

“ Glory be to God for all things.” St. John Chrysostom

We are all familiar with this quote and know that it is often easier to be grateful for some things than others. This one is obvious: our work day was a great success! And we are truly thankful.

We had just the right number of people with exactly the right skills that were needed to complete much of what was on our list. Our list, of course, was not intended to be completed in one day. People came and worked in the cold, getting wet but still having smiles on their faces. It was a very pleasant atmosphere. Heavy tiles were removed and stacked neatly in corners; branches were shredded with a wood shredder and the shavings used to cover up the empty places where the tiles had been; hundreds of flower bulbs were dug up and collected to be planted elsewhere and numerous wheelbarrows were transported from place to place containing a variety of things.

We saw old friends and even two very new ones who came just because they read the announcement and wanted to help. (The had never been to the monastery before.)

There was always coffee and delicious treats—much of which were provided by our friends. There was also an Italian meal of vegetarian lasagne served at midday.

It was also the name-day of Martin Buwalda, grandson of Martin & Cecile, who was probably the most enthusiastic participant of all as he ran around trying to do everything that his father did—on a smaller scale of course.

Let us give thanks to God continually. For, it is outrageous that when we enjoy His benefaction to us in deed every single day, we do not acknowledge the favor with so much as a word; and this, when the acknowledgment confers great benefit on us. He does not need anything of ours, but we stand in need of all things from Him.

In point of fact, thanksgiving adds nothing to Him, but it brings us closer to Him. For if, when we recall the benefactions of men, we are the more warmed by affection for them; much more, when we continually bring to mind the benefits of the Master towards us, shall we be more earnest with regard to His commandments.

For this cause Paul also said, Be ye thankful. For the best preservative of any benefaction is the remembrance of the benefaction, and a continual thanksgiving for it^[4] St. John Chrysostom

We thank you all very much.

M. Johanna & sisters