



June 2021

Holy Cross Retreat Center Newsletter

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With over 60 years of Retreat Ministry!

“A good Retreat is better than 1000 of my homilies.” Msgr. Frank Smith to Carlos Viesca

With the increased percentage of people being vaccinated, there are more retreats and gatherings at Holy Cross Retreat Center. We are certified by the State of New Mexico and following protocols. Now people can share rooms, those vaccinated do not need to mask, and the dining room is open. We invite you to consider returning for one of these retreats listed below, and to verify dates or schedule new events. We have open space for the next couple months but there may be less openings later. Welcome!

June 18-20 Women’s Healing Retreat with Sr.

Helen Santamaria. This is a retreat prepared by women to assist women in the healing of many struggles in life.



June 25-27 Desert and Mountain Spirituality a time to find peace and faith in our local environment. Explore the Scriptures and spend time at Dripping Springs as part of the retreat.

July 14 Wednesday 7:00-8:30pm “Your Story, Your Legacy: Exploring Your Spiritual Values”
How do you want to be remembered?

July 23-25 The Fire Within A retreat on Desire, Sexuality, Longing and God, based on a book by Fr. Ronald Rolheiser. It is a followup to Sacred Fire.

July 19-23 New Dates!! Pilgrimage to the early Franciscan Missions in NM. Experience the history and current vitality of 400 year old missions with a group, led by Fr. Tom Smith

August 6-8 Retreat on the Healing Power of Forgiveness. How can we forgive and learn from our painful hurts.



Aug. 18 **Sharing the Journey**—7:00pm Presentation and sharing on the experience of immigrants coming to us.

You can download a brochure at our web site: www.holycrossretreat.org under tab “Register for Retreats” or call us at 575 524 3688 to register.



The Confirmation candidates from Holy Cross Parish in Las Cruces came on May 1st for a day of prayer and preparation.

Other groups have come to pray the rosary together outside, Confessions, perhaps walk the labyrinth, and lunch. Let us know if would like to organize a group.

The 2021 Franciscan Festival of Fine Arts is planned for September 4th and 5th!

Last year we had to cancel the Art Festival because of the pandemic, though we greatly appreciate your support for the raffle, the online festival, and the enchilada dinner. With the improving situation in the state, it looks likely that the festival will be held this year, though there could be some modifications if necessary. If you or someone you know would like to have an artist space or a food booth, please contact us so we can be prepared. Mark your calendars for Labor Day weekend as usual, and plan to join us and enjoy the festival!





There are seventeen men preparing for ordination as permanent deacons in the El Paso Diocese. With their spouses they came for a retreat in preparation for ministry. It was one of the final aspects of their five year process of formation and education. Bishop Seitz and others came for interviews to verify their readiness. May the Lord guide them as they continue to follow the Spirit!

“The retreat I made in 2010 at Holy Cross Retreat Center was the beginning of a special conversion, a deepening of my faith. Now over ten years later, I am preparing to be ordained as a permanent deacon. Of the 17 to be ordained all but one made an ACTS retreat, and he made a Cursillo. Our wives have done the same. Retreats make a big difference!”

Carlos Viesca—Deacon Candidate Diocese of El Paso



A new group called ARTE (Art, Retreats, Travel, and Education) held a welcoming gathering on May 19th. One of the artists who comes to our Festival of Fine Art and a woman who provides background on art and spirituality want to begin having retreats and possibly a pilgrimage to Franciscan missions in New Mexico. We welcome their presence with us.



On May 29th Jim Yankovich, Linda Pribble, and Lisa Marie Lopez shared in a retreat in preparation for profession as Secular Franciscans. Other members of the fraternity and Fr. Trinidad from St. Albert Church led the presentations and the prayer.

Property Improvements

The irrigation system in the courtyard has been upgraded. It makes for a very nice green space in the Chihuahua Desert. The deck attached to the Serra Hall has been refinished, and the landscaping around the Chapel is prepared for the coming of summer. You are welcome to use the Rosary Walk and labyrinth any time.