



## **Benedictine Monastery of the Good Shepherd**

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**Christmas 2020**

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Our Dear Friends in Christ,

As with all of you, we have had quite an adventuresome ten months. The major differences it held for us were that we had eleven less ACTS retreats, (typically 80 in the group) two less Rachel's Vineyard (post abortion) retreats, and multiple smaller retreats that needed to cancel out. The fewer retreatants have caused wild life, such as javelinas and foxes to venture closer to our monastery on occasion. Now they can say, "At last we have our territory back again!"

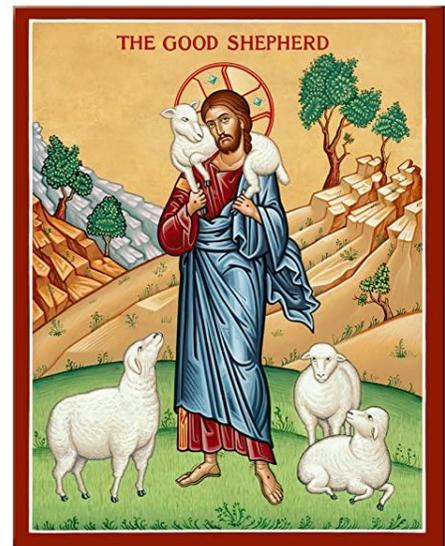
So as you can see the spiritual and emotional healings that come from these experiences have been greatly lessened. Yet, as we all know, God never abandons His People and He will always supply for our needs, "Ask and you shall receive", is His promise. As you also know, more people have been viewing virtual retreats and talks, along with more family time, including prayer together. Fr. Peyton's motto still holds, "The family that prays together, stays together." The praying of the rosary daily is a great medicine for family, church and cultural problems, so let's wear down the beads of this great "weapon". You can even pray with him on internet – Pray the Rosary with Fr. Peyton

In April, our live-in Winter Texans, Bud and Dorothy returned permanently to MN. Their large family of 12 will honor them in more ways than we ever could. Bud is turning 93 in April, our Sister Luella rolled over to that big number in November. It was a difficult time to see Bud and Dorothy leave after being here for seventeen years. Presently we have a young couple living in their little RV, they were also married very young as were Bud and Dorothy and they also pray daily together as did their predecessors.

More people are coming now to stay in our hermitages, pray in the Fountain of Life Adoration Chapel. They also visit our gift shop and do some shopping. In fact, during Christmas week, one family wants to use all seven of the hermitages! That will be very special.

We had our oblate retreat in November, it was for two days, but the second day was a repeat of the first day, in order that the group would be kept under 35 persons.

Two women from Laguna Vista have been in process of covering about 70 of our gray cloth chairs. The chairs now have a new sponge and cloth seat and a newly upholstered back. They are like new!! MANY hours have been spent on that project!! They donated the labor, we took care of the materials. The chair seats were flat as pancakes. Our men also painted the renewal center so now those facilities are ready for whatever God has in store next.



Our Good News Catholic Radio Station– KSGS-LP 99.9 FM is now in its 8<sup>th</sup> year and is being cared for beautifully by volunteers who take this work of God very seriously!

Let us each pray for an ego reduction and allow Divine Life to fill us in order that we may be people of LIGHT not of the darkness of our age and enter into the Heart of Jesus. The Sacrament of Confession is a great way to reduce our ego and humbly accept the love and mercy that the Lord has for us. Exorcists even claim that a whole-hearted Confession demolishes the power of Satan, the kingdom of darkness in our hearts.

A heartfelt thank you to each one of you who has remembered us in prayer, works of charity, financial help along with being our travelling companions on the journey to our Divine Homeland! Be vigilant!

To express our love and gratitude for you we are having a Mass offered for you each first Thursday of the month at the 6:30 a.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception Church in Rio Grande City.

We all long to be happy and loved, this quote of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI says it all:

*“The happiness you are seeking,  
the happiness you have a right to enjoy  
has a name and face;  
it is Jesus of Nazareth”*



Let us surrender our lives to Jesus of Nazareth, our newborn King and Lord, entrust all to Him and watch Him take care of everything!!

*May your Christmas and New Year be filled with God's loving care!  
Your Sisters Luella, Frances and Nancy*

### **AN INVITATION! Exciting News!**

We are beginning the Year of Saint Joseph!

With the Apostolic Letter “Patris corde” (“With a Father's Heart”), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of **Saint Joseph** as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a “**Year of Saint Joseph**” 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021.”

As many of you may remember we “sponsored” the Consecration to St. Joseph by Fr. Don Calloway this past spring. We encourage you to make this wonderful journey with us and place it on your calendar as a **MUST**



**DO!** Should you want to join us we will start on March 30<sup>th</sup> and make the Consecration on May 1<sup>st</sup>. God-willing Fr. Dan Oyama from Immaculate Conception Church in Rio Grande City, will help us celebrate our consecration with Holy Mass on the 1<sup>st</sup>, or you may want to gather friends and family to do it on your own timeline in your place. There is also a dynamic YouTube by Fr. Don Calloway to listen to each day as part of the preparation. Email us if you want to be with us. The preparation is totally in your homes but for the May 1<sup>st</sup> event. So if you do not have the book, order your book from [www.ConserationtoSt.Joseph.org](http://www.ConserationtoSt.Joseph.org) ASAP. Also available in Spanish.