

*Front cover:*  
"Watchful"

Photograph by Sister Jane Zimmerman, OP



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*Let there be peace on Earth*







"Peace I leave with you,  
My peace I give to you...  
Let not your heart be troubled,  
neither let it be afraid."

—John 14:27



Dear Robert and Joan,

*Let there be peace on Earth and let it begin with me...*

As we begin to prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of our Savior, might we take a moment together to reflect upon and remember this past year—not only its many challenges, but also its precious and tender exchanges, as well. The year began with heartache and tears at the loss of so many to COVID on the Motherhouse campus, but with courage and unwavering hope, we pressed on, and today we sing, "*Let there be peace on Earth and let it begin with me.*"

With great anticipation and peace-filled hearts we enter into the 2021 Christmas season. Throughout the past year, we found beauty in nature, with its gentle power to remind us of loved ones lost, as well as gratitude for those who continue to journey along beside us. Whether a tree or a bird, a flower or a butterfly, nature gifts us with reminders of all the many blessings we have in life.

As our friend and partner in mission, you faithfully walked beside us this past year. You held us in your prayers, and you so generously and graciously supported us every day. We could not be more grateful for your love and care.

Our prayer this Christmas season is simple, yet deeply sincere: may you encounter and embrace the power of peace within your heart. May the laughter of your loved ones, the smiles exchanged with strangers, your favorite scriptures, and every encounter you have with nature, bring you peace, love and joy. And may these gifts of the heart that you find—that we all find—be cherished and shared with others.

In faith, we wish you a most peaceful Christmas and a blessed New Year.

With gratitude,

  
Amy Palmer, MA, CFRE

P.S. Visit us at [www.adriandominicans.org/peace](http://www.adriandominicans.org/peace) throughout the Christmas season where we will share moments of peace and inspiration.