

From the depth of silence we wish you the peace, hope and joy
of this Christmas celebration and New Year 2019.

You are remembered in our hearts and prayer.

Your brothers



The Mystery of Incarnation

These pictures were taken by brothers
during our journeys in Mexico,
a land we have come to love.

Our Mexican Benedictine sisters opened for us
realities seldom seen,
seldom experienced by many.

The people we have met
have been our teachers.
Teaching us by their lives
the mystery of incarnation:

God become one with us
in human flesh.

Silence: the Monastic Way of Life

*When peaceful silence lay over all,
and night had run half the course,
down from the heavens,
leapt your all-powerful Word.*

- Wisdom 18: 14-15

MONASTIC LIFE IS WELL KNOWN AS THE SILENT LIFE.

But this silence is not an emptiness. Rather it is a fullness of life. It is filled by the Word of Life. Its Way is the Way of Listening with the Ear of the Heart. It is listening from a place of love—not so much a place of reasoning and thinking. Space for this listening is created in silence which is attentive to God's Word made flesh, to Jesus living among us through the presence of the Holy Spirit. It is the life of the Child constantly being born again.

The Word as Truth is at the heart of who Jesus is as Way and Life. Truth is the Word spoken in silence, in trust, in peace and engagement—not in conflict and contradiction.

In the world of today where disunity, opposition, mistrust and loud dissention are the prevalent language, the Word of Peace, Forgiveness, Compassion, Unity and Connection, is a healing and life-giving word that needs to be spoken and given witness.

Enthusiastic monastic witness and life can be a healing gift in our times — *“Conversatio Morum - Sharing in Community Life, Obedientia - Listening in Silence, Stabilitas - Commitment in Perseverance.”* ■