

FRATERNITE

NOTRE DAME



Spring 2023

Dear friends,

It is always a great joy for us, a great happiness to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord and to know that He is infinitely merciful.

Our humanity is poor and sinful and yet, the Lord loves it with an infinite love and even within this humanity, it is to sinners that He shows a privileged love “...*I have not come to call the righteous but the sinners to repentance.*” Thus, the Holy of Holies, He who abominates sin as the only true evil, shows Himself to sinful man all goodness and all mercy, always willing to forgive he or she who desires to rise again. He loves them passionately.

Formerly, he was reproached for his love for sinners, let us remember “the adulteress” in the Gospel of Saint John. “*No one condemned you?*” “*No one, Lord,*” she replied. *Neither do I,* said Jesus to her, *I do not condemn you. Go, henceforth sin no more.* The wretched woman discovered the mercy of Christ. Let us also remember the mercy of the Lord for Zacchaeus: he was a rich man, but whose wealth was tainted with a certain injustice, so much so that public opinion considered him a sinner.

Our Lord returns to Jericho and to the great surprise of all, He declares that he wants to stay at Zacchaeus’. Yes, Christ goes out to meet the sinner. Likewise, when Jesus sat on the edge of Jacob’s well.

He wanted to meet the Samaritan woman and save this “wreckage” of life. How many times has the Lord multiplied the signs of his mercy for sinners, and for that we do not hesitate to reread the parable of the lost sheep and that of the Good Shepherd.

During his Passion, Jesus called on Judas to awaken repentance into his heart. He did not hold it against Peter who denied Him even three times. On the cross, He forgave his executioners, also promising the good thief that he would enter paradise that very day simply because he humbly acknowledged his faults.

That is all the Savior expects of those who have sinned: humility, acknowledgment of wrongdoing, repentance, and a desire to do better. Let us all be convinced that the gifts of God are superabundant. God spares neither his forgiveness nor his grace which fills the soul with the very life of his Spirit.

To benefit from divine mercy, it suffices approaching God with repentance and trust. And if you have difficulty in coming to Jesus, Savior of the world, then, have recourse to the Virgin Mary whom Our Lord gave us as our Mother on the cross; She will help you on your way. Then Jesus will welcome you with open arms and hug you onto his Sacred and Merciful Heart. To one and all: happy Easter Celebrations!

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



- At our school in Scranton, PA -



- In San Francisco, CA:
Meals for the poor -



- In Niger: Aid is given to the lepers -



- In Chicago, IL:
Meals for the homeless -

Dear friends,

Allow me, in this time that brings us closer to the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ, to share with you a few true stories, which occurred in our missions.

In Niger, where all our orphans, little and grown, have a great devotion to the Blessed Virgin, every night, both adults and religious recite the rosary piously and faithfully in front of a small shrine of Our Lady of Frechou, Mother of Mercy and Mother of the Church. On February 28th of this year, a few weeks after the consecration of the church, Our Lady was pleased to show them how much she was touched by their faithfulness and piety.

Indeed, during the rosary, some stars have appeared in the sky, above the Blessed Virgin. All the people present there saw them, there were one, two, three... twelve! Twelve shining stars, of a beauty and light which they had never seen on earth. Crying with emotion, the children fell to their knees. It lasted for 3 or 4 minutes, and then, the stars disappeared. The children were jumping with joy, exclaiming that the Blessed Virgin had come to see them! They hurried to call Bishop Jean Marie on the phone, to share their joy with their good Father!

At the Hermitage in WI, our poor people have cried so much with emotion at Christmas, when we brought them clothes, toys, utensils and food, and all this accompanied with music! They have shared that they could really sense the Emmanuel, coming to them through the poor, simple nuns that we are. The joy of Christmas was bursting forth in their humble homes, for challenging the cold and harsh weather conditions, we would come to sing them the glories of Christmas and bring them the love of God made a Man, born of the Virgin Mary!

In Chicago, IL how emotional it was to meet with all our poor people again under their tents, more or less waterproof. There also, we provide them with all that they need, and most of all, we recall them through our very presence that God loves them!

In California, the Sisters, going back to take the statue of the Pilgrim Virgin after 9 days, showed a picture of Bishop Jean Marie to the lady who had welcomed the statue. They explained to her that he was the Blessed Virgin's confidant.



At the Hermitage, WI: Food pantry to benefit the area's poorest of the poor

How surprised she was! She exclaimed that she had seen him next to the statue of the Blessed Virgin, one day as she was saying the Rosary, at her very home, thousands of miles from Chicago where the Bishop was at that moment. She had never heard of him before, and even less seen any pictures of him! The Blessed Virgin probably wanted to show her that Bishop Jean Marie is really her faithful and humble confidant.

The Most Blessed Virgin Mary transmits her messages to him, which he collects into a book whose title is: "God's Messenger Told Me". She asks him also to do many things: in order to save the souls, nurse the sick, take care of the poor, educate the youth as Christians, in the United States, Africa, Europe and elsewhere in the world.

In Scranton, PA where the Bishop and his Religious renovate a church, including its school and convent; he has opened a food pantry there, even before setting up the heating system in the nuns' building, as he had done a few years back in Detroit, MI. First, serving the poor, those who need our assistance. Then, Holy Mass was offered to the faithful, thirsty for God's love, even though the church was not yet completely renovated.

Finally, the school was opened, because

it is important to properly educate the youth, through quality teaching, a Christian education. The children of the school often repeat that "Bishop's school is the best of all!" and they really make tremendous efforts to study properly. These are children from less fortunate families, and they appreciate such an opportunity to receive free, quality education!

A lady, who benefits from our food pantry boxes in Scranton, PA was saying to the Religious lately that from the way they were taking care of the poor, she had understood right away that the Bishop taught them true charity. She also added: "*How good the Bishop must be*".

Sometimes it occurs that, not finding enough help from men, God needs to intervene directly. Thus, in Detroit, the heating system broke down in October. Winters are very cold in Detroit, MI. The religious remained without heat for two months. Impossible to source the heating unit that needed replacement. A friend of our Order spent a whole day on the internet, looking for that particular unit. But it was nowhere to be found!

By the end of that day: miracle! Someone had one for sale in Pennsylvania, for \$12,000! That was much beyond what the Nuns' poor wallet could afford! Without even mentioning

the cost of its transportation. This was a kind of large and very heavy furnace, and so very expensive to transport. That person who actually owned it, on hearing that it was for the Nuns, offered the heating unit for free, along with its transportation! The heating system was finally restored.

From that day on, we were no longer able to contact that charitable soul to thank him. Email and phone, nothing works, he has become unreachable, as if he had never existed. The Nuns understood that it was Saint Joseph himself who had sent them this heating unit.

But do not think that God works such miracles in our missions on a daily basis. No! He counts on you, your charity and your support to help Fraternite Notre Dame, each day, anywhere in the world, to assist all these poor people who suffer so much!

Help us to help the poor! And you shall receive the reward that is set aside for the Saints! The Most Blessed Virgin, if She does not pay you a visit in your lifetime, will not fail to be there to open for you the gates of Paradise!

*Sister Marie Bénédicte
of the Agony of Christ +snd*



In Peoria, IL: We bring basic necessities to the poor living under tents

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