

Benedictine Monastery of the Good Shepherd + 705 Monastery Lane  
Rio Grande City, TX 78582 + (956) 486-2680 + [sanbenito@granderiver.net](mailto:sanbenito@granderiver.net) +  
starrcb.org January 2022



Our dear Friends,  
PAX+

We could not manage an Advent/Christmas message, but here we are writing to you as we close up on the month of January. “Better late than never, right?” We want to share some of the highlights of our life for 2021.

In April we were blessed to have Fr. Henryk come to live here as a resident-hermit. He is staying in one of our hermitages and has been a tremendous gift for us because to have Holy Mass daily, without commuting a half an hour, has helped us to have a stable rhythm of life. He is from Poland and loves to sing and pray many hours each day. Indeed, this enables the property to become even more “Holy Ground”, as the hymn goes. He’s also a big help for the Sacrament of Reconciliation for retreats.

Covid-19 visited us in August, but was short-lived thanks to a courageous doctor’s protocol of Ivermectin and other beneficial medications. We grieve with those who have lost loved ones during these months of uncertainty. Jesus, we trust in YOU, needs to be ever more in our hearts, not to live in fear. These trying months have been a challenge to deepen our faith, hope and love for the Lord. A prayer that has helped many personally (and to change the world) is the Holy Rosary and also this simple one-liner that has been a support for people during troubled times. **“Oh Jesus, I surrender myself to You, take care of everything!”**

Some new offerings that we initiated: Consecration to St. Joseph with about 50 lay people, a Grief Retreat, a celebration for Sister Luella’s 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Benedictine Sister, an oblate retreat (lay associates) with a monk from St. Anselm’s Abby in Washington, DC, a “Pray in the New Year’s Retreat” with Fr. Jim Blount, SOLT from the state of Georgia. Look for him on you tube, he is very gifted to proclaim the Gospel and calls us to become saints! PLUS we were blessed to have a monk stay here for a month for his personal retreat. He is from St. Vincent’s Archabbey, Latrobe, PA.

Some physical additions to the monastery: We have chickens which are now laying eggs, we purchased five new picnic tables for only \$50 each, and in the last few

days, about 20 turkeys came to visit but we plan to feed them so they will stay around. Thanksgiving 2022, hmmm!?! Our outside cross has been beautifully upgraded and the day it was finished a group of women from Escobares' ACTS prayed the rosary around it. The solar and wind power is now completed in all of our 13 buildings, thanks be to God! We now have a built in sound system at our Montecassino retreat center and a beautiful Ad Orientem altar accomplished by our remarkable employees. Our next need is to make a new outdoor Way of the Cross, as the present one is crumbling. A benefactor has now stated that we will soon have stain glass windows, of our choice, for our monastic chapel. Indeed, God's mercy endures forever!

Some events from parishes and other groups were: Multiple small group retreats, larger parish retreats, McAllen Pregnancy Center, Institutes sponsored by a local pastor, First Communion, Confirmation and one for an 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation class. Also individuals would come and have quiet at a hermitage. **"Be Still and Know that I am GOD!"** Psalm 46:10. Our KSGS 99.9 Good News Catholic radio station continues to be cared for by a team of faithful people who help to carry out live programs on Wednesday a.m.

**Pause to refresh your spirit in 2022:**

A Grief Retreat on February 5-6<sup>th</sup> Call Doralisa (956) 844-7815 or Diana (956) 735-9675

A Men's Retreat: The Father's Love February 12<sup>th</sup> Call Deacon Rudy (956) 624-6300  
And come aside for a while and stay in one of our hermitages

Spend time with Jesus, in the Blessed Sacrament in the Fountain of Life Adoration Chapel

Our Monastic Prayer Horarium at which time we remember you special before the Lord:

Liturgy of the Hours  
5:45 6:15 Lectio Divina 6:45 Holy Mass 8:30 Adoration, Rosary and Lectio Divina  
12:45 Noon Praise 3:00 Prayer 5:30 Vespers 7:30 Compline

We thank the Lord for your love, prayer, financial help and friendship that sustains us and the Good Shepherd's work here!

**Prayerfully and gratefully,**

**Your Good Shepherd's Handmaidens,**

**Sisters Luella, Fran and Nancy**

