



August 2019

Holy Cross Retreat Center Newsletter

600 Holy Cross Road, Mesilla Park, NM 88047
www.holycrossretreat.org 575 524-3688
email: Director@holycrossretreat.org

With over 60 years of Retreat Ministry!

COME, ENJOY THE ART FESTIVAL!

The Art Festival will be **Aug. 31, 9-5 and Sept. 1, 10-4** this year.

Come to enjoy the artists and perhaps find a very special piece!

Taste the delicious enchilada and flauta dinners prepared by our wonderful cooks, as well as food by other vendors!

Listen to live music on two stages!

Browse the silent auction items provided by the artists.

Remember your experience here perhaps, and spend a little time in the Chapel and on the grounds!

Upcoming Retreats:

Walking in the Footsteps of St. Francis

Aug. 16-18, 2019

This retreat will allow participants to view pictures and video of Assisi, LaVerna, Greccio, Rome, and other places that formed the faith of St. Francis. We will also use the artwork around Holy Cross to appreciate what we have right before us. Come join in a pilgrimage of the spirit! This can be enriching for Secular Franciscans, and anyone seeking to grow in the Franciscan charism. Fr. Tom Smith OFM Conv.



FRANCISCAN FESTIVAL
of Fine Arts



9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
SATURDAY

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
SUNDAY

PAINTINGS • POTTERY • JEWELRY • WOODWORKING • GLASS ART • FABRIC ART
90+ artists, live music, silent auction, raffle, food, beer and wine garden, enchiladas

HOLY CROSS RETREAT CENTER
600 HOLY CROSS ROAD • MESILLA PARK, NM • 575-524-3688

I HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE FESTIVAL!

Festival Artists and food vendors welcome!

We still have space for artists and food vendors and would welcome your presence. Please visit our web site holycrossretreat.org and click on “Franciscan Festival” or call us for the forms. Plan on coming to the Festival for Art, food, drinks, and live music, Labor Day weekend!

Go to our website www.holycrossretreat.org to see brochures and more details or call 575 524 3688.

Desert and Mountain Retreat

Oct. 25-27, 2019

The people at the time the Bible was written lived in an area with mountains and deserts, so these images are used frequently in Scripture. We will take time to review some of those passages and what they speak to us, then take some time outside hopefully to appreciate first hand the power of those images.

Come prepared to take a walk at Dripping Springs or somewhere where we can encounter God much as those who live in the Holy Land. There will be quiet time as well as time to talk.

Fr. Tom Smith OFM Conv.



UPCOMING FRANCISCAN RETREATS

- Aug. 16-18 Walking in the Footsteps of St. Francis, Being a Pilgrim each Day. Led by Fr. Tom S.
- Aug 31 Sept. 1 Franciscan Festival of Fine Arts**
- Sept 23-24 Province of OLC Constitution Study Day
- Sept 27-29 Retreat for Recovering Alcoholics & Alanon
- Oct. 3 Transitus remembering death of St. Francis
7:00pm in the Chapel
- Oct. 18-20 "Come and See" vocation retreat for young men interested in Franciscan life
- Oct. 25-27 Desert and Mountain Spirituality Retreat led by Fr. Tom Smith.**
- Nov. 15-17 Men's Spirituality Retreat "Real Men Pray"
Call 575 524-3688 for info or to register, or review or webpage at www.holycrossretreat.org

OTHER UPCOMING RETREATS:

- Ago 8-11 San Martín ACTS for young men
- Ago 15-18 Mt. Carmes ACTS for men, English
- Ago 22-25 St. Frances Cabrini ACTS women, Spanish
- Sept. 7-9 Engaged Encounter
- Sept 12-15 St. Stephen ACTS women, Spanish
- Sept 19-22 St. Luke/St. Matthew ACTS men English
- Sept 27-29 Retreat for Recovering Alcoholics & Alanon
- Oct. 18-20 NMSU Aggie Awakening for college students

The Sultan and the Saint!

November 2019 is the 800th anniversary of the meeting of the Sultan Malik al Kamil and St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis wanted to promote peace during the Crusades. The courage of both the Muslim Sultan and St. Francis allowed them to know each other as persons, and even though it did not seem initially successful, their meeting had a significant effect on the future.



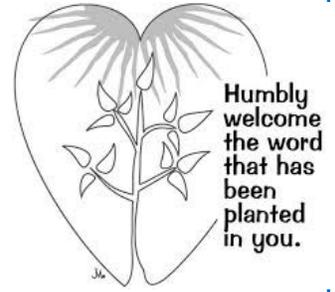
The Islamic Center of El Paso and the Franciscans from Holy Cross Retreat Center and the Secular Franciscans of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Region invite you to a viewing of the movie **"The Sultan and The Saint"** on Friday, September 27th beginning at 7:00pm, at the Islamic Center at 143 Paragon Ln, El Paso, TX. Most Reverend John Stowe OFM Conv, Bishop of Lexington, KY and bishop-president of Pax Christi USA will be the moderator of the panel following the viewing. For more info call Fr. Tom at 575 524 3688.

Cosponsored by Pax Christi of El Paso, El Paso Interfaith Alliance, National OFS Ecumenical/Interfaith Committee, Province of Our Lady of Consolation JPIC Commission.

To see a trailer of the movie go to
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OOLOD8tQ8U>

PROMOTING VOCATIONS!

For the 40th anniversary of my ordination, I informed people that any donations would be used to promote vocations of all kinds in the Church. I enjoyed both events at Holy Cross Retreat Center in Mesilla Park and at my home parish of St. Mary Navilleton in Indiana and both spoke about vocations myself and showed videos of others about their experience.



The donations totaled \$5,540.00. \$1,000.00 will be given to each of these groups:

***Province of Our Lady of Consolation** to which I belong.
***Sisters of St. Francis in Oldenburg, IN**, the community my cousin, Sr. Marlene Kochert, and I recently found out, my great aunt, Sr. Rosetta Geswein.
***Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration in Mishawaka**, where my cousin Sr. Mary Amata Naville is a novice.

***The Serra Club** at Holy Cross Retreat Center where I am the chaplain.

\$500.00 will be given to these Secular Franciscans:

***St. Joseph Cupertino Fraternity at Mt. St. Francis, IN** where my aunt, Irene Naville, is a member

***Our Lady of Guadalupe Fraternity in Mesilla Park**, where I am spiritual assistant.

The final amount of \$540.00 will go assist people who come to Holy Cross Retreat Center to discern their own vocations. Perhaps the most important is to encourage all of us to be conscious of not only living our own faith more fully, but also inviting others to consider their own vocations more fully.

A story from the celebration: During the reception at Navilleton, a boy about 9 years old saw a picture of me in my habit here in the Chapel at Holy Cross. It was in the centerpiece on one of the tables and he asked if he could keep it. His reason? He said, "I want to be like him when I grow up!"

Thank you,
Fr. Tom Smith OFM Conv.

"Come and See" Weekend

Men who are considering the Franciscan life or some other form of religious life are welcome to a Vocation weekend called "Come and See" October 18-20th at Holy Cross.

You will have the chance to learn about St. Francis, speak with other young adults who are in formation as well as other active friars. There will be time to pray and discern where the Lord is leading you.

There is no cost for the weekend. For more info, contact Friar Mario Serrano OFM Conv. at 210 643 8157 or friarmario-serrano@gmail.com to consider joining the fraternity of the Franciscan friars.



If you know someone who might make a good friar, please encourage them to attend!