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I hope you and your loved ones have had a very Blessed Christmas and your New Year is off to a good and holy start. Instead of our usual *Kaleidoscope* at this time, I decided I would write you and fill you in on a few of the happenings with the sisters and their missions. I also want to let you know to watch for some minor changes in the format of the *Kaleidoscope*. We work with a wonderful local printer who knows how hard we work to keep our costs down. We are currently working with them on a change that will allow us to still bring our stories from the missions to you but in a more cost effective way.

As always, Sr. Bernadette and Sr. Catherine spent the days before Christmas filling the Motherhouse with wonderful aromas due to their baking and cooking. Sr. Bernadette, with the help of her caregiver and an extra helper, prepared dozens of her crescent coffee cakes to give out to our friends, Guild members, as well as a few parishioners from St. Stephen Cathedral. Each year Sr. Catherine spends the week before Christmas with us here at the Motherhouse and enjoys whipping up a couple batches of her fudge to share with folks, and this year was no exception. It was delicious!

As you may remember from the last issue of *Kaleidoscope*, Sr. Rosemary had broken her right hip and wrist back in September. I am happy to say that her wrist is healed and out of the cast; therefore she is now able to begin the task at hand of writing her many thank you notes for the prayers and well wishes that she received. Her broken hip has been much slower to heal, but as of the December 11th doctor's appointment, Sister has finally gained weight-bearing status. This allows her to begin the painful and difficult task of more aggressive rehab so that she can regain as much mobility as possible.

In that same issue of *Kaleidoscope*, we also mentioned that Sr. Mary Ellen had an injury to her leg that caused her to also be out of commission keeping her leg elevated at all times. This has been extremely difficult for her as well, with weekly visits to the doctor and whirlpool therapy.

If this wasn't enough, on the Monday before Thanksgiving, Sr. Kathleen fell and broke her left hip while trying to do a good deed for a neighbor. Luckily for her, she was able to have a partial hip replacement and gained weight-bearing status the day after surgery and is now finishing her recovery and therapy at the Motherhouse in Owensboro, Kentucky. She is doing very well and yes, she is counting the days till she will be able to go back to her mission work in Frenchburg, Kentucky.

I do want to share with you that although the sisters are out of commission in these instances, the mission and ministries have continued. One of the important approaches that we Glenmary Sisters use in our ministries is to always involve the local people in whatever we are doing, so that if for some reason God calls us to move from a particular area, the ministry can and will continue. I am happy to tell you this is exactly what has occurred in each of these three missions. The local people have stepped up and with some assistance from us (because of your generosity) have been able to continue the ministries begun by the sisters, especially during this busy time of year.

As for Sr. Darlene down in our Caruthersville, Missouri mission, Sr. Aida here in Owensboro, and Sr. MargaretLola in our Millen, Georgia mission, they are all doing fine and staying quite busy with all that the Christmas season brings our way. With your help and the help of the St. James Parrish in Cincinnati Ohio, and the Catholic school children from the K-3 Campus here in Owensboro, many families had a very Merry Christmas. So with a grateful heart on behalf of all of our sisters and their missions I want to sayThank YOU!!!!

With Love and Gratitude

Sr. Sharon

