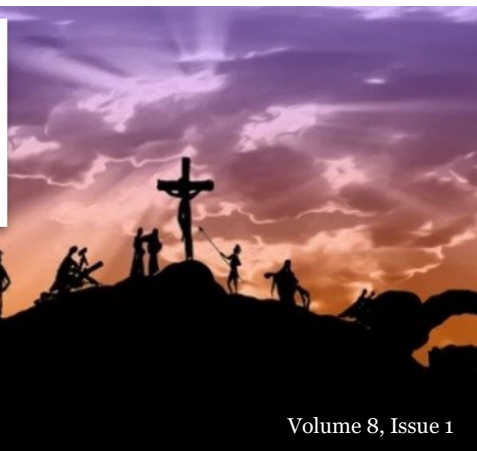




**MARY'S HOMES OF HOPE**  
PROVIDING HOMES THAT ARE "INNS"  
OF FAITH, HOPE & PRAYER

*A Franciscan Ministry*



February 2026

*Fast*

*Pray*

*Give*

Volume 8, Issue 1

*"These are the precious weeks [of Lent] offered by the Church to all Christians, in order to help them to reflect upon their profound identity as children of the heavenly Father and as brothers and sisters of all human beings."*

—St. John Paul II,

## ***LIVING LENT***

Lent described in the Catholic dictionary reads that it is the forty-day liturgical season of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving in preparation for Easter. The common question we hear is, "What are you giving up for lent?" We make a list and, for the most part, when lent is over we go back to those things which we gave up. Let us look toward almsgiving that will bring together the fasting and prayer that will last.

In Christian tradition almsgiving is a corporal work of mercy that includes feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick, and visiting prisoners. (Matthew 25:34-40) I'd like to share the ways the residents at Mary's Homes of Hope practice corporal works of mercy.

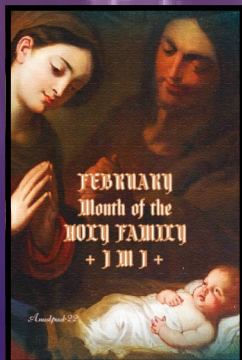
Kate's corporal works of mercy is helping the homeless by providing care packages that include a wide variety of needs, such as warm clothes, snacks, coats, gloves, shoes, just to name a few. Most importantly Kate writes a personal card for each beautiful soul who receives a care package. Her cards tell of how much God loves them and how special they are. Many ask her to pray for them. She prays! She is His light that shines on them and gives them hope.



*Faithful God,*

*You make beauty from ashes and life from ruins. Breathe hope into every man or woman who feels beyond repair. Open doors for housing, jobs, and reconnection with loved ones. Let forgiveness wash away old regrets. Give them courage to dream again and strength to try again. Surround them with mentors and believers who will walk beside them. Turn every street corner into a place where grace begins. Write new chapters filled with dignity, purpose, and peace.*

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.*





**FEAST DAY  
MARCH 19**

Ritu, serves her parish by training altar servers, teaching CCD, and is active in the parish's many apostolates. She is also being called to teach and serve special needs children. Ritu will receive her Master's Degree in Education in May.

*Our Father,*

*We humbly come before You, seeking to embody reverence in our service. Grant us the grace to approach the altar with pure hearts and open minds, honoring the sacredness of this ministry. May our actions reflect Your love and inspire others to deepen their faith. Strengthen us in our commitment to serve with joy and devotion.*

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.*



Carol is discerning a calling to mission work in Honduras. She has submitted her application and hopes to begin in August. Over the years Carol has been a witness and inspiration by living a life that brings Christ's love to the poor, to children, and by helping start mission programs. It is fair to say that she embraces all the spiritual works of mercy.



It is a blessing to see and know that the residents of Mary's Homes of Hope live a LIFE of lent, not just a "season" of lent. For as they live, give, love, and serve, they see the face of God in the eyes of "the least of these." Living a life of Lent will bring us to an everlasting Easter.

Thank you for keeping us as a part of your corporal works of mercy. Know that we will include you in our corporal works of mercy as well. We pray for you and are so grateful for all of you!

### St. Joseph Protector of Homes

*"St. Joseph,*

*Please protect our homes, MHOH, our residents', friends' and supporters' homes. Pour forth Heaven's blessings upon our families. Remain in our midst. Help us to live in love and harmony, in peace and joy. May the wholesome fear of God strengthen us that virtue may adorn what we do and our way may lead to Heaven. To you this day we give the key to our dwelling place. Lock out all things that could do us harm. Lock our homes and our loved ones with me in the hearts of Jesus and Mary. This I beg of you that our days may be like your days in the Holy Home of Nazareth.*

*Amen."*



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