



Ladies of Charity of Santa Barbara

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

VOL. 2: DECEMBER 2020

Dear Ladies,

As the year 2020 comes to an end, I'm inspired by the words of our Mission Statement: "As women of faith, hope, and joy, we bring healing to those in pain and hope and compassion to those who are outcast and marginalized. We are the voice of the poor." As you read this December Newsletter, you can see how our Ladies of Charity have made a difference in our community, but more is always needed. Even if you are unable to get out into the community, you can reach out to a fellow member or neighbor who may live alone. During these difficult times, acts of Charity in any form are greatly appreciated by everyone, especially the less fortunate. In the words of Mother Theresa, "It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving." With that in mind, I wish all of you and your families a very healthy and blessed Christmas and look forward to seeing all of you in 2021.

With Blessings to All,

Margaret Waters, President

ADVENT REFLECTION FROM FATHER PAT

One of the central figures in our Advent liturgies is John the Baptist, who comes out of the desert to proclaim the arrival of the Kingdom of God.

John went into the desert to prepare himself for the work that God was calling him to perform. In the desert, John let go of what we usually depend on. He let go of his dependency on other people's approval. There were no other people there in the desert. He had to rely solely on his



relationship with God. He let go of his need to always make sure that he was protected and safe. He relied instead on God's protection. He let go of being in charge and in control. Alone in the desert, one is never in charge. He had to rely on God's power and let God be in charge. And so freed from these dependencies, John was open to the Word of God when it came. Powered by God's Word, John went out from the desert to spread the news that God was at hand and it was time now for all to turn to God, to turn away from self-reliance to a life of God-reliance.

Advent is a time to prepare ourselves to receive God's Word. We, too, are invited to be free from all the concerns and anxieties that come as a result of our trying too hard to manage this hard-to-understand world. We are invited to rely on God's powerful love for us. We are invited to rely on God being with us through all our difficulties. We are invited to experience the soul-deep joy of living in the Kingdom of God.



ELIZABETH FUENTES SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Elizabeth Fuentes Scholarship Fund was established for Religious Education for low-income families at San Roque Church. If anyone is interested in making a personal donation to this scholarship fund, please make the check to San Roque Church with the memo stating "for the Elizabeth Fuentes Scholarship Fund." Please address the envelope to San Roque Church, 325 Argonne Circle, Santa Barbara, CA. 93105-2798 with Attention: Noel Fuentes.



ADVENT RETREAT

This year's Advent Retreat took place on December 7th outside on the basketball court at St. Vincent's. Tables allowed participants to be 6 feet apart. Father John Hardin, OFM directed the retreat with a conference and the celebration of Mass. Kelly Avina was received as a new member of the Ladies of Charity during Mass following the homily. Twenty Ladies attended and were happy to be together after nine months with no meetings. It was a blessed time to reconnect and prepare for the feast of Christmas.

THANK YOU'S

SHOWERS OF BLESSING

Dear Sister Linda and the Ladies of Charity,

During this season of gratitude and goodwill, we at the Showers of Blessing extend to you an abundance of appreciation for the cornucopia of contributions you bring to the programme. Your volunteerism is very valued by our Guests and by us! Thank you so very much for your participation with the project.

FROM SISTER ARTHUR

Dear Ladies,

Thank you so much for your precious gift celebrating my 60th anniversary as a Daughter of Charity with the Perpetual Membership to the Marianist Society. Every day I will be remembered at Mass. I am very grateful for your thoughtfulness.

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 4th, 2021:

Feast of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

February 17th, 2021:

Ash Wednesday

March 1st, 2021:

Lenten Retreat

April 4th, 2021:

Easter

May 3rd, 2021:

Meeting

September 13, 2021:

Meeting

October 2021:

TBD Meeting

For more information, please visit our website at www.ladiesofcharity-sb.org



Thank You



**May the joy and peace
of Christmas be with
you and your loved ones
today and throughout
the New Year.**