



October 2021

Holy Cross Retreat Center Newsletter

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With over 60 years of Retreat Ministry!

Upcoming Retreats and Projects to enrich your life and bring joy!

Upcoming Retreats and Events

October 3 Transitus —remembering the death and new life of St. Francis of Assisi. 7:00 pm in the Chapel. Join with the friars and Secular Franciscans for this prayerful tribute to Francis.



October 4 6:30 pm Feast of St. Francis of Assisi Blessing of Pets Many people find pets to be wonderful and important companions. Join us for a brief prayer service and a **blessing of animals** (whatever kind is under control). Let us give thanks for all creation

Pope Francis officially begins the process of Acting on **Goals and a platform based on Laudato Si!** This will be part of our prayer service as we care for the Earth, our Common Home.



Oct. 15-17 Come and See Retreat, a weekend for men interested in **discerning a Franciscan vocation**. Consider how to serve the poor, witness to God’s love, and serve the Church. No charge. Contact Fr. Mario Serrano at friarmarioserrano@gmail.com or 210-643-8157

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. The retreat went very well last year and we encourage you to attend, commute, or join online. Brochure online at Holycrossretreat.org under register for retreat.



Nov. 12-14 Men’s Spirituality Retreat This is good opportunity for those men involved in **Bible Study Groups, Knights**

of Columbus, or That Man is You as well as others to grow spiritually and learn how to incorporate faith in action. This is cosponsored by the Knight of Columbus.

Dec. 3-5 Dec. 3-5 Advent Family Retreat to prepare ourselves to celebrate Advent and Christmas more fully as Catholics. There will be special activities and prayer times to help us appreciate both the history and the richness of these seasons. There is a special family rate, and don’t let finances keep you from coming.



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.

Commitment to Laudato Si! Goals and Action



On October 4th Pope Francis will officially begin a process of a platform and goals to promote his encyclical on the Care for our Common Home. This is important for us as Franciscans since St. Francis wrote the “Canticle of Creatures” and the name comes from Franciscan sources.

Holy Cross Retreat Center is dedicated to action on these goals to promote sustainability and ecological awareness and change Rev. Henry Atkins and his wife, Treadwell, have attended a number of retreats here, and will be moving from Houston, TX to live in Mesilla Park so that Henry can direct not only our efforts, but work with other Franciscans and interfaith groups. Henry has worldwide experience in spirituality, eco justice and leadership. He is eager to help us implement the Pope’s program in very practical ways as well as through learning. Anyone interested in being part of a coordinating group, please contact me.

Fr. Tom





Many thanks to all the artists, food vendors, volunteers, and those who came to our Art Festival! Even though it was raining around us on both days, we stayed dry and had a steady crowd, and raised about \$41,000.00. Debra Vance, pictured above was one of our new artists. The woman who won the big prize on the raffle cried when she was called, saying, "I need to do some dental work and now I can afford it!"



As we are all aware, the United States has brought thousands of people from Afghanistan who helped in the US effort in their country.

Over 5,000 of them came to Ft. Bliss near El Paso. HCRC is unable to work with those immigrants directly but we provided rooms and a hot meal for about twenty five volunteers from a group called **Team Rubicon**. There are largely vets and first responders from around the country who pay their own transportation so they could help

On Sept. 27, we welcomed **26 Haitian refugees**. The eight families left because of very difficult times in Haiti and were part of the group near Del Rio, TX. We were able to help them arrange transportation to their sponsors. Both groups are part of our **Franciscan Hospitality** effort to assist those in need.



A group of youth and adult leaders from St. Jude Church in El Paso came for a weekend retreat. They used the Serra Hall and seemed quite pleased.



We planted some **prickly pear cactus** pads in 2013 when we moved into the new friary. They must like the location, because we have trimmed them twice and they are still expanding! If any one would like to have the "tuna" purple fruit, or some pads to eat or plant somewhere you are most welcome to have some! Just call the retreat office so we know when you are coming. 575 524 3688.

The Serra Club is hosting a Paella Dinner Fund-raiser Oct. 10th at 4:00 with tapas then the meal, \$50.00 per person.

The organization was started at HCRC about 1957 to promote vocations. They continue to support both the Diocese of Las Cruces and the Franciscans as well as other religious groups in calling people to service in the Church. They are looking for new members in their mission! For more information or to buy tickets go to their website at:

<https://serracatholicvocationsmv.com/>
or on facebook at: SerraCatholicVocationsMV

Call Mark Trujillo at 575 642-5212 for more info.