

# Benedictines

*Journal of the Benedictine Monastery of the Good Shepherd*

705 Monastery Lane  
Rio Grande City, TX 78582



Our dear Friends in Christ!

We give thanks to the Lord, for His mercy endures forever! Much has happened in the world this past year. Even though horrific happenings are going on, yet, we believe that somehow His mercy is being poured out on His children. We are to be a People of HOPE! Though darkness seems to cover the earth, YET, Jesus Christ the Light of the World, has come to overcome that darkness! It comes down to each one of us to be hope-filled and to be a light for Christ!

Our Pope Francis is calling for *The Year of Consecrated Life!* As Benedictine Sisters we are part of that life. He has said in a letter to religious this year, "I am counting on you to 'wake up the world', since the distinctive sign of consecrated life is prophecy. This is the priority needed right now."

This awakening is for all Christians to live the Good News of salvation as a joyful, life-transforming event, to look to the past with gratitude, to live the present with passion and to embrace the future with hope."

which consecrated persons profoundly model by leaving everything to follow Christ. He stated that, "Radical evangelical living is not only for religious, it is demanded of everyone. But religious follow the Lord in a special way, in a prophetic way." The year has three dimensions to it:

The past's gratitude includes, our Good Shepherd's constant care spiritually and in all of our needs, also, each one of you who have been at our side with your intercessory prayer, work and financial help. Our present passion continues with our community life of prayer and seeking to help in the transformation of the culture, one heart at a time, through our ministries of retreats, Catholic Radio, Fountain of Life Adoration Chapel, Natural Family Planning, Post- abortion weekends and more for **"As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live."** - St. John Paul II

Looking to the future with hope involves welcoming new vocations of which Pajie Cuevas is one. Pajie has been with us for a year and we await the date for her to begin the novitiate. We have hope in the God of surprises! For we believe that He will continue what He has begun.

We ask you to join us to be partners in being prophets to help the *Culture of Life* eradicate the *Culture of Death*. With your prayer, conversion, fasting, involvement in the life issues of our day, indeed the Light of Christ will overcome the darkness of our present times and together we will ***Wake up the World!***

May we bow our hearts to the newborn King of Kings, for He is a mighty God who loves us so dearly. The 8 a.m. Mass in San Pablo Parish, La Puerta will be offered for you each second Thursday of the month; we will be there praying for you and your needs. Know of our love for you! You are welcome to use the enclosed envelope for your prayer intentions and/or for contributing to the upcoming retreat facility!...And to close, this year we again have many offerings, which you will see listed, and we invite you to be part of them. Do come and join us! Praise to our New Born King! Merry Christmas!

*Gratefully and prayerfully,  
Your Sisters Nancy, Fran and Luella*



We have been amazed at the spiritual hunger of our people as expressed in their desire to retreat into remote and hidden place. The fruit of the last ACTS retreat bore this story. One of the men wrote about his life-changing experience on his Facebook and as a result of that powerful testimony now 80 men requested that he would help them register for the next retreat! A dream of ours, in having our monastery and retreat center, was to pray and work for a new Pentecost. We had not the LEAST idea of how this would unfold. NOW we see the Holy Spirit's plan of action! Like Wow!

The Lord has sent us many ways to express His hospitality by welcoming varied groups for retreat: ACTS (Adoration, Community, Theology and Service) A men's silent retreat, Secular Carmelites, Rachel's Vineyard (Post-abortion healing retreats), Region 5 Gathering for religious, married couples, Our Eighth Annual Paisano Festival, Our Opera and Oldies fund-raiser, mission trip for the Indianapolis youth, Catholic volunteers in a Brownsville hospital, Ambassadors for Christ (Young adult), Cenacle gathering, many individual retreats, quarterly Benedictine Oblate Gatherings, Annual Benedictine Oblate Retreat and Discernment Weekends for single women interested in our monastic way of life. This past year has been rich with seeing God at work.



Top- The McAllen Serra Club (Vocation club) came for a time of spiritual refreshment



Middle- Fr. Joaquin Zermenio with parishioners from San Isidro for a time of prayer and renewal

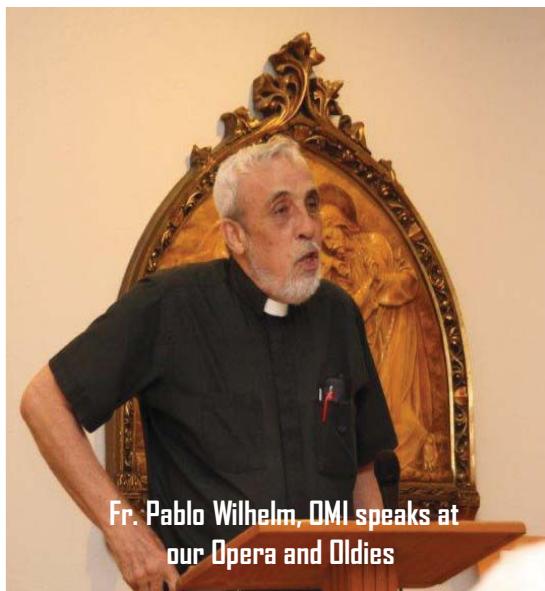


Bottom- Juan Diego Academy, the Regional Catholic High School, spent several days here to start off their new school year

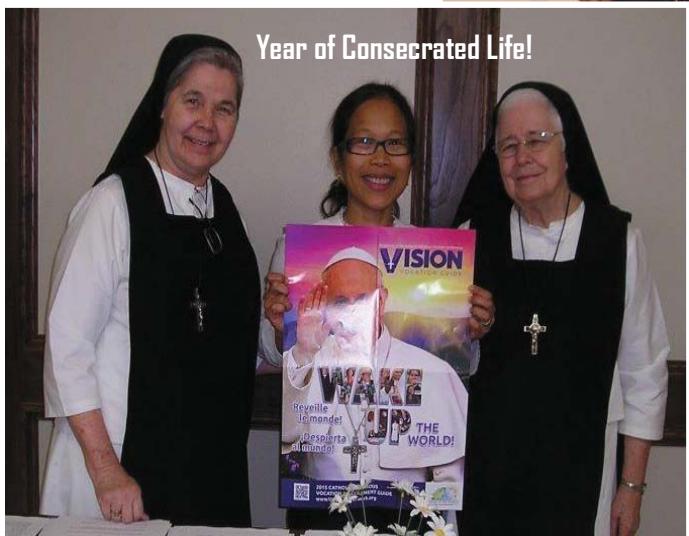
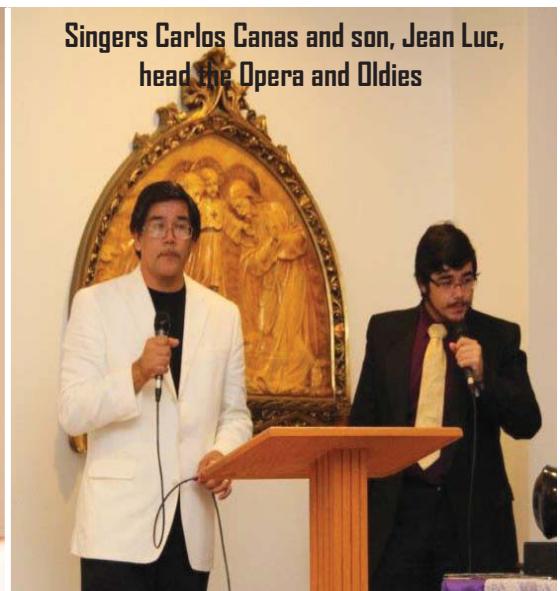




Fountain of Life Adoration Chapel,  
a great place of refuge!



Singers Carlos Canas and son, Jean Luc,  
head the Opera and Oldies



## Guests from far and near!



14<sup>TH</sup> Annual missionary trip of St. Roch's youth, Indianapolis, IN



Rosie Rodriguez, Development Office  
Lydia Mendez, Natural Family Planning consultant for the diocese



Fr. Manuel Razo's parents and Lupita Garza with "Miracle"



Fr. Jose Sanchez, Avila, Spain and Oblates Dianna and Marissa

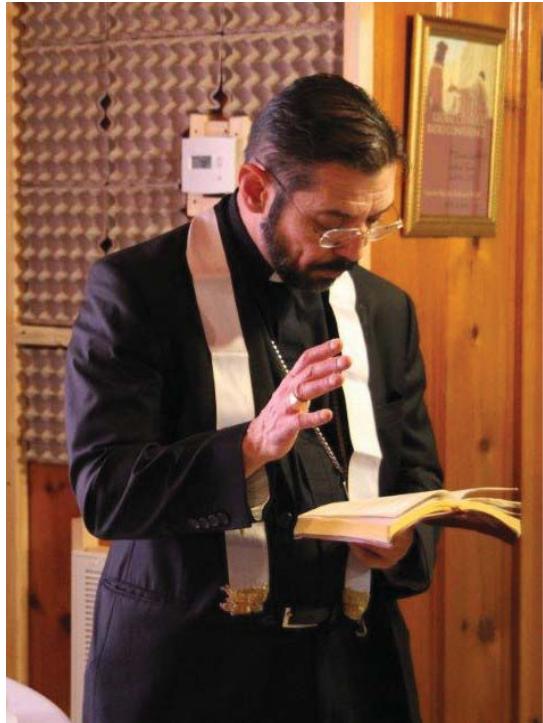


Sr. Jennifer Kehrwald visits us  
from our founding monastery  
in Crookston, MN



A friendly coyote

## Bishop Flores blesses our station. BRAVO for our volunteers!



### Divine Will

Fr. Massieu shared with us about the Divine Will, which was written by the humble woman, Luisa Picareta, who is in process of being canonized a saint. The book, her biography, was sponsored and printed by the Vatican. This book, is soon to be translated into Spanish and English.



## Our Benedictine Oblate Community



† Oblates participated in a consecration class with Fr. Hugh Gillespie



† Initial ritual for Benedictine Oblate candidates



† Fr. Ralph Tajak, OSB  
retreat presenter



† Final ritual for Benedictine Oblates



† Mary's Merry Maid's helping with work



† Oblates Deacon Jesse Garza & Samantha's Despedida

## We joined with these friends to CELEBRATE GOD'S goodness!



Top left- The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, in Las Palmas, received the prestigious nationwide *Lumen Christi Award*. Bishop Daniel Flores presided.

Top Right- In Corpus Christi, we participated in a celebration where Bishop Emeritus Rene Gracida was awarded for his outstanding support and involvement for the basic life issue; LIFE from conception.

Center – Laredo's Bishop, James Tamayo, ordained men to the permanent diaconate, one of whom was Deacon Juan Martinez. We joined his family to give thanks to God.

Bottom left- Sisters Rosalia and Jeannine has phase one of their dream fulfilled, a center for the volunteers and offices for the future residence to be built for women and children suffering from domestic violence.

Bottom right- a memorial for Fr. James Erving, OMI  
Eternal Rest Grant to him!



## FAMILY, THE MOST IMPORTANT CELL OF CULTURE!

This time in human history with teen suicides, pandemic pornography, isolation, broken marriages and other heartbreaking realities, we see how very fractured home life is and the need to have all restored in Christ. The leaders of our Church have been looking at family life and marriage and realize how urgent the need is to help all of God's People. St. John Paul II said something that cuts to the heart of the human condition. **"As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live."** We want to share with you a few aspects of our growing-up years in our families that helped us to be on the right path: Respecting each other in speech and in our behavior, as we are to speak only words of kindness,

Having a common family meal, at LEAST once a day where life is shared and prayers are said before and after meals,

Carrying the work load around the home, inside and outside, as each age is capable of some kind of work,

Playing games and having clean fun within the family setting,

Loving the Lord and His People by participating at Sunday Mass.

Saying "I'm sorry" and "I forgive you" and "Thank you" and "You're welcome!" to each other as needed.

Participating frequently in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Having some kind of outreach for the needy.

Blessings by the parents at key times, when leaving home and before closing up at night.

**AND today**, setting the smart phones, internet etc. aside and have true face to face time with family and relatives.

Not allowing any media depicting violence, sexual immoralities, lies, homosexual immoral relationships, immoral language etc. be part of family life in order not to pollute the home, which is the domestic Church!

Listening to the Word of God, possibly using the Mass readings for Sunday, and sharing what it is saying to us as a family.

*"For the family to be able to proceed well, with trust and with hope,  
it must be nurtured by the Word of God" Pope Francis*

Sr. Nancy Boushey was home for her Mom's (Corrine) birthday celebration



Fr. Juan Victor Heredia, long-time friend from Mexico City, and his and our Godson, John Victor Mayne!

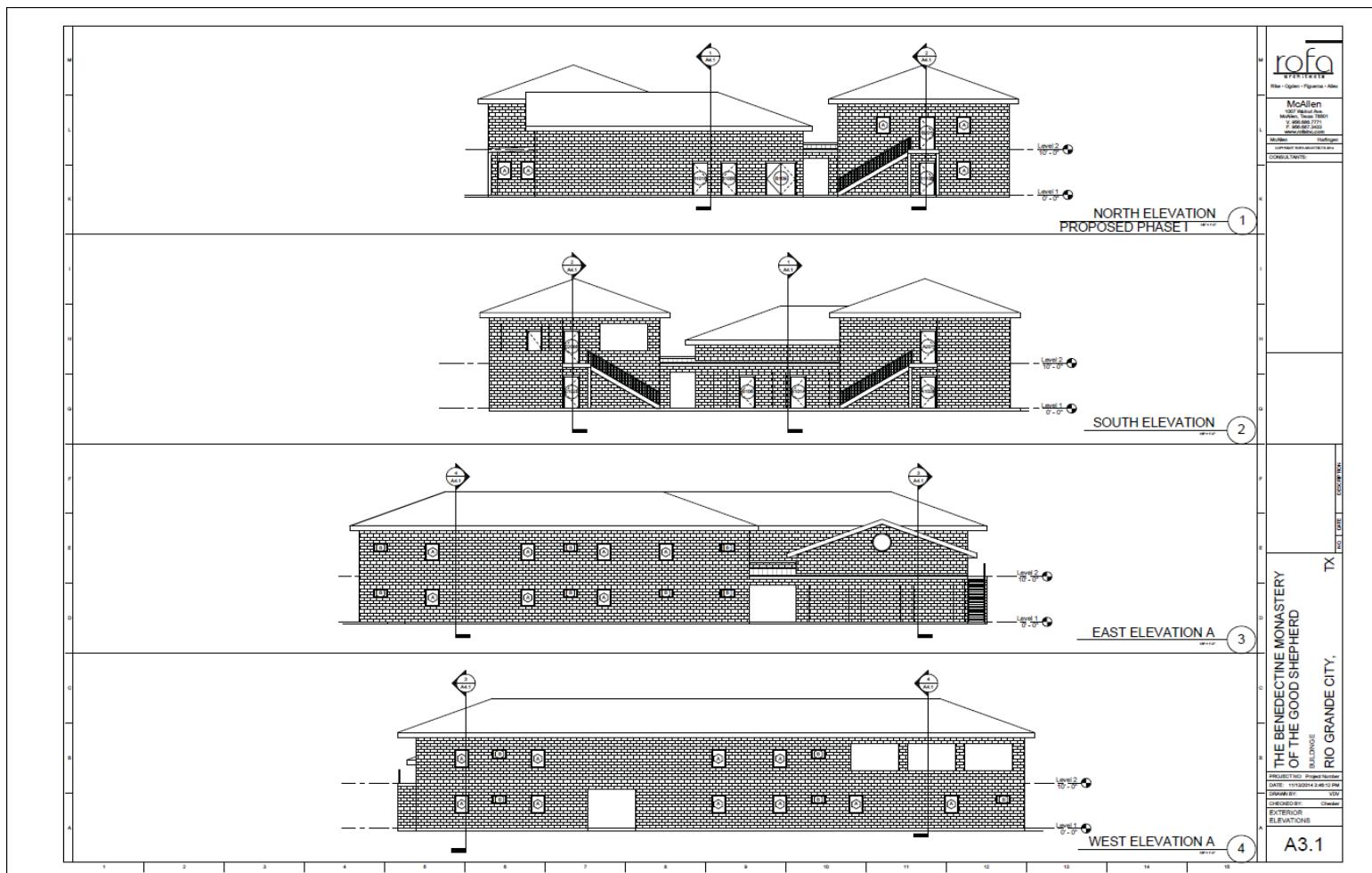
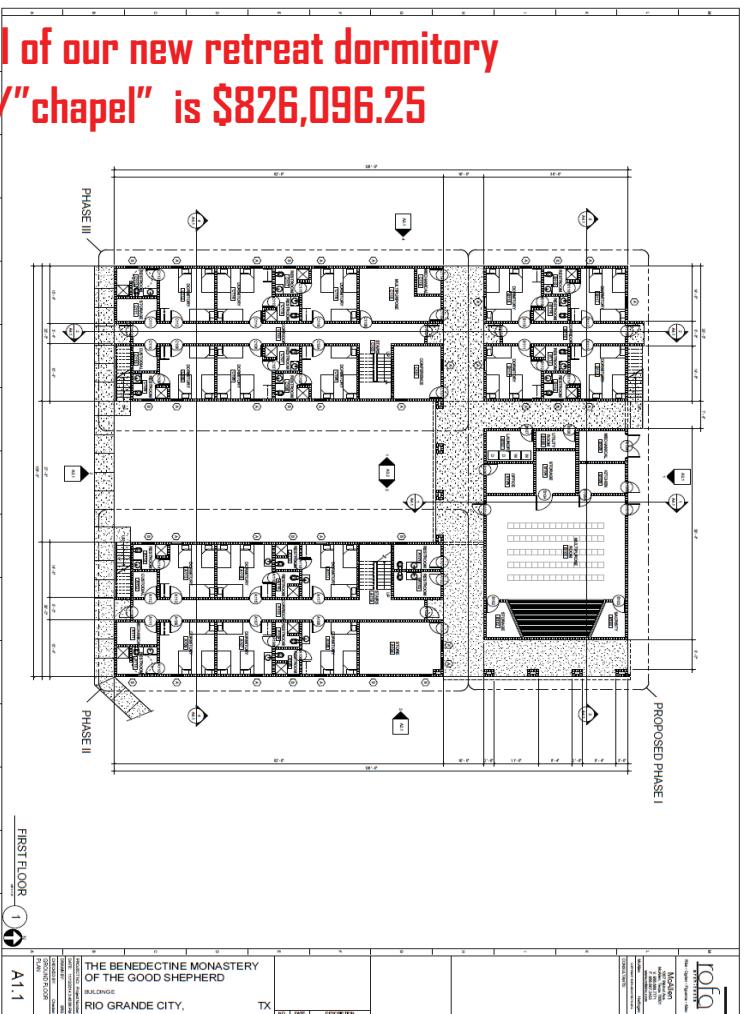
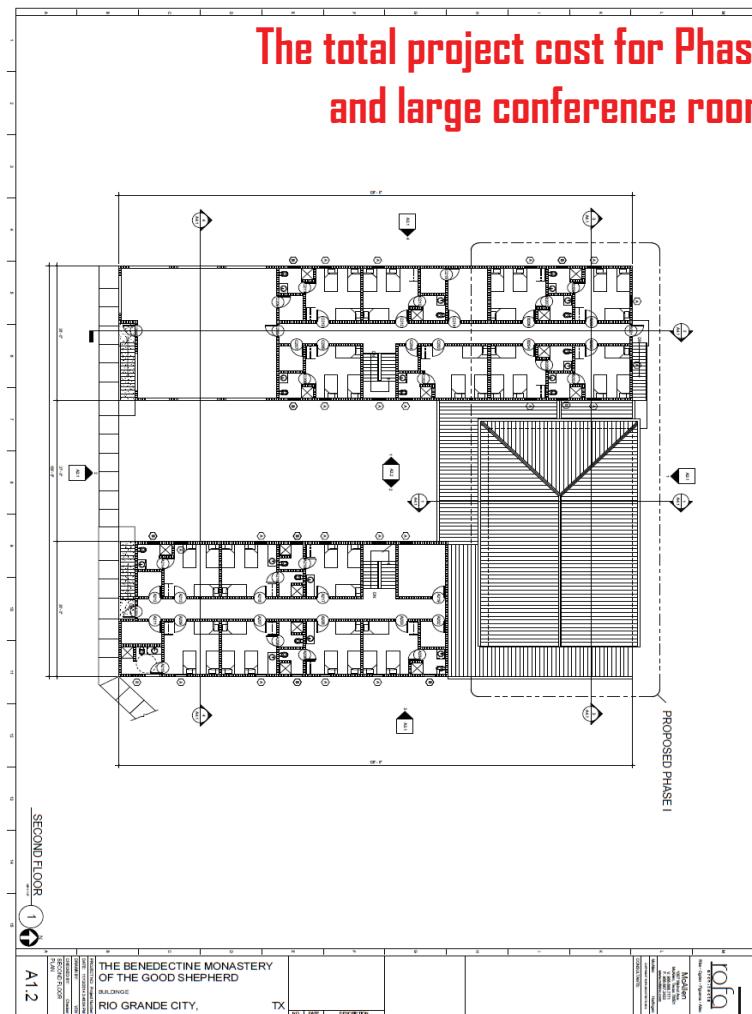
Missionaries visit during Christmas



L-R Working in Japan, Working in Brazil, an intern in San Antonio, Working in San Antonio, just returned from working in Rome



**The total project cost for Phase I of our new retreat dormitory and large conference room/"chapel" is \$826,096.25**



## HORARIUM

- 6:00 Lauds
  - 6:45 Breakfast in silence
  - 7:30 Adoration and Lectio Divina
  - 8:15 Rosary
  - 12:00 Meal
  - 12:45 Noon Prayer
  - 3:00 Mid-Day Prayer and Lectio Divina
  - 5:00 Vespers
  - 8:00 Compline
- DAILY MASS VARIES IN LOCAL PARISHES

**"Come aside...and rest awhile!" Mark 6:31**

We try to set aside Tuesdays for our personal and in-house needs, so we generally do not have guests on that day. 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](mailto:sanbenito@granderiver.net)

**PLEASE JOIN US IN 2015 for you and/or friends**

***Vocation Discernment Days for Consecrated Life***

For single women 18-50 years young  
Dec. 30-Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> / Feb. 13-15 / Apr. 25-26/ June 13-14<sup>th</sup>

**February 15<sup>th</sup> OPEN HOUSE and Merienda**

at the monastery for Year of Consecrated Life

**March 13-15<sup>th</sup> Post-Abortion Healing Retreat**

for men and women (Phyllis @ 956- 639-4144)

**April 26<sup>th</sup> Chalupa Bingo**

for the new construction project at ICC Hall

**June 20<sup>th</sup> Celebrating Dads**

Music and Meal

**Sept. 25-27<sup>th</sup> Post Abortion Healing Retreat**

in Spanish (Phyllis @ 956- 639-4144)

**Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> Concert Under the Stars (on our front lawn)**

**THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU!**

It has been one grand experience to have twenty-eight years of the joy of your friendship, prayers and support in myriad ways.

Our daily prayers are with you,

*Affectionately as we celebrate the birth of our KING!*

*Your Sisters,*

*Fran, Luella and Nancy*



  
**Benedictine Sisters  
Of the Good Shepherd  
705 Monastery Lane  
Rio Grande City, TX 78582  
[www.starrcb.com](http://www.starrcb.com)**

**Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 42  
Rio Grande City, TX  
78582**

