

**Benedictine Monastery of the Good Shepherd**  
**705 Monastery Lane**  
**Rio Grande City, TX 78582**  
**(956) 486-2680**  
**December 2019**

Our dear Friends in Christ!

We come to you with continued Good News, **God is With Us!** He is in every trial and pain that we experience personally and culturally and we can count on God being our comfort and joy! As we write this to you we have several of our wonderful helpers setting up the Nativity and other beautiful objects to celebrate God's coming to us as God-Man, Savior!

*Hospitality* is a charism, a hallmark, for Benedictines and there are many ways that we have been able to live out that calling; ACTS retreats, Divine Will retreats, small groups, Flame of Love, Youth, Sisters Luella's and Nancy's families from the "North Country", individual clergy and Sisters, a Religious order of priests for a week, a women's study club and multiple guests who visit. We have some "regulars" who come for a silent get-away in our hermitages. You are also welcome!



We celebrate Marcos from El Salvador, who was with us for two and a half years as a victim of the cartels. Marcos' throat was slit by cartel members and left for dead but thanks to God he survived and was cared for in a refuge directed by Sisters for three and a half months. The cartel was located in that area so the lawyers encouraged him to relocate. We were next to welcome him! He had his own privacy in the Morning Star Hermitage and had companionship mainly with those who worked and visited here. Marcos was exhilarated when he received the long-awaited letter from Homeland Security that he could continue to live in the U.S. It was a happy-sad day right before Thanksgiving when he headed to north Texas to live and work with his brother in his construction business. We are so grateful that he now has family!

Our wonderful Winter-Texans returned in October. Bud Curwick, at 91 years old, and his wife, Dorothy, drove here from SE, Minnesota. They have been living here since 2003, even before we moved on this property. Each year they make over 100 quilts for needy families. Bud built our adoration chapel, the chaplain's house, the beautiful fireplace and many other projects. It saddens us to realize that their time with us during the winter months is nearing an end as they will eventually be staying in Minnesota year round. With Job we say and also about Marcos, **"God gives and takes away, blessed be the Name of the Lord!"**

Our Motherhouse in Crookston, MN has now reached the 100 year mark. We are ever so grateful to have been part of that history. The original **Lean Hard** prayer card, is probably 100 years. It is a treasure! It was given to Sister Nancy's aunt, Sister Rose Marie, from Mother Eustacia, the foundress. Sister Rose Marie than presented it to Sister Nancy at her monastic profession.

We have been given an outside fountain, a real joy to our senses, seeing and hearing the water dancing in its movement. It is appropriately situated next to the Fountain of Life Adoration Chapel, which was built for all of you. The chapel is a peaceful place for basking in the presence of our Lord Jesus, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, seeing him truly present before us and listening to him with the ear of the heart.

Our KSGS radio station is now in the seventh year and our volunteers are doing fund-raisers for new equipment. We have received much gratitude from the listeners, even from other countries who listen in. Part of our programs are from EWTN's offerings, others are locally done. We have also

opened up a recording studio in McAllen, thanks to a benefactor, to make it more conducive to do interviews with those living in the mid and lower Rio Grande Valley. Listen in on the computer Good News 99.9 Rio Grande City.

We continue to be blessed with lay associates, our Benedictine Oblates. We have twenty oblate candidates now in their second year of formation.

A new ministry of ours is to offer retreats sponsored by our monastery with the assistance of our Benedictine Oblates and friends. In 2019 we had several on *Dealing With Grief*, *Benedictine Spirituality*, *Becoming Christ Bearers*, *Create in Me a Clean Heart* and *The Four Last Things: Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell*. Some of them are being repeated due to the high interest and need.

## **We welcome you to our upcoming retreats/seminars in 2020!**

### January

10-11 *Dealing With Grief* (English)

17-18 *Dealing With Grief* (Spanish)

### February

28-29 *Women's Silent Retreat* (Spanish)

### March

12 *The Four Last Things: Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell* ½ Day (English)

21 **HORMONES AND HEALTH** ½ Day Spanish / ½ Day English

Male and Female Hormone Replacement Therapy

Gender Dysphoria in Children etc.

Hormonal imbalances and depression, anxiety, irritability, acne, fatigue, male and female infertility

### Lean Hard

*child of my love, lean hard  
And let me feel the pressure of Thy care.  
I know thy burden, child; I shaped it,  
Poised it in mine own Hand; made no  
proportion*

*Between its weight and thine unaided strength.  
For even as I laid it on I said,*

*"I shall be near, and while she leans on Me,  
This burden shall be Mine, not hers;  
So shall I keep My child within the circling  
arms*

*Of My own love!" Here lay it down, nor fear  
To impose it on a shoulder which upholds  
The government of worlds. Yet closer come, -  
Thou art not near enough.*

*I would embrace thy care,  
So I might feel My child reposing on My heart.  
Thou lovest me? I know it. Doubt not, then,  
But loving Me, lean hard.*

## June

**27** *The Four Last Things: Death Judgment, Heaven and Hell (Revisited)* ½ Day English / ½ Day Spanish

## July 31-August 1

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**Silent Women's retreat (English)**

May we stand strong and firm in the midst of the Eucharist, our Blessed Mother, praying the rosary prayerful in the Barque of Holy Mother Church!

adversity, always clinging to Jesus in daily and remaining faithful and

A Mass will be offered for you, our friends and benefactors, the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church in Rio Grande City. We also ask for your prayers. Thank you for all the ways you have helped the Good Shepherd's Monastery to grow. For this we thank you!!! All God's mercy!

**May your Christmas and New Year be filled with many graces!!**

**Your Sisters- Luella, Frances and Nancy**