SACRED HEARTS RETREAT CENTER

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Dear Friend,

It has been so warm here at Sacred Hearts, yes, in Wareham.

Outside has been unusually frigid and VERY snowy and the radiators are clanging loudly and the breeze and the dampness still come in, but the warmth has been hard to miss. The Christmas spirit that filled the place with the decorations really beautiful, but more than that, the people who somehow got here for the "open house" Dr. Zhivago style with the snow more than two feet deep, outside the drifts! The warmth of those who came for celebrations of the Eucharist and the gathering of the Sacred Hearts Sisters and Brothers for a sharing as community, the men's retreat just ended where it was so filled with hope and love and really deep gratitude and, more than warmth, the fire of passion and new birth.

I know that is the nature of the place and what goes on here but it is so much the rhythm of life here that it brings a warmth of its own in the midst of any kinds of cold, inner or outer.

The Christmas season has ended and we are in the "ordinary time" of the Church's liturgical cycle, but time here is seldom ordinary because all who enter and share life and Spirit here make it so much more than ordinary -- all the time.

Lent is but a few eye blinks away and yet another beautiful cycle of the life of the Spirit. Some find it somber, I find it exciting and filled with beauty. Some find the winter months dreary and gray, I find them filled with blues and purples and all colors in between. It is a season where nothing is white even when everything is and when the light so gently colors the day that evening just sneaks in unnoticed. …as does age. And, it is all so beautiful. Come see it with us and change the way it looks.

All God's blessings,

fr. Stan

From the Administrator's Desk

Dear Friends,

A New Year- a fresh start. Sometimes it may seem like just a continuation- day after day-- May the Spirit of God bless us each with a renewed heart!

None of us has escaped being affected by the devastation of the earthquake in Haiti. The television images wrench our hearts and we try to find ways to help. Daily our Haitian brothers and sisters and all those who worked in solidarity with them were raised up in prayer especially at the Eucharist. Our donations and those that come to us for relief are sent through Catholic Relief Services. Lord, have mercy on your people!

Lenten Programs:

Its hard to believe that the season of Lent is quickly approaching. Ash Wednesday is February 17th. I've received phone calls asking about what the Retreat Center will offer this year. A few things are in the works.

Some people find it difficult to get away for a whole weekend, an overnight or even a whole day. So this year I will be leading a 2-hour weekly reflection on the Tuesdays of Lent: **Can you Drink of the Cup?** Using your favorite cup or mug, we will ponder the contents of our lives. More details in the enclosed flyer.

For those who prefer a whole weekend, Peggy Patenaud will lead a retreat: **The Journey to Easter**. Peggy has done many retreats here-all with great success. See the flyer, register early and save.

The "Great Holy Days"- also known as the **Triduum**- Fr. Stan will lead a retreat starting on Holy Thursday evening and ending after breakfast on Easter Sunday. More on this in the next newsletter. For now, mark your calendars: April 1-4, 2010.

In this old house, not all rooms are created equal and the heating system is having a hard time finding them all. Of late, the plumber has become our most frequent guest. Hopefully when all the vents and pipes are clean, the pipes will halt the midnight "symphony" and we'll all get some sleep. These repairs along with high fuel and electric costs take a toll on our winter budget. We are always grateful for your generous support of our ministry.

Love and Peace,

Sr. Claire