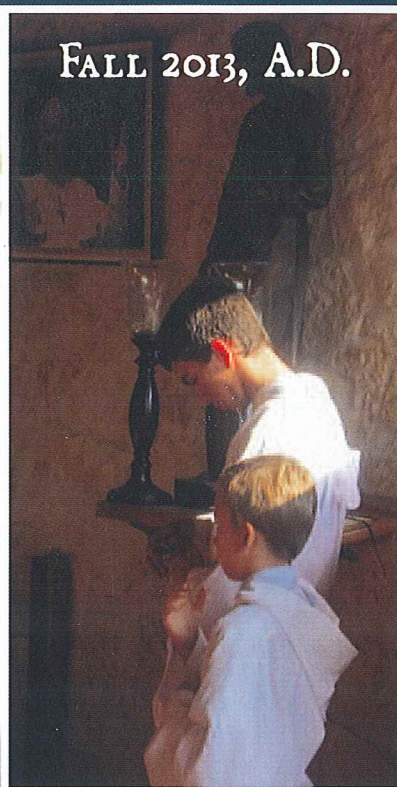


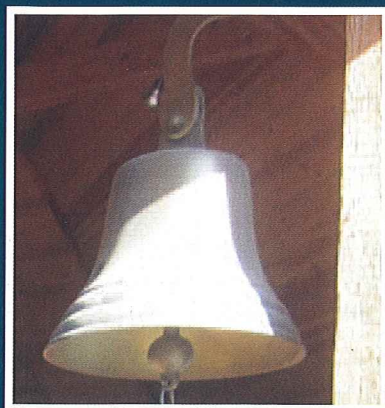
MISSION OF DIVINE MERCY

"...And I pray with you that your Mission will be an instrument of God's mercy and forgiveness."

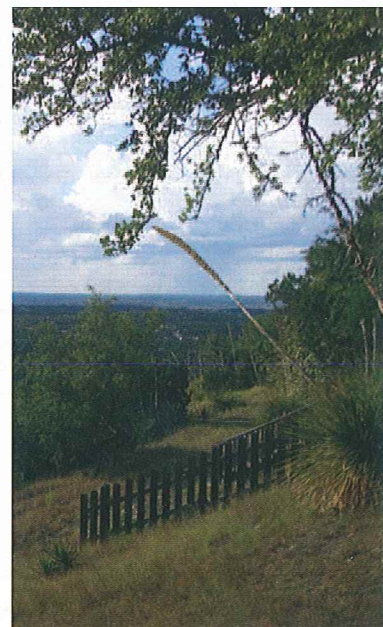


FALL 2013, A.D.

Archbishop Gustavo
celebrates Holy Hour
at the Mission on
Divine Mercy Sunday.
April 2013.



New statue at the entrance to the Mission: "Holy Angels, help us!"



CONTENTS

- ♦ One Goal Achieved...
A New Goal in Sight!.....4
- ♦ Discerning Vocations6
- ♦ Archbishop Gustavo's Visit.....7
- ♦ Photo Gallery.....8
- ♦ Unity in Diversity: Latin in the Mass.....10
- ♦ Between a Rock and Hard
Place.....11
- ♦ Update on Maria Felicitas.....14
- ♦ Pat's Story.....14
- ♦ Regular Activities at the Mission.....15
- ♦ Calendar of Events.....back cover

FROM FR. JOHN MARY:

A Special Message

On March 18th, as I was praying about my homily for Palm Sunday, I began to feel a gentle inspiration. It seemed to me that the Lord was giving me a little message to share for that occasion. In response to several requests I share it here, for what it's worth. We encounter so many people who are anxious, who are worried about their loved one and the future, who are burdened, who are suffering. I hope this simple call to trust in Jesus can be helpful.

Fr. John Mary

My Little Children,

Trust in Me. I love you.

These are very difficult times. Evil times.

I ask you to trust in Me. Look to Me. Keep your eyes on Me.
Then you will understand these times and what is happening right now.
And you will be able to understand your own lives.

Trust Me.

There is so much that you cannot understand right now. You will later.

My Mother can help you to trust,
to believe in Me always, to hope when all hope seems lost.

I am Lord. Almighty. All is in My Hands.

Trust in Me, little children.

Do not let the Enemy confuse you with his false signs.

Hold My Hand, My children,
and I will lead you through this time of darkness.
Always hold My Hand. Never let go. Because you are Mine.
And I want you to be with Me forever.

Place all your concerns in My Heart. Learn to trust more.

It is hard. I know. Very hard sometimes.

You are suffering because you are Mine.

You are sharing My suffering.

So to share with Me forever My Glory.

Amen, My children. I love you.

O'CALLAGHAN DIVINE MERCY CENTER



MORKOVSKY + ASSOCIATES, INC. • ARCHITECT • SAN ANTONIO,



One Goal Achieved... A New Goal In Sight!

Wonderful news! On Friday, September 28, we went over our minimum goal for 2013 of \$300,000! **This achievement assures us of receiving the \$300,000 in matching funds from our major benefactor.** We took a weekend to acknowledge this milestone, to thank God in prayer for all of our benefactors, and to thank the Holy Angels for all their help.

Then on Monday we went back to work, now asking the Angels to help us reach **our ultimate goal for this year --\$600,000.** These funds, plus the 2013 matching gift would mean \$900,000 in the bank—half the cost of construction of the O'Callaghan Center---and **this would allow us to break ground in April 2014.** This is a real possibility.

The Msgr. O'Callaghan Divine Mercy Center is not a luxury. It will provide the basic necessities of kitchen, dining and meeting space which the Mission is currently lacking. It will make it possible for us to offer day retreats for larger groups all year round. Very significantly, it will allow us to turn the main room of St. Michael's into a permanent dormitory, and then we can begin to offer the "Encounter with Jesus" retreats once more.



If you have been following the progress of our fundraising for the Msgr. O'Callaghan Divine Mercy Center you know that **it has been marked by challenges ---but in a good way.** First there was **the three year challenge: a donor who promised to give us \$300,000 a year for three years (2013-2015), as long as we matched it with our own \$300,000 each year.**

Then there were the individual challenges. In May of this past year, we had a **\$10,000 challenge** which resulted in nearly \$40,000 added to our total. Then this summer we were **challenged to raise \$30,000,** and that brought over \$100,000 to

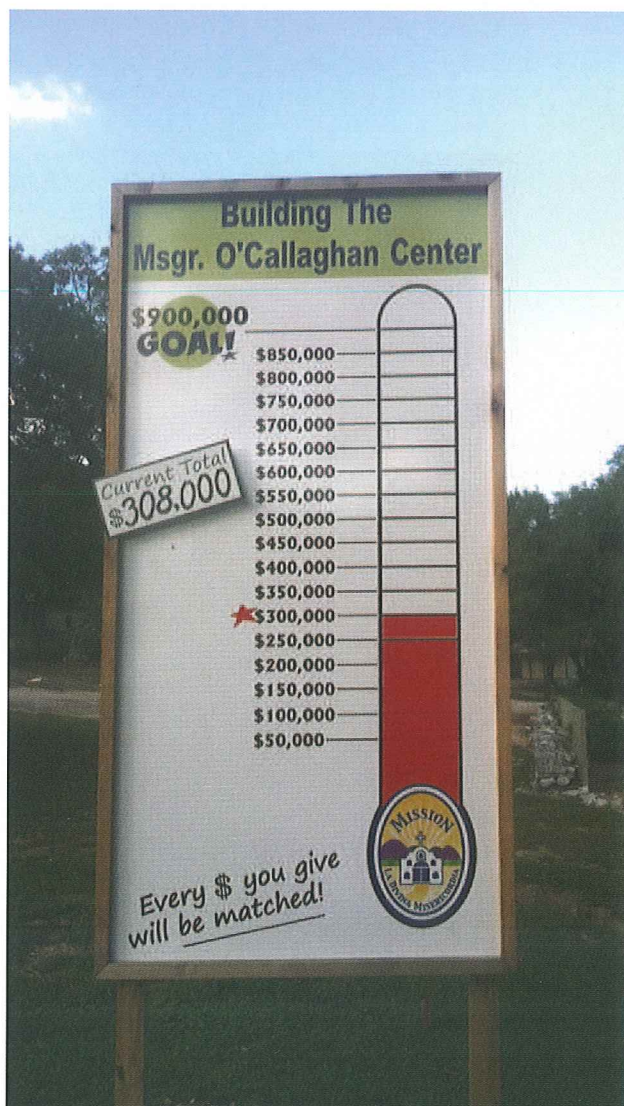
our campaign. Recently a person who has watched our progress came forward with the last challenge for 2013: **to raise \$100,000 between September 1 and December 1!** *[As we write this, we have received \$61,000 toward this challenge. Meeting this challenge will release that \$100,000 into our campaign account.]*

Providentially, we also have had another friend of the Mission approach us with a proposal to raise some money on his own. These funds would go toward the Center in memory of his beloved wife who died recently from cancer. We feel extremely honored by his request.

All of this leads the Community to believe *that God might be wanting to hurry along the construction of the O'Callaghan Center. We feel that God is asking us to prepare to receive and minister to many more people---soon.* So instead of *just* trying to raise our minimum goal of \$300,000 by the end of 2013, we are pushing to raise \$600,000.

We are asking the Holy Angels to help us with our building campaign. We would appreciate you joining your prayers to ours. And if you can contribute to our campaign—that would be appreciated as well. ♦

Holy Angels help us. Jesus, we trust in You.



The Community renews their vows on the eve of Divine Mercy Sunday

DISCERNING VOCATIONS

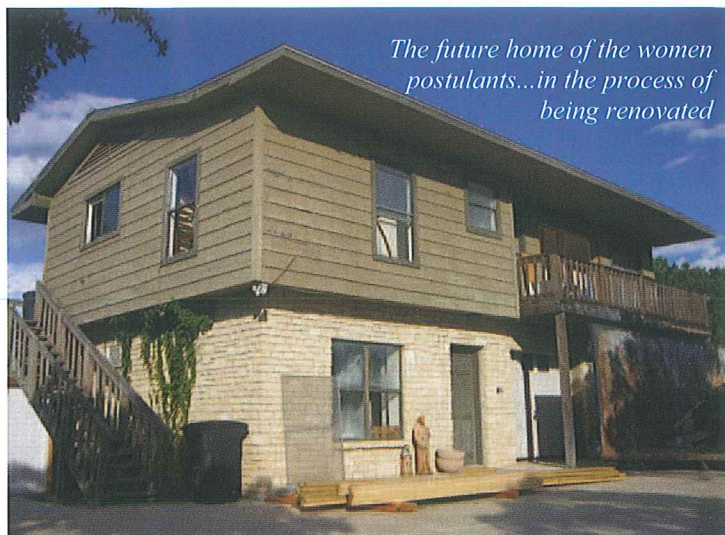
Three young people who are discerning a possible vocation to MDM departed this September for the wilds of Canada where they will spend one or two semesters with a Roman Catholic Lay Apostolate called Madonna House.

Located in the Madawaska River Valley about three hours north of Toronto, Madonna House was founded in the 1940's by **Russian émigré and mystic Catherine Doherty** whose cause for canonization is currently being put forward. It's a place where lay men and women – as visitors, long term guests, or permanent members – seek to give themselves to Jesus through a simple daily life of prayer, work, chastity and fraternal charity. It is a Nazareth where each person there is encouraged to "Cry the Gospel with your life." (You can see their website at www.madonnahouse.org.)

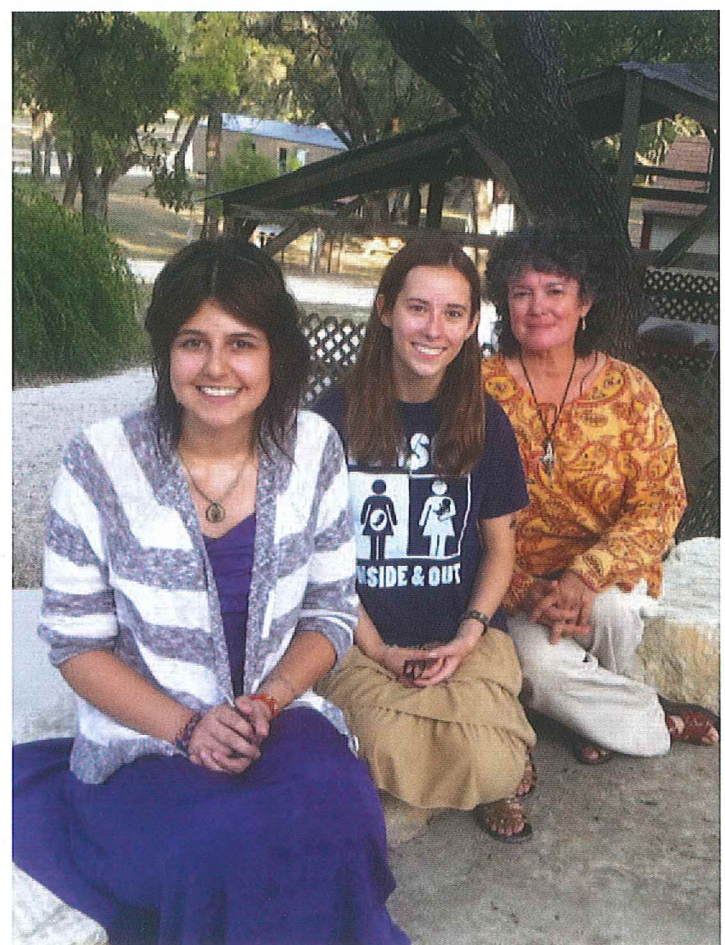
Along with Consuelo Cortez, a friend of ours from San Antonio, these three – Robert Kelly, 20, Rebecca Kovar, 18, and Pauline Sin, 18 - were part of a small group that met weekly during the spring to learn more about and begin to discern a call to religious life with the Mission of Divine Mercy. After this initial stage in their discernment we proposed this next stage at Madonna House as a way to test and strengthen their surrender to the Lord.

These young people may return with a clear conviction that they are called to test a vocation with our Community. Or perhaps the Lord will lead them in a totally new direction. Wherever He leads, their willingness to put aside family and friends, personal comfort and self-interest, and to seek first the Kingdom of God and His Will for them is, we think, an heroic decision; and one that brings Grace for all those around them. But it's also a profound sacrifice for their families. Please pray for them all.

♦



The future home of the women postulants...in the process of being renovated



A Visit from Our Archbishop

This past year's Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday brought a unique blessing for us: **the first visit of our beloved Archbishop Gustavo who made time in his intense schedule to come all the way out to the Mission on this special day.** The Archbishop celebrated the closing Eucharistic Holy Hour which brought to an end the day-long celebration that had included the special Feast Day Mass, veneration of the Image, Confessions, and continuous visiting and refreshments under the tent.

After the closing of the Holy Hour the Archbishop addressed the congregation, speaking, among other things, of his appreciation for the work of MDM: ***"Our archdiocese is blessed by the witness of God's mercy that you [MDM] represent.... And I pray with you that your Mission will be an instrument of God's mercy and forgiveness."***



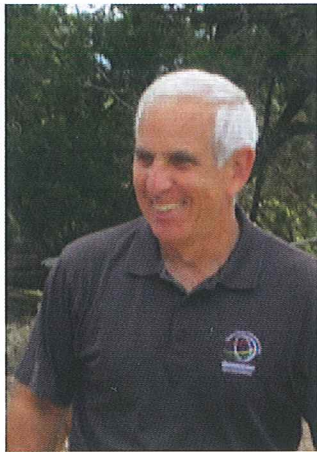
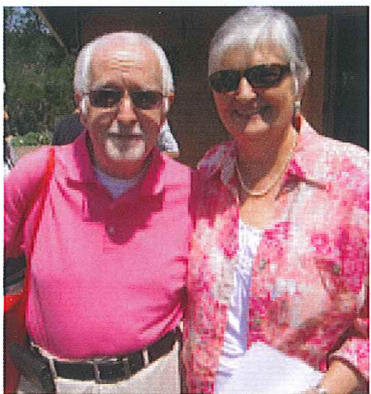
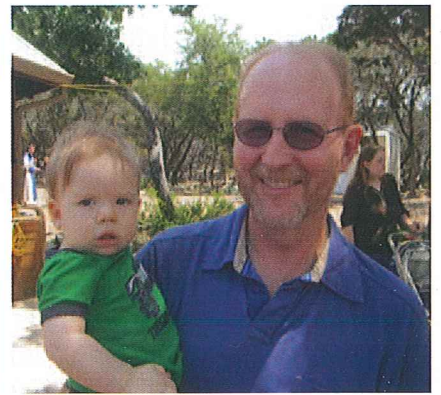
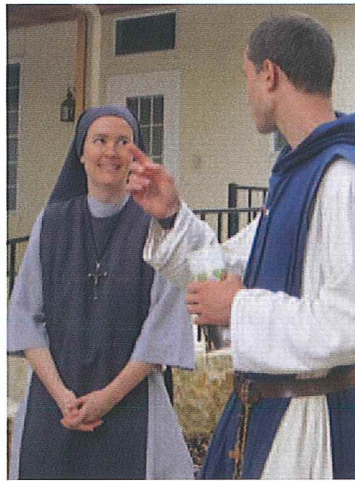
He also spoke of his hopes and plans for the archdiocese. And in concluding his remarks he described movingly how the hour of Adoration had served as a balm in his very busy schedule.

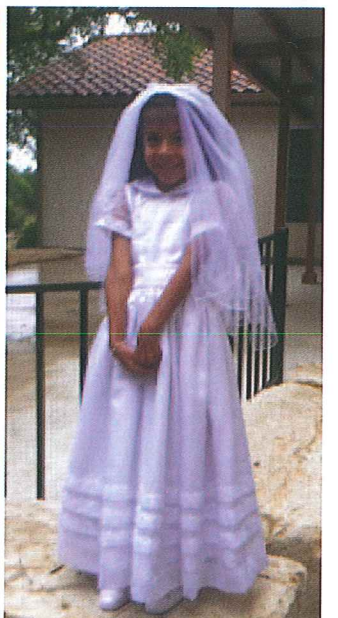
[If you would like to hear the Archbishop's address, please go to our website: www.missionofdivinemeracy.com, where two links to his remarks can be found. One video is only a minute and a half and focuses on his words about MDM. The second video includes his entire address.]

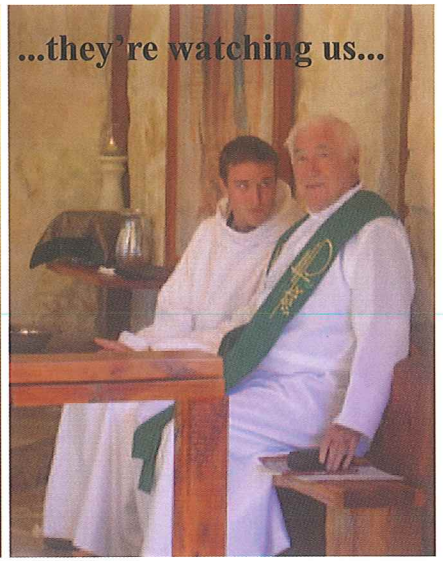
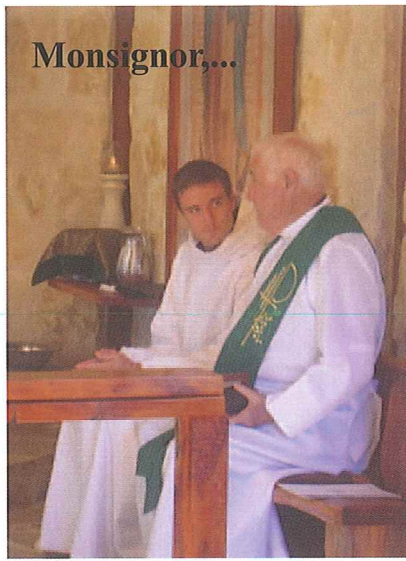
Archbishop Gustavo's warmth and enthusiasm was a boost to us all, *but most important for our consecrated members was his emphasis on vocations.*

In our many encounters with the Archbishop, we have been especially impressed with and inspired by his support for and encouragement of our Community. **In particular, he has often strongly encouraged us to start receiving new vocations.** His support has helped us to move forward with the challenging process of discerning and forming new vocations, something which we are in the midst of right now. *(See Discerning Vocations, page 6)*

THIS FOCUS REQUIRES HARD CHOICES. This process of receiving new vocations is vital for any community. But for a young community, it is especially demanding. Archbishop Gustavo is very aware of this. And so he has told us that we need to protect and prioritize this focus on vocations, even if at the moment it means declining some other exterior apostolates. If we can do this well, by the grace of God, MDM will soon be in a position where it can respond to a much greater number of requests. ♦







Monsignor,...

...they're watching us...



Fr. John Francis, FSJ

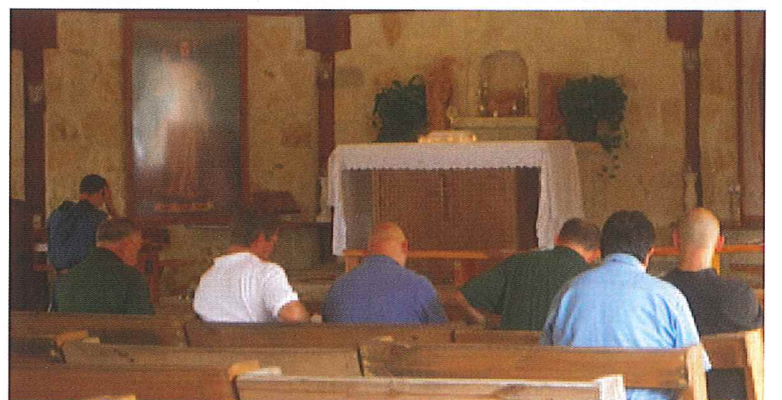
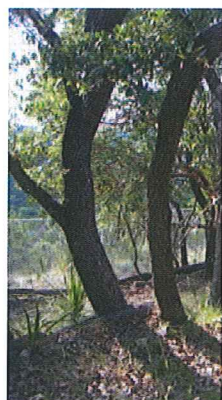
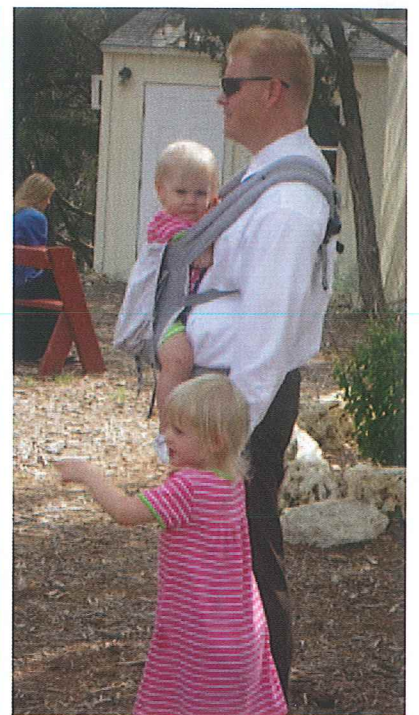
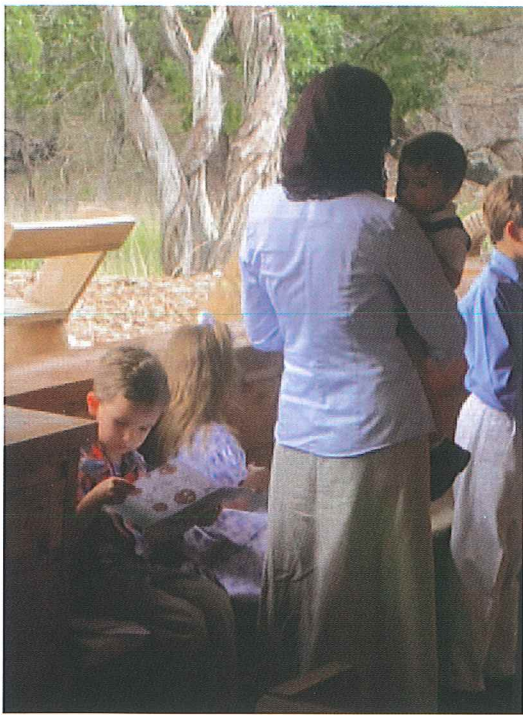
Fr. Polycarp, FSJ



*Members of the Community of
the Disciples of Our Lord Jesus Christ*

Amici Christi Spring 2013





Unity in diversity: Latin in the Mass

This fall we will be making some changes in how we offer Mass at the Mission. These changes are a matter of retaining a unity of spirit and spirituality at each Mass offered at the Mission for our diverse retreatants and pilgrims.

The Mission receives and responds to many requests for Spanish language retreats. **Beginning October 6th we will offer the Mass in Spanish on the first Sunday of the month at noon**, to facilitate receiving retreatants and pilgrims whose primary language is Spanish. We hope to gradually expand this to every Sunday.

With the prospect of offering **three Masses on a Sunday: the Traditional Latin Mass, the Mass in English, and the Mass in Spanish**, we prayed as to the best way to handle this diversity.

One thing we would like to try is to **unite them by praying the second part of each Mass, the Liturgy of the Eucharist, in Latin.**

So beginning Oct 20, our 10:00 a.m. English Mass will also be partly in Latin. This will be the second part or the "Ordinary" of the Mass, the prayers of which remain pretty constant. We believe that this change will contribute to the contemplative reverence for the "Sacred Mysteries" of the Holy Eucharist that is part of our charism, and to the contemplative experience of all who come to our Mission for retreats or pilgrimages. We also hope that it will help people to experience the Holy Mass in a new way.

For a more developed explanation of this change, please see our website at www.missionofdivinemercy.com. ♦



BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE



“The Lord has certainly blessed us with rocks!” So said Fr. John Mary when we were trying to decide on an appropriate and significant gift for members of the Bethany Association.

Living in the Texas Hill Country, it is a fact of life that the ground around you is made of nothing but rocks---with a little dust sprinkled over it. It is a veritable rock garden. So in the spirit of “if life gives you lemons, make lemonade,” we decided to do something with all these rocks that the Lord has blessed us with at the Mission. We decided to give them as gifts to our Bethany Associates.

But it is not as easy as you might think to send a **gift rock**. There is a lot of work behind the scenes.

First of all, we may have a lot of rocks, but not just any rock will do. We do have our standards! The young men of the St. Michael Squadron are given specific instructions on size and quality and then are **sent to scour the hillsides of the Mission for the right type of rock**. Once they are hauled to a central location, the rocks are **soaked in bleach water** for several days; **scrubbed and rinsed** by some willing volunteers; and **then presented to our resident artist Peggy Brown** who applies the Mission Logo and seals them. **Finally they are blessed by one of our Priests**. Then they are packed and mailed along with a letter of welcome to the Bethany Association.

We believe that, after all this TLC, each piece of the Mission will bring a little “peace” of the Mission into every home and office in which it finally resides. It is one way of making the Mission present to all of our friends, near and far.

Would you like to be a member of the Bethany Association and receive one of these lovingly prepared Mission rocks?

The Bethany Association is for anyone who considers themselves a friend of the Mission, whether you are down the road, across the country, or across the sea. There are no other requirements.

Besides receiving a Mission rock **there are several important benefits** that come with being a member of Bethany, **and they are all linked to the power of prayer:**

1. The name of each Bethany member is inscribed in a book which is kept in the MDM prayer chapel, so you are there each time the Community prays---and we pray a lot!

2. Bethany Associates and their intentions are the intention of every Sunday Mass at the Mission.

3. A special novena of prayers is offered between Christmas and New Years solely for our associates and their intentions.

If you wish to belong to the Bethany Association, please contact Pat Fox at 830-905-4515 or e-mail jackie@missionofdivinemeracy.org. ♦

Thanks be to God!

We are very grateful to all of you for your prayers for Maria Felicitas. The oral chemotherapy that she began last spring has been so far surprisingly successful, and she is back to her old self. (This is a warning ☺)

She, in turn, entrusts all of you to the Hearts of Jesus and Our Blessed Mother. ♦



Pat's story

God truly does work in mysterious ways. Several month ago, my contractor son was in the midst of completing an apartment at my daughter's home that will be my new living quarters. It included an addition and a renovation, so it was not a small project.

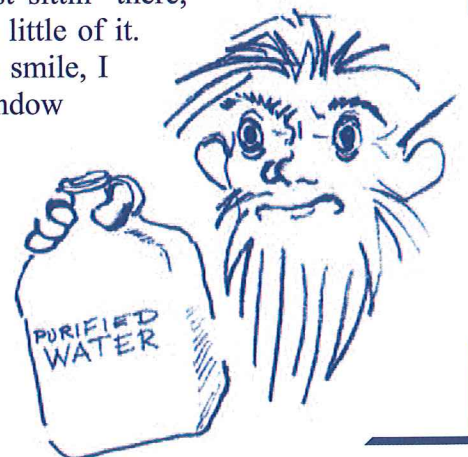
To accomplish this, he brought with him a couple of fellows he'd worked with for a long time, both confirmed members of AA. Todd is a family man, clean cut and shaven, with a wife and three lovely children. The other fellow, Gerald is polite and hardworking, but always a sight to behold: with a pony tail and beard, both reaching almost to his waist, a hippy sort, his clothing naturally air -conditioned with many holes.

Most of the work on this project occurred in the summer, in the middle of Texas heat. One day I picked up several gallons of holy water from the Mission. I took one in, but they were so heavy, I put the other on the front porch swing and promptly forgot about it.

Several hours later, I walked outside, just in time to see Gerald upend the gallon of holy water and take a long swig. I looked at him, but was absolutely speechless. Seeing the look on my face, he took another long drink and mumbled, with a slightly guilty look, "It was just sittin' there, ma'am.... didn't look like it belonged to nobody, and I was just drinkin' a little of it. It's really hot out here, ma'am." Managing what I hoped was a really big smile, I nodded and went inside, not trusting myself to speak. I glanced out the window just in time to see Gerald shrug, upend the jug again, and finish off the holy water.

Nothing else was said about the jug of water. However, when the crew came back on Monday, I almost did a double-take when I saw Gerald ---his face clean-shaven, and his hair cut short! More over there were no more holes in shoes or clothing.

Our Lady says there are no coincidences. ♦ Pat Fox





Regular Activities at the Mission

Subject to change. Please see the calendar on our website for updates.

English Mass

- ♦ Sunday – 10:00 a.m.
- ♦ Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday – 8:00 a.m.
- ♦ Thursday – 6:00 p.m. *followed by a Holy Hour from 7-8:00 p.m.*

Traditional Latin Mass

- ♦ Sunday – 8:00 a.m.
- ♦ Daily (Tuesday-Saturday) – 6:00 a.m.
- ♦ First Fridays - 8:00 p.m. *followed by a Holy Hour.*

Spanish Mass

First Sunday of each month – 12:00 noon.

Vespers and Holy Hour

- ♦ Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday – 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- ♦ Friday – 3:00-4:30 p.m.
- ♦ Thursday* 7:00-8:00 p.m. Holy Hour (after 6 p.m. Mass; no Vespers)

**On the first Thursday of the month, the prayer for healing follows the Holy Hour.*

*Please respect our request for modest dress at the Mission. See website for details.
Thank you.*



Mission of Divine Mercy
P.O. Box 1759
Canyon Lake, TX 78133

Calendar of Events

♦ **NOVEMBER**

1 Feast of All Saints

11:00 a.m. English Mass

8:00 p.m. Traditional Latin Mass,
followed by a Holy Hour

2 Feast of All Souls – *Day of prayer*

English Mass: 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

TLM Mass 6:00 & 10:00 a.m., 6:30 p.m.

Spanish Mass: 11:30 a.m.

9 MDM Introductory Retreat:

“The Great Gift of God’s Mercy”

24 MDM XII Anniversary Celebration

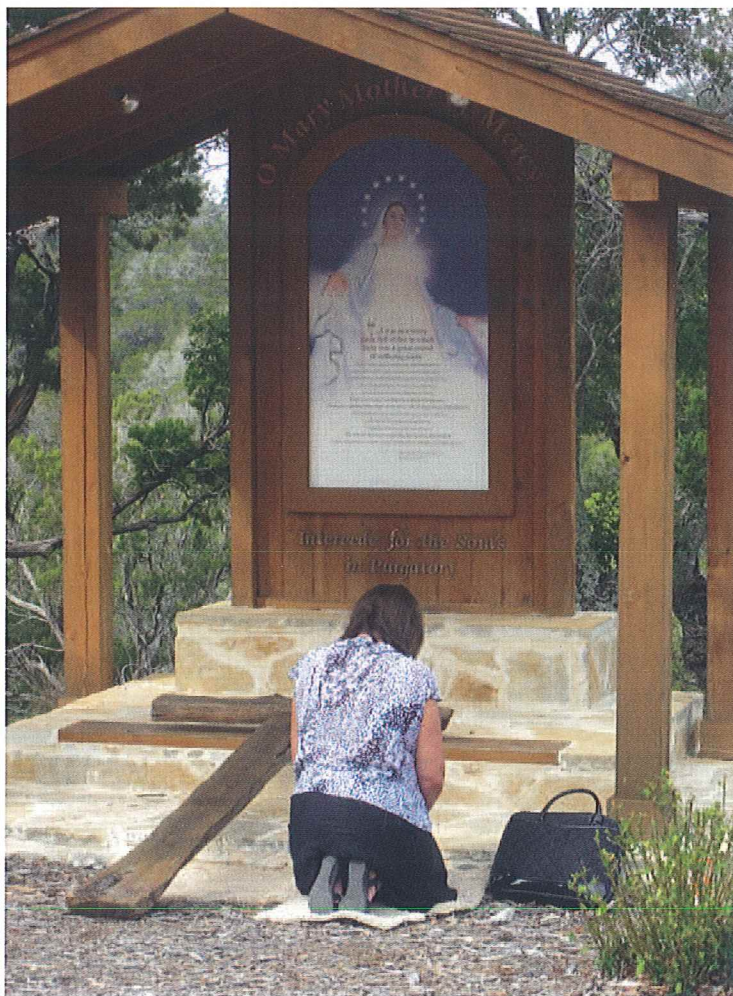
**Details to be announced.*

♦ **DECEMBER**

2-6 MDM Community Annual Retreat

7 Divine Mercy Congress *(in San Antonio, TX)*

14 MDM Advent Retreat *(English)*



Our Contact Information:

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