer for you, and all your loved ones,
your sisters at Queen of Peace Monastery

