

The  
STARR COUNTY  
Benedictines

January 2019

Journal of the Benedictine Monastery of the Good Shepherd

705 Monastery Lane, Rio Grande City, TX 78582



Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
Peace+ in our Lord Jesus Christ!  
How we thank you for being part of our life this past year! Your friendship, intercessory prayers, and kind donations have helped us stay afloat, stay healthy and stay strong in the Lord.  
It is already the closing of the Christmas season when we finally make our way to you again. Life at the monastery has been full of God's goodness: our daily *ora et labora*, new members in formation with us, people coming to pray in the Fountain of Life Adoration Chapel, and hundreds of people being renewed through retreats. For us, the greatest blessing is encountering our Lord at Mass, day in and day out. This is indeed what truly gives us *Life*.  
I was struck by the quote of Cardinal Sarah's that is worth pondering, "*I am certain that the future of the Church is in the monasteries...because where prayer is, there is the future.*"  
Needless to say, his view presents a daunting call for us who are part of a monastic family. I want to encourage you and your family to become a "monastery" also. You too are meant to bring new life in the Church. How? Through a life of prayer!  
As a result of having so many responsibilities and various activities, some may leave only crumbs of themselves for the Lord. Others because of addictions or laziness leave the relationship with our Lord wanting. Jesus thirsts for an intimate relationship with each of us, just as he had with the beloved disciple St. John and of course with His Mother who is our Mother.  
The following are some simple ways you can participate and become a "little monastery." We hope some of you are doing these and perhaps more.

1. Start the day together with a morning offering. As a family, consecrate every thought, word, and activity to Him for his honor and glory. As St. John Paul II stated about the morning offering, "*...it is of fundamental importance in the life of each and every one of the faithful. It is a daily reminder to make our entire day, our whole life a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,*" A blessing on the forehead

- of each child from Dad or Mom would be a great practice also.
2. Have at least one meal together as a family, pray before and after meals, and encourage each member of the family to share something about his or her day. Of utmost importance, no cell phones at the table.
3. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to us by having quiet time at home. Limit social media or electronic devices, especially at night.
4. Close the day with a night prayer entrusting to the Lord and our Blessed Mother the problems and difficulties of life and being assured of their providential love.
5. Keeping the commandment, **Keep Holy the Lord's Day**, meaning we have the privilege AND obligation of setting it aside for Holy Mass, for family, for visiting the lonely and other ways to make it holy.
- Doing this will keep our relationship with God vibrant and strong as we walk through our day's joys, challenges and sorrows, all in and with Him in His will. St. John Paul II also said, "As the family goes, so goes the culture." Our culture is presently in horrific shape so let's make our families holy so that they can restore our culture, be the medicine for its healing. Fr. Peyton urged, "The family that prays together stays together." So, let's get our rosaries and pray it daily.

We also need to make use of the sacrament of Reconciliation. In the past, one priest would tell his parishioners that the nuns were apparently the only sinners, as hardly anyone would take advantage of the sacrament. We need to remember that we are all sinners and need a frequent "soul-washing." Almost half of my life was in northern Minnesota so it was a tremendous joy when the cold and storms were subsiding and winter was on its way out. So also in our inner lives, who wants to stay in constant severe winter when Jesus, the Giver of Life, waits to set us on fire in our own personal life as we embrace the sacramental life of the Church. Onward with courage! Let's make a difference in our culture and our church, one family at a time!

Prayerfully,  
Sister Nancy Boushey, OSB  
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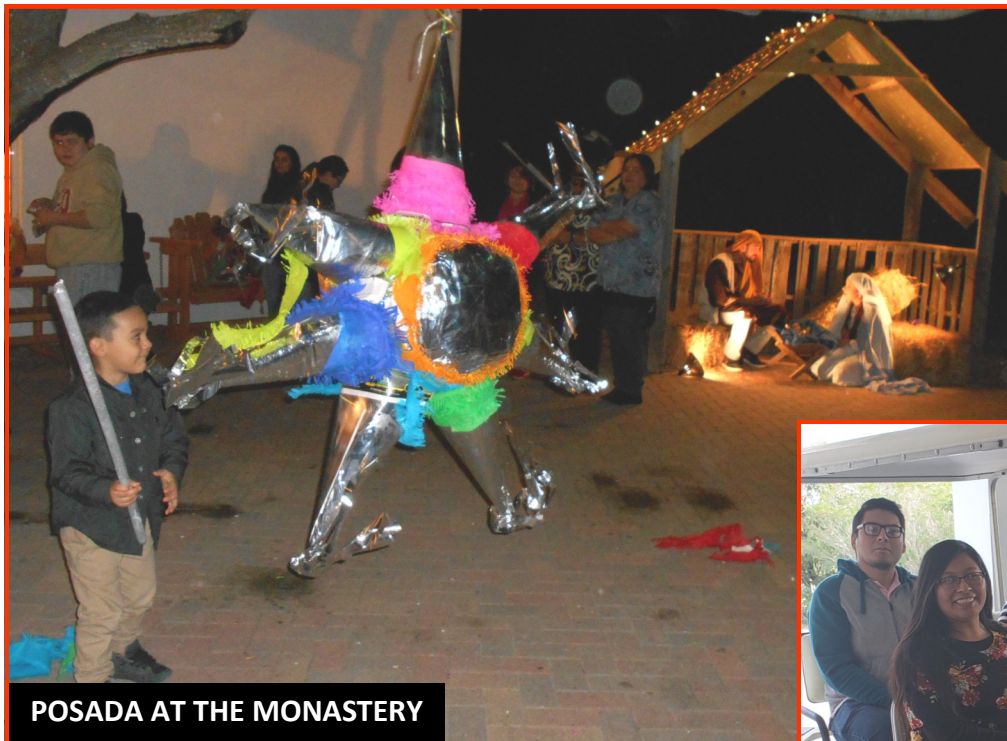
We were blessed to be part of the diocesan annual appeal and sponsored by Bishop Flores.  
The *Wizard of Oz* was the theme of the setting, kind of other worldly.





**AN EVENING WITH A SAINT!**

Each year the Fountain of Mercy Ministries sponsors a performance of St. Luke's Productions. (Check out their website) This year it was an amazing experience with Leonardo Defilippis playing Maximillian Kolbe of Auschwitz. Afterwards we had time with "Maximillian" and because he took on the role so impressively, it was as though visiting with St. Maximillian himself. Leonardo had been a Shakespearean actor. Our pro-bono architect, Luis Figueroa, and his wife Diana, joined us, as Luis is part of the Kolbe prison ministry, which holds Kolbe Retreats, an offshoot of the ACTS movement.



**POSADA AT THE MONASTERY**

It is wonderful to see the children experience the tradition of the annual Christmas posada, a way to keep Christ at the center of the celebration. It was sponsored by the Rio Grande City ACTS community.

**NOTE:**  
**Our gate is closed on Tuesdays**

St. Benedict writes in the rule that "Guests are never lacking in the monastery." Here, our "uber driver", Sister Luella, is giving a grand tour for Angelica Corona, and her friends from San Benito.



**Guests**

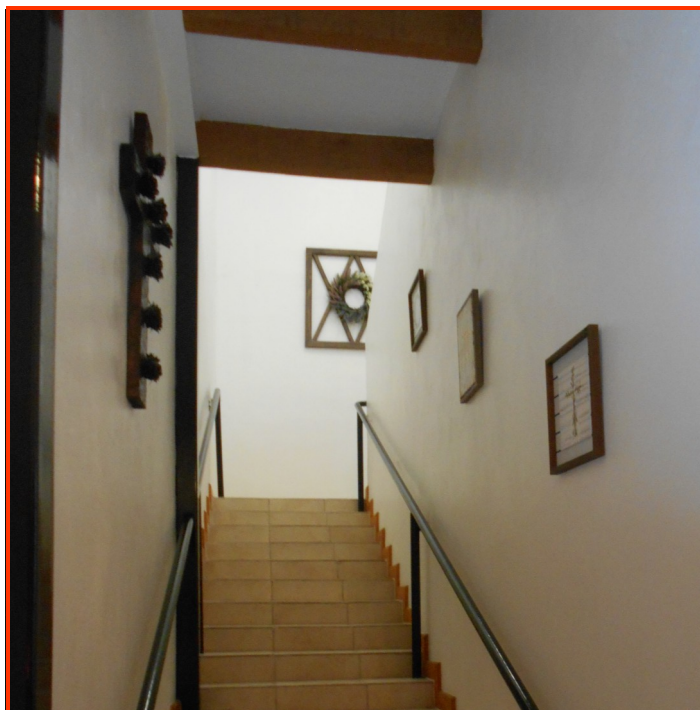


**Bishop Aviles Visits Us**

Auxiliary Bishop Mario Aviles was the special guest at our KSGS radio station in Rio Grande City. Following the interview he made his first visit to the monastery which included Noon Prayer, a small tour, blessing of our volunteers and employees and a fabulous meal provided by Benedictine Oblates.



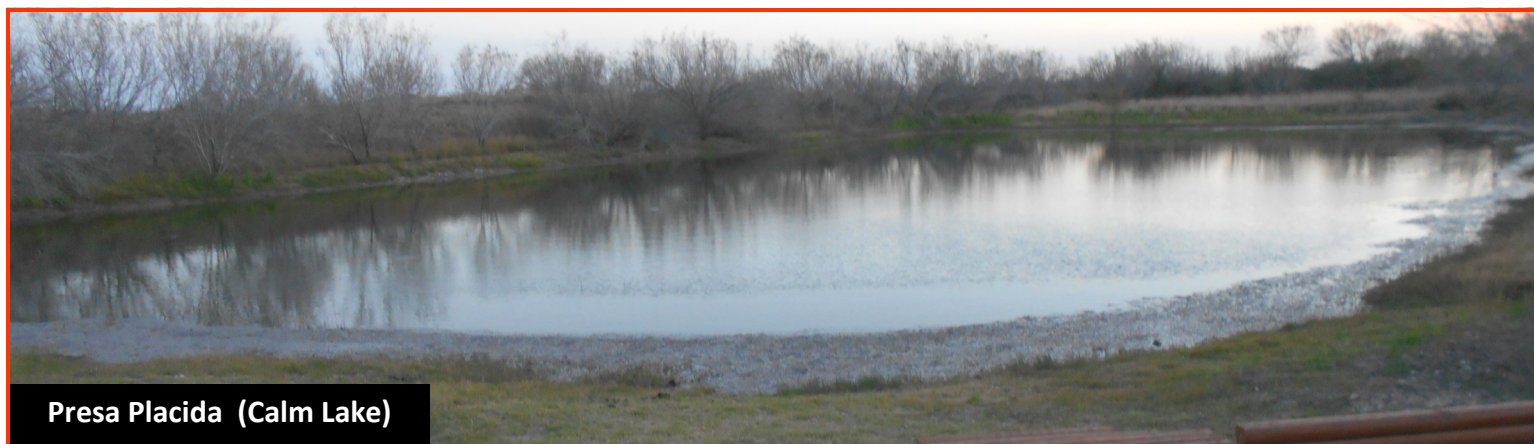
## NEW AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT AT THE “GOOD SHEPHERD’S RANCH”!



Troublesome cracks in the wall have been rectified and the stairwell has been beautified.



A large barbecue pit has been donated that can hold about 80 burger patties, an outside sink with hot water and an outside restroom. (W/C)



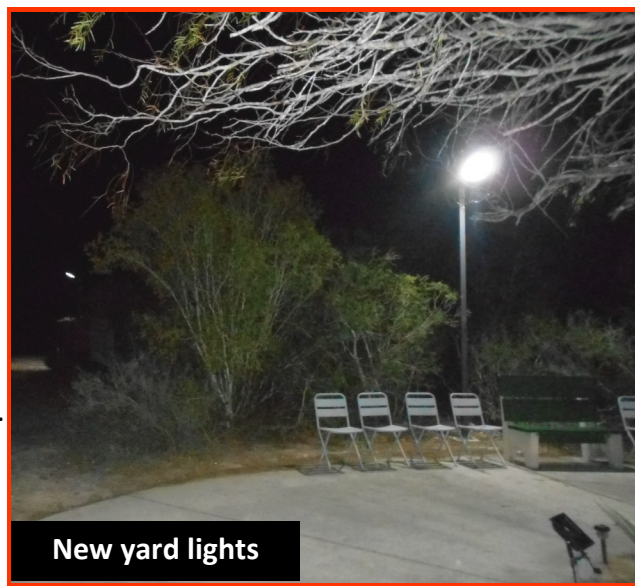
**Presa Placida (Calm Lake)**

Our Lake (Presa Placida) has been greatly enhanced by the solar driven lights and furnishings in the park that has been opened up in the brush. So exquisite!!!



**Presa Placida Park**

Seven new LED yard lights, on metal posts, have been installed in our initial parking area.



**New yard lights**

### OUR HORARIUM OF “*ORA et LABORA*”

6:00 Lauds (Morning Praise)  
6:30 Breakfast in silence and walk  
7:30 Adoration, Rosary, Lectio Divina  
9:00 Labora  
12:00 Noon meal (With table reading)  
12:45 Noon Prayer  
3:00 Mid-Day Prayer and Divine Mercy Chaplet  
5:00 Vespers (Evening Praise)  
8:00 Compline



### DAILY MASS VARIES IN LOCAL PARISHES

Sunday-Tuesday-Thursday in the a.m.  
Monday-Wednesday-Friday in the p.m.

### PLEASE JOIN US IN THESE EVENTS

#### Vocation Discernment Days for Consecrated Life

For single women 18-50 years young

Call us at (956) 486-2680 **WELCOME!**

#### Rachel’s Vineyard – a Post-Abortion Retreat

A weekend of reconciliation and healing with a compassionate team who have made that same choice.  
April 5-7 in Spanish. Call Phyllis at (956) 639-4144

#### Monastery Sponsored

April 13 RCIA Spanish

June 7-8 A Peek at Benedictine Spirituality (Eng)

August 2-4 Grief Retreat (Spanish)

September 13-15 Grief Retreat (English)

December 6-7 Advent Retreat (Spanish)



## BENEDICTINE OBLATES, OUR EXTENDED FAMILY



Santo Domingo De Silos Deanery

Our Oblate community has grown to be over one-hundred members so in order that there be more intimacy in sharing, we have seven deaneries throughout the Brownsville Diocese. Monthly meetings are held in various homes and every fourth month, all the deaneries come together here at the monastery. The format includes: Benedictine and Culture of Life topics, praying the Liturgy of Hours, Lectio Divina on the Sunday Gospel, sharing of joys and sorrows and closing with a meal.



SATURDAY NIGHT BENEDICTINE CELEBRATION

On Saturday evening we had our annual celebration with a banquet. For entertainment, each oblate deanery prepared a skit from the *Life and Miracles of St. Benedict*, by Pope St. Gregory the Great. It brought much laughter with the 21st century rendition of some of miraculous events.



Fr. Jude Brady, OSB

Our Annual Benedictine Oblate Retreat's theme was ***Benedictines Matter***. Fr. Jude Brady, OSB from St. Vincent's Archabbey, Latrobe, PA helped impress on us that living our Catholic faith as Benedictines really DOES matter during this most difficult time in history. Jhune Urbina escorts Fr. Jude to his "throne" to be honored by the participants.



Community Retreat

We were blessed to have a one-day retreat just for our monastic community. It was a gift from Fr. Jaime, from Monterrey, MX and his friends from Brownsville. It included Mass, adoration, a conference, and a meal together. It was a joyful way to prepare for Jesus' coming into our hearts in a deeper way.

### A GIFT FOR YOU

During this New Year there will be a Mass offered for you each month. We also remember you with joy and gratitude in our daily prayers. Welcome to our Fountain of Life Adoration Chapel which was built for you to encounter Jesus. God bless you and keep you.

*Your Sisters Luella, Frances and Nancy*

+Frequent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament helps us to be transformed into the original image God made us to be through the waters of Baptism. Consider ordering this book by an anonymous Benedictine Monk, ***In Sinu Jesu***, (On the breast of Jesus) which encourages us to open our hearts to the loving Hearts of Jesus and Mary through His Eucharistic presence. Jesus wants all of us to be close to Him as was John, the beloved disciple, and especially His priests. It is with Him that we can be transformed anew. It is a winner!!!