

Mission of Divine Mercy

Fall 2015, A.D.

"In this little Host...



...is the solution
to all the problems
of the world."

St. John Paul II

READY FOR SOME GOOD NEWS? *See inside cover.*

Deo gratias...



Break open the champagne! We have some very good news to relate....

Due to some generous gifts that we received from donors over the summer, *we were able to pay off our entire debt on the O'Callaghan Divine Mercy Center — all \$600,000!!!* Thanks be to God, to the Holy Angels and to those donors who have helped to lift this financial burden. It is a great weight off our shoulders!

In fact, we want to thank all of our donors who helped to raise the mercury on our campaign thermometer. All of your gifts, big and small, are what got us to this point. And we are tremendously grateful.

The O'Callaghan Center was a big undertaking for us, and at times it seemed

that it might be impossible for our small community to raise the needed funds. But we knew it was a *necessary* step if we are to expand our ministry. And most significantly for us, we felt it was a step that God was asking us to take.

So we took the step and you were generous. And now our new Center will allow us to offer, for the first time, our Encounter with Jesus retreats, *here at the Mission on a monthly basis*. This is an answer to fifteen years of prayer.

We thank God for His faithfulness and abundant mercy towards this little Mission.

And to our donors — we raise our glass to you! ♦

FROM FR. JOHN MARY:

THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

*A Practical Strategy of Divine Mercy for Our World
Through Faith in the Holy Eucharist.*

"When faced with the gravity of sin, God responds with the fullness of Mercy..."

— Pope Francis From *Misericordiae Vultus*

A JUBILEE YEAR FOR A WORLD IN NEED OF MERCY

Our world is in desperate need of God's Mercy. We have seen the graphic videos of the "harvesting" of the organs of aborted babies by Planned Parenthood. We have seen or heard the accounts of Christians being tortured, raped, and martyred by ISIS and Boko Haram. Within our country a very successful campaign is targeting the very foundations of marriage and the family.

For this suffering world, beset by evil, Pope Francis has proclaimed a Jubilee Year of Mercy. It begins on December 8th, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and it ends on November 20th, 2016 the Solemnity of Christ the King.

What can we do, effectively, to help a world with so many deep problems? What can we do specifically during this Jubilee Year? And what are we of MDM called to offer?

With this meditation, I want to present a brief response to these questions.

THE SOLUTION IS IN THIS LITTLE HOST....

The most effective solution to our world's suffering is available to us every day in the Tabernacle and at Mass.

In a quote that I never tire of using, St. John Paul II says,

"In this little Host is the solution to all the problems of the world."

An amazing — and very deliberate — affirmation! St John Paul proclaimed that in the little Host, consecrated at Mass, is the solution to all the problems of the world. In the Host the Lord of Mercy is *fully present*, in His Body and Blood, His Soul and the fullness of His Divinity!

And St. Faustina says: *"Hidden Jesus, in You lies all my strength. ... All the strength of my soul flows from the Blessed Sacrament...."* (1404)

But why don't we experience the solution that St. John Paul proclaims, or feel the strength that St. Faustina refers to?

Because something very necessary is still lacking. *Something that depends on us.*

FAITH NEEDED

It is not the physical presence of Jesus that magically transforms humanity. At the moment of His birth, the whole world didn't immediately convert. We see this so clearly in the very town where He grew up and spent most of His life, Nazareth. When He had begun His public ministry and came back to preach there, the Gospel says that He could not work many miracles there. Why? Because of their lack of faith.

It is faith, our trust in Him, which permits His graces to flow. As Jesus says often to those He heals: *"Your faith has saved you."* *And it is faith in His Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist that permits His graces to flow into us from the Sacrament.*

St Faustina recounts that once, *"When I steeped myself in prayer, I was transported in spirit to the Chapel, where I saw the Lord Jesus, exposed in the Monstrance. In place of the Monstrance I saw the glorious Face of the Lord, and He said to me, "What you see in reality, these souls see through faith. Oh, how pleasing to Me is their great faith! You see, although there appears to be no trace of life in Me, in reality it is present in its fullness in each and every Host. But for Me to be able to act upon the soul, the soul must have faith. O how pleasing to Me is living faith! (1420)"*

"But for Me to be able to act upon the soul, the soul must have faith."

Faith — or trust — is the "vessel", the "container" we need in order to receive the graces that flow from this fountain. *"...understand that the strength by which you bear sufferings comes from frequent Communions. So approach this fountain of mercy often, to draw with the vessel of trust whatever you need."* (1487).

LOST GRACES

Tragically for us, so many graces are lost for lack of this faith:

"...When I come to a human heart in Holy Communion, My hands are full of all kinds of graces which I want to give to the soul. But souls do not even pay any attention to Me; they leave Me to Myself and busy themselves with other things. Oh, how sad I am that souls do not recognize Love! They treat Me as a dead object." (1385)

SIGNS TO HELP FAITH

Faith in something as mysterious as Our Lord's Presence in the Eucharist is not



easy. In fact, it is so difficult that when He first revealed it, He lost many of His disciples, who found this teaching too hard. This is a problem that continues to this very day. We see it revealed in surveys taken in recent decades which clearly show a crisis of faith in His Real Presence.

Resolving this lack of faith requires the *interior graces* of the Holy Spirit. We cannot make a true act of faith without His assistance.

But the Lord also gives *exterior signs* to help us grow in faith in His Real Presence. He used and continues to use miracles as signs, including many Eucharistic Miracles. We have also been given the witness of a multitude of saints whose lives are testimonies to the power of the Eucharist.

What is the role of these signs? Very simply, God gives us these signs to help us to believe. To help us to go beyond the appearances and enter into contact with our Lord by faith.

But it is important to realize that *we can also be a sign for others*. How? First of all, by our fidelity to His Gospel. And in particular, by our love and reverence for His Pres-

ence in the Holy Eucharist. Let me give some simple examples that are accessible to all of us:

The very act of regularly making the sacrifice of going to Mass or Adoration, when we could be doing so many other things, is an eloquent sign of how much we value the Holy Eucharist.

- ♦ The way we dress for Mass can be a sign.
- ♦ Arriving early for Mass so that we can take time to settle our spirit and focus ourselves.
- ♦ The genuflection that we make upon entering into His Real Presence is a clear sign. We don't make the genuflection upon entering into Walmart or McDonald's. In fact we don't make a genuflection anywhere else. And taking the time to make this act mindfully is a simple way in which the gesture itself becomes a sign for ourselves and others that we are entering into the Presence of a Mystery.
- ♦ Helping to maintain the reverent silence in church, an oasis in the middle of the noisy and agitated world, helps us and others to listen to Him who speaks in silence.
- ♦ Kneeling and bowing also express the spirit of adoration of His Divine Presence.
- ♦ Receiving Holy Communion on the tongue is a sign that this is no ordinary food but the unique Bread from Heaven.

Sometimes these traditional signs are seen by some as rigid and formalistic. And they certainly can be lived that way. But properly lived, they are actually instruments of mercy for our own soul and the souls of others. They lead us to the difficult but saving faith in our Lord and His Eucharistic Presence. And making use of these signs is a practical way of leading people to the Lord of Mercy.

AT THE MISSION

At the Mission of Divine Mercy, during this Jubilee Year of Mercy, we want to help people encounter Jesus, the Lord of Mercy, through a renewed act of faith in the Holy Eucharist. While this has been a constant effort of our ministry, we will be enlarging our efforts in two new ways.

EXPANDED EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

First, we will begin to offer weekly expanded hours of Eucharistic Adoration at the Mission; making it available on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. (See page 10) Eventually we hope to offer Perpetual Adoration at the Mission; this is an important step in that direction.

ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS RETREATS

Starting in January, 2016, we will once again offer our Encounter With Jesus Retreats, with the intention of offering them twice a month. (See page 8) This is something that we've been working towards for many years and that the completion of the O'Callaghan Divine Mercy Center now makes possible. The goal of these Encounters is simply to lead people to a renewed faith in our Lord's Presence in the Holy Eucharist.

DAILY PRAYER

In addition to these particular offerings, we continue to invite everyone to join us for our daily Community Mass and hours of Adoration.

CONCLUSION

We can feel overwhelmed and discouraged by so much that is happening today. **But in this Holy Eucharist is the solution to all the problems of the world.** By our faith those graces begin to flow. And we can participate in offering concrete signs that strengthen this faith. ♦

Jesus, we trust in You.



Our new Beth-el House — see page 12

Encounter with Jesus Retreats

To begin in January

*"I didn't leave with a high,
I left with a deep...."*

That comment, which we've often cited, was from a woman who made one of our earliest ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS retreats.

For the last few years, due to our lack of facilities, we had suspended our EWJ retreats and concentrated on the requests for the weekend day retreats. But the EWJ is the primary apostolic work to which our Mission is called.

Now with the newly completed O'Callaghan Divine Mercy Center available we are happily able to offer these retreats once again. And we feel that it is Providential that they will coincide with the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

People often told us that the Encounters were too short. We felt so too. So we are expanding them to begin on Thursday evening, instead of Friday, and continuing to run them through Sunday afternoon. This should permit a more peaceful, relaxed program.

The EWJ is a simple, primarily silent, retreat that helps someone to encounter – or encounter more deeply – the Person of Jesus. It does this by introducing them to silent prayer and Eucharistic Adoration. But it can also at times be an intense and demanding retreat because it is forming us for the serious challenges that we face today.

One of the challenges is the silence. This is a sacrifice, but one that allows each person to go through a time of more intense spiri-

tual training. It is a challenge that prepares one for the deeper work of the Holy Spirit. This is done through time before the Eucharist; through presentations; and through learning to begin to listen to God within the silence of one's heart. By the end of the retreat, many say that they don't want the silence to end.

For some, another challenge may be the sleeping arrangements. Initially, overnight accommodations will be furnished by transforming the main room of St. Michael's Hall into one big dormitory. While this situation is not ideal, it allows us to begin the retreats sooner rather than later.

The retreats are for anyone 18 years and older. And whether one is saint or sinner, new convert or cradle Catholic, mystical or miserable, it doesn't matter. One size – the Heart of Jesus – fits all. All that is necessary is that the retreatant *truly wants* to seek Him.

***"If anyone is thirsting,
let him come to Me..." (Jn 7:37)***

If anyone is thirsting...

...thirsting for the Truth

...thirsting for authentic Love

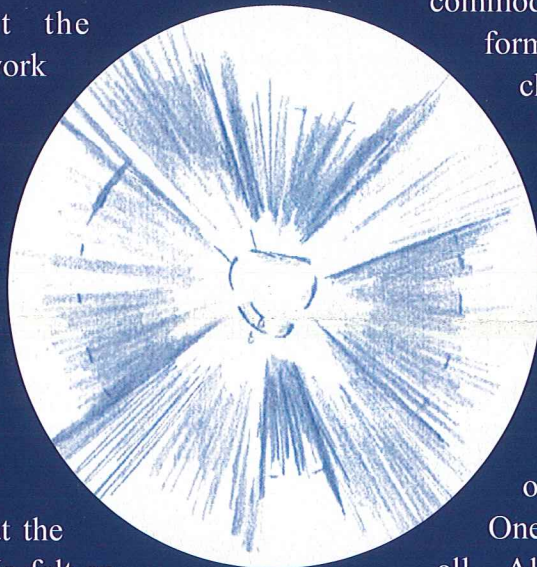
...thirsting for God.

Jesus calls out to you.

*Only He can satisfy
the deepest thirst of your soul.*

Only He gives peace.

Are you thirsty? ♦



COMING OF AGE IN AN AGE OF ANGUISH: EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

By Mother Magdalene

*"I am so desperately worried,
fearful and alone."*

That was the statement of a gentleman from far away who sent us a prayer request several months ago. I copied down that phrase from his email because for me it summed up so well what we are hearing on all sides. Whether one is affluent or struggling, single or with family, priest or layman, doesn't seem to make a difference. There is an epidemic of anguish - of interior anguish - in our world today.

A woman spoke to me recently at the Mission. "When I first began coming here," she said, "I thought everybody here was happy; they were all so kind and smiling. Now, as I get to know different individuals, I'm realizing how much suffering they're carrying. But maybe it's that they're carrying it with Faith."

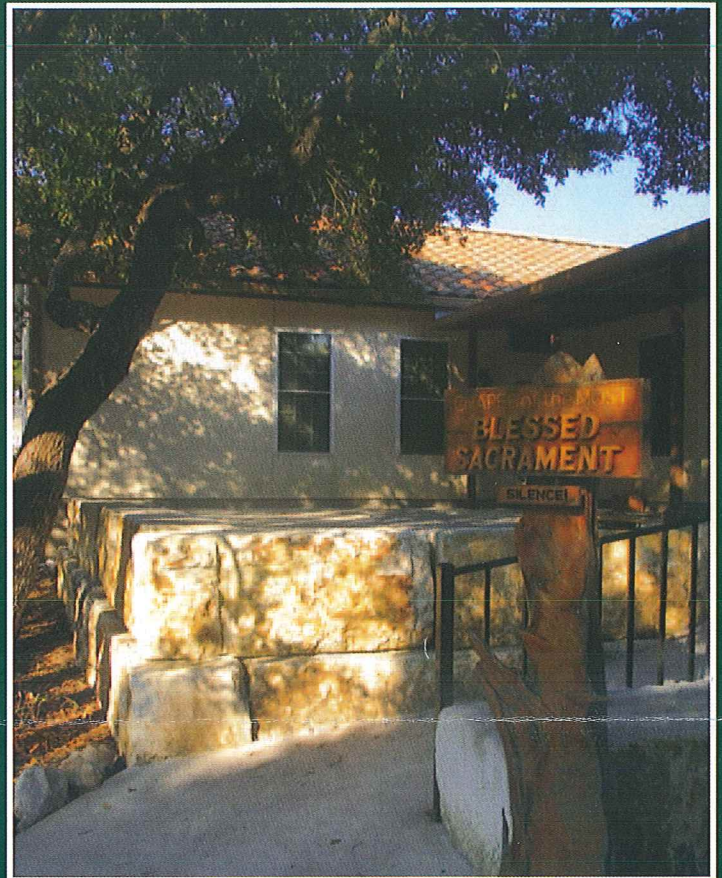
*IN THIS LITTLE HOST IS THE SOLUTION
TO ALL THE PROBLEMS OF THE WORLD."*

This December, as Churches all over the world will observe the inauguration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, our Mission will reach a long-awaited milestone: We will finally begin to have extended Eucharistic Adoration here.

Ever since the Mission property was purchased we have understood it's vocation as that of Monastery, Sanctuary and Retreat Center. And it seems that within this next year we may begin to live all three aspects with a much deeper fullness. **But it is especially the aspect of Sanctuary that is galvanized and transformed through His extended Eucharistic Presence.**

Because in this age of anguish what do people need more than ever? We need the Refuge and Sanctuary that is Jesus Himself.

And what is the greatest mercy to be extended to us in this Jubilee year? It is forgiveness

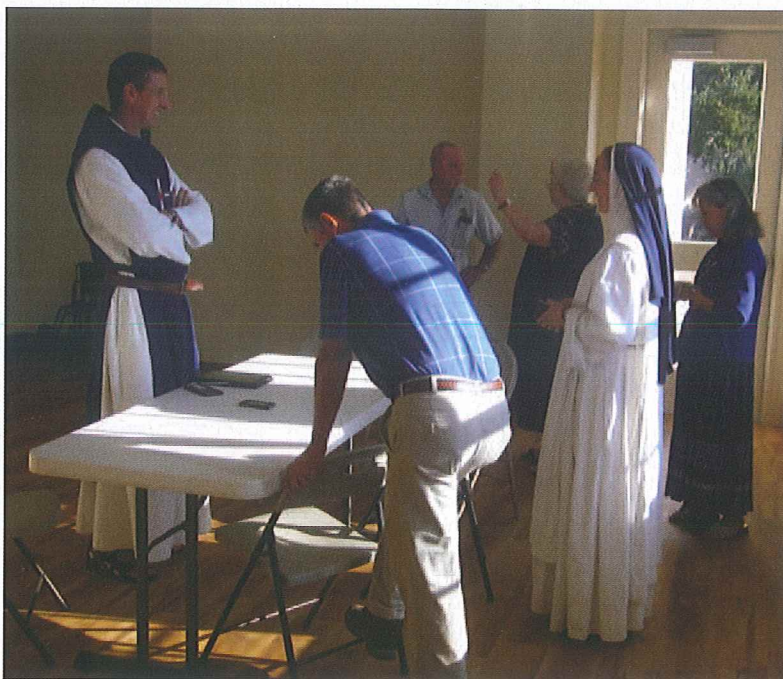
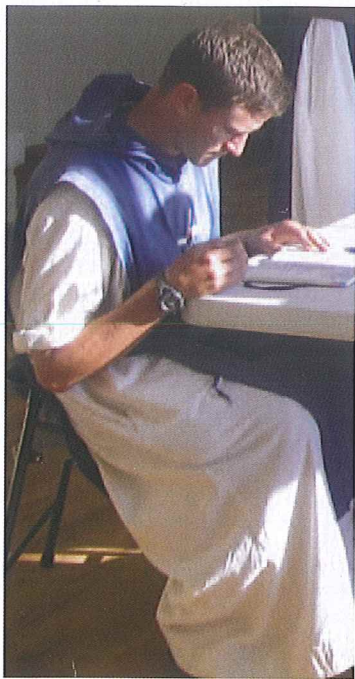


and a way back to the Arms of the Father.

And in this world of annihilating injustice what is the first and most essential justice? What is that which must be observed if Grace is to be restored among men? That God be recognized, honored, adored, and loved as God.

In the Eucharist we find the Embrace of the Father, the Heart of the Son, the Balm of the Comforter. **There is nothing in us nor in this world that cannot begin to heal before the Tabernacle.** In this Jubilee Year of Mercy we give thanks that we are finally able to begin offering to you this Refuge of Mercy Himself. ♦

*"Come to Me all you who are weary
and heavily burdened
and you will find rest for your souls."*



EWJ Retreat dates — Spring of 2016

January	21-24	Women (English)	May	12-15	Women (Spanish)
				26-29	Women (English)
February	11-14	Men (English)			
	25-28	Women (English)	June	9-12	Men (English)
				23-26	Men (Spanish)
March	10-13	Women (Spanish)			
April	21-24	Women (English)			
	28-1	Men (English)			

*Registrations will open in November.
More information available soon
on our website.*

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

WHERE: Most Blessed Sacrament Chapel, St. Michael's Hall.

WHEN: Beginning Tuesday, **December 8**, Feast of the Immaculate Conception and inauguration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

TIME: On **Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays** from the end of the 8am Mass (9am) through the close of Holy Hour at 8pm.

THE GIFT OF ADORATION: If you would like to commit to one hour of adoration each week during the Jubilee Year, please go to our website and click on the Eucharistic Adoration tab. You will find a listing of the available hours and contact information. If you don't have on-line access, you can call **Pat Fox** at **830-905-4515** or **830-214-3068**.

Otherwise, anyone who wants to come and spend time with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament is welcome. **OUT OF RESPECT FOR THE LORD AND FOR OTHERS IN THE CHAPEL PLEASE COMPLY WITH OUR REQUEST FOR MODEST DRESS.** ♦

ON THE ROAD TO A CANON LAW DEGREE

This past summer found me on the road for several weeks of studies in Ottawa, Canada and Florence, Italy, as part of a three-year cycle of courses that will, God-willing, conclude with my being awarded a *Juris Canonici Licentia* (J.C.L.) degree in June 2017. This will essentially make me a “Church lawyer,” able to practice law within the Church.

You might be wondering why a Priest who is trying to live a contemplative life would be studying canon law. In the words of Archbishop Gustavo, “*because it makes a Priest even more pastoral, and is a real practical help in being an instrument of the Lord’s Mercy for the world of today.*” Priests often study canon law in order to assist a Bishop in governing a diocese. While that won’t be my role, it certainly will be useful for assisting Fr. John Mary in the governance of our community, particularly for aspects of our life such as the formation of new vocations, structure and governance in religious life, the liturgy, etc..

Earning the J.C.L. requires six full-time semesters of study at a pontifical university. I’m blessed to be participating in a new program offered by the Pontifical University of St. Paul in Ottawa Canada. Through this program Priests from around the world—in my class we have Priests from Guam, Africa, Europe, North America, and India—can take most of their courses online, while spending six weeks each spring on campus.

This year, the second of three, will be particularly intense with around 33 credit hours. Please pray for me! It should be very interesting, with courses on religious life, the rights of the Christian faithful, the Sacraments, the teaching office of the Church, and so on. One particular benefit of the studies is the personal

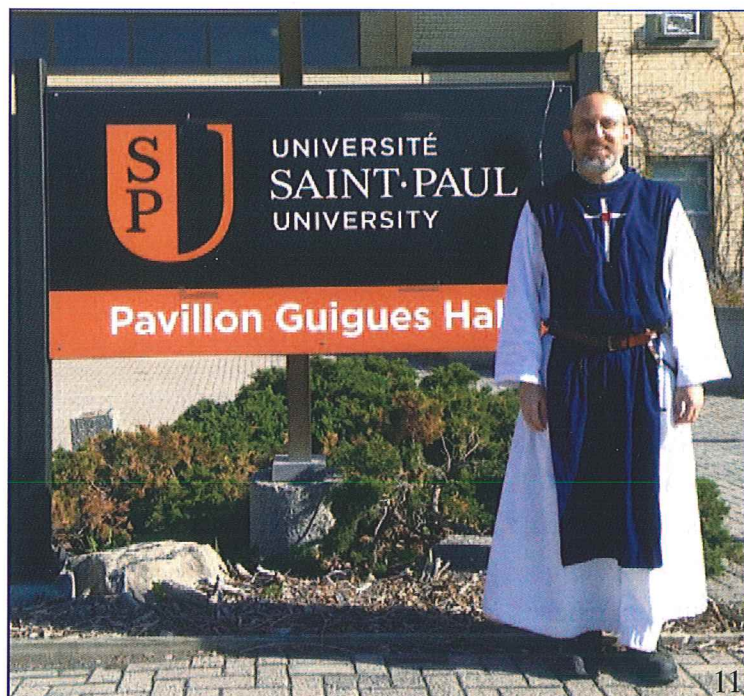
By Fr. Moses of Jesus

contact with top-notch professors (both on campus and at a distance). For example, last winter I studied the Church’s canonization procedures with Msgr. Robert Sarno who works in the Vatican’s Congregation for the Causes of Saints. A few months later I needed help with some research, sent him an email, and received a prompt response.

Given the importance of understanding Italian in the study of canon law, I was blessed to spend two weeks in Italy this past summer, participating in a language immersion program while living with a very kind Florentine family. Though not yet fluent, I was conversational by the end of the two weeks and can now read Italian more easily.

Another benefit of the trip to Italy was that it allowed me to do some first-hand research for my J.C.L. thesis which will be on the writings of Maria Valtorta. Valtorta was a 20th century mystic who is buried in Florence’s *Ba-*

(Continued on next page)





(Continued from page 11)

silica della Santissima Annunziata. I was able to visit her home and meet the editor of her works: Dr. Emilio Pisani. It also allowed me to read in the original Italian the analysis of her works by Blessed Gabriel Allegra—a world renowned scriptural exegete and promoter of Valtorta’s writings.

God-willing, after June, 2017 I will be able to serve our little community as a canon lawyer. While the upcoming year will be a particularly intense year of studies, during which I would ask for your patience in regard to my availability, the studies have already begun to bear fruit for our life and our work here.

Our Lady Seat of Wisdom, pray for me! ♦

This past summer saw the purchase and dedication of Beth-el House, a second MDM house for men. Beth-el House perches on the rim of the hill overlooking the main campus of the Mission, where it is one of the most visible houses viewed from the Mission. The house was not purchased because we were currently in need of space, but rather because it seemed that God wanted us to do so.

The Community had been approached last year by the owners of the house. The owners were leaving the area and offering to sell the house to MDM before putting it on the market. As we were deeply involved in building the OCDMC, we were not looking to purchase *anything*. However the location of the house, bordering on and overlooking the main campus of the Mission, made it strategically important for several reasons. If the next owners of the house decided to play loud music or have raucous parties on the deck of the house, it would greatly impact the serenity of the Mission and any retreat being held here. In Dave Sommers words: “We need to protect our perimeter.”

Also the house, located half way between the Sisters’ residence and the Brothers’ original house, was the best solution for giving the Sisters walking access to the Mission.

We were in a quandary. We knew that we shouldn’t pass up the opportunity to secure the property, and we knew that the additional living space would be useful as the Community grew and our apostolate expanded. But there was that little problem of money.

Beth-el House

Fr John Mary had sensed for a while that the Lord was asking us to buy it. And when he asked, "But, Lord, how will we pay for it?" he sensed the Lord saying that He would provide. Once again, we were being asked to trust.

While the Angels did not conjure money out of thin air, what happened did seem Providential. Some friends of the Mission, Andy and Linda Landrum, had been talking to us for a while about their desire to help the Mission and to do something in memory of Andy's Mother.

A few months after the house was offered to us, the Landrums returned to the Mission with a financial gift that would allow us to purchase the house free and clear. It seemed that God was making His will evident through the Landrums' generosity.

Though none of the men were anxious to move again, it was clear that the new house should not be left vacant. And there was another consideration: the Church recommends that there be a novitiate house, to focus on the formation of new vocations, that is separate from the rest of the community. With two new young men signed up for the fall semester of the St. Gabriel Institute, it was decided that the original house, under the direction of Fr. Moses, would function as the novitiate house, and that Fr. John Mary and Br. Mikael would take up residence at Beth-el House.

The house was blessed on July 10th and christened "Beth-el" which means "House of God." This was the name that came in prayer. Please pray with us that it may truly realize its name. ♦

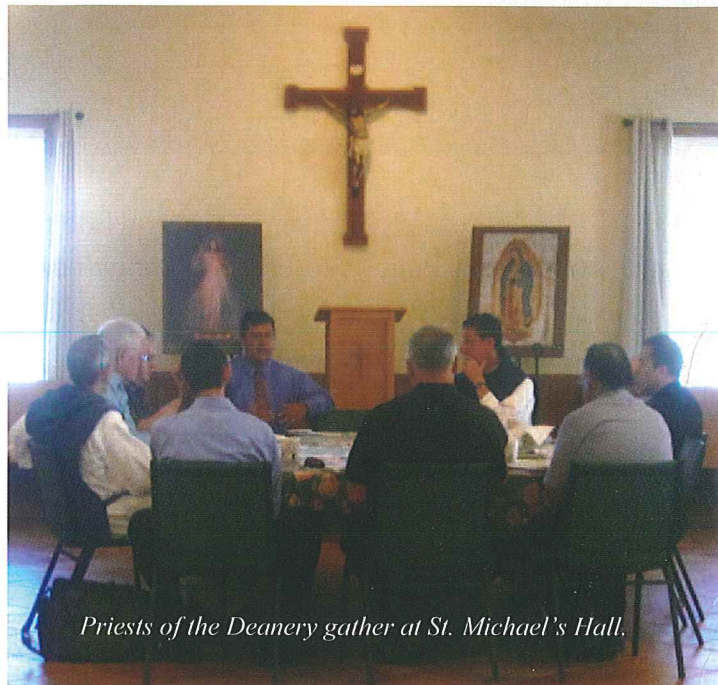


Leaving Beth-el House to go down to the Mission





*Visiting with
Monsignor and
Mary Kay*



Priests of the Deanery gather at St. Michael's Hall.

Trust and Gratitude

We have never been in a position where our monthly income from donations covered our monthly expenses. In fact we have only been able to pay our monthly bills because of the occasional large donations that help us meet expenses. This is part of trusting in Jesus, and why we call steadily on the help of the Holy Angels.

Making a large donation is not possible for everyone. But perhaps a smaller monthly donation is. We want all of our friends to know that regular monthly donations are extremely valuable in helping us plan for and meet our monthly bills. If you are not already doing so, we are asking you to prayerfully consider whether you could help the Mission by making a regular donation from your checking account, or credit card, or by mail.

If you would like to help the Mission through a one-time gift, or a regularly reoccurring gift on your credit card, you can use the gift envelope included in this newsletter. Or if you would like to establish a direct deposit from your bank account or credit card, please contact Jackie at 830-905-4515 and she will be happy to help you set it up.

Thank you. Jesus, we trust in You. Holy Angels of God, help this Mission. ♦

Sunday Mass Time Change — Beginning in January

The beginning of our Encounter With Jesus retreats will necessitate a time change in our Sunday Mass schedule. **Beginning Sunday, January 3, 2016, our regular Sunday Mass will be offered at 11 AM.** This time best accommodates the EWJ retreat schedule while still allowing us to offer Mass for all those who wish to make a Sunday pilgrimage to the Mission.

Also beginning in January **we will need to cancel the once-a-month Spanish Sunday Mass** in order to accommodate the new time change. The 11 a.m. Sunday Mass will be in Spanish when the EWJ retreat is in Spanish. (March 13, May 15, June 26).

The Traditional Latin Mass will continue to be offered at 8 AM on Sundays for those who wish to make a pilgrimage to the Mission. ♦

Schedule of Activities for the Fall

NOVEMBER 7

Archdiocesan Assembly

NOVEMBER 22

MDM Anniversary Celebration

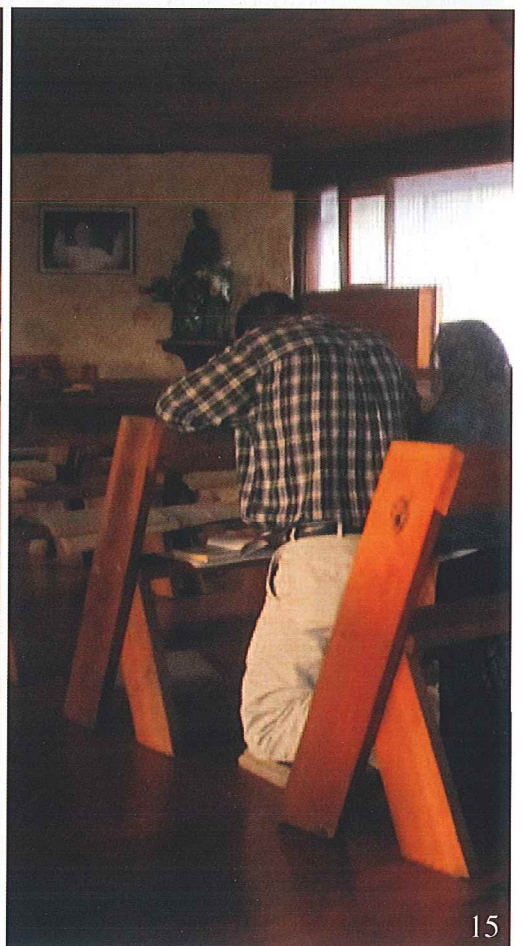
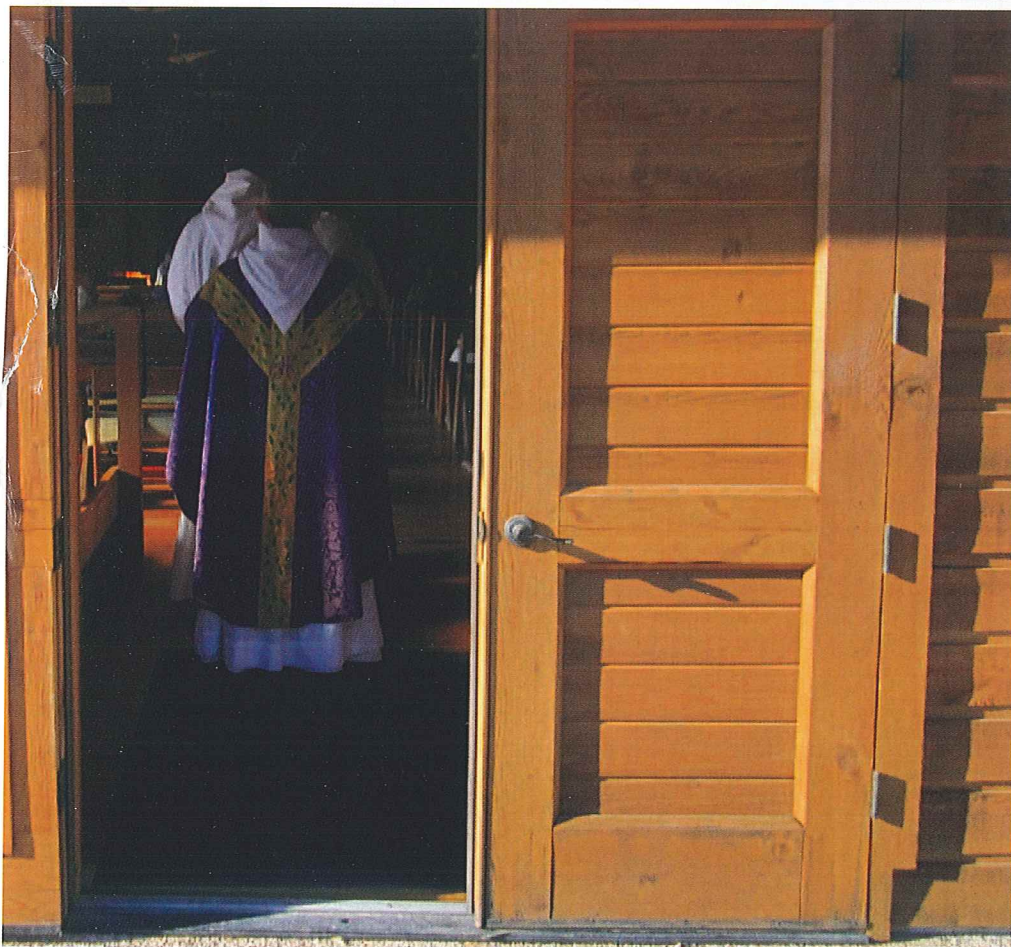
DECEMBER 8

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Beginning of the Year of Mercy

Beginning of Extended Adoration

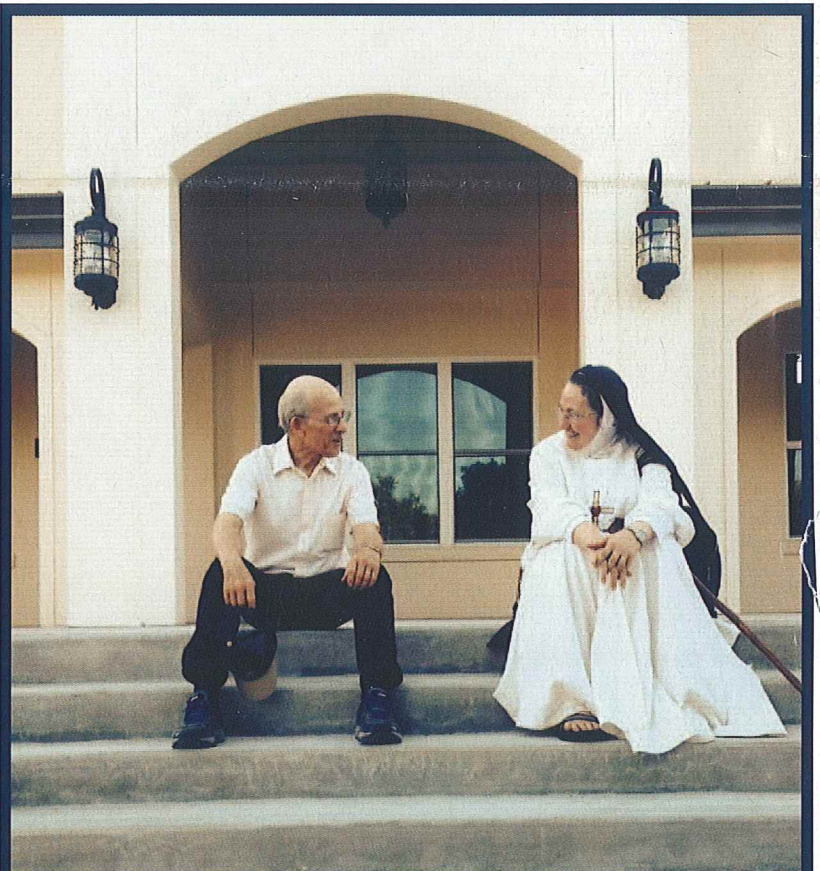
at the Mission





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*Holy Angels of God,
Help this Mission!*



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