



October 2023

# Holy Cross Retreat Center Newsletter

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*With over 65 years of Retreat Ministry!*

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

### Upcoming Retreats and Events

**October 3** **Transitus** —This liturgy remembers and celebrates the “passing” (“transitus”) of St. Francis in 1226. Come join the friars and the Secular Franciscans as we recall all that happened on this evening at 7 pm in the Main Chapel. Social time to follow in the dining room.



**October 4 6:30 pm** **Mass for the Feast of St. Francis**, Founder of the Franciscan Friars and Patron of Ecology. All are welcome!

**Oct. 13-15** **St. Clare Light for our time** This weekend retreat will call to mind Clare’s journey of faith in following Christ to become the leader of the “Poor Ladies of San Damiano,” now known as the Poor Clares, and the co-founder with St. Francis of the Franciscan movement. Her conversion and spiritual journey offer many touchstones for our our faith journeys. We will begin on Friday evening and end before lunch on Sunday morning.

**Nov. 3-5** **St. Francis and the Incarnation** In 1223 St. Francis of Assisi went to the village of Greccio to celebrate Christmas by recreating the scene of the birth of Jesus. During this 800th anniversary we want to explore what so moved St. Francis to call his world and ours to remember the birth of the “babe.”

**Nov. 10-12** **Men’s Spirituality Retreat:** This retreat especially for men will help participants explore their experiences of prayer and life in Christ together.

### Spiritual Direction at HCRC

In spiritual direction, a person reflects deeply on the experiences of their daily life. Gradually, as the person reflects and prays, they can begin to recognize God’s presence and grace in their life. The person discovers that God has been waiting for them to seek this closer relationship. Both Fr. Tom and Fr. Henry offer this kind of spiritual companionship and guidance. You can contact us at 575 524 3688.

The Franciscan Friars Conventual are hosting two “Come and See” **Vocation Retreats** **October 6-8**, at San Damiano Friary - House of Formation, in San Antonio, Texas

**November 3-5**, at Saint Bonaventure Friary - Postulancy House of Formation, in Chicago, Illinois.

The retreat is free of charge and open to **any single Catholic man (18-40 years old) interested in religious life** and/or who would like to learn more about the Franciscans. For more information email: [friarmarioserrano@gmail.com](mailto:friarmarioserrano@gmail.com)



### 2023 Franciscan Festival of Fine Arts



Many thanks to all who came to our Franciscan Festival of Fine Arts! It was very pleasant in the mornings and rather crowded. The heat may have deterred some in the afternoon but we still did very well.

Special thanks to all who volunteered ahead of time, during the festival, and afterwards. Your presence makes it possible.

## New Carpet in Serra Hall



Thanks to Good Works Volunteers who spent many long, tough hours removing the old subfloor in the first section of the Serra Hall. They also replaced or strengthened the joists, then installed a new level subfloor. A & R Home Produces then laid new carpet in both sides of the Serra Hall, while donating part of the materials. The two rooms look much more appealing now!

### Upcoming Retreats which might interest you

- Oct. 13-15 Aggie Awakening College students
- Oct 19-22 ACTS St. Stephen Men English
- Oct. 22 Serra Catholic Vocations Prime Rib Fundraising Dinner
- Oct. 31-Nov.28 Tuesdays ARTE class 1:30-5:30
- Nov. 9-12 ACTS St. Frances Cabrini women Sp.
- Nov. 30-Dec. 3 ACTS OLG El Paso, men, Spanish
- Dec. 7-1- ACTS San Martin de Porres Wm Sp.
- Dec. 1 5-17 UTEP Awakening College Students
- Dec, 28-Jan 1 Southwest Sangha Meditation Retreat



Sr. Margaret Carney OFS led a group of friars in a reflection on the charism of Franciscans as seen in the rule and life of the friars, followers

of St. Clare and the Secular Franciscans.

## The Benefits of being a Volunteer

Holy Cross Retreat Center is blessed with many wonderful volunteers! And those who are involved are blessed with meeting new people and a sense of making a real contribution. They help welcome and **assist immigrants** as they prepare to travel to other parts of the country. As mentioned before a group comes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings to assist with many **construction and repair projects**, both inside and outside. Two people **clean the main Chapel** every Monday morning. Others are organizing our library and **cataloguing books** so it will be more



accessible and easier to find books. Another man **assists with computers** and telephones. One area that would be helpful now is to **take better care of our various flower gardens** and landscaping. Some need more attentive pruning or planting or weed removal. You could choose a particular spot or help with several areas around the buildings. Above is a picture of roses near the statue of St. Anthony and the entrance. **If you would be interested in assisting as a volunteer in any of these areas**, you can enjoy a little more of the spirit of Holy Cross Retreat Center and

make it more beautiful and accessible to those who come!

