

The STARR COUNTY Benedictines

December 2011 – June 2012

Journal of the Benedictine Monastery of the Good Shepherd

Rio Grande City, TX 78582

PAX+

Dear Friends in Christ,

We pray that all has been well for you these last months. We are blessed to share good news with you from Good Shepherd Monastery. Our Brownsville ***Diocesan Valley Catholic Newspaper*** and Bishop's blog recently published two articles which involved our monastery. Rather than "re-inventing the wheel" we've asked permission to use those writings for this six-month ***Starr County Benedictine Journal***. The first article is from the April issue of Valley Catholic and the second one is from our Bishop Flores' blog.

Regarding the first article, three years ago, we were honored and challenged to be part of the diocesan-wide pro-life apostolate. As a community, in 2009 we discerned that Sr. Nancy should accept Bishop Pena's request to be pro-life director and then later continue with Bishop Flores. The second article is Bishop Flores's colorful writing about his visit here along with the KMBH Catholic television crew. It was a time of celebrating our Bishop's presence along with some of our oblates and other friends.

We are amazed that some of our retreat persons are coming from out of state and out of country: a priest from the St. Louis Archdiocese, a woman from Arizona who travelled here for a Rachel's Vineyard retreat, another from California be trained in teaching a natural way of spacing the conception of babies and even another woman from Bethlehem for her own private retreat. Our vegetation may be in great need of moisture, but our many guests are indeed a source of refreshing graces for all of us. Our KSGS, 99.9 LPFM Good News Catholic Radio station has been available to our listening audience for fourteen months now. Presently, our new pro-bono General Manager, Roel Smith,

is expending much creative energy in advancing the radio's outreach.

We have been truly blessed by being the recipients of two sizable inheritances totaling \$300,000. This amount along with many generous donors' contributions will enable us to initiate this summer, one-third of the building phase of our dormitory, which will cost us 1.8 million dollars. This first portion of the project will include bedrooms and a greatly needed large gathering space. This new addition will allow the monastery to have space for new vocations that we confidently pray will fall like the dewfall in the not too far future.

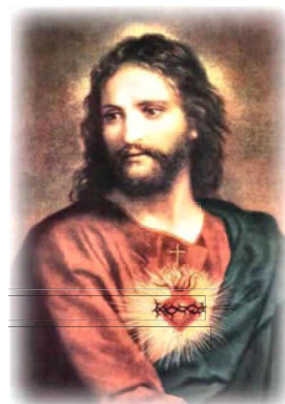
The next ***Religious Vocation Discernment Retreat for Single Women*** ages, 18-55 years young, will be held July 20-22. Please call (956) 486-2680

We strongly urge you to cast your votes this coming November. We truly have a moral obligation to participate and vote for candidates who promote and defend the sanctity of human life in all its stages, traditional marriage (one man, one woman) and respect for religious freedom. Our choices are clear.

We give thanks for each one of you as you remember God's work here through your prayer, time, talent and treasure. Be assured of our daily remembrances of you in our prayers!

*Gratefully with love and gratitude,
Your Benedictine Sisters*

"O Heart of Jesus,
treasure of tenderness,
You Yourself are my happiness,
my only hope...
Stay near me till the last night."
(St. Therese of Lisieux)



Monastery of Christ the Good Shepherd

Last Wednesday, (that would have been April 25), I was able to go pay a visit to the Benedictine Monastery of the Good Shepherd where the Starr County Benedictine Sisters live. The Monastery is on the edge of Rio Grande City in beautiful Starr County. I always enjoy going there. Many in the Diocese of Brownsville are familiar with the grounds because of the frequent retreats and days of recollection that take place there. With the help of God's grace, the Sisters have done a marvelous work in building up the grounds of the monastery.



And, as many of you know, the grounds are a little austere, in that *mesquite tree, cactus plants and colored-reptiles-in-the-brush* sort of way. There are also a lot of road-runners in the brush, and they tend to keep the colored-reptiles in check. I am sure the intrepid birds get a bit of help from Saint Benedict himself when it comes to the reptiles. I feel very much at home in the terrain of the monastery, both the physical and the spiritual terrain, that is. Perfect for recollection and prayer.

The Sisters are always very hospitable, and on this occasion we were joined by the Benedictine Oblates associated to the community. The OSB oblates share in the spiritual and temporal works of the community. We spent some time praying the rosary in the chapel. We were joined by a television crew who taped the recitation for regular broadcast on the Valley Catholic Network. I hope you can join in when it is placed on the air. We all owe much gratitude to the Sisters for providing and promoting a solid sense of Benedictine spirituality in our midst. And, we are all grateful for their great hospitality in hosting retreats and spiritual conferences. And, I am particularly, and personally grateful--as I am sure we all are in the Diocese-- that so much of the spiritual strength that sustains the pro-life movement in the Diocese of Brownsville owes its vigor to the prayers and works of the community, and to that of the many oblates and spiritual friends of the Starr County Benedictines.



I truly enjoyed my visit with the Sisters and the Benedictine oblates, particularly taping the rosary and the time we spent afterwards enjoying a simple meal, and having a few laughs. If you would like more information about the Monastery of the Good Shepherd and the Starr County Benedictines, you might want to visit their web-site at www.starrcb.com.



MONASTERY HAPPENINGS

Natural Family Planning Training
June 22-25 BOMA 651-699-8139

Good Shepherd Night June 23rd (Meal, Opera, Oldies and Good Shepherd Awards)
\$25 a plate, A fund raiser for the 90-bed dormitory
Call 486-2680

Couple's retreat July 3rd by Raul and Dora Gonzalez from Austin 486-2680 (English) 9:00-5:30

Women's Discernment Retreat

July 20-22

Come- "*See how the Lord in his love shows us the way of life.*" St. Benedict.

Call us 486-2680 Bishop Flores will be with us in the a.m. on July 21st.

Come and See! No charge

Post-abortion healing retreat:

September 21-23rd for men & women,
(Call Phyllis 956-639-4144) (For Resurrection life)

Divine Will Retreat, English November 2-4,
call Carol Vaughan 778-2207 Living in the Divine Will is our source of freedom and true peace Fr. Robert Young from Radio Maria

Ambassadors for Christ December 14-16 A young adult retreat sponsored by St. Paul's in Mission Call the parish office 585-2701



By ROSE YBARRA The Valley Catholic

“There was a girl in the CCD program collecting money for her friend’s abortion right in church,” said Sister Nancy Boushey of the Benedictine Monastery of the Good Shepherd in Rio Grande City. That incident, which took place about 23 years ago, “catapulted” her involvement in the prolife cause. Sister Boushey could not believe what she was hearing. So many thoughts went through her mind.

How could this be happening in a Catholic Church? Didn’t the students know that abortion is intrinsically evil? Have we, the adults in their lives, been clear and direct about the Church’s stance on abortion?

“I thought, ‘we really have to do something here. They don’t realize how serious and grave this is,’” Sister Boushey said. Sister Boushey had a long history of pro-life activism when Bishop Raymundo J. Peña named her director of the Respect Life Apostolate for the Diocese of Brownsville in 2009. During her three years at the helm, Sister Boushey was instrumental in mobilizing dozens of pro-life activists in the Rio Grande Valley. She also organized several conferences featuring nationally accomplished presenters, including conferences on euthanasia, natural family planning and contraceptives, among many other accomplishments. On March 20, Sister Boushey left her post as director of the Respect Life Apostolate so that she could focus on the monastic needs of her religious community. A Mass of Thanksgiving and dinner were held in her honor at the San Juan Pastoral Center.

“This is a difficult move since pro-life work connects deeply with my mother instinct,” Sister Boushey said. “As a pro-life leader, Sister Nancy pushes forward in a courageous and unwavering manner, even when it seems unpopular to do so,” said Becky Gonzales of Weslaco. She and her husband, Braulio, have been active in the pro-life movement since 1998. “I admire Sister Nancy’s respect for what the Church teaches about life, marriage and family because our children’s future is at stake,” Gonzales said. “We will miss her very much.”

“Sister Nancy understands the many struggles and discouragements we pro-lifers often face as we try to evangelize a culture of life,” said Herminia Alva of Harlingen. “Her motherly heart and loving counsel have encouraged many in firmly persevering in this great battle we find ourselves engaged in —defending, protecting and saving unborn children from death from abortion.”

Sister Boushey and the others Sisters at the monastery will maintain their involvement in pro-life ministries. The monastery will continue to host Rachel’s Vineyard Retreats for post-abortive healing and natural family planning events. The Benedictine Sisters of the Good Shepherd live the Gospel in the spirit of St. Benedict. They are called to live prayerfully, peacefully and in community. It is a way of life that Benedictine Monasteries have lived for more than 1,500 years. The Sisters often host retreats at the monastery in keeping with the Benedictine tradition of hospitality. They also operate a Catholic radio station that brings the Good News to the people of Rio Grande City. But with only three Sisters living in the monastery, the need for vocations is great. Sister Boushey hopes to dedicate more time and energy to vocations now that she is no longer in charge of the Respect Life Apostolate. “Vocations and then whatever the Lord brings to us, that’s what is next for me,” she said.



Sister Boushey at the Respect Life procession on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

“We have already been invited to several parishes for vocation talks. We’re so hidden away over here in the woods; you have to be public in some ways.”

Sister Boushey was born in East Grand Forks, Minn., the sixth of Lawrence and Corrine Boushey’s eight children. They were a farming family that grew potatoes and grain.

“I was a country girl,” she said. Sister Boushey grew up in a household where the Rosary was prayed daily and grace was prayed before every meal. She also attended Catholic schools. Religious life was always a possibility. Sometimes the call was loud, sometimes it was a whisper, but it was always there.

“I was surrounded by (religious) sisters as a child at school and my aunt, my dad’s sister was a Benedictine,” Sister Boushey said.

“I remember my heart liking that when I was in third grade but I went on with the dances and dating and cheerleading.”

When Sister Boushey was in high school, her father died and it changed her perspective on life.

“It helped me to realize that life is very short and it got me thinking about what I wanted to do with mine,” she said. “And I always felt that there was something more, no matter what I did or how exciting it was, it always sort of fell flat.

I wanted higher levels of happiness and joy.” Sister Boushey entered the Benedictine community at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery in Crookston, Minn. at the age of 18. In her time as a religious sister, she has engaged in pastoral ministry with Native Americans, served as a house mother at a Catholic boarding school for girls and was a school teacher in the Midwest before relocating to the Rio Grande Valley 25 years ago.

In the late 1980s, Sister Boushey became involved with Operation Rescue, a pro-life activist organization.

During Operation Rescue’s earliest years, thousands of men and women willingly sat in front of abortion clinic doors in prayerful protest to prevent the killing of innocent children and paid the penalty in arrest and prosecution on trespassing charges.

“I was arrested twice at the abortion mill in Corpus Christi,” Sister Boushey said. “The first time, there were about 50 of us blocking the door and I was one of 12 who was tapped to move so they carried us away. The second time, I was talking to an abortion-minded couple in the parking lot and was asked to stop, but I refused.”

As Sister Boushey begins yet another chapter in her life, she said she has no doubt that the Pro-Life Movement will continue to grow and prosper in the Valley.

“What warmed my heart the very most are those persons who were 100 percent for whatever we had discerned to do for life,” she said. “They are there month after month, conference after conference, never tiring. They have been an amazing team.”



Attention Single Women

Have you been floundering in a state of uncertainty or indecision about where you should be in life? A key question to ask is, “What is God’s will for me?”

He does have a perfect plan for each one’s life if only we trust him completely. Would you consider a life of consecration to God as a Benedictine Sister? Why not come and see what it’s all about?

On the weekend of July 20-22 we will gladly welcome you to a discernment retreat. You will participate with us in our monastic prayer schedule. Bishop Flores will share with us about the Theology of Consecrated Life and how he sees Benedictines’ participation in the diocese. He will also celebrate Mass. In addition, you will meet some of our lay associates, Oblates of St. Benedict, and local seminarians will also help and share with the weekend.

We have great concern for the youth and would like to see them live out their Faith boldly and faithfully. You will be able to catch a glimpse of our dream for them to live out God’s plan in their lives.

We’re located out on a ranch about eight miles NW of Rio Grande City.

Call and register by July 13th.

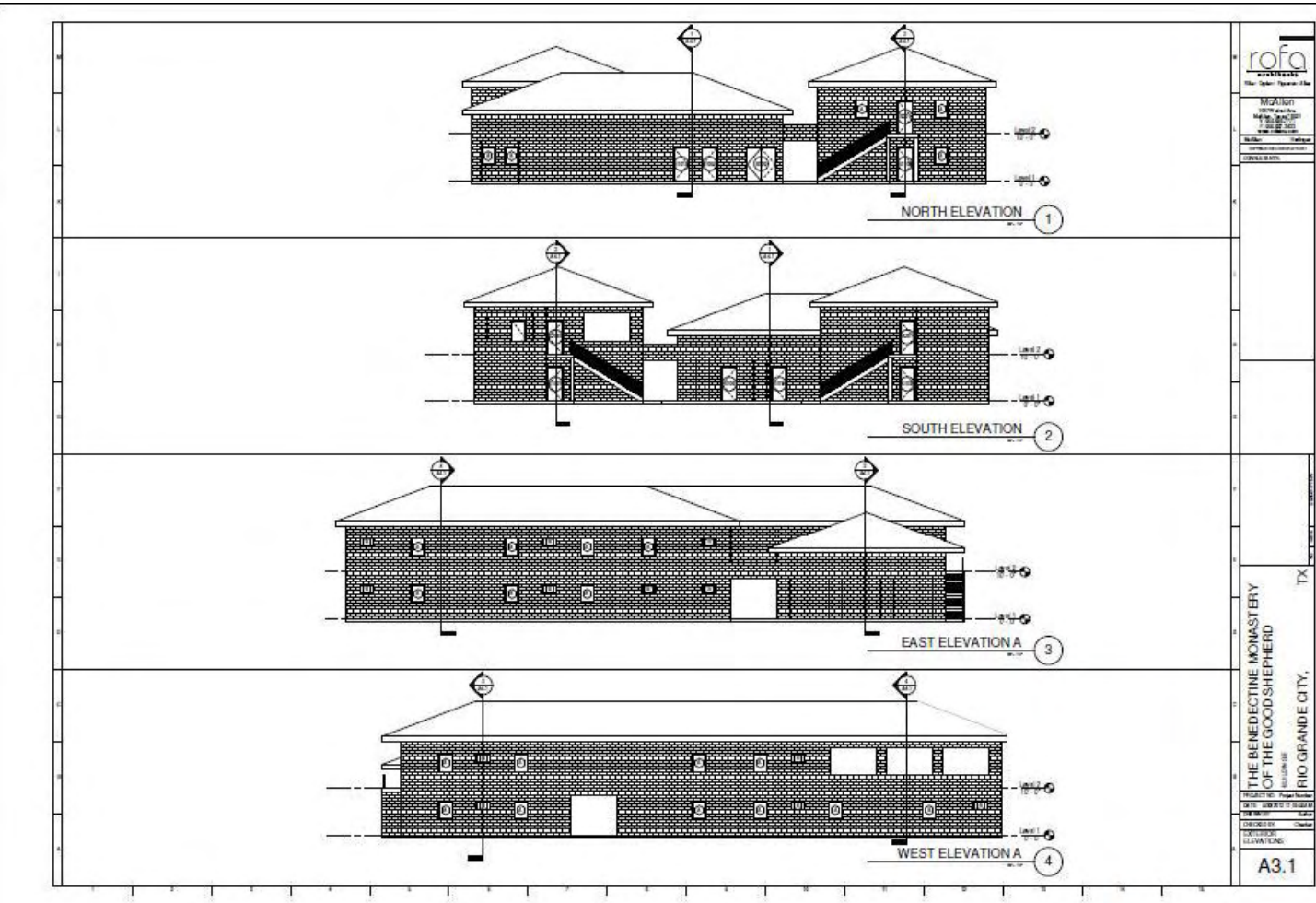
The number to call is (956) 486-2680.

Ask for Sister Nancy.



*“Write down the vision clearly upon the tablets, so that you can read it easily.
For the vision still has its time, presses on to the fulfillment, and will not disappoint.
If it delays wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late.*

Habakkuk 2:2



*“Commit to the Lord your way,
trust in Him and He will
act.”*

Psalm 37:5

*“Unless the Lord builds the house,
they labor in vain who build it.”*

Psalm 127:1

These drawings are for our 90-bed dormitory
We want to acknowledge and give thanks to:
Pro-bono architect, Luis Figueroa
Pro-bono contractor, Ruben F. Solis
Pro-bono civil engineer, Jorge Perez
Pro-bono structural engineers – Rick Hinojosa, PE

We hold you in our hearts throughout the day as we ask for the Good Shepherd's care of you!

HORARIUM

- 6:00 Lauds
- 6:30 Breakfast
- 7:00 Adoration and Lectio Divina
- 10:00 Work
- 12:00 Noon prayer
- 12:15 Lunch
- 3:00 Mid-day prayer and Chaplet of Divine Mercy
- 5:00 Vespers
- 5:30 Evening meal Community recreation
- 7:00 Community recreation
- 8:00 Compline – closing prayer Night Silence

MASS TIME VARIES



TUESDAYS

“Treat all guests as Christ Himself!”

St. Benedict

We try to set aside Tuesdays for our personal and in-house needs so we generally do not have guests on that day. Also, one Tuesday a month we make a “Desert Day”. *“Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest awhile.” (Mark 6:30)* It is helpful if you give us a call before coming in case we are not available for you at the time you would like to be here. (956) 486-2680 or sanbenito@granderiver.net

St. Benedict’s Wisdom about Self-will

As for self-will, we are forbidden to do our own will by the Scripture, which says to us, “Turn away from your own will.” and likewise by the prayer in which we ask God that His will be done in us. And rightly are we taught not to do our own will when we take heed to the warning of Scripture: “There are ways which to men seem right, but the ends of them plunge into the depths of hell” and also when we tremble at what is said of the careless: “They are corrupt and have become abominable in their wills.”

And as for the desires of the flesh, let us believe with the Prophet that God is ever present to us, when he says to the Lord, “Every desire of mine is before You.”

“The national anthem of Hell is 'I did it my way.'”
— **Peter Kreeft**



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