DEAR FRIENDS: Thank you for the blessing of your recent gift. Are you aware of the meaning of the word blessing? It basically means praise or approval. It is given by God. We can trust Him to always care about us, no matter what. That is one reason Our Lord came here. The word we use in English, 'blessing', has it's roots in the Old English word, 'bloedsian'- 'sprinkling something with blood,' thus setting it apart. This was a Pagan ritual. With the dawn of Christianity, it was used to translate the Latin 'Benedicere', to say well [bene=good dicere=to say], thus we use the word 'blessing, [Greek: Evlogein, Slavonic: 'Blagoslovo' meaning to say a good word; and it is the same in most languages. We are in need of blessings. Often, we only hear (and often tell ourselves too) negative things about ourselves and our surroundings. God loves us and we are His creatures. God also sees charity and rewards it with His presence. We bless God and humanly bless you in Him! Isn't it nice to be blessed? My family and I bless you as well. We found ourselves in a desperate financial situation due to our many needs, medical and other. As soon as I made my need known, you responded. Many of you do not even know me/us, and yet as 'Good Samaritans', when you heard my plea for help, you came to our aid. We are not able to help ourselves (financially) and when I asked God for help, he helped us through you! You are His 'hands' in this drafty world.

Sincerely, Fr. Michael and M. Janet Mihalick, 323 Nees Avenue, Johnstown, PA 15904 — Mjm121@atlanticbb.net

P.S. If you did not do so already, please send me your email as I must 'peck' as I can't write. I am right-handed, but lost use of that hand and peck with my left!