

Mission of Divine Mercy

Lent 2006, A.D.

Dear Friends,

We are scrambling to get this out to you as quickly as possible. We want to give you the **schedule of our activities** for this spring and summer in the hope that you might be able to participate in them. Or maybe you know someone else who would be interested and you could pass this on to them.

This is a BIG step for us, offering all these activities at the Mission. Right now, we are really feeling “under the gun” trying to respond to all that has to be done. But we feel that this is the direction to which the Lord is calling us.

In order to expand our week-end retreat ministry, we have had to cease celebrating a regular Sunday Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in New Braunfels. This will permit us to reach out to people and parishes beyond Sts. Peter and Paul, as Msgr. O’Callaghan has encouraged us to do. We are very grateful to Monsignor and to so many friends there for all the blessings of these past four years.

We also want to inform you about the **St. Michael’s Hall**, which has evolved very quickly from just an idea to groundbreaking. [See accompanying article.]

To get this news out to you right away we’ve had to simplify our usual format. No artwork, original sketches or spiritual reflections. This time it’s more of a “just the facts, Ma’m” newsletter.

Please pray for us. We’re encouraged by all that is happening at the Mission but it’s a lot for our little community and band of friends.

With our prayers for you this Lent and Easter... and hoping you can join us at the Mission especially to celebrate the feast of Divine Mercy on April 23.

In His Mercy,

Fr John Mary and the Mission of Divine Mercy ♦

A New Building: St. Michael’s Hall

This began with an idea of Sr. Magdalene’s. That, of course, made us wary ☺. But as we discussed it in the committees and the idea evolved, everyone thought it was a good idea; even one that was necessary and urgent.

The project for the retreat center is ambitious; and it will take time to raise funds and then

build. Meanwhile, we’ve been facing the problem of how to respond *right now* to the requests that we are getting. We’ve needed a sturdy, economical, and multi-purpose building that would permit us to begin scheduling indoor activities at the Mission right away without being at the mercy of the weather.

(Continued on page 2)

Thus the idea developed for **St. Michael's Hall**. It will have a larger room (32' by 50') that can be used for Mass, talks or gatherings of about 100 people. It can also become a dormitory to accommodate 30 cots.

Adjoining it will be a smaller conference room for about 30 people. During overnight retreats, when the large room is serving as a dormitory, this room can be used for the talks. Its wall can also be opened to expand the capacity of the larger room.

Beyond the larger room will be some bathrooms, showers, and a storage room. The building will also be near the public restrooms that already exist at the Mission, and across the road from the camp house which has an available kitchen.

Modest facilities-- but they do permit us to accommodate many more activities. And they will be useful in all sorts of ways even when the future facilities are built. The dormitory setting is especially adapted to youth activities.



Many adults have spoken to us about their desire for a private room

during a retreat. We heartily agree, and hope to have them in the future. But we cannot afford them now. It is possible, though, for retreatants to lodge in a nearby motel for the night.



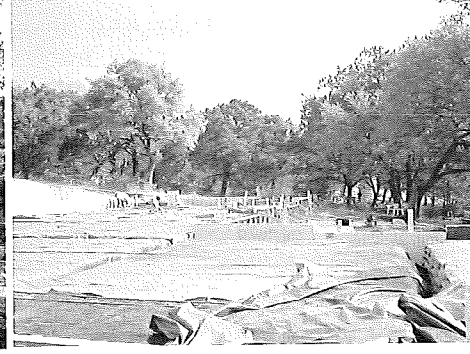
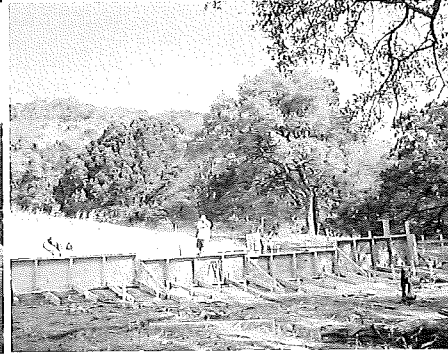
No donations that were destined for the larger project are being used for this. A friend, who happened to learn of this project, made a very generous donation specifically to make this possible. That seemed like a sign from the Lord. Then an architectural designer told our contractor he'd do the design work pro bono. That also seemed like a sign. Other donations have covered the lion's share of the budget so far.

So when will it be ready? We hope by May, God willing. As we write this, the foundations are being prepared.

We felt we should name it St. Michael's Hall. We feel a special devotion to St. Michael and the Holy Angels and are glad to honor them. And since our first youth group is the St.

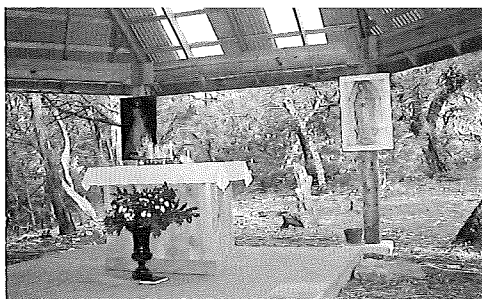
Michael Squadron, and this building will be especially for youth, it seemed fitting.

*St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle... ♦*



Upgrading St. Joseph's Pavilion

What can we do economically and quickly to improve *Mission la Divina Misericordia* and expand our ability to host activities? That's the urgent challenge we are faced with now.



St. Joseph's Pavilion, as

we've heard people say so many times, is a very attractive space. Therefore, this spring we are planning some basic improvements to make it much more effective and usable.

This will involve building a small oratory (similar to a tiny chapel) where the Blessed Sacrament can be kept during our activities. This building will also contain a sacristy and storage area. (The building will be roughly 16' by 24').

Also, we will be improving the sanctuary (the area around the altar). Many thanks to those who recently installed the lighting and sound system!



So please excuse the mess in the meantime. And come join us some time for Mass there. From mess... to Mass.... The story of our lives ☺ ♦

Dave's Corner

Okay, folks, many of you have been asking me what we need help with. Here it is. Any contributions to help defray expenses for the following would be appreciated:

St. Michael's Hall:

- 30 portable beds
- 150 sturdy folding chairs
- Also, the Community has their eye on a large Crucifix, and on a tall, well-crafted statue of Our Blessed Mother, and one of St. Michael for the main hall.

St. Joseph's Pavilion:

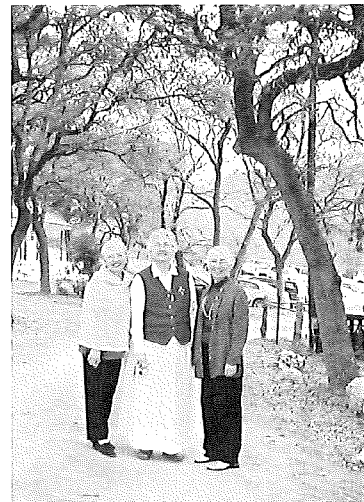
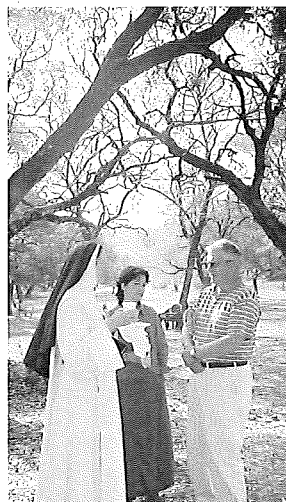
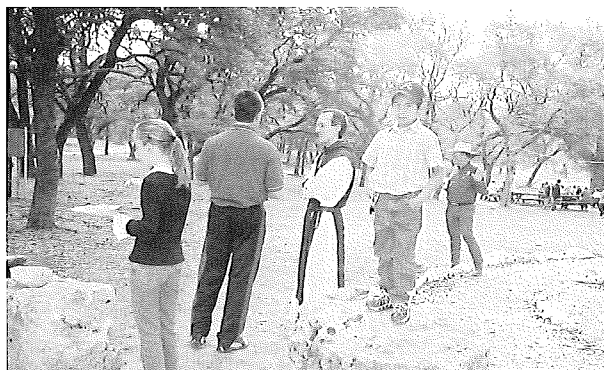
- Concrete slab and steps for Sanctuary floor
- Cedar wall to enclose the Sanctuary

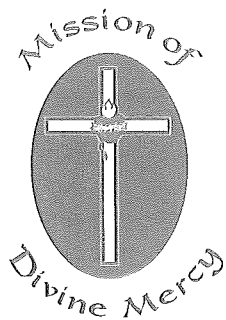
Small Oratory/Sacristy/Storage building

- General construction and building materials
- Refinishing an old (but beautiful) Tabernacle
- Cabinetry for the sacristy

If you want to help us, or have any questions, please contact me at (830) 905-4515 (office), (830) 534-9028 (cell) or mdmworldhq@gtvc.com or Don Maxwell at (830) 606-4115 or (830) 620-8777. ♦

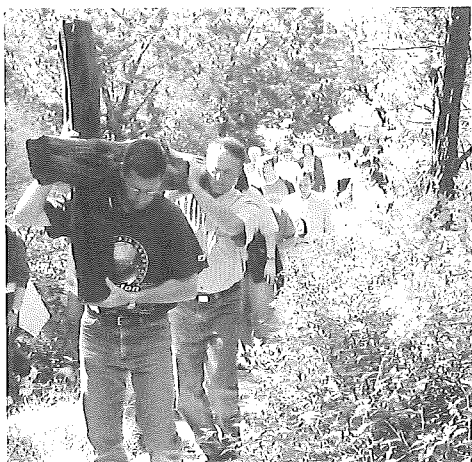
Dave Sommers
Director of Operations





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*"...because by Thy Holy Cross
Thou hast redeemed the world."*

