

**HOLIDAY PRAYER
OPPORTUNITIES:**

Christmas Eve Mass
Dec. 24th, 9:00 pm

Christmas Day Mass
Dec. 25th, 11:00 am

New Year's Eve
Prayer and Reflection
Dec. 31st, 11:00 pm

New Year's Day Mass
Jan. 1st, 11:00 am



"This will be a sign for you:
you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes
and laying in a manger."

~ (Luke 2:12)

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"Sending peace and gratitude to you this Christmas Season! Bless us Lord, this Christmas, with quietness of mind; teach us to be patient and always to be kind." ~ Helen Steiner Rice

Wishing you a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year! As I take a breath from the business of life to celebrate Advent and Christmas, my heart is full with love and gratitude. Thank you for being a part of our Mountain Community - you are a blessing to us all.

~ **Mary Schlosser, Coordinator of Development and Volunteers**

The short crisp days of winter have arrived. Walking in the winter sunshine whenever it peaks through, I use this time of Advent to reflect on the year and prepare my heart for Christmas. I aim to clear my head and open the eyes of my heart to the blessings and joys in the life all around me. I hope you find these joys and blessings in your every day. May joy be your gift this Christmas and may faith, hope and love be with you always.

~ **Terri Marrie, Board of Trustees**

Christmas time is a time to pray, Put love and kindness on display, Show compassion along the way. Christmas time should be every day. ~ Ronald Doe

When I was beginning to write my Christmas greeting, I came across this poem by Ronald Doe. It truly is a wonderful thought . . . to keep the Christmas spirit of love, kindness and compassion the whole year through.

That is what I truly wish for all of our Mountain friends, community and benefactors . . . may your year be filled with the love, kindness and compassion of all those around you and may you grant that to those who you are with each day. May God bless you with a house full of friends and family this Christmas season . . . and all year . . . and may you feel God's loving care in your life.

Most of all, thank you for the many ways in which you support the Mountain community and our mission. We are blessed to have you in our life and ministry. God's blessing to all of you.

~ **Michelle Marcellin, Office Coordinator**



Christmas Greetings 2017

Dear Mountain sisters and brothers,

With the rest of the Mountain family I greet you, wishing you a blessed season of Christmas. May this Christmas season flow into the New Year and on and on, so that the newness of life might emerge for you even though snowdrifts and cold weather could be upon us! In the midst of a broken world, we celebrate the wholeness of God's love for us and the fullness of God's promise that we would be one family.

As I greet you and my other sisters and brothers and those far from us, I think of us being near right now. Close to each other in the quiet, or just after a lot of clamor, knowing this season is full of both.



I invite us now, because this can be a time too of rest and recovery to take in the beauty of quiet and sitting somewhere, possibly by your Christmas tree or a candle – somewhere in your home, take time with our greeting and the cards of other friends and family. This is the time to drink in the messages of love and Good News.

You and I are, in our own simple ways, members of the body of Christ – the cosmic Christ that “moves the sun, the moon and the stars.” Whatever we do in our personal lives will echo throughout the universe and bring peace to everyone. We know that small deeds of kindness care for all of us, creating waves of love and joy.

So, today as you pause between other things, I might ask something of you as well as greet you. Feel and sense God's presence now, God's love and tender care, realize you have real power. You and I

have been blessed with the capacity to make a difference and bring into this New Year a new peace and hope for others.

Let us go about whatever we are doing now to bring friendship, peace and renewal of life to one another, to our nation and to all people of the Earth. Many need what is stirring in us now, and so, let us take into the marketplaces of our world the message from the Angels at Christmas, “glory to God in the highest Heaven and on Earth peace among all of those who God favors!” (Gospel of Luke)

~ Dan, ofm

Peace!

Photographs by Fr. Dan Riley, ofm



As I write this, I am sitting at my desk in our beautiful new ministry center on campus, listening to Fr. Dan and Br. Kevin organizing an upcoming retreat with several bright and energetic student leaders. With some of the first snowflakes (MANY more on the way!) falling outside, it reminds me of one of my favorite Mountain phrases, “What could be better?!”

As Julie and I eagerly await the arrival of our daughters who are coming home this holiday season, I wish you many wonderful moments of peace and grace for you and all your loved ones. May the blessings of this Holy Season take you through the New Year!

~ Peace, Mike Fenn - Executive Director

Greetings Mountain Friends and Supporters- As we move from 2017 into a bright new year full of promise, I wish you all the blessings a new beginning brings; sunny optimism, energy for possibilities and a fresh approach to life in all its complexity. GK Chesterton echoes the Mountain's mission of “Making all things new” in his words about the New Year, “The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes.”

May you all enjoy being new in the New Year!

~ Dianne Kuzia Hills, Chair - Board of Trustees

Greetings to all recipients! I hope everyone is enjoying this season of giving. I am greatly looking forward to going home and spending this time with my family. I'm also excited for whatever lies ahead in 2018. The New Year gives us the chance to start anew; we can keep the good things we've been doing and amend whatever we did poorly. 2018 also provides us the opportunity to renew ourselves in our faith and strengthen it moving forward. So best wishes for wherever the journeys in and out of your faith take you. Also, never forget that the Mountain community supports you in everything you do!

~ Much Love, Trevor Carney - Men's Mountain Time Interfaith Group

As the Christmas carol Good King Wenceslas says “Therefore Christian men (and women) be sure, wealth or rank possessing. You who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing.”

~ Christmas peace to all of you and to our world. Br. Kevin Kriso, ofm

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! As this year draws to a close it is a great opportunity to count our blessings and find time to be still. Peace and all good.

~ Kaylee Brabham, Mountain Community Leaders Coordinator

Greetings for a wonderful new year! What I do here at the Mountain, really what we all do, is sustain relationships and grow new ones. I'm always pleasantly surprised when someone I haven't seen in years, perhaps since they were a student here at Bona's, contacts me and we pick up talking like no time has passed. Or when we are looking for volunteers and I'm asked to contact people and their first response is “Yes, if it's at all possible!” Or when someone new emails me with a question and several back and forth emails later we are talking like long lost friends! That is what's special about the Mountain – to say it in a term I heard while living in North Carolina “never met a stranger” because truly there are no strangers at the Mountain. Please keep in touch, it's the highlight of our days!

~ Mary Giardini, Communications and Development Services Coordinator

The Christmas season is a time to thank God for becoming human. What a profound gift “the incarnation.” As I reflect on this gift I am grateful that all of you help me to see the incarnation up close and personal. God is in you and you are in God and Christ is made manifest through you. I pray that you will have a very blessed Christmas and a grace filled New Year.

~ Merry Christmas, Br. Joe, ofm

As the Secular Franciscans at the Mountain welcome the Christmas season with joy, we also welcome with joy a new member. Dr. Anne-Claire Fisher was professed as a Secular Franciscan in November and our happy band of brothers and sisters continues to grow.

We are blessed beyond measure to share life with one another and with the Mountain family. With love and gratitude, all of us in the Fraternity send all of you a sincere wish for a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

~ Agnes Brush, ofs, St. Irenaeus Secular Franciscans

Merry Christmas! Christmas time and snow always brings to me a sense of warmth. While the cold bringing warmth may seem counterintuitive, it's a sense of peace. I hope this season brings to you a sense of peace and warmth.

~ Natalie Wasek, Mountain Student Intern

