

Holy Cross Retreat Center, Mesilla Park, NM ANNUAL REPORT for 2018

Puede leer en español www.holycrossretreat.org

The Value of Tithing

Most of us know the concept of tithing—giving 10% of our income to charity in some fashion. Recently I heard how Bono from the music group U2 spoke to evangelical pastors and suggested that our nation should tithe to help the poor. It prompted me to think whether Holy Cross Retreat Center could do this. As we prepared our financial report recently we also listed the value of our Franciscan Hospitality ministry, assisting the undocumented, asylum seekers, and medical patients primarily. It came to

about \$90,000.00, which is over 10% of our gross income for the year. We also contribute funds to support our Province ministries.



Yes, tithing 10% can be a challenge at times, but perhaps both as individuals and organizations we should give this some consideration. The Bible promises that we will be cared for, and the retreat center continues to thrive, so I believe it. Give it some thought, perhaps a portion to your church, some to various charities, and also your time and your heart in personal volunteering. Francis of Assisi embraced the leper, and it is often in the direct encounter that we experience conversion and the presence of Christ. *"When you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."* Mt 6:4

Fr. Tom

By checking the numbers of those who attended various retreats, programs, and events we recorded about 9,750 people who came to HCRC this past year, besides the 3,000 plus who came to the Art Festival. It is good to see the interest, and still the ability to maintain a peaceful atmosphere.



The Hermitage is Built and in Use!

The hermitage was completed by our Good Works Volunteers, and dedicated May 20th. Since then we have had someone using it 102 days, out of total of 170 days possible. Some are for a short time, but we have also had several come for 5 days for more, including religious men and women. Maybe it would be a good experience for you. Call to make reservations. 575 524 3688. Many thanks to all who contributed \$16,785.00 in last year's appeal.

Save the date... **Los Pastores del Valle de Mesilla** will be performing on **December 7th at 7:30pm** in the Chapel at Holy Cross Retreat Center! Let's usher in a Merry and Blessed Christmas!

Care for Refugees

On Oct. 16th, we welcomed 26 adult and children refugees seeking asylum. There were at least twelve volunteers helping with meals, clothes, getting them settled in rooms. Three offices were used by those arranging transportation, 2 rooms were used by doctors who examined them to make sure they were healthy. A 9 month old baby had bronchitis



and spent 4 days in the hospital. Without help she could have died. There has been a lot of activity and the volunteers area a great gift! Almost every week we host ten refugee families. ***Please consider making a donation to support our efforts to welcome immigrants and those seeking shelter.***

Upcoming Retreats and Financial Report

2018-2019

FRANCISCAN SPONSORED RETREATS & EVENTS

Each Wed	6:30 pm Mass in the new Chapel, including during Christmas time.
Dec. 2, Sunday	Day of prayer to begin Advent, 9-1
Dec. 7 Friday	“Los Pastores del Valle de Mesilla Christmas pageant 7:30pm in Chapel
Wed. Jan 23	Commemoration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 6:30 pm
Jan. 19-21	Silent Retreat for both men and women
Feb. 15-17	Married Couples Retreat, following Valentine’s Day
Mar 27 Wed.	Lenten Day of Prayer, 9:00 am -7:00 pm
April 5-7	“Creation, Come Praise!” Spring in the Desert Retreat
Apr. 19-20	Good Friday Holy Saturday Retreat
May 3-5	Recovering Alcoholics/Alanon Retreat led by Fr. Tom Weston (register early)
June 28-29	Retreat for Mothers and Daughters, Friday evening and Sat. till 9 pm.
June 7-9	Silent Retreat for men and women
June 9	40th anniversary of Ordination for Fr. Tom Smith, 3:00 Mass & reception
June 21-23	Retreat on Francis of Assisi and Forming Community
July 21-25	Directed retreat for Religious Women
July 29-Aug 2	Pilgrimage to the early Franciscan Missions in NM.

For a list of all retreats go to our web site, www.holycrossretreat.org or to schedule one, email programs@holycrossretreat.org

GIVING BACK:

Discounts were given to 2 Recovering Alcoholics retreats, 17 groups, several private retreatants, and 2 community/non profit groups for a value of \$25,204.30.

9 medical patients and others needing room and board were hosted for a total of 207 days at a value of \$10,695.00

Franciscan Hospitality was extended to 237 refugee families and those fearing deportation at a value of \$70,139.82.

GIVING THANKS:

We received volunteer service by way of the **Good Works Volunteers** who completed construction of the hermitage and several smaller projects totaling 1642 hours, 323 hours from Festival and office volunteers, and 1134 hours from refugee program volunteers. Value of these volunteer hours was approximately \$45,920.40. Holy Cross Foundation was instrumental in the room renovations and other projects. **THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!!!**

FINANCIAL REPORT

September 1, 2017—August 31, 2018

INCOME	FY 2017-18	
Retreat Income	\$586,634.18	
Holy Cross Retreat Foundation Grant	\$79,803.58	#1
Art Festival Income	\$42,433.48	
Return on Investments	-\$16354.29	#2
General donations, cancer donations & Annual Appeal	\$72,942.01	#3
Other (Gift shop, soft drinks, etc)	\$17,876.74	#4
Insurance Claim Income (Roof, partial)	\$38,445.25	#5
TOTAL INCOME	\$821,780.95	
EXPENSES		
Salaries and Benefits	\$283,466.64	
Meals and Kitchen	\$114,827.93	
Utilities	\$53,535.73	
Insurance	\$11,774.00	
Maintenance, Administration, Housekeeping, etc	\$159,984.46	#6
Room Renovations	\$67,563.67	
Insurance Claim Repairs (Roof, partial)	\$35,548.42	
Surplus Funds to Province	\$95,000.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$821,700.85	
NET INCOME	\$80.10	

NOTES:

- #1: This amount spans two fiscal years.
- #2: Reorganization of investment firm resulted in loss. Have changed firms and are seeing gains.
- #3: Received \$20,000 from estate; \$12,500 in grants for refugees
- #4: Net for gift shop was \$4,815.30
- #5: Final repairs to roof began last fiscal year. Now completed.
- #6: We had \$28,738.08 in unexpected repairs and replacement of equipment.

Checking account balance as of Aug 31, 2018: \$ 31,762.23
 Savings account balance as of Aug 31, 2018: \$303,517.41
 The only liabilities are related to payroll withholdings



Holy Cross Retreat Center
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December 2018 Welcoming Asylum seekers these past two years has blessed the Retreat Center in many ways. Far beyond the assistance we provide – a warm bed and shower, clothing, meals, and assistance in arranging travel to their sponsors – our hearts, both staff and volunteers, have been opened. We truly feel the presence of the Lord in our interactions, and we have seen the transformational power of those encounters.

I am often asked, “how can I help?” Recently when I was at the Tornillo detention center with a group of people from all over the country, one of the songs we sang was *Lord, Prepare me to be a Sanctuary*:

Lord prepare me, to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
And with thanksgiving, I'll be a living, sanctuary, for you.

Standing there, amidst a diverse group of mostly Jewish activists, this verse struck me very deeply. Each of us is called to become a living sanctuary. Direct action to protect the innocent, protest injustice or provide a safe space for those in need is one way to do this, and this certainly has a profound and personal impact on both those who act and the beneficiaries of those actions. Sometimes that is not possible and we are left wondering what we can do.

In those instances where we cannot directly help, we can pray, educate ourselves, speak out to those around us and give to those in need or those providing assistance. Prayer is the most powerful tool in our arsenal as Christians. Becoming informed about the issues allows us to speak about them to those around us, giving us the opportunity to change hearts, and **giving of our time, talent and treasure can directly benefit those in need.**

Fr. Tom Smith OFM Conv.

Diciembre de 2018

Dándole la bienvenida a los refugiados en busca de asilo estos últimos dos años ha bendecido al Centro de Retiros de muchas maneras. Mas allá de la asistencia que proveemos - una cama tibia y un baño, ropa, comida y apoyo en los arreglos de viaje - nuestros corazones, tanto del personal como de los voluntarios se han abierto. Sentimos verdaderamente la presencia del Señor en nuestras interacciones, y hemos visto el poder de transformación en esos encuentros. Continuamente me preguntan, “¿cómo puedo ayudar?” Hace poco estuve en el centro de detención de Tornillo con un grupo de personas de varias partes del país, una de las canciones que cantamos fue, Señor, prepárame para ser un santuario:

Señor, prepárame, para ser un santuario, puro y santo, probado y verdadero.
Y con acción de gracias, seré un santuario vivo, para Tí.

Parado ahí, en medio de un grupo diverso de una mayoría de activistas judíos, este verso me afectó profundamente. Cada uno de nosotros es llamado a ser un santuario vivo. La acción directa para proteger al inocente, protestar ante la injusticia o dar un espacio seguro a aquellos en necesidad es una manera de hacer esto, y ciertamente, tiene un impacto profundo y personal tanto en los que actúan como en los beneficiarios de esas acciones. Algunas veces eso no es posible y nos quedamos pensando en lo que podríamos hacer. En esas ocasiones en las que no podemos ayudar directamente, podemos orar, educarnos, hablar con los que están a nuestro alrededor y dar a aquellos en necesidad o que están ayudando. La oración es la herramienta más poderosa en nuestro arsenal como cristianos. Estar informados sobre los problemas nos permite comentarlos con aquellos a nuestro alrededor, y nos da la oportunidad de cambiar los corazones, y **donando de nuestro tiempo, talento y tesoro puede beneficiar a los necesitados.**

Padre Tomás Smith

—cut here—

Yes! I would like to help support Franciscan Hospitality!

Our cost for hosting a parent & child for is about \$50.00. We usually host 10 families per week, some for more days.

\$1,000.00 \$500.00 \$250.00 \$100.00 \$50.00 \$25.00 -- other _____

Credit card: Name as it appears on the card: _____ card number: _____

Full billing address: _____ Expiration Date: _____ CVS(on back): _____

Phone: _____ Email (for receipt): _____ Your Signature: _____