



April 2020

Holy Cross Retreat Center Newsletter

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With over 60 years of Retreat Ministry!

RETREAT CENTER OPEN FOR PRAYER

We are all affected by the response to the virus. Our retreats are cancelled till Easter when we will review the situation. Perhaps original poetry can be of help. Here is something written by a Capuchin Franciscan from Ireland. May your spirit be uplifted!

Lockdown

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.
But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.
They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other
across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open
so that those who are alone
may hear the sounds of family around them.
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number
through the neighborhood
So that the elders may have someone to call on.
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
All over the world people are slowing down
and reflecting



All over the world people are looking at their neighbors in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.
So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able
to touch across the empty square,
Sing.

Bro. Richard Hendrick, OFM Cap

March 13th 2020

Individuals can still come for personal prayer or to walk around, but we ask that you not congregate in groups. We have a pamphlet for a Prayer Walk that we developed. Let us be attentive to one another, in peace.
Fr. Tom Smith OFM Conv.

UPCOMING FRANCISCAN EVENTS

(These are all tentative)

The 50th anniversary of Earth Day will be on April 22nd if we are able, 6:30pm



Retreat for Recovering Alcoholics and Alanon April 24-26. Sr. Linda Fischer will return to offer a weekend to help those in 12 step programs to live well and sustain their personal and spiritual health.

Retiro Contemplativo May 1-3 Padre Tom Smith ha preparado un retiro para los que quieren crecer en su fe y espiritualidad. Habrá tiempo para escuchar y aprender varias formas de oración, y en silencio.

St. Francis and Laudato, Si! NEW DATE May 15-17. May 24th is the 5th anniversary of the encyclical of Pope Francis. We feel the need to care for the earth, our common home and this weekend will draw on Franciscan sources to highlight the wonder of all creation! Be prepared to spend time outside.



Sacred Fire—Stages of Discipleship June 26-27. Ronald Rolheiser OMI has written a book describing our development from a youth seeking identity to one who shows others how to die peacefully. Fr. Tom will focus on those sections which we can easily make part of our daily life, at whatever stage we are living.

Please call 575 524-3688 for more information, to verify the status of the retreat, and to register. If there are changes due to the health situation we will keep you aware of them. Or you can check our website at: www.holycrossretreat.org

The Good Works Volunteers have installed new irriga-



tion lines and sprinklers for the yards and bushes and flowers on three sides of the hacienda. With added fill dirt and grass seed it should be looking very nice in a short while. Many thanks! Dub Baker celebrated his 84th birthday helping on the project!



Fr. Jarek OFM Conv. presented HCRC with relics of two young Franciscan friars who were martyred in Peru in 1991. A video gave the story and Fr. Jarek answered questions of those gathered. The relics will be kept with others in the Kiva Chapel.



Eleven couples came together February 21-23 to enrich their marriage spirituality and love for each other. It was encouraging to see their compassion and real desire to pray together more frequently and have God as a part of their married life.

Edwin the Martyr (St. Edmund) — Patron for victims of pandemics

Edmund is an acknowledged patron against pandemics. Much is written about this saint from the 9th century who died in 869. Interestingly though, hardly anything is known for certain about him. Yet there are churches all over England dedicated to him.

St. Anthony the Great – Patron of those affected by infectious diseases

Pray for us!

Please pay special attention to neighbors who are elderly or at risk to assist them and check on them.