Winter wonder-land: view from our porch.

Sr. Regina giving a retreat in Southport NC.

Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Peace

Queen of Peace Monastery

687 Moss Road

Rutherfordton, NC 28139

Summer 2026

God's creative joy is seen in puppy play! One VA couple bought two of our super-sized puppies renamed Gertie & Bertie!

Below left: Fr. Davis and Fr. Burke.

Below right: K working in the greenhouse.

Above: The Sisters of Holy Angels Monastery in Jonesboro, AR, where we made our annual retreat in June.

Below: One of their many enclosed courtyards.

Above: The retreat director: Abbot Gregory Polan, O.S.B. former abbot of Conception Abbey (1996-2016) and former Abbot Primate (2016-2024).

Dear Family and Friends in the Lord,

A very happy **250th anniversary** to you all! What a momentous year. We praise God for all the graces he has bestowed on our country, for the saints that have lived here and for all the saints in making that live on this soil we call the United States of America. May we be forever grateful for the freedoms we have, especially our religious freedom to worship God and to speak of him freely. God bless America! We composed some years ago a **Patriotic Divine Mercy** that we say periodically and thought you'd all like to join us in praying this beautiful prayer for our county, so please find a copy enclosed.

As for our news: Towards the end of January, we had the most **beautiful snow fall**, lasting several days. Our whole county was a glistening wonderland. Being in the South, snowfalls of nine inches are quite rare, so we relished every moment.

In late February, **Sr. Regina gave a retreat on St. Therese** to the women of Sacred Heart parish in Southport located on the Eastern shore of NC The women so enjoyed it that they took up a collection to send Sr. Regina to Lisieux! Stay tuned for more on that in a future newsletter…

Our **sheepdog, Lady**, had her first litter on March 1st with seven puppies. The sire was a large Maremma who weighs 135 lbs, so these puppies were **quite large** from day one. By the time they left us for their new homes at eight weeks, they were twenty-five lbs. I think the new owners were surprised to find their new little "puppy" looking like a medium size dog! For the farm, we downsized on our number of goats—only so much a small community can do. All else is copacetic.

In mid-May our **candidate, K**, arrived home for the summer. It's been wonderful having a "foursome" in choir and in community. She's also a great help around the house and farm. God-willing she'll be with us full time after her graduation next year.

In mid-June we went to **Holy Angels Monastery** in Jonesboro, AR for our **annual retreat**. The Sisters allowed us to join them for their own retreat with **Abbot Gregory Polan**, the former Abbot Primate, who began the retreat with an overview on the new translation of the Grail Psalms that is coming out in the Liturgy of the Hours starting in Lent of 2027. Father Abbot's retreat theme was living the Pascal Mys-tery in our monastic life. We enjoyed getting to know **Mother Mary Clare and the Sisters**, and count them now among our new-found friends in Saint Benedict. God bless them for their hospitality.

In early July, **Fr. Burke**—our pastor for the past nine years and pastor of Immaculate Conception parish for the last twenty-five years—was moved to another parish and replaced by **Fr. Davis**, who originally hales from Kerala, India. Fr. Burke never tired of saying how pleased he was to have us Sisters in his parish. We are grateful for all the en-couraging support he gave us. God bless him on his new assignment and a warm welcome to Fr. Davis.

Again, we cannot end without a **hearty thanks to all our benefactors** who help keep this little community afloat. May our humble prayers for you which we offer daily be a source of grace and comfort to you. You certainly have a special place in our hearts which we never let the Lord forget.

❤️🙏 M. Gertrude, Sr. Scholastica, Sr. Regina, and "K"

For the County and Municipal Offices

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ,

In atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

We plead the Blood of Jesus over _____ *(name of State)*
and every soul in that State.

South Dakota Texas Vermont Washington Wisconsin
Tennessee Utah Virginia West Virginia Wyoming

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,
have mercy on us and on the whole world.

In Conclusion:

For all the Bishops, Priests
and Religious of our Country.

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world. *(3x)*

Let Us Pray: Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion–inexhaustible; look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

Jesus, I trust in You. *(3x)*

Queen of Peace Monastery, 687 Moss Rd, Rutherfordton NC 28139

Patriotic Divine Mercy

Based on the Divine Mercy, this prayer asks that Christ's precious blood fall upon our country for its conversion and safety.

The words in bold type are said by the leader.

You expired, Jesus, * but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You! *(3x)*

For the Conversion of our Country: Our Father…

For Our Nation's Capital, Washington DC: Hail Mary…

For the Territories of the United States of America:

Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa,
North Mariana Islands, US Virgin Islands,
US Minor Outlying Islands

I believe in God the Father Almighty…

* * *

For our President

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ,

In atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

We plead the Blood of Jesus over _____ *(name of State)*
and every soul in that State.

Alabama Arizona California Connecticut Florida
Alaska Arkansas Colorado Delaware Georgia

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,
have mercy on us and on the whole world.

For the Supreme Court

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ,

In atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

We plead the Blood of Jesus over _____ *(name of State)*
and every soul in that State.

Hawaii Illinois Iowa Kentucky Maine
Idaho Indiana Kansas Louisiana Maryland

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,
have mercy on us and on the whole world.

For the Senate and House of Representatives

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ,

In atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

We plead the Blood of Jesus over _____ *(name of State)*
and every soul in that State.

Massachusetts Minnesota Missouri Nebraska New Hampshire
Michigan Mississippi Montana Nevada New Jersey

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,
have mercy on us and on the whole world

For the Governors

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ,

In atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

We plead the Blood of Jesus over _____ *(name of State)*
and every soul in that State.

New Mexico No. Carolina Ohio Oregon Rhode Is.
New York No. Dakota Oklahoma Pennsylvania So. Carolina

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,
have mercy on us and on the whole world.