



June 2020

Holy Cross Retreat Center Newsletter

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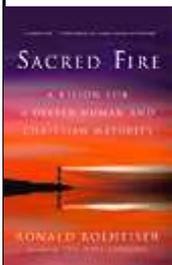
With over 60 years of Retreat Ministry!

RETREAT MINISTRY DURING A PANDEMIC

Often when we see someone the greeting is “Hi, how are you doing?” Until the last couple months I didn’t think much about it. But it could be a serious question. “Are you and your family safe from the virus?” When I see people who are close together without masks or distancing I tend to step away. It happened to me at a gathering of ministers for the National Day of Prayer. I was one of two people with a mask, and who wasn’t shaking hands or hugging people.

We are being careful and following the guidelines of the governor and bishop about welcoming groups again. We want all who come to feel comfortable and safe. It appears that by the second half of June we can start scheduling for at least 30 people and still maintain distancing. Many groups have cancelled into August so if you can organize something before then that would be possible.

Fr. Tom Smith OFM Conv.



Unless there is a change we are sponsoring a retreat **June 26-28** called: **“Sacred Fire—Stages of Life that deepen discipleship”**

We will examine the writing of Ronald Rolihiser OM I as he talks of the stages of life and how to prepare for a graceful dying. The retreat will be followed by an online book club to allow more in depth reading and discussion. It will be online if not possible in person.

HCRC wants all who come here to be safe and comfortable. All guests will have a single room. serving meals will be done by our staff or individuals and not a buffet line. Areas will be cleaned and disinfected each day. We will position people at a distance and insist that masks be used when with others. These are just the main efforts. With your cooperation we reduce risk and enjoy time together.

New Online Retreats!



With the pandemic Holy Cross Retreat Center like most non essential organizations and businesses has had to make major adjustments. Since we couldn’t have people come as groups, we decided to organize an online retreat. The topic was *Laudato Si!* as it had already been on the schedule.

Twenty nine people signed up and after some stumbles during the first session, it went very well. The group was separated into two groups to allow more interaction. Here are some of the comments: *Very nice flow—Fr. Tom’s style made the virtual retreat comfortable and interactive.*

The retreat was an eye-opening experience. My appreciation for the goodness and greatness of Pope Francis has been increased. The “online” retreat is here to stay.

June 5 & 6 Another Online Retreat “Spirituality and Ministry during a Pandemic”

We will have time to talk about St. Francis as one who reached out to others, and how our prayer and outreach can still be vital. There will be Zoom sessions on Friday evening and three times on Saturday. Call the office if you would like to participate. 575 524 3688



Many groups were cancelled during the pandemic. Any contribution to help would be most appreciated.

UPCOMING FRANCISCAN EVENTS

Spirituality and Ministry During a Pandemic

An online retreat, **June 5 & 6** on how we sustain our faith and service in a time of distancing. We have used this format successfully. Donations encouraged.

Sacred Fire—Stages of Discipleship June 26-28—a retreat based on the book by Ronald Rolheiser OMI.

Pilgrimage to the early Franciscan Missions in NM.

July 27-31. Join with Fr. Tom on a road trip to Santa Fe, Taos, Acoma, and other early missions that are still vital today. (We will take all precautions needed.)

August 7-9 The Healing Power of Forgiveness” A practical and personal approach to Reconciliation in our lives. Fr. Tom

Sept. 5-6 Franciscan Festival of Fine Arts! A wonderful weekend of art and food and music to support the retreat center. (full refunds for vendors if it is cancelled.)

Sept. 25-27 Recovering Alcoholics/Alanon Retreat, led by Fr. Tom Weston SJ Register early since the spring retreat was cancelled, and Fr. Tom is very popular.

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.



Even though we haven't had groups, many individuals have been using the **hermitage**. It is isolated and people have prepared their own meals. It is then cleaned thoroughly before the next person comes. You might want to arrange some time there for yourself! Give us a call.

Individuals can still come for personal prayer or to walk around, but we ask that you not congregate in groups.

The retreat center may be able to help those who are most at risk if they need a place more isolated to stay temporarily. We can also assist family members who are from out of town with someone getting medical attention. Please contact us if you know someone in this situation.

Project Completed Recently



To follow up on the encyclical of Pope Francis, *Laudato Si!*, we have installed 180 solar panels above the conference room, retreat rooms, dining room, and the Chapel, as seen here. Thanks to the Province of Our Lady of Consolation Franciscan Earth Care Initiative for funding and support!



Two new statues have been donated to Holy Cross: a statue of Our Lady of Lourdes for the Rosary Walk, and St. Francis of Assisi for the labyrinth. Come and enjoy our prayer walk around the property as well as these new additions!



HCRC has organized a group of retreat leaders in New Mexico and El Paso. Sr. Anna, Sr. Sofia, and Sr. Monica FSA came from the Gallup Retreat Center to learn about our experience and to consider solar panels for their buildings. It is good to share ministry with others!