



Holy Cross Retreat Center Newsletter

65 YEARS OF RETREAT
MINISTRY!

FEBRUARY 2022

Laudato Si! Committee for Holy Cross and Beyond!

NEED IDEAS AND HELP

We are considering a mural, probably on the Laudato Si theme for an outside wall here at Holy Cross. Here is a picture of one at Mt. St. Francis in Indiana. We welcome any ideas, sketches, or willingness to help with this mural. Contact us at 575-524-3688.

Pope Francis published the encyclical *Laudato Si! On Care for our Common Home* May 24, 2015. Since then it has inspired and guided people around the world who are searching for ways to care for all of creation, not only for ourselves but especially for future generations. The retreat center has formed a committee to study, help form others, and then to implement the goals of this encyclical. Essentially it calls for an “ecological conversion” of each person, a commitment to act “glocally,” on both the global and local levels.

You can begin by reflecting on “[The Canticum of the Creatures](#)” (click to download) written by St. Francis of Assisi. This was the inspiration for Pope Francis himself. Then read [Laudato Si!](#) and let it sink into your consciousness. You can pray a [guided rosary](#)



based on care for creation as well. We will offer other ideas as well in the future.

Genesis begins with the creation of the world, and we as humans can have an impact on how we make our Common Home livable and beautiful for many generations to come.

Tom Smith OFM Conv.

HOLY CROSS RETREAT CENTER CELEBRATES 65 YEARS OF RETREAT MINISTRY

In 1954, the OFM Franciscans from Santa Barbara Province in California purchased the adobe home and 19 acres to start a retreat center. A building crew of about 8 friars came in early 1956 to construct the small and large conference rooms, the retreat rooms, and the dining room and kitchen.

The first retreat was held Sept 27, 1957 and about 3,500 people came for retreats the first year. In 1980 the Santa Barbara Province sold the retreat center to the Province of Our Lady of Consolation from Indiana. They have

staffed the retreat center since that time.

In recent years (pre-pandemic) the retreat center hosted 10,000 people per year. We are looking forward to seeing everyone return!



Holy Cross hosts Afghan refugees



Afghan family of 9 children and their parents with volunteers.

As part of our Franciscan Hospitality program, we hosted several single Afghan men and Afghan families they were waiting for housing to settle in the area. It was challenging because most did not speak English, and none of us spoke their language, usually Pashto or Dari. We got

a sense of what it must be like for refugees coming to this country and not being able to communicate. We relied on translators and eventually found a translation app that worked on our phone. It was very good to be able to help those who helped our troops in Afghanistan.

Our retreatants were able to interact with some of the families and have made plans to keep in touch as they settle into a new life here in the United States. We found that although language, culture and customs differ, the language of kindness, respect, gratitude and joy knows no boundaries.

We were also able to host asylum seekers from Haiti, Turkey, and Central America.



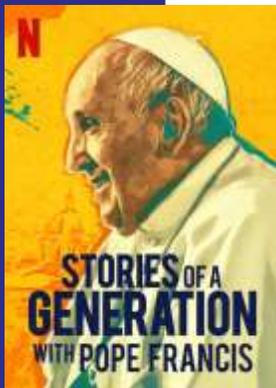
Stories of a Generation

We are ready to host retreats when you are able to return. Please contact Margaret to schedule yours!
programs@holycrossretreat.org
 575-524-3688

Recently I completed the compilation of stories my father wrote down about his early life. He died in 2005, but going through these stories, I could hear his voice again. I always loved sitting down with older relatives and asking them questions about their lives. I sat for hours in **my grandmother's kitchen listening to her** talk about my grandfather; how they fell in love and how they showed love to each other through the years. Since he was 40 years older than she was and died in 1952, I think it was as good for her to talk about their story as it was for me to hear it. I learned about love and perseverance, about loss and acceptance through her stories. And my father was a larger-than-life character and a wonderful storyteller. He worked and lived as a cowboy in Arizona and New Mexico and his stories helped me to see what life was like **in the early 1920's and 30's in this area.**

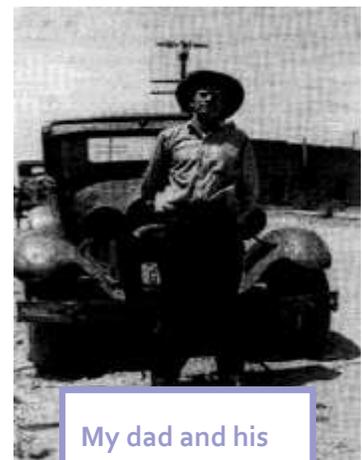
about life. It reminded me very much of my conversations with my father and grandmother, **and how we don't see those conversations** occurring as often in our modern society. Grandparents often live separately from their grandchildren, or even across the country. The opportunity for in-depth sharing of the wisdom gained over a lifetime has been made more difficult, yet it is as important as ever. This Lent, try sitting down with an older person and asking them about their life, their loves, their struggles, and their dreams and see what wisdom you can glean from the conversation. Or if you have grandchildren of your own, make it a point to have a significant conversation with them about some part of your life.

Debbie Isham



A limited series now streaming on Netflix

Pope Francis' "Stories of a Generation," now streaming on Netflix, brings together young filmmakers and elders having conversations



My dad and his Model A

Holy Cross Retreat Center

600 Holy Cross Road
Mesilla Park NM 88047



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE RETREAT CENTER

Our Annual Appeal netted \$49,510.63, the highest amount we have ever received. We are grateful for the support you have shown us during this difficult time. We are looking forward to 2022 with hope and faith.

The Good Works volunteers have installed a new security camera system, refurbished 2 propane tanks as bells, painted doors and windows, created built in shelves in the library, and renovated the shelving in the gift shop...all this in the past 2 months! Thanks to all of them for their hard work. If you are interested in joining them, contact us. They usually meet every Tuesday and Thursday morning to complete projects.

We are still working on getting a permit to build a second hermitage. It will be built with volunteer labor. If you are able to help in any way through the donation of labor or materials, please contact Fr. Tom.

New windows will be installed in the retreat rooms. The current windows are single-paned and aren't very energy efficient. Though we will miss the character of the old windows, the new ones will serve us for many years into the future.

Two new furry friends have joined our Center cat, Tigre. A cat we're calling Houdini showed up on the grounds and seems to be very friendly, though he hasn't learned to keep out of the rooms yet! One of our staff has been bringing a puppy, Stella to work every day. She is a Shitz-Zu/Terrier mix, about 11 pounds and very friendly.

UPCOMING RETREATS IN 2022

Retreats are a wonderful way to enrich both our personal and our spiritual lives. We invite you to join us for some of the sponsored events listed below. A full brochure is on our **website at: holycrossretreat.org under the "Register for Retreat" tab. You can also consider a retreat that we host as well by looking under the "Calendar" tab. So many people have been uplifted by their experiences at Holy Cross Retreat since our beginning in 1957.**

Feb. 4-6 March 2	Married Couples Retreat Ash Wednesday 6:30pm Mass and ashes in the main Chapel
March 4-6 March 11-13 March 11-13	Secular Franciscan Retreat Encuentro Matrimonial Mundial Silent Lenten Retreat (new date!)
April 15-16 April 22 April 22-24	Good Friday and Holy Saturday Retreat 6:30pm Earth Day Commemoration Recovering Alcoholics/Alanon Retreat, by Ruth Hoenick Laudato Si! Retreat
May 20-22 June 10-12 June 17-19 July 22-24	Women's Healing Retreat with Desert and Mountain Spirituality The Fire Within: Desire, Sexuality, Longing, & God retreat on book by Rolheiser. Pilgrimage to the early Franciscan Missions in NM.
July 25-29	The Healing Power of Forgiveness FRANCISCAN FESTIVAL OF FINE ARTS 90+ artists, food booths, beer and wine garden, live music!
Aug. 5-7 Sept. 3-4	Grieving Retreat Recovering Alcoholics/Alanon retreat led by Fr. Tom Weston SJ
Sept 9-11 Sept. 16-18	Transitus to commemorate the death of St. Francis of Assisi 7pm all are welcome Blessing of Animals 6:30pm. All safe animals are welcome
Oct 3	Vocation Retreat for young men interested in Franciscan life
Oct 4	Sacred Fire Retreat, based on the book by Ron Rolheiser
Oct 14-16	Men's Retreat
Oct. 21-23	Advent Retreat
Nov. 11-13 Dec. 2-4	

There are prices or suggested donations for each retreat, however if finances are a concern we can make arrangements with you.

Individuals, couples and small groups are welcome to come for private or directed retreats. Call for availability.

TO REGISTER:

Phone: 575-524-3688

Email: programs@holycrossretreat.org