

Our Lady of Mercy in Romania

Christmas Newsletter 2019

May you Rejoice in His Love

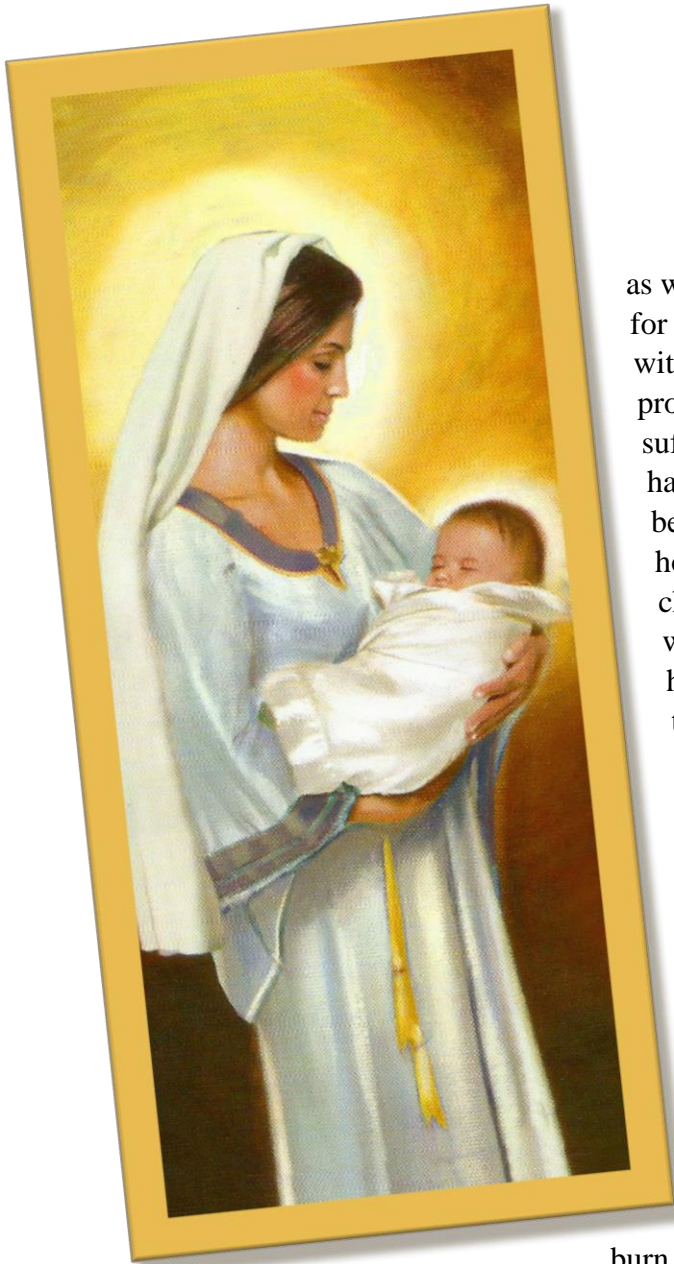
Greetings from all of our team and beneficiaries as we journey into the season of Advent in preparation for the wonderful feast of Christmas. Our activities with our families and seniors continue and have progressed. Some of our families are now self-sufficient. Ongoing education and changing attitudes have opened the possibility for some parents to find better jobs. They no longer need full support. We do however help with school supplies so that the children do not miss out on their education. Parents who have grade two disability can only work four hours a day. This presents a problem for bettering their circumstances as employers are reluctant to employ people for four hours in a day. We continue to support them with vital provisions and help to keep the children educated. We are grateful to the 'Food Bank' for their constant supply of provisions. Their contribution is an enormous help.

Our seniors enjoy socialising together and have found great joy and healing within the friendships. Their small pensions leave them struggling financially so they appreciate all your positive efforts on their behalf. Support for heating is ongoing in Winter. Those who burn wood for Winter fuel received a supply in August.

At this time of year, the wood is cheaper. We have an added group giving our seniors the opportunity to socialise with games, dance or merely communicating with each other.

Twenty of our seniors enjoyed a week in the mountains. This was an adventurous and exciting time and enhanced by the fact that Dan and Toni were part of the team. Dan is our chauffeur and was readily available as indeed were all of our volunteers. Toni and Dan are experts with barbecue cuisine and teamed with the rest of the volunteers making every effort to keep us happy!

The week passed all too quickly, but the memories are still with us. Much research and preparation were previously done by team members. Each day had a highlight. We visited the



Franciscan monastery which seemed at the tip of the mountain. The weather was superb. We had the good fortune of meeting Brother Farcaș, a unique artist. He explained the history of the monastery and gave us a tour of the building and the surrounding land. From here we went to a place called Cheile Râșnoavei where we observed stunning scenery. We seemed to be deafened with the silence, the wonder and awe and the beauty of creation.

Another highlight was a visit to Trei Brazi. From here we walked to Poiana Seculilor and after an hour's rest back to Trei Brazi where we enjoyed a delicious lunch and soaked the beauty of the area. No one flagged in energy in spite of the age range from 70 to 90!! Our final big adventure was a ride in the 'Telescaun' or chairlift to another beauty spot called Clăbucet. One person chose not to venture but the rest of the group wanted more!!

Our ministry to the housebound continues. A visit means so much, linking the housebound to the wider community. At times we retreat with heavy hearts, feeling their pain but nevertheless rejoicing that in some way we have been a source of hope.

In April we hosted an 'Open Doors' day when we invited our friends to view our centre and to chat over a cup of tea or coffee.

Many of you will remember me relating stories about Emma. She was eight years old when we met. Emma was born without a spine and thanks to Heart to Hand Wexford we got a special chair for Emma which gave her a wonderful quality of life. Before she received this, her world was her bedroom as she could not sit in a chair. The special wheelchair had a portable tabletop and this enabled Emma to learn how to eat. We supplied a liquidiser as parents had previously chewed her food first so that she survived. Emma was a ray of sunshine, always had a smile and sent each one of us away better people. She celebrated her 27th birthday in July and she finally went to the Lord in September. May she rest in peace. We are confident that Emma is enjoying the fullness of the Lord. Her Dad was her sole carer in her latter years. He is indeed an unsung hero. His total commitment of true love was an example to all of us as Emma enjoyed dignity and security. Emma alongside twelve-year-old Moira who died over a year ago are singing Glory to God with gusto!



Our recent highlight was the celebration of Mass on the Third World Day of the Poor. Our marginalised and expat community celebrated together. The sense of unity and joy of celebration echoed throughout the church. In spite of the evening dark and travelling wide distances the church was packed. The joyous echoes still ring in our ears and remain rooted in our hearts.

We are grateful to the many people who support us in any way. We are indebted to our friends in Ireland, England, Canada and here in Romania who have helped us financially. We thank our expat volunteers who gave their time and support so generously. We wish Landon well in his present venture as he cycles in pilgrimage. We can sense the echo of his laughter within our imaginations!! Some of our friends here in Romania save their small change for us. This is invaluable as it has met expenses for electricity, medication and food where there has been an urgent need. Tis Pharmaceutical, Cristina Medical and the Food Bank donate on a

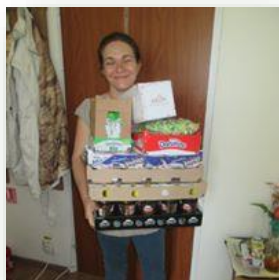
regular basis. Many needy people are helped and for this we thank you. Our bazaar is imminent, so we thank the Radisson Blu for the donation of the premises for the event. We are grateful to Vivre for their donation of goods. We could not function of course without our heroic team who overcome every challenge.

Renewed thanks for all your prayerful and financial support. May Christmas be a time of joy, peace and genuine love for you and your families. Be assured that we keep you in prayer at all times and hope that this time of preparation for Christmas will be enriched with numerous blessings.



*Prepare the Way of the Lord, Prayer reaching the Heart,
Almsgiving, Care of Earth, Others & Self, Acceptance &
Forgiveness, Glory to God*





*And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us,
and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father,
full of grace and truth. - John 1:14*



Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

The Association of Our Lady of Mercy in Romania

Address: Str. Popa Nicolae, nr. 6, bl. 23, sc. B, et. 1, ap. 23, sect. 2, Bucharest, Romania

Phone: +4021 2401297, +40742 893 454, E-mail: afmromania@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.ourladyofmercy.ro> , Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/afmromania.ro