



Holy Cross Retreat Center Newsletter

65 YEARS OF RETREAT
MINISTRY!

JUNE 2022

Laudato Si! Reflection

DONATIONS and VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

With the arrival of refugees we are in need of volunteers and donations of new packages of men's, women's, and children's underwear and travel sized shampoo, conditioner and deodorant. We also need jean leggings (or skinny jeans) in all sizes and shoes for adults.

Pope Francis makes it clear in his Encyclical *Laudato Si!* that we must be just as concerned about the people who are part of this planet as well as animals, plants, and environment. A recent statement from the United Nations declares: More than 100 million people are forcibly displaced in the world. *This includes refugees, asylum-seekers, and nearly 60 million people displaced inside their own countries.*



During a retreat on Laudato Si in May, a woman gave me a Ukrainian flag. We put it on our flagpole at half mast as a reminder of the people suffering during the war there who need our prayer and support.

We continue to welcome refugees



from Haiti, Columbia, Ecuador, Cuba, Turkey, other countries. I recently decided to be more conscious of evangelization, and offered to bless them before they left. It started with one family and all others asked for an individual blessing, also. I plan to offer prayers before meals and for their journey on a regular basis, and to tell them stories about St. Francis as well. Caring for the earth includes caring for those who live in the midst of violence and are displaced and seeking refuge. May they all be blessed.

FULL HOUSE!

In April and May we have had 3 ACTS retreats, one Encuentro Personal retreat, a Confirmation retreat, several sponsored retreats, the Diocese of Las Cruces Priest Assembly, and numerous small retreat groups. It feels good to be getting back to an almost normal schedule.

In addition, we have begun hosting immigrant families seeking asylum in the United States again. The weekend of May 13 not only was every room outside taken, but every bed in those rooms was occupied!



Mesilla Valley Confirmation Group



Our Provincial, Fr. Wayne Hellman, OFMConv., presenting at the Diocese of Las Cruces Priest Assembly



San Martin de Porres Women's ACTS team

Holy Cross celebrates Earth Day and Laudato Si week



A Red Push tree was planted in the middle of the labyrinth

The HCRC Laudato Si! Steering Committee sponsored an Earth Day celebration on April 22 and 23, 2022 at HCRC. The celebration included an Interfaith Prayer Service on April 22 and an all day series of presentations by local ecological organizations on April 23, 2022. The event also included the planting of a tree, seed giveaway, burrito sale and painting a mural.



15-year-old Joshua gives a very informative presentation about electric vehicles

A Laudato Si! Retreat was held at Holy Cross on May 20-22, 2022. The retreat focused on the seven goals of the Laudation Si! Action Program and marked the beginning of the Laudato Si! week on 22 May 2022.



Artist Linda Hagen continues work on a mural of St. Francis preaching to the animals in a Southwestern setting.



2019 Festival of Fine Arts

CALL FOR ARTISTS!

The Franciscan Festival of Fine Arts will be held Labor Day weekend, September 3 and 4, 2022. Saturday from 9am-5pm and Sunday from 10am-4pm. We have booth spaces available for artists and are taking applications now.

Go to our website, www.holycrossretreat.org and click on the tab Franciscan Festival to download an application. Return the application with pictures as requested and we will review it as soon as possible. Applications can be emailed to Margaret Flores at programs@holycrossretreat.org.

Everyone else, plan to join us for an exciting festival with over 90 artists, food vendors, a silent auction, enchilada sale, raffle, live music and a beer and wine garden.

LAUDATO SI! REFLECTIONS

In Laudato Si!, chapter 6 entitled Ecological Education and Spirituality, section 1.204, Pope Francis wrote, “The emptier a person’s heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume. It becomes almost impossible to accept the limits imposed by reality. In this horizon, a genuine sense of the common good also disappears.”

Our human created ecological crisis has called Pope Francis to address in a profound way our collective spiritual crisis. It is often said that we live in a society where “enough is always more.” “Enough is always more” is a working definition of addiction. In our addiction we also tend to believe that “bigger is better.” We have a difficult time knowing when enough is enough, and when smaller is better. In the words of Pope Francis it has become almost impossible for us “to accept the limits imposed by reality.”

Collectively we as a Christian community - a human community - need a transformed heart. St. Augustine said, “The heart is restless, and it will not rest until it rests in God.” Laudato Si! calls us to question why we seek to fill the emptiness of our hearts with a lifestyle of consumption and not by resting our hearts in God. Human life as we know it on our Mother Earth depends on our response to the issue of the transformed heart.

—Fr. Henry Atkins

Holy Cross Retreat Center

600 Holy Cross Road
Mesilla Park NM 88047



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE RETREAT CENTER

Our well pump went out just before one of the ACTS retreat began. Luckily, we were able to find a company to replace it in time for the weekend! Cost was \$5,900.00

The Good Works volunteers have installed bathroom windows in all rooms, 5 new energy efficient a/c units in the rooms, repaired and painted the wall out front and tiled the top of the barbeque area, installed signs at the Mary, Untier of Knots grotto, installed cable for better wifi in the dining room, and prepped the wall for the mural...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 (finally) got the permit to build a new hermitage! If you can help by donating time or materials, please call us at (575) 524-3688. Your generosity is valuable, and it can be a good learning experience of building!

New windows were installed in the retreat rooms, the large conference room, offices and kitchen. The old windows were single-paned and were not 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. Total cost of the windows was \$39,952.

The new shelves in the gift shop allow for more merchandise and a better display. We are grateful to the Good Works volunteers for their excellent work.

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.**

(Most weekend retreats have check in at 6:30pm)

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| June 10-12 | Women's Healing Retreat —Team (Sr. Margarita Armendariz, Fr. Tom Smith, Pastor Peter Fritsch, and Debbie Isham) Desert and Mountain Spirituality |
| June 17-19
July 22-24 | The Fire Within: Desire, Sexuality, Longing, & God retreat on book by Rolheiser. Pilgrimage to the early Franciscan Missions in NM (if the pueblos are open). |
| July 25-29 | The Healing Power of Forgiveness |
| Aug. 12-14
Sept. 3-4 | FRANCISCAN FESTIVAL OF FINE ARTS
90+ artists, food booths, beer and wine garden, live music! |
| Sept 9-11 | Grieving Retreat |
| Sept. 16-18 | Recovering Alcoholics/Alanon retreat led by Fr. Tom Weston SJ |
| Oct 3 | Transitus to commemorate the death of St. Francis of Assisi 7pm all are welcome |
| Oct 4 | Blessing of Animals 6:30pm. All safe animals are welcome |
| Oct 14-16 | Vocation Retreat for young men interested in Franciscan life |
| Oct. 21-23 | Sacred Fire Retreat, based on the book by Ron Rolheiser |
| Nov. 11-13
Dec. 2-4 | Men's Retreat
Advent Retreat |

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