

September 2006 A.D.

Mission of Divine Mercy

St. Michael's Hall

Having initiated last November the plans for the O'Callaghan Center and Retreat facilities – a multi-million dollar project that will take several years to realize – we began work on an 'interim' building that could be immediately available for apostolates at the Mission. For eight weeks our Project Committee went round and round discussing different possibilities; voicing strong opinions on size, design, materials, method, cost; seemingly going in circles getting nowhere.

Then two things happened: 1) We put out a special prayer plea to our Saturday morning Mass crowd; 2) and, coming out of Eucharistic adoration, one of our Committee members, John Weber, became convinced that we needed to call a special meeting to make a decision. He called a special meeting to do exactly that and amazingly the clouds suddenly lifted. Agreement was reached and the plan began to take shape.

With Mr. George Lynn volunteering to do the architectural design pro bono, two people coming forward unsolicited to donate the lion's share of the cost, and friends contributing

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Junior Squadron Camp

By Brother Moses

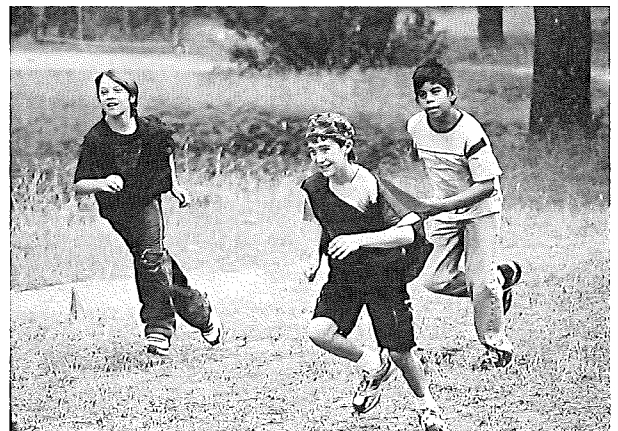
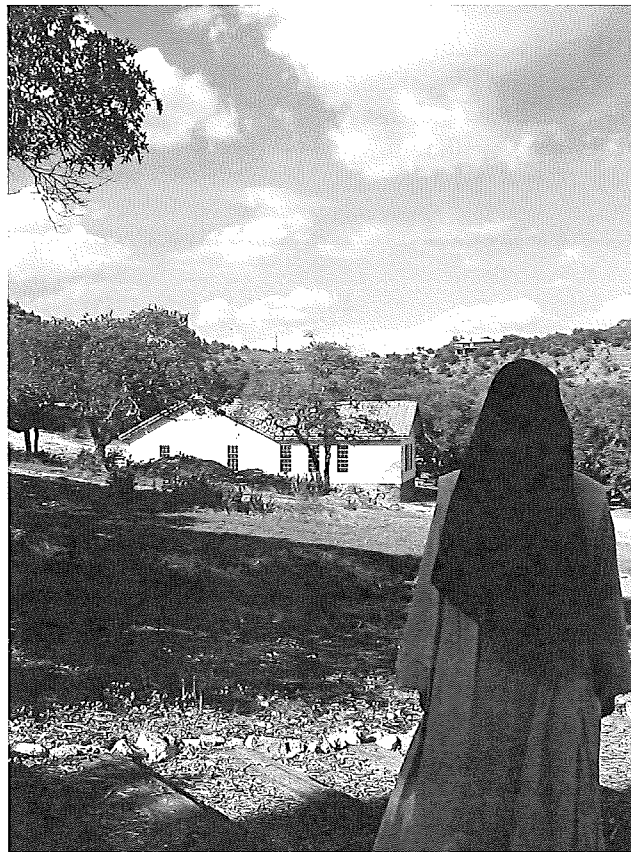
*"I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams..."*

—Joel 2:28

These words of the Prophet Joel come vividly to mind when we think of this summer's St. Michael's camps. The boys experienced the direct action of the Holy Spirit so strongly in their lives that Fr John Mary said, "I've been working with youth ministry over 20 years. But there was an activity of the Lord here that I hadn't seen before."

It began on June 1st a blisteringly hot Texas summer afternoon, when twenty-four young men (nineteen from middle-school as campers and five older boys as team members), gathered to begin the first ever St. Michael's Camp for the Junior Squadron. Two weeks

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Special Message

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Color photos

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Project Update

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These last seven months have been some of the busiest in the short history of our Community: eighteen events in seventeen weeks, and at one point four simultaneous construction sites. Hindsight also reveals the deep graces that were not always apparent at close-range. Grace can closely resemble stress ☺.

In the category of **material development** at the Mission the big news was the construction (miraculously swift) of St. Michael's Hall. But it was only one of several physical improvements that took place at the Mission this spring. [See Project Update].

Our Director of Operations **Dave Sommers**, our always civil engineer **John Weber**, and our contractor **Kevin Butschek** issue a collective sigh whenever the Community has to agree on a design. But the handsome results of these collaborative efforts have satisfied all involved.

Aside from construction it was a season of apostolic "firsts" with many events occurring for the first time at the Mission. (And it involved a steep learning curve for us with new activities in new facilities.) From February through June we hosted groups that

included the Men's ACTS Team, the Teen ACTS Team from Seguin, Project Rachel, and the Married Couples Shared Prayer Retreat. In addition there were our regular MDM — Saturday Morning Mass; meetings of the St. Michael's Junior and Senior Squadrons; the Queen of Peace Prayer Group; and our MDM Lay Branch — which met at the Mission for the first time on Palm Sunday.

TRIDUUM

During our first Holy Week at the Mission construction coincided with liturgy.

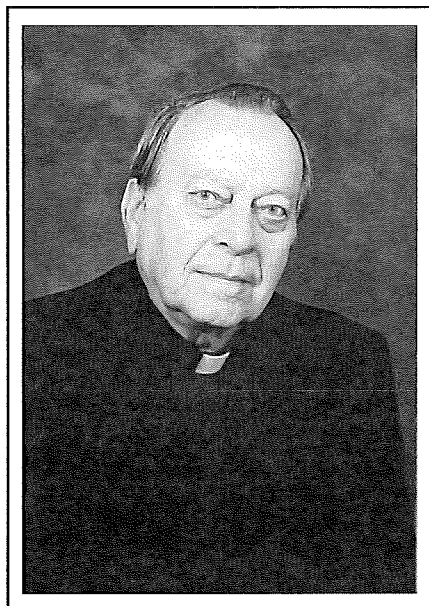
Palm Sunday: We celebrate Mass at a temporary side altar because newly poured cement covers the floor of the Sanctuary at St. Joseph's.

Holy Thursday Evening: Guests arrive to find a surprise; a beautiful new limestone wall frames the sanctuary. The niche in this wall forms the Altar of Repose for the Blessed Sacrament after Mass with people keeping vigil there till midnight.

Good Friday and Holy Saturday Morning —

(Continued on page 6)

In Memoriam



In the early morning hours of Thursday, April 20, Monsignor Edward Bily passed from death to life. It was the Thursday of Easter Week, the seventh day of the Divine Mercy Novena. And the Novena itself seemed to provide his epitaph.

Because for the past few years Msgr. Bily had been present faithfully at the Thursday Evening Holy Hours to help with confessions. When the Holy Hour began he would poke his head in at the back of the Church and then leave. Next he began to stay, still kneeling quietly in the back of the Church. Finally one evening before a Feast we asked him if he would help hear confessions. After that no invitation was needed. He came faithfully from that point on.

And while he could be a bit cantankerous in certain situations, in the confessional he was compassion itself.

And so on April 20th when we prayed the Divine Mercy Novena we rejoiced with Msgr. Bily. Because Jesus had told St. Faustina that the sacrament of Confession was the Tribunal of His Mercy; and the intention of the seventh day of the Novena was for "THE SOULS WHO ESPECIALLY VENERATE AND GLORIFY MY MERCY"; and the prayer closed with these words:

"Let there be accomplished in them the promise of Jesus, Who said to them that during their life, but especially at the hour of their death, the souls who will venerate this fathomless Mercy of His, He, Himself, will defend as His glory. Amen."

Amen, Msgr. Bily. Amen, indeed!

Holy Hours at the Mission



This August was another big step for MDM: the beginning of our 7:00 pm Thursday **Holy Hours** at the Mission. That day and that hour recall Holy Thursday when at the Last Supper Our Lord gave us the Eucharist. We invite you to join us. Or join us spiritually if you can't come physically.

For this occasion, we thought it would be good to include this little reflection on the Holy Eucharist. It comes from one of our friends who received it in prayer.

I, your Jesus, the Son of Mary Immaculate, came down from Heaven to incarnate Myself in the most pure womb of My Mother and your Mother. And as I am present now in Heaven, so also I am present on the earth, under the species of bread and wine. That is a divine mystery which man cannot, and will never be able to comprehend until arriving in Heaven, until seeing Me there. And for that reason, My presence in the Eucharist has remained veiled, except to the eyes of faith, because it is so great a thing that the wisdom of the Most High allows only chosen souls to believe and to comprehend it, souls whose humility flowers like a lily at the feet of the Creator.

Daughter, today, Thursday, the day dedicated to My Sacrament of Love, honor Me and adore Me in the Holy Eucharist. There I am, always waiting for your visits, visits of love to Him who is humbly waiting for you, the Divine Prisoner of Love.

My daughter, if people would ever come to understand, if they would ever fully appreciate Who it is Who is there present, how different would their behavior become! They would leave behind the thousand other things that they do, and which are all without real importance, to come to prostrate themselves at the feet of the Most High, their Lord and Creator. Oh, how many graces would I pour out and do I pour out on those who, with humility, seek Me at the foot of the tabernacle!

All prayer is good and any action can be a prayer; but none can be compared with or replace prayer at the foot of My tabernacle. Recall My words, "ONLY ONE THING IS NECESSARY." And he to whom it has been given will never have it taken from him. Everything then depends upon his good will. ☺

"The Squadron really helped me stay out of trouble in high school and gave me a good group of guys to hang out with. It helped me realize that I should do everything in my life for God no matter how small a task it may seem, and that even lay people can give their lives to God."

—Matt Marbach (Graduating Senior)



Junior Squadron Camp (Continued from pg. 1)

high school and college aged young men would arrive for the second annual "Junior Squadron" camp.

Each camp involved four very full days focused on spiritual training. And while that training included times specifically for prayer, Bible study, Mass, adoration, religious teaching and discussion – most of the day was spent living out that training in other ways. There were work projects; sports and recreation; meals enjoyed together; simple daily chores, and other activities.

During the week there were two recreational highlights. 1) The field day—which included a three-legged race, "dizzy izzzy", the balloon toss, and the jeep pull (a first that's sure to be repeated!); and 2) a unique version of "Capture the Flag" invented by our Sergeant Major Dave Sommers. We put on "cammies," spread out over about 60 acres of land, and planned and implemented strategies of approaching and capturing the enemy's flag. We even had the U.N. ☺—which consisted of the Sergeant Major and a few adults driving around in the jeep to distribute water bottles and make sure the rules were being followed. And of course there was again 'tip the tube' in Canyon lake. In this competition Fr. John Mary is still hard to beat!

But no matter how much fun certain aspects of the camp provided, what was most striking was the Lord's intervention in the lives of the individual campers. It would take pages and pages to try to recount all the blessings that occurred, but we thought we'd share with you one young man's experience.

for about half the boys who came the camp was his first exposure to St. Michael's.

"I'll let him tell you in his own words some of the things he experienced."

"When I came to the camp I was nervous. I'd never been to a 'Church retreat' before. Two of my friends came, but I didn't know anyone else. I thought maybe everyone was going to hate me. I thought I wouldn't fit in. Then Fr. John Mary and Br. Moses said 'hi' to me in a nice way, and it felt like God was saying to me, 'Hello, welcome to Heaven.' When I met the guys I was nervous, but then I found they liked me for who I was.

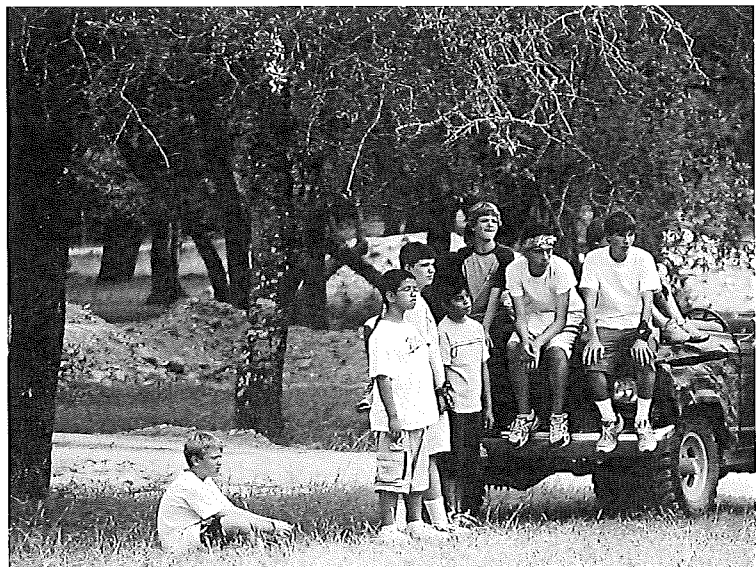
"(Before coming to the camp I hated praying. When I went to Church I didn't really listen, I would just be sitting there bored. When I was at school I hung out with the wrong people, so I stuttered a lot at school when I would try to speak [in front of people]. Once I hung out with the wrong crowd and got in a lot of trouble.

"We started with some sports, and I was happy. Then we prayed. I was a little mad. I usually hate praying. Then I felt like a strike



in my heart, and then God was telling me to pray to help me and help others. I said 'OK' and started praying.

At camp I was happy praying... We hiked up the hill and Br Moses said to look out over the land. He said, 'See, God made all this just for us.' That made me happy, to know God cared about me like that. Then I heard a testimony and the guy said he didn't used to like to pray. That sounded just like my life. I listened to what he said.



"We went into the Church and I felt like God was there on the Crucifix saying, 'Welcome to Heaven.' It felt like He was saying, 'Welcome, Sammy, you are My son.' I was happy. Brother Moses read to us from a book at night, just before we went to sleep. When he finished I wanted to tell him to keep on reading, but I couldn't because some of the other guys were sleeping. I wanted to tell him to keep on reading because I wanted to learn more about God.... The next day when I was helping carry the Cross [during the way of the Cross] I felt like God was right there on top of the Cross. I felt like God was right there next to Fr. John Mary as he was reading [the meditations], telling him to read this book to us."

Sammy then described what happened to him during a special time of prayer that we had Saturday morning. Those who wanted to could be blessed with the Relic of the True Cross and be prayed with individually for a few moments. He, like many of the boys, experienced 'resting in the Spirit': *"I fell down and felt like I was floating on a cloud. God was saying, 'Come to Heaven. Don't do evil things. If you meet people doing evil things just pray, pray, pray and I'll help them.'"*



At the closing ceremony Sammy was the first boy to volunteer to get up in front of all the parents and talk about his experiences. As he took the microphone his mother was very nervous. She knew how much of a stuttering problem he usually had. Sammy proceeded to speak flawlessly. Several people commented afterwards on how much poise he had, saying that he must be a 'real natural' at speaking in front of crowds... Sammy told me, *"At first I was nervous, but when I got up there I felt God was standing beside me, and it was no problem to speak."*

After the Camp

"When I was at the Mission I knew God was there. [It was like] He made a fence around the Mission to keep evil away so I didn't stutter there when I spoke [at the final ceremony]. My heart is full of God when I'm there. No evil is around there. If people come to the Mission they'll always know God is there. They won't do bad things. They'll feel God is there and they'll want to come back." ♦

Would you trust your spouse to this chair?

Recently four husbands sank slowly to the ground as some of our plastic chairs began to give way at the Day Retreat for Married Couples.

The plastic chairs have served us well all over the Mission for the last two years. And as long as you were sitting up straight they worked fine. If, however, you relaxed in your chair and leaned back they were prone to crack down the middle. And in direct sun they grew soft and warm with a tendency to embrace you.

As we move into full-time operation this fall we are confronting a rather urgent need to invest in real chairs. (See "DAVE'S CORNER").

If you would like to save a husband and buy a chair just send a donation to the Mission of Divine Mercy and write CHAIR – or HUSBAND. ♦



St. Michael's Hall (Continued from page 1)

their various skills and professional expertise St. Michael's Hall seemed to rise from the ground by the Hand of God. The speed with which it went up had some of the construction workers calling it "the Miracle Building." (The skill and dedication of the construction crew had us calling them the Miracle Builders.)

Ground was cleared in mid-February and by mid-May we held our first event there. There were still some loose ends to tie up over the summer but our Contractor managed amazingly to have the building in working order for the one Retreat and three summer camps that were scheduled in May and June.

Our gratitude to St. Joseph and the Holy Angels, and our plea for their continued intercession and protection. ♦

MDM Journal

(Continued from page 2)

our new sanctuary provides a quiet backdrop for the austere and sorrowful solemnities of these days; and for personal prayer between events.

Saturday Night Easter Vigil – our altar returns to the new sanctuary: Easter lilies; the Paschal Candle; the radiance of flame reflected against the light stone and the first proclamation of the Exultet at the Mission; and the Eucharistic return of the Risen Jesus to His People.

Easter Sunday Mass – two-hundred people fill St. Joseph's along with sunlight and alleluias. He is risen!

NEW NAME

And with this renovation St. Joseph's Pavilion has become **St. Joseph's Chapel**.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

One of the most significant moments for us this spring was the first celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday at Mission La Divina Misericordia. In the prayer and Liturgy of this Feast lies everything we hope this Mission will offer for all the Lord's suffering children.

SEMINAR

St. Michael's Hall was officially inaugurated in mid-May when we hosted Fr. Edward O'Connor, CSC, from Notre Dame University, (and uncle of Fr John Mary and Sr Magdalene) for a two-day seminar. On Saturday Fr. O'Connor gave a three-part presentation on "The Charism of Prophecy in the Modern Church." On Sunday, May 13 he spoke on "Modern Marian Apparitions," then offered Mass at St. Joseph's Chapel. There a special May-crowning ceremony occurred in honor of the anniversary of the first apparition at Fatima.

This being the maiden voyage for St. Michael's Hall, there were still a few kinks to work out. With no window blinds up yet and Fr. O'Connor opening with a slide show, several men had to move quickly taping black garbage bags over the windows. But, all in all, things went smoothly, and for the Community—looking around in amazement at our first real building – it felt like the Taj Mahal.

EWJ

A week later fifteen women (two from faraway Pennsylvania) made history when they inaugurated the St. Michael's dormitory with the first women's *Encounter with Jesus* here. They were an easy audience, gamely adapting to dorm life and last-minute changes in the program. None of them, however, compared it to the Taj Mahal....

(Continued on page 12)

The Next Hurdle: Community Housing

One Saturday morning at the Mission someone approached Fr. John Mary: "Father, I didn't realize that you all aren't living here yet. It's really important that you get out here! I'd like to help you do that."

He did not know how significant his statement was for us. Despite the fact that the work of the last seven months has just about emptied our bank account, we feel the Lord pressing us forward on the issue of housing. There has also been a growing conviction among our friends about the need for the Community to be in residence at the Mission. "When this happens," one man said, "it will transform the property and your Community." We believe he's right. Both will begin to realize their vocations.

The Mission will no longer be a place where Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist visits twice a week. It will be His Home. And home to a Community gathered in prayer around Him.

We will finally have a place to put down perma-

(Continued on page 11)

Initial Community Housing Plans

The plan consists of three buildings: A **six-bedroom house for the men**; a **six-bedroom house for the women**; and **one common building** that would include a library, an oratory, offices, and a public reception area. These would initially be used as our housing. Later, when the rest of the monastery is built, they would be guest housing.

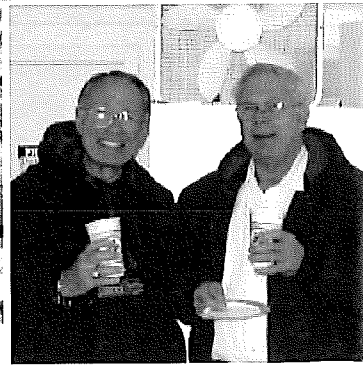
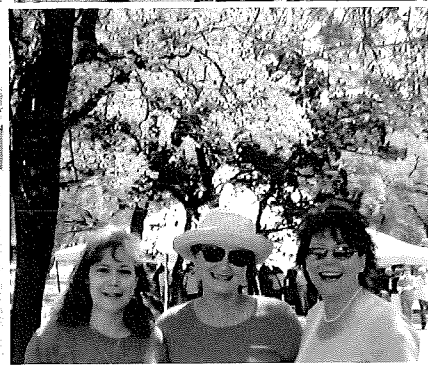
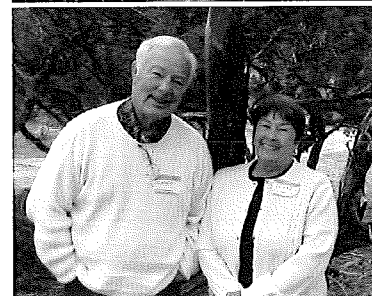
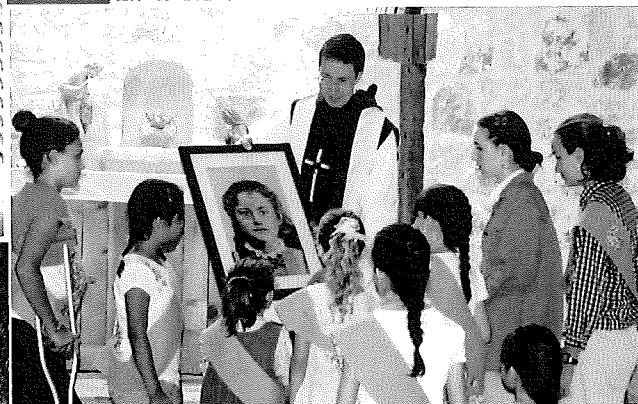
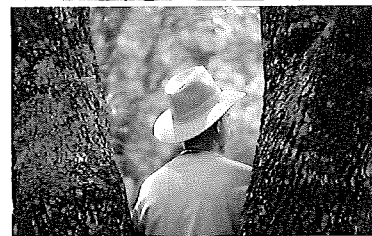
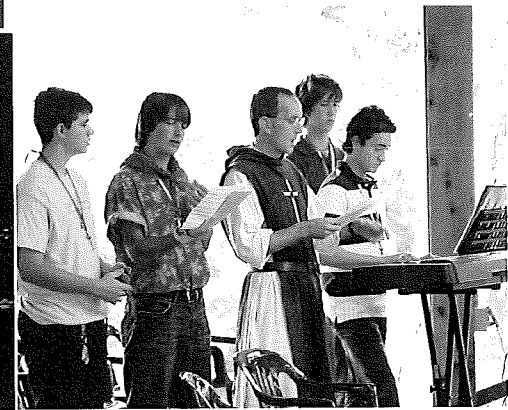
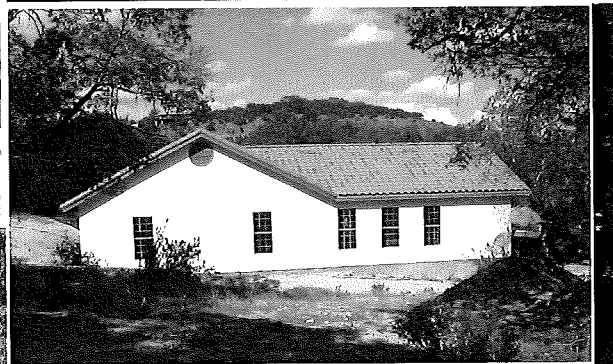
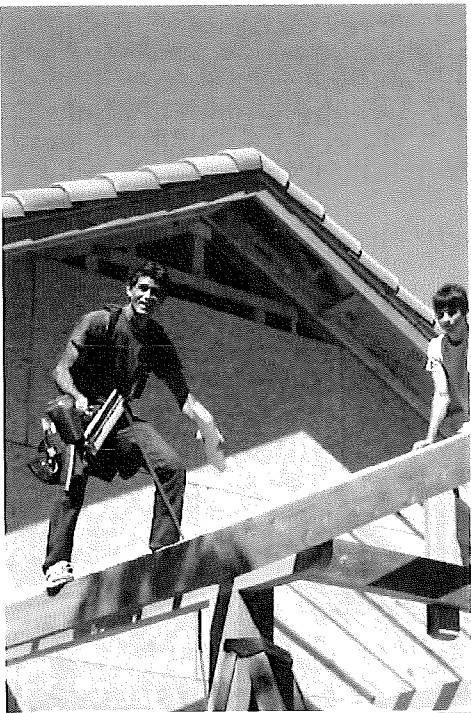
Three sites have been chosen on Cloister Hill (the western side of the property) but their location demands significant work on the infrastructure before any construction can take place. Roadwork is necessary; and a septic system, water, and electricity have to be installed.

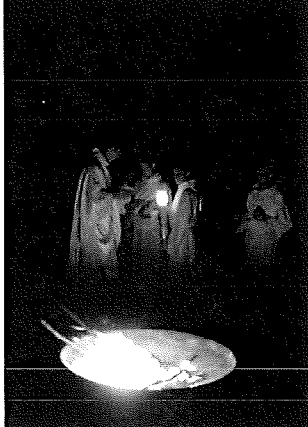
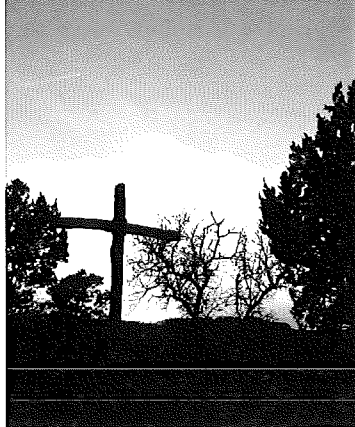
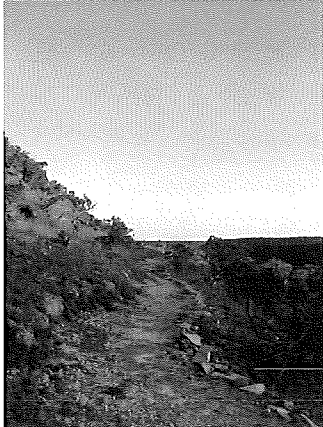
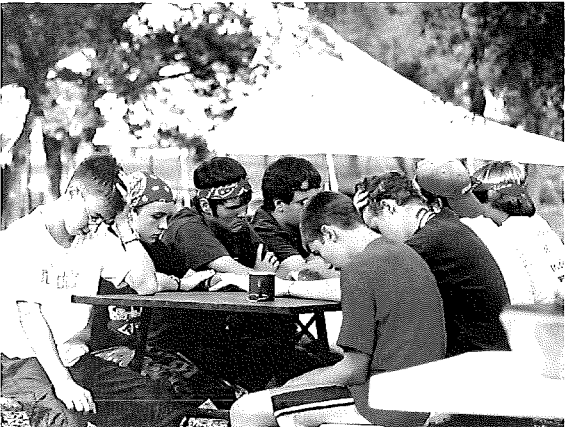
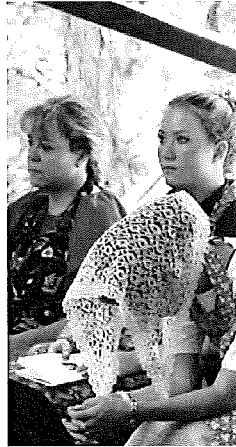
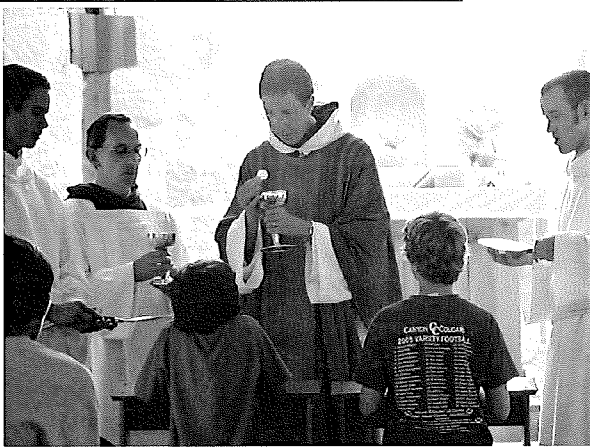
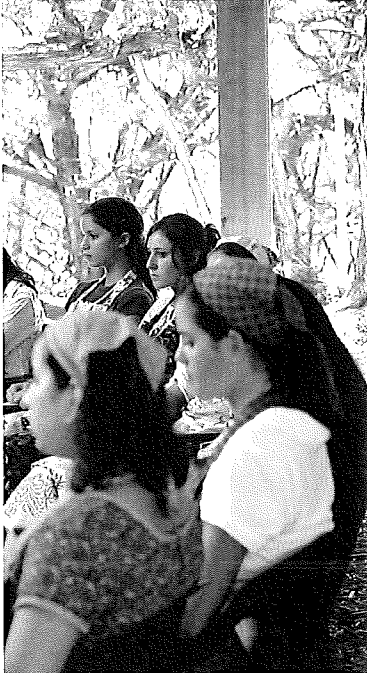
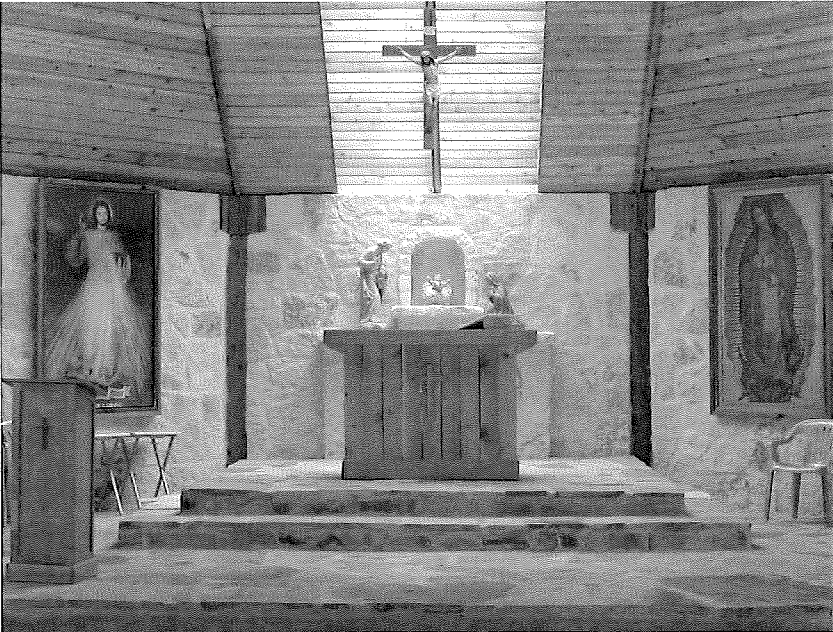
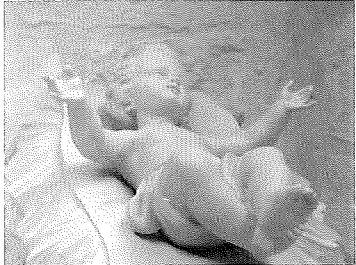
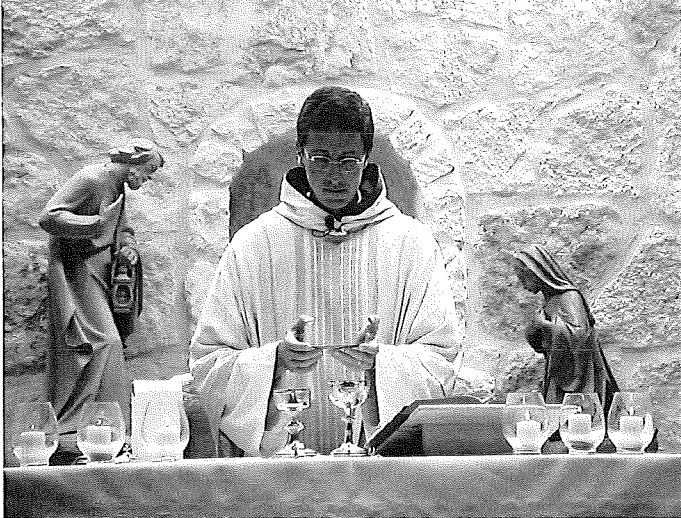
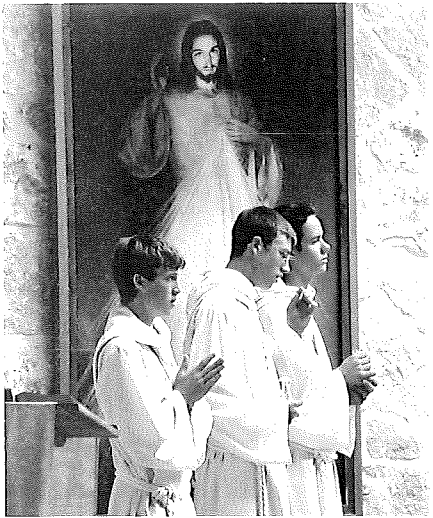
If you can donate labor or materials to advance this project please contact Dave Sommers at (830) 905-4515.

"At the Archbishop's request, I'll be attending Assumption Seminary in San Antonio full time this year. I attended on a limited basis last year and was very encouraged by the support of the faculty and seminarians. I'll have the opportunity to return on the weekends, to help out with our activities at the Mission. So this will be a challenging year for our little community, which will be shorthanded. And it will be a big sacrifice for me to be away so much from the community and y'all (as we say in Texas). But I look forward to the day when I'll be back at the Mission full time. In the meantime please keep us in your prayers in this important year."

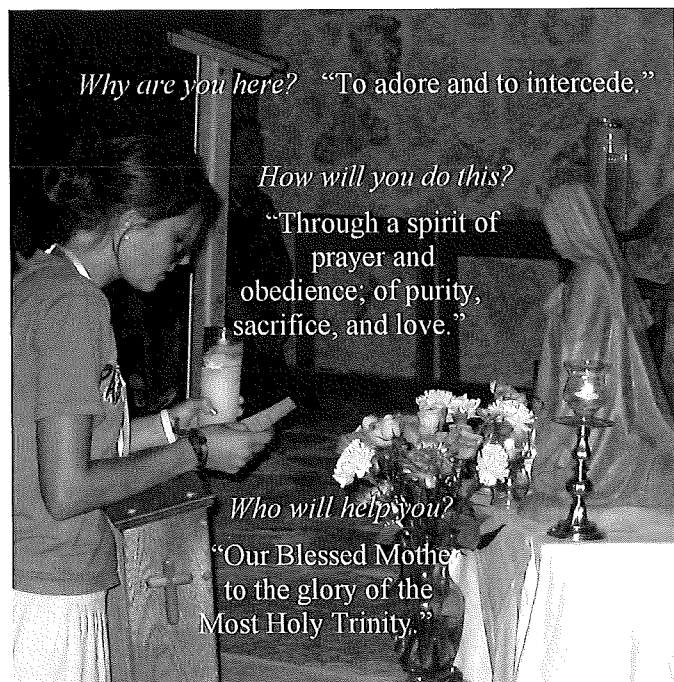
From
Br. Moses...







Queen of Peace Prayer Camp



With these responses fifteen young women and three team members committed their week to the Lord. The first Queen of Peace Prayer Camp for young women, high school age and older, had begun. The days would be simple; a rhythm of physical activity, community life, classes, and prayer. In the course of the week activities included building a bookshelf, gardening, and sewing aprons (see photos).

The Brothers spoke of the powerful work of the Holy Spirit in the midst of the young men at the St. Michael's Camps. Our experience was different.

First, the girls are already much nicer so the Holy Spirit didn't have to work as hard...

Second, we felt that the real miracle occurred ahead of time when the girls agreed to the terms of the Camp: five days lived completely in a skirt – a long, loose comfortable skirt and a modest top. Since it was just them they could handle dressing in such an un-cool fashion. They didn't seem to realize, in fact, how lovely and feminine they did look.

Third, there was a sense as the camp progressed of a quiet transformative grace at work in them, especially with regard to their own vocation as young women.

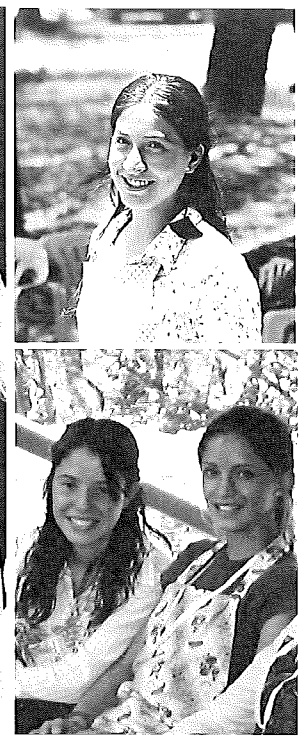
At a time when their own purity, holiness, and maternal design are being ridiculed, denied, or bludgeoned to death before they've even had a chance to become aware of it, there

was a sense that Our Blessed Mother was awakening and strengthening in them the grace that is meant to be theirs by nature.

"It did not seem to me like a camp," said Sr. Amapola, "and it wasn't a retreat either. The word that kept coming to me was Preparation. A preparation for all the challenges they have to face out in the world; a preparation to respond to what God will ask of each of them; a preparation to help each of them fulfill His Will."

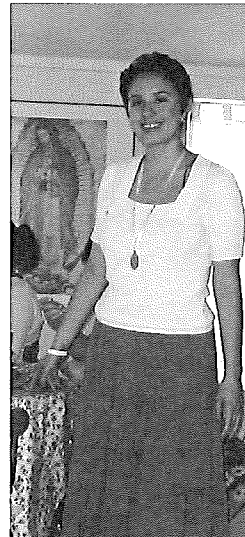
Whatever His specific Will is for each of them we felt that the Lord was both drawing them in and sending them out as instruments of His Grace. ♦





Spiritual Donation

*Many of our friends have told us that they regret not being able to contribute financially to MDM the way they would wish. But Father reminds us that **prayer, sacrifices made, or sufferings and disappointments accepted and offered on behalf of this Work** are the surest way to bring it to completion. It is, we believe, what has gotten us this far. Thank you!*



The Next Hurdle...

(Continued from page 7)

nent roots, and our lives can be lived with a greater monastic stability. It will also make it possible for us to expand our apostolates, since we will be right there. And we can open up our daily Mass and prayer times to any who want to come.

But most urgent at the moment is the need to provide a place where we can receive **new vocations**. At present we have no room to receive those who ask about our way of life and are interested in exploring a vocation.

This is the big prayer intention that we entrust to you for the coming year: That His Will may be done on this particular plot of earth as It is in Heaven.... ♦



Enclosed you will find our **NEW BROCHURE**, courtesy of our friends **Greg Wehmeyer** and **Judith Mackie**, with information about upcoming events. If you would like extra copies for friends, or to place at your parish church, adoration chapel, campus ministry office, etc., please contact us at (830) 905-4515.

CAMPED OUT

June was a blur with three week-long youth camps. In the process serious battle-fatigue was incurred by the team members; but also a conviction at the end that it was one of the most grace-filled months we've experienced here. In fact, there has been so much to be thankful for in these hectic months of construction and ministry! But we couldn't survive that amount of grace too often.

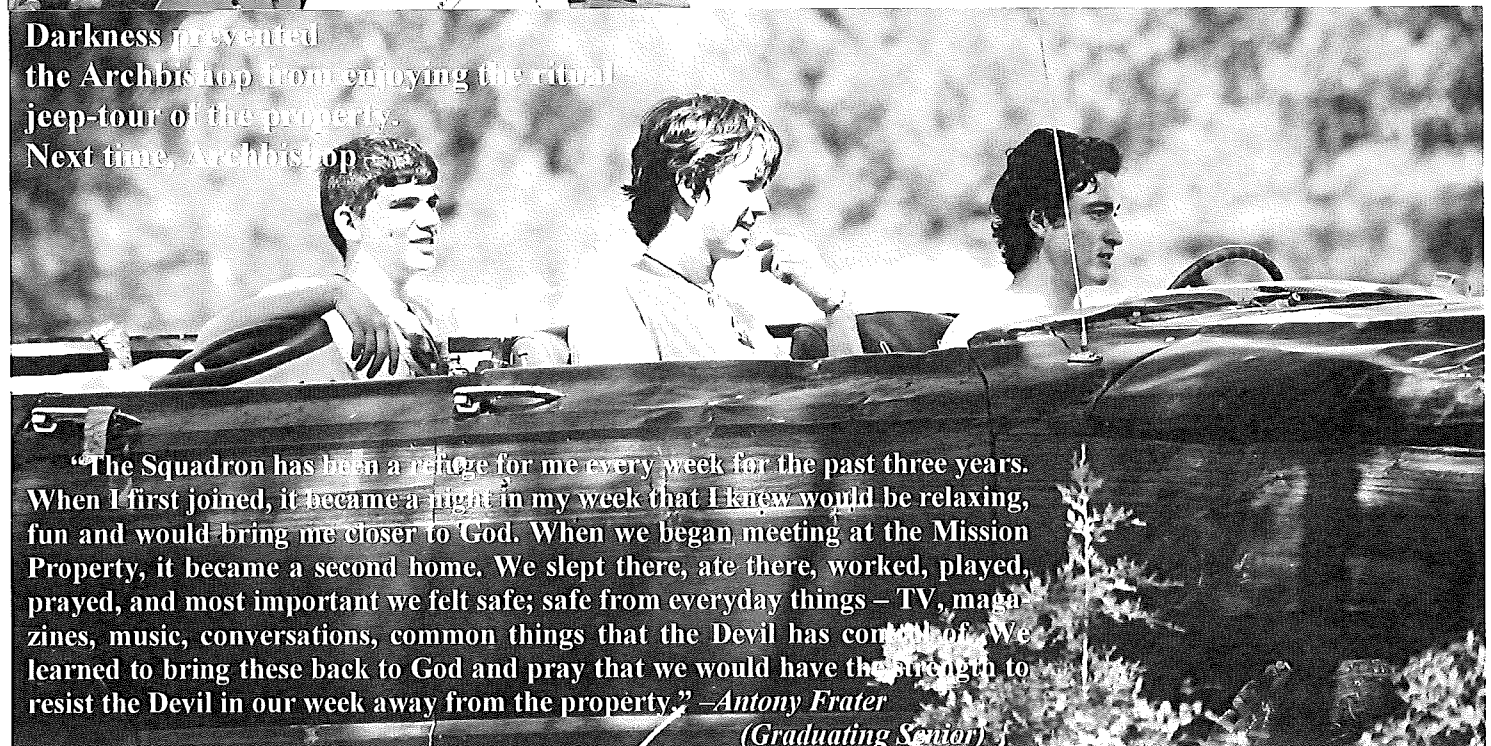
OUR ARCHBISHOP

Archbishop José Gomez took time off on a July afternoon to join Fr. John Mary, Brother Moses and the Senior St. Michael's Squadron for a basketball workout. Later they relaxed over sloppy joes at the Mission, and Ryan Williams and another seminarian provided testimonies of their own experiences



of conversion. The fire of the Holy Spirit was shared in discussing the Church from the perspective of the young men.

Darkness prevented the Archbishop from enjoying the ritual jeep-tour of the property. Next time, Archbishop...



"The Squadron has been a refuge for me every week for the past three years. When I first joined, it became a night in my week that I knew would be relaxing, fun and would bring me closer to God. When we began meeting at the Mission Property, it became a second home. We slept there, ate there, worked, played, prayed, and most important we felt safe; safe from everyday things – TV, magazines, music, conversations, common things that the Devil has control of. We learned to bring these back to God and pray that we would have the strength to resist the Devil in our week away from the property." –Antony Frater

(Graduating Senior)

FINALLY...

With a break from special events at the Mission during July and August St. Michael's reverted to a construction site again. Wainscoting to protect the dormitory walls was installed; the final interior painting was completed; and a beautiful tile floor is being laid as we write this. St. Michael's now stands ready to welcome all those who will be part of the new season at the Mission. Gracias a Dios y a todos ustedes.... ♦

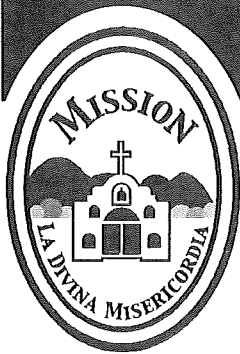
Your input–

This newsletter is a way of staying in touch with our friends, especially those at a distance. We would like to get your input on it, what you like or don't like, and what suggestions or requests you have to make it better. Whether in person or by phone, mail, or e-mail, we'd be glad to hear from you.

Struggles with our website–

Many of you have noticed that our website is not up-to-date. It isn't that we've forgotten about it. We've been working on it for a number of months and have been encountering obstacles and impediments that have stumped professional technicians. But recently a friend suggested another tact and we're praying that by October we'll be current.

Standing by at www.missionofdivinemercy.com ♦



Project Update

Mission La Divina Misericordia

YOUR TAX-EXEMPT DOLLARS AT WORK

We've told the Community that while they're busy praying we'll try to do the fundraising. But we need your help, all the help you're able to give, whether as prayer, cash, labor, networking; or professional advice.

The material development at the Mission this spring has been phenomenal, and is permitting the Mission to begin functioning as it should. But all of this has momentarily drained our fiscal resources. (Thankfully, this does not apply to the money needed to make our next down payment on the land in November. With each new year, that is the first money that is reserved.)

Meanwhile, we, the friends of MDM, are sensing more and more urgently the need for the Community to take up residence at the Mission. [See 'Next Hurdle' and 'Community Housing.'] Financially that seems impossible right now. But it's not the first impossibility we've faced; and if God wants it we know He'll find a way. Maybe you are part of that way. For most of us that has been the draw here – the sense of contributing to something that God Himself wants to happen.

When we stand before God in the light of eternity there are probably many things we will regret. But we think this will help to balance the scales. ♦

The Development Committee

OVERVIEW OF CONSTRUCTION

The following projects were completed this year at the Mission:

1. **ST. MICHAEL'S HALL** – a 3,000 square foot stucco and tile building that encompasses a large main hall to be used for indoor Masses, conferences, or to sleep 30 people dormitory-style. Includes a smaller conference room, bathrooms and showers, a kitchenette and a storage area. Simple facilities, but which greatly expand our possibilities and give us an **indoor** place to host events.
2. **ST. JOSEPH'S CHAPEL** – (formerly St. Joseph's Pavilion) upgraded with a limestone wall surrounding the sanctuary; a new sanctuary floor covered with flagstone and rising three steps to the altar platform; and the ceiling above the sanctuary completely lined with a handsome donation of cedar planks (see color photo)*.
3. **SMALL FRAME ANNEX** – located behind St. Joseph's Chapel, it will contain an oratory where the

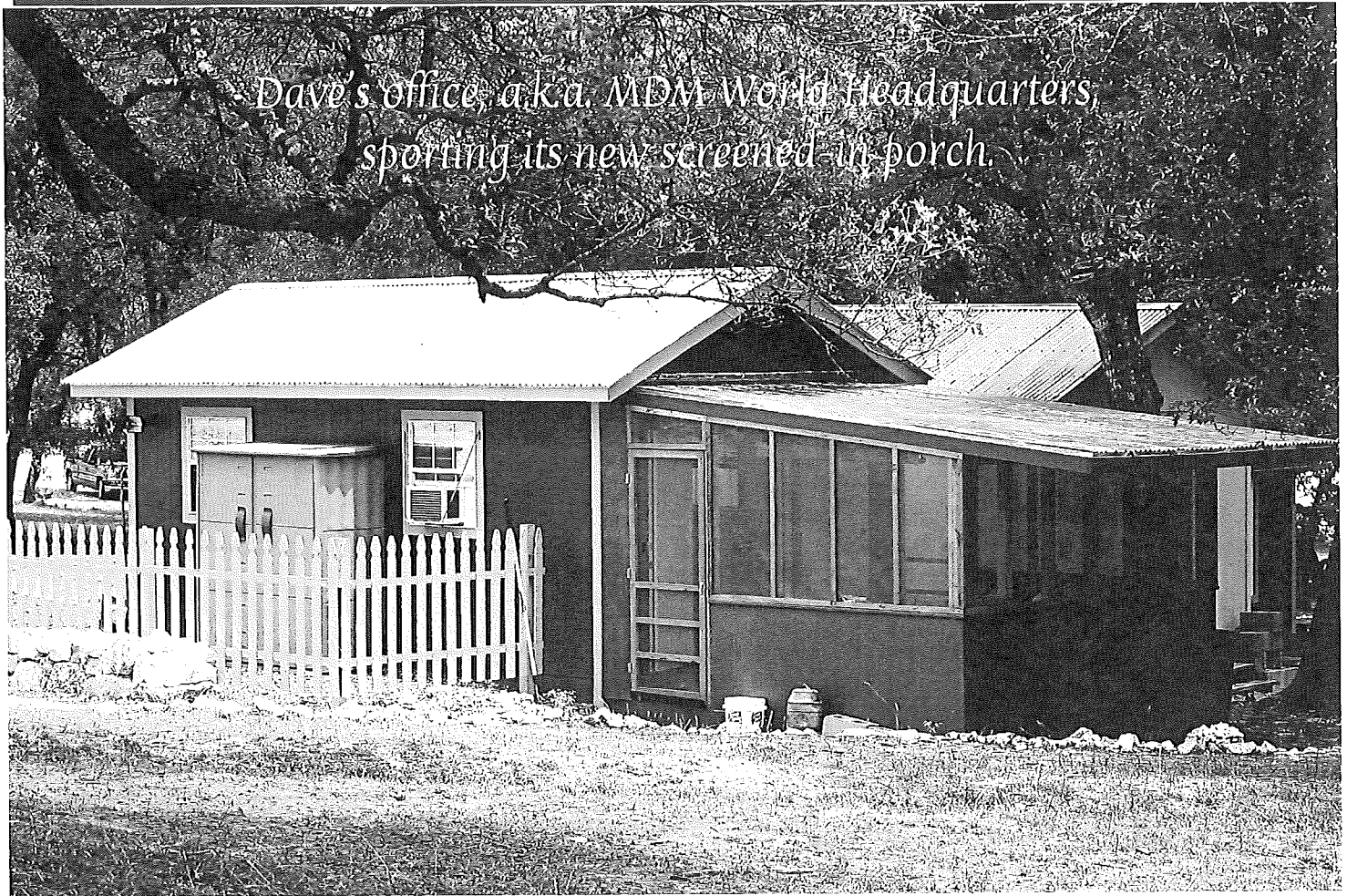
Blessed Sacrament can be reserved, a sacristy, and a storage room. Exteriously complete, this building awaits internal completion. (See "DAVE'S CORNER")

4. **NEW SEPTIC SYSTEM** — to accommodate St. Michael's Hall.
5. Additional construction included a **small frame storage building**, a **pump-house**, and a **screened-in porch** addition to Dave's office. We also purchased a 40'x40' **second-hand tent** as an economic way to expand our outdoor facilities. ♦

* The sanctuary ceiling was donated by friends of ours in memory of the faith handed down to them by both sets of parents. We were moved not only by their contribution to the Mission but also by the tribute it represents.

Project Update

Dave's Corner



Thanks to God and the wonderful generosity of several friends of the Mission, we will have our new facility, St. Michael's Hall, ready for the fall and winter schedule.

- ❖ But we still have one small obstacle to overcome - where are the people going to sit? As you all know, we have been using the small plastic chairs for everything. We are looking to purchase **new indoor chairs** for St. Michael's Hall; sturdy, comfortable, stackable chairs. We are going to need initially 150 chairs. We are continuing to explore all options for the seating in St. Michael's Hall and, at the same time, ensure we purchase chairs that will last.
- ❖ The ground maintenance needs of the Mission continue to grow. We are in need of items such as **chain saws, weed trimmers, and other outdoor tools**. Presently, we are cutting the grass with a 33" riding mower and it takes two and one-half to three days to get it all done. Thanks to Steve Magdich we have a couple of **donations**

towards a tractor. We only need a few more donators to be able to purchase a tractor to take care of the many needs of the Mission. For more information, please contact Steve at (830) 606-8444.

- ❖ Our **new sacristy** (small frame building behind St. Joseph's) is near completion. The following finishing work will cost approximately \$7,000.
 - ceiling fan
 - insulation
 - electricity from pole to sacristy (trenching and wiring)
 - sheetrock
 - air conditioning/heating
 - painting
- ❖ We need an **additional refrigerator** (21 cubic feet) for the camp house. In the past, we have had kind donations of second-hand freezers and refrigerators but most only lasted a short time, so we would prefer to purchase a new one.
- ❖ We are still in need of a **golf cart** that we can

Project Update

use to assist people who have a difficult time walking from the parking area to the chapel. Transportation from the parking area to the chapel would be a blessing for them.

- ❖ We are working to setup a **tool room** that will enable us to improve our maintenance capabilities. The following items are needed:

- air compressor
- electric drills
- welding unit
- impact wrenches
- electric saws

In short, any tools are welcomed.

- ❖ We have been successful in obtaining a **wildlife exemption** for the Mission, and have been working hard to bring back and keep assorted wildlife. We have had many sightings of deer, turkey, bobcat and other wildlife. To help keep our wild guests happy, we could use a couple of deer feeders. If you have one you're not using, please consider donating it to the Mission.

I would like to thank all of you who continue to be so generous with your time and talent. Even through the heat of the summer you continued to answer our call for help. I know God will bless and reward you for your spirit of giving.

Semper Fi,

Dave ♦



Strong Silent Types

They come singly or in pairs offering their quiet support to all our guests. We refer, of course, to the sturdy hand-made picnic tables that Mr. **Melvin Voight** and a small group of relatives and friends have been donating to the Mission over the last year. At last count they numbered twelve. "If they'll buy the wood, I'll build it." Thank you, **Melvin and Helen and Friends**. What you produce is definitely the Cadillac of outdoor furniture. ♦

The O'Callaghan Center

Our schedule for going forward with the O'Callaghan Center must wait until further funding develops. This is a large-scale long-term project for our Mission and the development costs are substantial. While our initial scheduling may have been a bit optimistic we are committed to its completion in accord with His Will. We will report on the project as it develops.

Meanwhile the St. Michael's Center was initiated and completed as a result of the intervention of some extremely generous benefactors who took upon themselves the costs associated with the construction of the building. These benefactors realized that they could fund this project and thus allow the Mission to more quickly begin fulfilling its mission. **The construction of this project did not dilute funding received for the O'Callaghan Center.** ♦

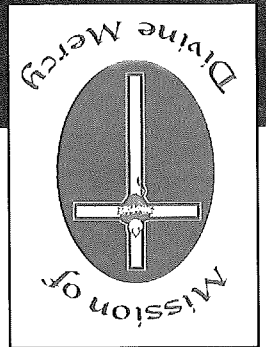
...Make Holy Water

This summer one couple was planning a nice vacation trip with their family. At the last minute a personal injury forced them to cancel their trip. So they decided to donate their vacation money to the Mission. The amount – almost to the dollar – was just the amount needed to buy floor tiles for St. Michael's Hall; something our exhausted bank account would not have permitted at the moment.

When life gives you lemons, make Holy Water.... ♦



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NEW WEEKEND PROGRAM

In response to many requests we're beginning a new program this fall to make the Mission more available on certain weekends. A brief description follows:

- ❖ A simple, prayerful weekend in the peaceful setting of the Mission, designed to be flexible so you can adapt it to your possibilities. Guests are welcome to participate in whatever part of the program they wish, coming and going as their schedules allow.
- ❖ An area of the Mission will be set aside for conversation and visiting. The rest will be reserved for silence and reflection so that guests can have that option.
- ❖ All activities will be optional.
 - **Saturday:** We will begin at 8:00am with Holy Mass. Afterwards the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for adoration throughout the day. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at designated times. Rosary at noon; Lunch at 12:30; Chaplet of Divine Mercy 3:00 pm; dinner at 6:00; meditative reading at 6:45; Holy Hour at 7:00; Day's end at 8:00 pm.
 - **Sunday:** Mission opens at 9:00 am. Holy Mass at 10:00. Refreshments afterwards; Mission closes at 12:30.
- ❖ (You have the option of bringing your own food or of participating in the simple meals provided. If you would like to join us for the meal, please notify us by the Wednesday beforehand at (830) 905-4515.
- ❖ The cots in St Michael's Hall will be available for those who would like to rest during the day. Please bring your own sheets and pillows if you would like to use the cots. ♦

Modest Dress at the Property

This is consecrated land. Out of love and respect for Our Lord, for one another, and for ourselves we are invited to dress modestly:

Please refrain from wearing:

shorts; sleeveless shirts; hemlines or slits above the knee; or any tight, low-cut or provocative clothing.