



*Merry*  
**CHRISTMAS**



**MARY'S HOMES OF HOPE**

PROVIDING HOMES THAT ARE "INNS"  
OF FAITH, HOPE & PRAYER

*A Franciscan Ministry*

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## **GOD'S BREATH**

*(Ruach)*



We read in Luke chapter one that the angel Gabriel comes to Mary and says, "Hail favored one! The Lord is with you." She was greatly troubled at what sort of greeting this might be.

Gabriel assures her, "Don't be afraid! For you, Mary, have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son and you shall name him Jesus."

After Gabriel explains to Mary how this will come about by the power of the Holy Spirit, she says, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." She conceives by the Holy Spirit.

God gives His breath of life to Mary and she in turn gives His breath to the child of her womb. She nurtures His growth and development and towards the end of the pregnancy, when the lungs are fully developed, the breath of the Mother, given by God, completes the final step—BIRTH!

So, on that starry heavenly night in Bethlehem, Jesus is born. God the Father fulfills His promise to redeem us through His Son. We read in the Gospel of John chapter three when Nicodemus comes to Jesus and says, "Rabbi, we know that you are the teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you are doing unless God is with him." (v2)

Jesus answered and said to him, "Amen, amen I say to you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." (v3) He continues in verse five, "No one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit."





Over the past years, at Mary's Homes of Hope, the Breath of God has been very evident. We have seen many who began a journey of re-birth in Christ. One mom came to the home with a great conflict in religious beliefs. As she opened her mind and heart to her Catholic faith she began to see truth. (God's Breath)

In this Christ-centered home where Christ, His Real Presence, resides in the chapel tabernacle, Christ embraced her. A personal relationship with God began to grow. (God's Breath)

She has moved on to her own home and we pray she stays open to God's love.



Father Vittorio Boria, OFM, Cap



*"He longs to be in you, He wants His breath to be in your breath, His heart in your heart, and His soul in your soul." — ST. JOHN EUDES*



Another woman who has lived in the home since it opened is a quiet, gentle presence, who brings gifts of joy and humor. She loves Jesus and shares His love with so many. (God's Breath)

Many who are searching for His love, peace, acceptance, and healing have found their re-birth in Christ at Mary's Homes of Hope. (God's Breath)

*May the Holy Family bless all of you this Christmas!*

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