

Benedictines

Journal of the Benedictine Monastery of the Good Shepherd

Rio Grande City, TX 78582



**Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel...Stir up
your might, and come to save us!
Psalm 80:1-2**

Retreats

*Come to Me all who are weary and
burdened and I will give you rest."*

Matthew 11:28-30

We have welcomed many guests for retreats and days of reflection. In seeking the Lord in a quiet place apart from their daily work and responsibilities, many have expressed spiritual refreshment and peace. We are blessed to facilitate this encounter between our Lord and each and everyone of our guests.

Dear Friends,

Our journey continues with full days of prayer, work, opportunities for hospitality and conversion of our hearts. We want to share briefly a little update of life's happenings. We also invite you to be part of our needed expansion, that of a retreat and guest house.

According to the results of the latest census, the area covered by the Brownsville Diocese has a population of 1,264,091. Catholics in the Brownsville Diocese numbers 1,021,861; and of that number, 89.9 % are Hispanics. As you can imagine we therefore have an unusual demand for our retreat facilities compared to many other areas in the United States.

Contact us to find out how you can become an important part of our needed expansion, through prayer, financial assistance, and other means.

Be assured of our love and daily prayers for you and your intentions.

Your Benedictine Sisters



OBLATES, our lay associates

We are amazed that the Lord has brought us seventeen persons who are in the two-year formation process for becoming oblates. Our oblates meet monthly and have reflections on a Benedictine topic, lectio divina, Gospel of Life, the sharing of joys and sorrows, and a meal. We close with the Liturgy of the Hours. An annual retreat and *Ora et Labora Days* (Work and Prayer) are also other special events. Any person who wishes to receive more information, please contact us. We will begin our next formation group in November 2011.



Beginning the mural project



Half finished with project



Jesus, our Good Shepherd!



God's great work of art, FAMILY, a reflection of the Holy Trinity!

Family Finds Healing After Abortion

Edward and Elisa were filled with regret and turmoil as the years passed after their decision to terminate the life of their unborn child. Upon finding out about Rachel's Vineyard (RV), they took the leap into God's arms and opened themselves to repentance and trusting in God's love and mercy.

Edward and Elisa were at the monastery for the RV retreat and their mourning turned into joy as they experienced the unconditional love and mercy of the God they had offended and the life they had taken.



As a follow-up they came back to the monastery to put closure on their most painful experience by planting a cross with the name Aurora, in our memorial cemetery. They also took on the project of painting the 160 crosses that were showing their age. Beyond that move for reparation they brought their son on their own little family retreat at which time they shared their secret about his little sister. A note later came to us which they said could be made public.



"It is with so much praise and glory to God that I say our weekend with our son was very humbling. He amazed us with his grace and understanding. His only question to my surprise was why we didn't tell him sooner? We let him know that God had to first prepare our hearts to do

so and that our sole job was always to protect him from any pain. He really enjoyed his weekend alone with Mom and Dad and learned that abortion is a global issue and can be avoided with prayer, education and awareness. Our son just blows us away. But what can I say, I'm his Mommy.



Thank you so much for traveling this journey with us and we thank God for you and love you so very much!"

Edward and Elisa wanted to be SILENT NO MORE, knowing that there are many hurting moms and dads out there who need to be given hope. We thank them for their courage! Call us if you would like to visit with Edward and Elisa or if you want information about a RV retreat see below:

Call Phyllis at 956-639-4144
 September 16-18, 2011
 March 23-25, 2012
 September 21-23, 2012

Unwelcome Visitor From the Other Side of the Fence

What a six weeks we had as we unwillingly hosted a beige, 1,500 pound bull! Our friend Cristina was here from Kyle, TX for several days and saw him one evening between the monastery and Montecassino building. That night she dreamt that we had named him "Moon" (mooo-n?) and that we wanted him for our community mascot. Whew! What a dream! Sr. Luella tacked on "Mister" to make him sound a bit more distinguished. We must admit it was kind of exciting seeing him close up. He was impressive. However, we had no intention of providing for him. After all, there is nothing in our charism about ranching.

Mr. Moon would show up from time to time in Maria's Courtyard late at night and munch on the lush grass, or other times, sleep under the prayer bell. One night he was out in front of the building and frightened Sr. Nancy who had been working late into the night. In the morning we noticed that he had left a "souvenir" from his late visit.



Mr. Moon pretty much came and went as he pleased.

After trying a number of times to get help in dispatching our Mr. Moon, the Sheriff's Department sent out three cowboys who, and within several hours had

the bull tied up and into the cattle trailer and off to the stock yard to be claimed! Surprisingly, for a while, there was an empty spot without him. We are sorry, Mr. Moon, for not living up to our call to be hospitable. Although we are certain the Rule makes no provision for welcoming and entertaining four-footed creatures.



Mary is the most beautiful flower that ever was seen in the spiritual world.

Blessed John Henry Newman



Seminarians Joel and Juan come early to prepare the way for the discernment retreat.

VOCATIONS

We continue to pray for women who love God and are drawn to a life of community as they seek to serve Him, "That in all things God may be glorified!" We seek courageous, faithful and committed women who hunger for a deeper union with our Savior. Opportunities for deepening prayer life abound in our daily practices of lectio divina and the Liturgy of the Hours as well as time of *silent prayer* and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. We welcome women who want to discern their vocations. May we grow in number and grace to serve God and His people here in South Texas. With over one million Catholics in the Brownsville Diocese, we know that the Lord is calling women to the consecrated life. Pray that a whole-hearted response be given by those whom the Good Shepherd is calling here.



Discerners

The God you seek is also seeking you!

What is the vocation, the calling,
that God has for you?

Might it be to our Benedictine contemplative life?
This picture was chosen by the young adult
magazine staff of TOBIAS!



A first! The Brownsville Diocese held a vocation discernment retreat here. Forty-two men came of which fourteen signed on to be seminarians.

***The Holy Spirit is at work!
Let us pray for them.***



Are You a Courageous Woman?



Help us articulate and share
Pope John Paul II's teachings on
the *Theology of the Body and
Humanae Vitae*.

We will:

- articulate and share it with married couples
- teach highly effective methods of Natural Family Planning
- encourage couples to embrace the richness of the Church's teachings on married love
- reach out to young people in schools to nurture their souls

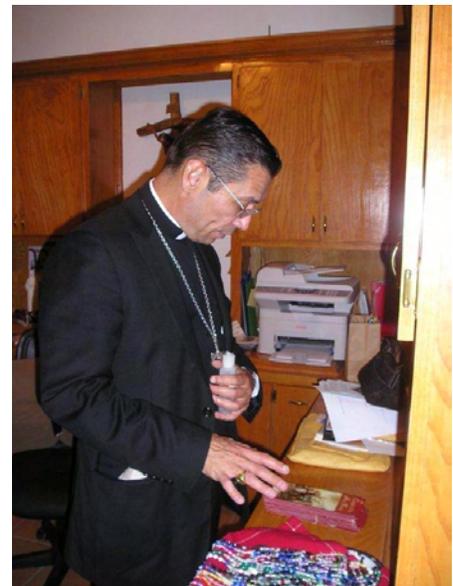
**Do you have a passion for the truth?
Are you brave of heart?**

If you have a fire within you to take on this challenge please call:

Benedictine Monastery of the Good Shepherd

(956) 486-2680 ■ sanbenito@grandriver.net

www.starrcountybenedictines.org



Bishop Daniel Flores was here and stopped to bless the new Holy Family chaplets that we have available.

**The restoration of our country
comes through the family.**

If you are 18-55 years old, come and see if this might be your future way of life, your home, your stepping stone to Heaven.



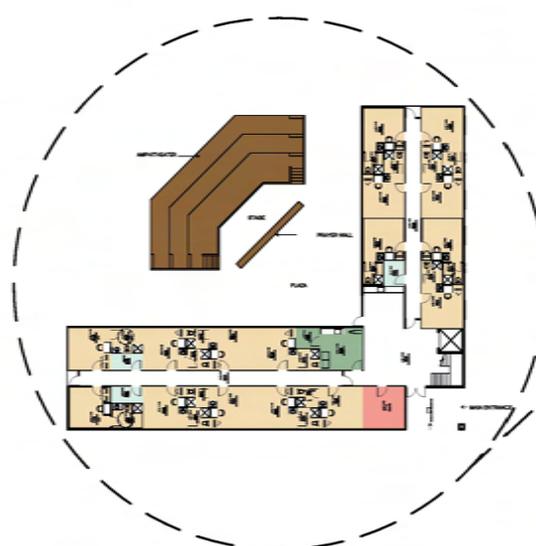
*Special guests from the Catholic Newman Center,
of the University of Texas Pan American in Edinburg.*

WELCOME!
 KSGS IS NOW ON THE AIR
 WITH AUTOMATED CATHOLIC PROGRAMS
 IF YOU ARE IN AN 18 MILE RADIUS TUNE IN TO 99.9 FM
 Comments have been very positive!
 May the Good News be accepted by many of our listeners.

Guest and Retreat House

We are in great need of extra meeting spaces
 which is why we had the mural painted in our three-car carport.
 It is now an additional beautiful place to use on cooler days!
 The artist is a wonderful husband, dad and artist.
 Alfonso, is originally from Puebla, MEXICO.

PRESENTING our dream for our many retreats: a 45 bed dormitory!



COMING SOON: RETREAT AND GUEST HOUSE



AERIAL VIEW

EXISTING BUILDINGS

FUTURE BUILDINGS

PROPOSED BUILDING

THE BENEDICTINE MONASTERY

Guest and Retreat House

2nd Annual Music and Meal at the Monastery

On June 25th an opera chorus, jazz band and oldies along with a tantalizing meal, were the delight of the 140 persons who came from many areas of the Rio Grande Valley. Also provided were a silent auction and chances on special items. This event was sponsored by the Development Council, Oblates and many friends of the monastery. The proceeds of \$6,000 is now set aside for our new building.

Remembering you as we gather for prayer throughout the day

6:15 Lectio Divina with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
7:00 Rosary
7:30 Lauds An hour of solitude
12:00 Noon Prayer
3:00 Mid-day prayer/ Divine Mercy Chaplet
5:00 Vespers
8:00 Compline

Eucharist according to the schedules of the local parishes.

Save the DATES

Monthly Religious Vocation Discernment Retreats for single women 18-55 years old

September 16th-18th A post-abortion retreat for reconciliation and healing. This is for both men and women. Call Phyllis at 956-639-4144

November 20th beginning of classes for new oblate candidates. Call 956-486-2680

April 21, 2012 Paisano Festival, 11:30 – 6:30

June 23, 2012 Music and a Meal at the Monastery (Oldies and Opera), 6:00 P.M. Call 956-486-2680

Should you wish to come to the monastery, we ask that you call ahead that we may give better attention to you!

We make efforts to keep Tuesday for our communal needs and therefore we do not accept guests on that day.



*We give thanks to the Lord for your friendship, love, prayers and shared time, talents and treasures!
Prefer Nothing Whatever to Christ! St. Benedict*

Web: starrcountybeneditines.org

Phone: 956-486-2680

Email: sanbenito@granderiver.net



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Of the Good Shepherd
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