

Dearest Brothers and Sisters, If you knew how much you were loved, you would cry for joy!

We are switching our yearly newsletters this year, sending a **modest letter now** and postponing **The Pelican** until we send our **Christmas greetings**. The reason for the change is simple: we have little of significance to report at this point, but anticipate more exciting news to share with you later in the year, including a retreat/pilgrimage coming up in September. Stay tuned!

On the **spiritual plane**, we are all on alert regarding the direction the world is going in. It seems everyone is **caving in to the pressure to accept behaviors and teachings contrary to the Gospel** in the name of “inclusion” and “non-judgmentalism.” A deep commitment to **prayer, fidelity to the true Magisterium** of the Church, and a **spirit of sacrifice** will keep us all clear-headed and at peace. Lord, raise up **holy men and women** to guide your people forward in these dark times!

This past Spring, **the farm was bursting with new life!** In late April, our two female **goats had their kids**. They not only stood up immediately, they also were gamboling about within hours! What amazing little creatures! Unfortunately, one sustained a brain injury when severely butted by one of the adult goats, but Sr. Regina has been diligently, even hourly, tending it with care and happily it is gradually recovering, thanks be to God.

Then in mid-May came **Abby's 3rd litter of Maremma puppies**, six healthy little white fuzz balls. Puppies always bring a lot of joy as we watch them grow, play and explore. They all went to their new homes beginning in early July, most destined for the **fields to guard chickens, sheep or goats** which is the reason this breed is so popular with small farms.

In June came the **baby chicks**: about 70 little chirping meat chickens and a dozen layers. Sr. Scholastica has to be commended for her hard work with feeding, watering, cleaning and keeping these delicate creatures alive! When very little, they are very fragile and there's always a percentage that don't make it to adulthood. M. Gertrude had the responsibility for the little ones while Sr. Scholastica was away for 2 weeks on her home visit to St. Lucia this summer, and she can testify that it's a time consuming job. She was happy to hand the responsibility of the chicks back to Sr. Scholastica, our chicken whisperer!

This Summer the **garden** has been productive, especially with **huge tomatoes**. We have had the right combination of rain and sun. It also looks like we'll have a good crop of **grapes, sweet potatoes, onions, and some peppers**. We are grateful for all the volunteers that came to help with the garden, yard, chicken coop, etc. A big thanks to the Knights of Columbus who laid down a patio in front of the guest house, to A-K Parker and her group and the youngsters from Youth Works who helped us periodically throughout the summer. Don't know where we'd be without the extra help. God bless you all.

On the **Oblate** front, we received **D. Benedicta Pate** as a fully committed Oblate on June 24th this year. May Saint Benedict continue to inspire and guide her living out the Benedictine values in her life. After many years of making our way through the **Rule of St. Benedict** with the Oblates, this year we are reading the **Life of St. Benedict**, written by St. Gregory the Great. It's been a good journey and we are honored and proud of all our devoted Oblates.

We've had **visitors** almost daily this summer and a **trip to TN** to attend the **Fidelis Catholic Girls Camp**. Even with our busy life, be assured that our **prayer time is a priority** and you are remembered in them all. A hearty thanks to all for your kindness, support and prayers. You are very dear to us in the Lord. We look forward to sharing the news of our pilgrimage with you in our Christmas newsletter. Till then,

Love and prayers in Our Lady and Saint Benedict,