



ST. DAMIEN OF MOLOKAI, SS.CC.

**SUMMER 2011**

Dear Friends & Benefactors,



Summer is finally upon us. It is like a celebration of Easter again—new life and rebirth of old life. The members of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary truly rejoice at this “re-blooming”, especially at our Retreat & Spirituality Center in Wareham, Massachusetts. This breathtaking place with which we have been entrusted since 1943, is 112 acres of serene, unspoiled land, both forest and water’s edge, overlooking the Cape Cod Canal. For all of these years we have used the property and its buildings as a seminary, a novitiate and now a retreat and spirituality center. And, for all of this time, we have made every effort to preserve the land and its gifts, not for just human use, but for the honor and glory of God.

*“... we are all stewards of what God has placed before us...”*

In our recent hope to expand the facility, which is always in use and almost always too small to accommodate the increasing number of requests, we decided to try and develop the property, while at the same time making sure the land and all of its creatures are sustained for generations to come. In collaboration with Mass Audubon and Wareham Land Trust, we have worked toward a marvelous preservation of the land. Along with our endeavors, and the generous efforts of our neighbors who have also placed so much of their lands under conservation restrictions, there are now 300 contiguous acres which will be maintained for all time. The walking trails which are open to the public are beautiful and the growing life, both flora and fauna, is safe.



It is so important to realize that we ALL have a responsibility to respect and preserve the environment—that we are ALL stewards of what God has placed before us for our holy and appropriate uses. The deer that come to our chapel window as we pray look upon us with eyes of innocence; the wild geese with their young walk freely in our midst ; the endangered species of turtles and our now flourishing osprey who nest so close to where we too live—all have a place in the Heart of Jesus that burns with love for all God’s creations.

Our ministry of preaching the really Good News of Jesus flourishes not only in our words, but in our actions that do try to change the face of the earth. All of us working together can do so much more than any of us can do alone. In any way, in every way you can help us, we invite you to join us on this journey of faith and gratitude.



FR. STAN KOLASA, SS.CC.  
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

With all God’s blessings and love,

*Fr. Stan*



### *A Memory ... Yet a Constant Experience*

48 years ago, when I lived on this property as a novice, preparing to take my vows as a member of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, my Mom came for one of the few visits we were allowed to have. It was only five years after the death of my Dad and, though she was still grieving the loss of her beloved, on her first visit I remember her saying,

*“Though I so miss your Dad, and I have both joy at your studying to be a religious and a priest and sadness that you too have left home, when I am here on these grounds, I feel such peace.”*

And through all these years we continue to hear over and over,

*“this is really such a holy place”*

And so we are keeping holy ground, holy...and it really is !!