

Holy Cross Retreat Center

Mesilla Park, NM



2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Para leer en español, www.holycrossretreat.org

Almost Always, Someone is Here!

Since 1957, Holy Cross Retreat Center has provided a welcoming setting for retreats and prayer. Many groups continue to feel at home here. This includes: ACTS retreats, priests, deacons and their wives, Confirmation retreats for youth, Awakening retreats for college students, Prayer and Life Workshops, Neo-Catechumenate groups, various Franciscan retreats and groups, and many others, both Catholic and non-Catholic. Local non profit groups like Leadership Las Cruces, CAFé, and University departments also use our pleasant facility to name a few.

Holy Cross Retreat Center also welcomes a Rosary group on Saturday mornings, a Twelve Step AA group on Sunday afternoon, ARTE presentations, men and women who like to draw and ladies who like to quilt. Along with medical patients, those needing a short term place to stay, Secular Franciscans, Serra Club members, those enjoying the stillness in a hermitage, and perhaps an outreach to juveniles, there is almost always someone here on the property enjoying our Franciscan hospitality.

We are blessed to be able to touch many lives and those who work and volunteer here feel the power of their presence. Consider one of these retreat offerings in the coming months or contact us to schedule your own group or your stay.

May your Advent and Christmas experience draw you closer to Christ and fill your heart with faith.



“We should make a dwelling-place within ourselves where he can stay, he who is the Lord God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”

St. Francis of Assisi

UPCOMING RETREATS AND EVENTS IN 2025

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.

Each Wed. Jan 17-19	Mass 6:30pm -- main Chapel (not 12/27) Discernment Weekend Retreat with Young Adults. <i>Friar Joseph Bach, OFM Conv</i>
Jan. 18	Day of Recollection at St. Vincent de Paul. <i>Fr. Henry Beck, OFM</i>
Jan 22	Christian Unity Service
Jan. 31-Feb 2	Finding God in Difficult Time. <i>Friar Joseph Bach, OFM Conv.</i>
Feb 14-16	Living and Loving with God’s Love. <i>Fr. Henry Beck, OFM</i>
March 5	Ash Wednesday
March 5	Lenten Series Begins: Standing with Mary at the Foot of the Cross. (Each Wednesday during Lent) <i>Friar Joseph Bach, OFM Conv</i>
March 6	Lenten Series Begins: Group Spiritual Direction With <i>Fr. Henry Beck, OFM</i>
March 22	Secular Franciscan Day of Recollection <i>Friar Joseph Bach, OFM Conv.</i>
March 27	Day of Recollection Spirituality of Beauty. <i>Fr. Henry Beck, OFM</i>
April 4-6	Come to the Desert. <i>Friar Tom Smith. OFM Conv.</i>
April 11-13	AA and Al-Anon Recovery Weekend
April 18-19	Holy Week Retreat
April 24	Day of Recollection. Spirituality of Beauty. <i>Fr. Henry Beck, OFM</i>
May 4-10	Six-Day Directed Retreat for Religious
May 16-18	Two Halves of Life. <i>Fr. Henry Beck, OFM</i>
June 13-15	Making Peace with Cancer. <i>Friar Joseph Bach, OFM Conv.</i>
July	Pilgrimage to New Mexico Missions. <i>Friar Tom Smith, OFM Conv.</i>

FY July 2023 – June 2024

Financial Report

THANK YOU!

The last few years were a roller-coaster financially as we navigated the challenges of the pandemic and the aftermath. With your support, both financially and through prayer, we made it through and managed to keep our employees and programs going. Thank you.

This past fiscal year it was good to see (and to feel) that we were coming out of that period and could once again look to the future. We are doing well, and thinking about how we can thank you for all of the support you have given us.

We are taking steps to beautify the grounds and the seating areas, looking to upgrade our technology, and identifying things such as the water system, that need to be updated to better serve you in the future.

Retreat income this fiscal year surpassed pre-pandemic levels of \$578,834. On the other side of the equation our food and kitchen costs rose by \$51,375. While some of that is because we had more groups, inflation is a significant part of the increase.

We appreciate all of you who are a part of our story, and we look forward to serving you in the future.



GIVING BACK:

- Discounts were given to 2 Recovering Alcoholics retreats and 8 groups for a value of \$14,361.60.
- 62 temporarily unhoused, 326 refugees, 10 medical volunteers and one person fearing deportation were hosted for a total of 1,274 days at a value of \$56,600 (we use a discounted rate to calculate value which is about half of what we would normally charge for a room and food)
- 18 Medical patients were hosted for a total of 102 days at a value of \$4,590.00 (discounted rate)

TOTAL VALUE OF OUTREACH: \$75,551.60

GIVING THANKS

We received volunteer service by way of the Good Works Volunteers totaling 1,600 hours, 184 hours for stuffing envelopes, and 590 hours from David Rall, the librarians, chapel cleaners and refugee volunteers for various projects, and 219 hours of festival volunteers. Value of these volunteer hours was approximately \$41,277.00 Holy Cross Foundation was instrumental in hosting RA retreats, purchasing software, new windows in Casita and many more projects. THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!!!

FINANCIAL REPORT

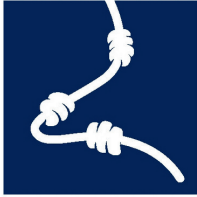
July 2023 - June 2024

INCOME	FY 2023-24	
Retreat Income	\$681,517.71	#1
Holy Cross Retreat Foundation Grant	\$60,00.00	
Art Festival Income	\$59,605.96	
Return on Investments	\$52,006.82	
General donations, cancer donations, Franciscan Hospitality donat & Annual Appeal	\$93,987.76	#2
Other (Gift shop, soft drinks, etc)	\$28,539.66	#3
Grants	\$34,968.50	#4
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,010,626.41	#5
EXPENSES		
Salaries and Benefits	\$504,930.36	
Meals and Kitchen	\$121,172.55	#6
Utilities	\$39,645.09	
Insurance	\$22,876.00	
Maintenance, Administration, Housekeeping, etc	\$60,599.86	
Renovations / Capital Expenditures	\$50,134.53	#7
Surplus Funds to Province	\$60,000.00	#8
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$859,358.39	#9
NET INCOME	\$151,268.02	

NOTES:

- #1: Retreat Income is up by \$197,654.26 this year
- #2: General donations \$52,923.86; Annual Appeal \$28,699.55; Franciscan hospitality \$7,842.00; Medical patient donations \$1,130; chapel donation box \$3,392.35.
- #3: Net for gift shop was \$13,005.01
- #4: Elizabeth Goodgame for youth \$10,000, EFSP grants for refugees \$15,548.50, EFSP grants for homeless & medical \$5,000.00
- #5: total income up \$197,654.26 from last year
- #6: Meals and kitchen up \$51,375.68 from last year
- #7 New carpet, reno rooms in casita and other projects
- #8 Donated \$60,000 in surplus funds to Province
- #9 Expenses up by \$127,351.44 from last year

Checking account balance as of June 30 2023:	\$ 106,275.11
Short term savings:	\$200,000.00
Long term investments:	\$473,063.26
The only liabilities are related to payroll withholdings	



Holy Cross Retreat Center

Conventual Franciscan Friars

600 Holy Cross Road • Mesilla Park, NM • 88047

Tel 575 524 3688 • Fax 575 524 3611

www.holycrossretreat.org



With over 65 Years of Retreat Ministry!

Advent 2024

May the Lord give you peace! We are excited to announce our 2024 Annual Appeal!

As we look at the future with abundant hope, we realize that there are needs in our over-a-century-old Franciscan Oasis in the Desert that we need to consider as we strive to offer the best of who we are to those who come for spiritual renewal and Franciscan hospitality.

Access to water makes life here in the high desert possible. Since its founding, Holy Cross Retreat Center has relied on a well to provide water for the friars and our retreatants. During a recent maintenance visit, we came to the realization, because of the effects of irrigation wells on surrounding property and the reality of our climate, that either we dig a deeper well to try to maintain our water supply or we connect to the water line of the City of Las Cruces. As we look ahead at our ever-changing climate, sustainability, and providing a reliable water source, we have decided to name the Franciscan Oasis in the Desert Water Project as our focus for this year's appeal to raise funds to upgrade and improve our water system. While we would continue to use our well for irrigation needs to reduce our monthly water bill, connecting to another water source provides a steady, reliable, and quality water supply for our retreatants and our resident Conventual Franciscan Friars. Your contribution and prayerful support are vital to this project and will allow us to address this critical need. Any funds received beyond this project will be used to help us provide a "home" for future retreatants, continue our Franciscan outreach ministry to migrant families, medical patients, and those who are temporarily unhoused.

With the words of St. Francis from his Cantic of the Creatures and used in Pope Francis' encyclical on Care for our Common Home, Laudato Si, "Praised be You, my Lord, for Sister Water, which is very useful and humble and precious and chaste." And praised be You, my Lord, for our brother and sister benefactors, friends, and partners, who help us to continue our essential ministry at Holy Cross.

Please be assured of the prayers of the friars of the Province of Our Lady of Consolation and the Holy Cross Retreat Center staff and please keep us in your prayers. May this Advent time of patient waiting to welcome the Incarnation bring you peace and joy.

Wishing you Peace and all Good!

Fr. Tom Smith OFM Conv.

Fr. Tom Smith, OFM Conv.
Director

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Yes! I would like to help support the vision of Holy Cross Retreat Center! ¡Sí! ¡Me gustaría ayudar a apoyar la vision del Centro de Retiros de la Santa Cruz!


__ \$5,000 __ \$2,500 __ \$1,000 __ \$500 __ \$250 __ \$100 __ \$50 __ \$25 __ Other: \$ _____

Credit Card Number _____

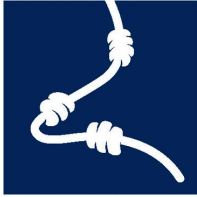
Name on Card (Nombre en la tarjeta): _____

Billing Address (Dirección): _____

Expiration Date (Fecha de Expiración): _____ CVV Code (Codigo al reversa de la tarjeta) _____

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¡Con más de 65 Años de Ministerio de Retiros!



Adviento 2024

¡Que el Señor les dé la Paz! ¡Nos complace anunciar nuestra Campaña Anual 2024!

Al mirar al futuro con abundante esperanza, nos damos cuenta de que hay necesidades en nuestro Oasis Franciscano en el Desierto, de más de un siglo de antigüedad, que debemos considerar mientras nos esforzamos por ofrecer lo mejor de nosotros a quienes vienen a buscar renovación espiritual y hospitalidad Franciscana.

El acceso al agua hace posible la vida aquí en el alto desierto. Desde su fundación, Holy Cross Retreat Center ha dependido de un pozo para proporcionar agua para los frailes, el centro, y a nuestros participantes en los retiros. Durante una reciente visita de mantenimiento, nos dimos cuenta de que, debido a los efectos de pozos de riego en las propiedades circundantes y la realidad de nuestro clima, debemos hacer el pozo más profundo para tratar de mantener nuestro suministro de agua o nos conectamos a la línea de agua de la Ciudad de Las Cruces. Mientras miramos hacia el futuro, a nuestro clima en constante cambio, la sostenibilidad y el suministro de una fuente de agua confiable, hemos decidido nombrar el Proyecto de Agua al Oasis Franciscano en el Desierto como nuestro enfoque para el llamamiento de este año para recaudar fondos para actualizar y mejorar nuestro sistema de agua. Si bien continuaremos usando nuestro pozo para las necesidades de riego y reducir nuestra factura mensual de agua, conectarnos a otra fuente de agua proporciona un suministro de agua constante, confiable y de calidad para nuestros participantes en los retiros y nuestros frailes franciscanos conventuales residentes. Su contribución y apoyo en oración son vitales para este proyecto y nos permitirá abordar esta necesidad crítica. Cualquier fondo recibido más allá de este proyecto se utilizará para ayudarnos a proporcionar un "hogar" a futuros participantes en los retiros, continuar nuestro ministerio franciscano de extensión a familias migrantes, pacientes médicos y aquellos que se encuentran temporalmente sin vivienda.

Con las palabras de San Francisco en su Cántico de las Criaturas y utilizadas en la encíclica del Papa Francisco sobre el Cuidado de nuestra Casa Común, Laudato Si, "Alabado seas, mi Señor, por la hermana agua, que es muy útil, humilde, preciosa y casta". Y alabado seas, mi Señor, por nuestros hermanos y hermanas benefactores, amigos y socios, que nos ayudan a continuar nuestro ministerio esencial en Holy Cross.

Tengan la seguridad de las oraciones de los frailes de la Provincia de Nuestra Señora de la Consolación y del personal del Centro de Retiros de la Santa Cruz y mantenganos en sus oraciones. Que este tiempo de Adviento y de espera paciente para acoger la Encarnación les traiga paz y alegría.

¡Les deseo Paz y todo Bien!

Fr. Tom Smith OFM Conv.

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