



*Merry
Christmas!*

Lamar, Texas. December 2017

Dear Benefactors, Friends and Members of our Schoenstatt Family:

During this holy season of hope and joy, the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary want to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and abundant blessings from our Schoenstatt Shrine.

We believe that the Christ Child has already showered many graces and gifts upon us through each one of you. We are grateful for the many ways in which you have enriched and helped our lives after the hurricane slammed our town. Thank you for all your prayers, contributions and support to rebuild the Schoenstatt Center and the shrine of our beloved Mother.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your donations and for your willingness to clean, to cook, to move, to wash, to trim, to drive, to wrap, to demolish, to organize fundraisers, to pack, etc... Thank you for your readiness to help out in any way it was needed.

With your help we are gradually rebuilding the roof of the training center. The air conditioning, roof and walls of the shrine also got damaged, however with your generosity we could already replace the AC unit and paint the walls. Right now the roof is also being fixed.

The cemetery, gardens and outside areas are looking much better after your hard work in them. That helped make it possible to more quickly open our center and shrine to all the pilgrims who come here to visit our heavenly Mother.

The roof and windows of the gift shop could be fixed quickly due to your generous monetary donations and willingness to help clean up the damaged parts. We could reopen the store faster than we thought. Many visitors had been looking forward to this, and are grateful with us.

The work on the girls' house continues. We want to express also our gratitude for the donations you made for the sheet rock, the material for the roof, the tiles for the floors, etc... We really appreciate the hard work you invested to rebuild this house.

House Schoenstatt and House Confidentia are still in the process of being rebuilt. We are looking forward to reopening these houses to put them at your service. We really miss having you here for retreats and events.

Unfortunately the other smaller wooden buildings were so badly damaged that it was impossible to rebuild them. You were also a big blessing by helping us to empty those houses and helping with the demolition.

Many people are missing the pier. It was completely destroyed. For now the next step is to remove all the concrete pieces that are still in the water. We hope that in the near future we will be able to build a new pier.

The big tree, loved not only by the children, was broken during the hurricane. Now it is only about half the size it was before. However the favorite branch to climb on is still there.

Many of you are concerned about our sisters who had to move after the hurricane. The house where the sisters lived needs to be completely restored and renovated - right now it is uninhabitable. Sr. M. Daniela, Sr. M. Corelia, Sr. M. Brigid, Sr. M. Catherine, Sr. M. Antoinette, Sr. Mary Ann, and Sr. M. Amalia are in our Provincial House in Waukesha, WI. Sr. M. Christin is in our Retreat Center also in Waukesha. Sr. Mary Martha now belongs to our house community in Staten Island, NY, and Sr. M. Deanne is in Madison, WI. They all pray for you and your intentions in the shrines close to them.

Dear volunteers, as we write this letter we notice that there are no sufficient words to really express our gratitude and appreciation to you. Our prayer is the best way to express all of this. Before our new born King we will pray for you and in all your intentions and your family will be prayed for during our Holy Mass Novena from the 24th of December to January 1st.

May God reward you with many graces for your generosity! We also wish you a blessed and happy New Year 2018. Once more, heartfelt thanks,

In Christ and Mary,

Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary

