



August 2021

# Holy Cross Retreat Center Newsletter

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*With over 60 years of Retreat Ministry!*

## Franciscan Festival of Fine Arts September 4 & 5, 2021 (9am-5pm and 10am-4pm)

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 fewer openings later. Welcome!

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



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

### Sept. 4-5 FRANCISCAN FESTIVAL OF FINE ARTS

**Sept. 17-29 Grieving Retreat.** Grief or loss can take many forms. We often struggle alone or without any peace in our hearts. This retreat provides an opportunity to listen, to speak with confidence, to pray with others, and to feel the strength of God and the presence of others.

**Sept. 24-26 Recovering Alcoholics Retreat with Fr. Tom Weston.** Those involved in AA or Alanon will find this enriching. Pass the word on to others!

**Oct. 22-24 Sacred Fire Retreat** We will review the themes of the book by Ronald Rolheiser, in which he examines the phases of youth, adulthood, and later life when we can give back.



You can download a brochure at our web site: [www.holycrossretreat.org](http://www.holycrossretreat.org) under tab "Register for Retreats" or call us at 575 524 3688 to register.

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

We are very grateful to everyone who donated to the raffle or supported our online festival last year during the pandemic.

**Barring some problem, it looks very likely that the festival will be held this year. We are expecting to have 70-90 artists both indoors and outdoors, food vendors, a beer and wine garden, a raffle, silent auction, and music. A new blessing for motorcycles will be on Sunday, 5th at 12:30. 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! Please help us to get the word out about the Festival. It is our major fundraiser.**



**POOR TOM** by Fr. Thomas A. Smith, OFM Conv.

Fr. Tom has written a book which is available in our gift shop or at Amazon.com in both English and Spanish. Cost is \$10. The book is available as an audio book or e-book at Amazon.com as well.

Little Tommy Smith was involved in an accident when he was only two years old. Rather than let this event limit him or cause him to feel sorry for himself, he flourished within the loving environment of his family. He has explored many places and looked within to find joy and ways to help others. His approach to struggles and disabilities will inspire and provide an impetus to look within yourself. He doesn't really think of himself as "Poor Tom," and neither should you be defined except within your own heart.



### KNIGHTS ON BIKES

Did you know there is a group of the Knights of Columbus that ride motorcycles? This group from El Paso stopped by the Retreat Center in June for a morning of prayer followed by Mass and then lunch. There will be a blessing of motorcycles on Sunday Sept. 5th at 12:30 during Art Festival. Perhaps you can join them!!!



The **WOMEN'S HEALING RETREAT** led by Sr. Helen Santamaria and Sr. Elisa Rodriguez in June was very moving. Retreatants from Arizona, New Mexico and Texas were given tools to help them on their journey of healing.



**Rolando Gonzalez** is a refugee who walked from El Salvador to the United States. He stayed with us for a few days until he could arrange for transportation to join family members. He is standing here with Jorge Taborda,

#### AA and Meditation Meeting

An open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous with a meditation format.

Sundays, 4:30pm - 5:30pm, generally in the small or large conference room or in the courtyard.

Call Athena at 718-873-7137 for more information



We are in the process of acquiring permits to build a second hermitage. The Good Works volunteers will provide most of the labor, and the Holy Cross Foundation will help fund the project.

**If you would like to assist with construction skills or supplies**, that would be much appreciated. The first hermitage incorporated electrical, roofing, plumbing and stucco donations. Please call the office at (575) 524-3688 if you can help.