



October 2022

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 7:00 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.

Oct. 14-16 **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 friar-marioserrano@gmail.com or 210-643-8157

Oct. 21-23 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. 11-13 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.

Dec. 3-5 **Dec. 2-4 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.



Linda Hagen, the main artist of our Franciscan Laudato Si! mural, was interviewed by KTSM 9 TV from El Paso after the dedication of the mural in late August. The increased publicity from the mural, over 80 artists and food vendors, and good weather came together to support our best Art Festival yet. Many thanks to all the people who came, the many volunteers who gave their time, and our staff members who worked hard to prepare, host, and clean up after the Festival.

The net profit will be included in our Financial report in the December newsletter.



ACTS retreats are coming to Holy Cross Retreat Center again. San Martin de Porres Parish organized one for young adult men that went very well. Here is a picture of them enjoying some time outside in a game.



Recent Grieving Retreat

Many people experience loss in their lives, through **death, divorce, or illness...** A recent retreat here provided the opportunity for people to speak freely about their experiences and deepen faith in their connecting with others. We are preparing the schedule for 2023 and will make it available in time to schedule for next year.

Updated web page

Brian Dearing from the Ministry Advancement Office of the Province has redesigned our web page. It is helpful to have new options. You can register and pay online for upcoming retreats offered by our staff. We are working on getting the monthly calendar. Then you can see what is scheduled and have an idea of what spaces are still available for other groups of some kind. The weekends are pretty full already, but we have space during the week if you could arrange something during that time. Give us a call about availability. 575 524-3688

Issues with Immigration

As most of us know, the situation for immigrants wishing to come to the United States is very difficult. We work in connection with 10 or more other organizations and shelters in El Paso and New Mexico and resources are being stretched. Recently over 950 people have been released by authorities each day. Local organization help most of them to arrange transportation and be on their way to their sponsors or families in a day or two.

However, many others are arriving after a terrible trek through the jungle in Panama, where bodies of those who have died are lying along side the path. Our hope is to provide comfort and consolation in the time of sadness leaving their homeland and spending two months or more trying to get to the United States.

Holy Cross continues to offer hospitality when we have space, though that is less frequent in the fall because it is a popular time for retreats. Please try to keep informed about the justice issues and the immediate need for compassion.

Laudato Si Table at the Franciscan Art Festival at Holy Cross September 4-5, 2022

The Laudato Si! Steering Committee at Holy Cross Friary was very much present at the Franciscan Art Festival at Holy Cross Retreat Center in Mesilla, N.M. The table had been strategically placed near the entrance of the Festival by Fr. Tom Smith OFM Conv. We were able to speak with at least a thousand people about the Laudato Si! goals at the Festival.

The table was staffed by members of the Holy Cross Laudato Si! Steering Committee, secular Franciscans, and several regular Holy Cross Retreat Center volunteers.

Debbie Isham, who is a member of the Laudato Si! Steering Committee had designed two very attractive cards for us to hand out to people. One of the cards had a photo of the new Franciscan mural at Holy Cross on one side and the Laudato Si! Goals on the other side. The other card had a drawing of St. Francis on one side and an abridged version of the Canticum of the Creatures on the other side. We believe that hundreds of people saw the Laudato Si! goals for the first time.

Henry Atkins