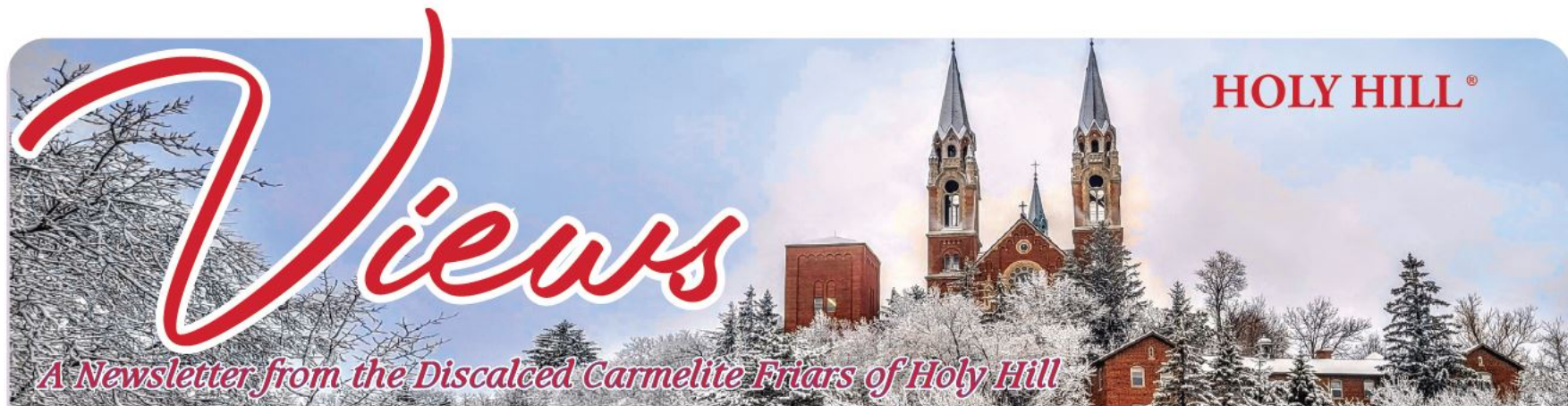
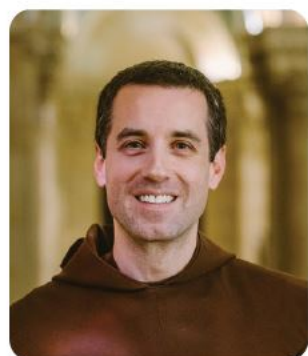




A Newsletter from the Discalced Carmelite Friars of Holy Hill

Basilica and National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians

Winter 2026



Fr. Michael-Joseph Paris, Prior

Christmas Greetings from Holy Hill

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

As autumn takes a turn toward winter to come, a quiet time of reflection settles on the transitioning beauty of Holy Hill. The rush of fall visitors subsides as the last of the colored leaves disappear and the first few snowflakes scout the landscape they will cover in white in a few short weeks.

As the year quietly advances toward Advent and Christmas, we reflect on the many blessings of this past year. Despite what may be happening in the world today and the challenges we may face in our daily lives, there is always so much for us to be thankful for!

My Brothers and I are blessed to serve here – celebrating Mass, hearing confessions, blessing and praying for you. We are blessed by your faithfulness and your shared love of Christ Jesus and His Blessed Mother.

Among God's many blessings is the vibrancy of our Discalced Carmelite community at Holy Hill. This past August, three of our Brothers were ordained to the priesthood: Frs. John-Magdalene, Isaiah and Moses. This fall, Br. Joseph-Teresa made his Solemn Profession of Vows and was ordained to the Diaconate. Earlier this year, Fr. Peter Lee made his first profession of vows in the Discalced Carmelite Order.

The good news continues. Five men began their novitiate, receiving their habits and titles as they begin their life in the Order and continue their formation. We also welcomed four postulants to the monastery in September. During this initial year of discernment, they will learn about Carmelite tradition and religious life, living alongside all of us friars. Please keep all these men in your prayers!

There also were two significant milestones in our community – we celebrated Fr. Kevin Culligan's 70th anniversary of profession of vows as a Discalced Carmelite Friar, as well as Fr. Fred Alexander's 50th anniversary of profession of vows. May God continue to bless them abundantly in their vocations.

In other news, I am pleased to report that we completed the refurbishment of the historic, life-size Stations of the Cross this past summer. This project must be done every 25-30 years to assure the Stations will be here for generations to come. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this important project. We also continued work on making the beautiful bronze entry doors to the Basilica



The Basilica at Christmas

(continued on next page)

Christmas Greetings from Holy Hill (continued)

functional once again. The massive center doors were removed to undergo modifications without altering the bronze relief sculptures. We anticipate they will be re-installed before Christmas.

Our 52nd Annual Arts & Crafts Fair in September proved challenging this year due to heavy rain the night before the event and a grim forecast for the day of the fair. The gray skies and chance for more rain kept attendance down. Thanks to everyone who did brave the weather – both vendors and shoppers – and a big thank you to all the volunteers who made this event possible. The fair is an important fund-raising event for us, with proceeds used to maintain the buildings and grounds.

We also experienced another unexpected challenge. A water leak in mid-August from above the gift store created a flood that caused significant damage. We must replace store fixtures and gift items, and possibly a wall. After being closed for a month, we were able to reopen in a limited space while repairs continue – the busy fall season is so important to us financially. Please keep the speed of repairs and quick recovery in your prayers.

In closing, I want to thank you for your continued prayerful and financial support over the past year. It is only through your kindness that we can continue to serve here and keep this sacred place safe and welcoming for everyone. We hold you in our prayers as we wish you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas and the Peace of Jesus Christ throughout the New Year!

Fr. Michael-Joseph of St Thérèse, O.C.D.

Discalced Carmelite Ordination Ceremony



*“O Jesus, eternal Priest, keep your priests within the shelter of
Your Sacred Heart...”*

From St. Thérèse of Lisieux's Prayer for Priests



In a beautiful ceremony, three Discalced Carmelite brothers were ordained to the priesthood in August:
John-Magdalene of Mary Immaculate, Isaiah of the Holy Face
and Moses of the Resurrection.

Yes! I would like to make a gift in support of Discalced Carmelite ministries in the amount of:.

☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$15 ☐ \$_____

☐ My check is enclosed, payable to The Discalced Carmelite Friars.

☐ Please charge my gift of \$_____ to my: ☐  ☐  ☐  ☐ 

Account number

Expiration date

Security Code

Print name exactly as it appears on credit card

Note: We cannot process
your credit card without an
expiration date & Security Code.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Holy Hill Gift Items

The following items are available as our "thank you" for your gift in support of Holy Hill. Please use the enclosed gift reply folder to request a gift with your offering. All items have been blessed by the Discalced Carmelite Friars at the Basilica and National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians at Holy Hill. Hurry - quantities are limited!

Please check the box(es) for the item(s) you wish to receive. Please allow up to 4 weeks for delivery.

Note: Supplies of these items are limited. Please respond as soon as possible. Thank you!

- ☐ A My gift is \$150 or more. Please send me _____ Holy Family Statue(s)
- ☐ B My gift is \$28 or more. Please send me _____ Christmas Rosary Bracelet(s)
- ☐ C My gift is \$40 or more. Please send me _____ Holy Hill Christmas Ornament(s)
- ☐ D My gift is \$35 or more. Please send me _____ Beautiful Rosary(ies)

A



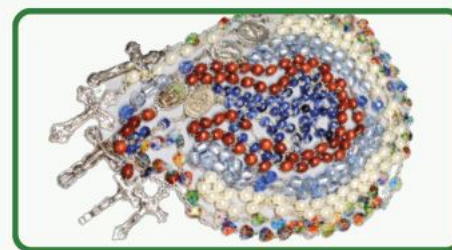
B



C



D



A. Holy Family Statue This 11-inch tall ceramic statue of the Holy Family captures the wonder and love of that first Holy Night. This item could be a special Christmas gift for someone - or a beautiful addition to your home.

Available for a gift of \$150 or more for each Statue.

B. Christmas Rosary Bracelet This one-decade rosary bracelet is a wonderful stocking stuffer gift. It has red paint-splashed, double-capped glass beads and a dangling epoxy art Nativity scene and crucifix. Stretchable to fit most wrists.

Available for a gift of \$28 or more for each Bracelet.

C. Holy Hill Christmas Ornament A new design this year, this three-dimensional, full-color brass ornament accurately depicts the Shrine Basilica church at Holy Hill. It is a wonderful Christmas present or place one on your own Christmas tree.

Available for a gift of \$40 or more for each Ornament.

D. A Beautiful Rosary Let us choose a rosary for you from our assortment - share one as a special gift or add one to your personal collection.

Available for a gift of \$35 or more for each Rosary.



Gift Store Flood Forces Temporary Closing

The gift store received significant damage from a flood in August, the result of a broken pipe in the Guest House above. The store was closed for a month, then reopened in a limited space while repairs and replacement of fixtures continued.

Renewal of the Stations of the Cross Complete

Refurbishment of the beautiful, life-size Stations of the Cross took place throughout summer and is now complete. This task is done every 20-25 years to preserve the historic statuary and grottos for generations to come. Thank you to everyone who helped with this important project!



Light a Candle for your Prayerful Intentions

Pilgrims who visit Holy Hill often light candles for their prayerful intentions in the beautiful Shrine Chapel. Votive candles remind us of the light of faith each of us received at our baptism; they are a visible presence of our prayers. For those who cannot visit Holy Hill in person, we will light a candle for you.

Visit www.holyhill.com and click on the candle icon to submit a candle prayer request.

We are blessed to have your support!

Thank you for being a partner in our mission to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and His Blessed Mother. Your support truly makes everything we do possible.

If you would like information on how you can remember Holy Hill in your will or through a donation of stocks, bonds or securities, please contact the Development Office at 262-628-1838, ext. 118. God Bless You!

