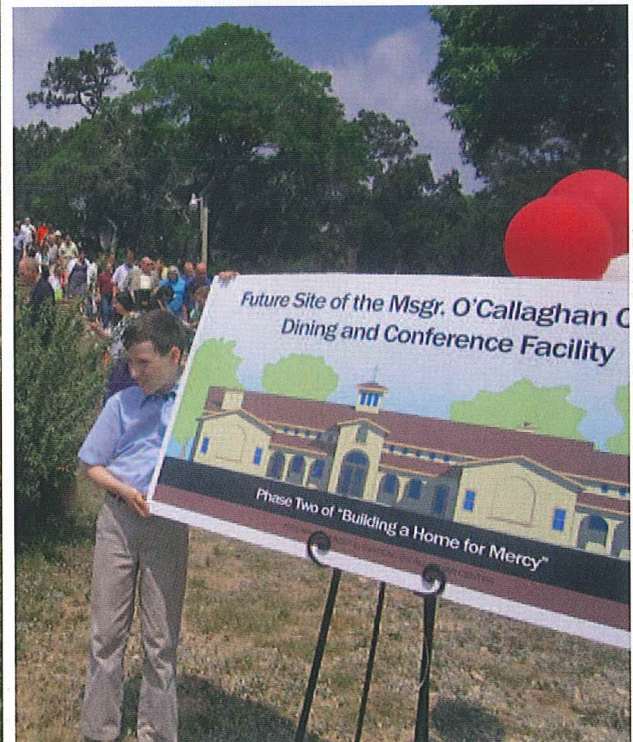


# Mission of Divine Mercy

*June 2014, A.D.*







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# Breaking Ground...

**A**long with all the special graces experienced on Divine Mercy Sunday 2014, the Mission also celebrated an important milestone with the ceremonial groundbreaking for the O'Callaghan Divine Mercy Center.

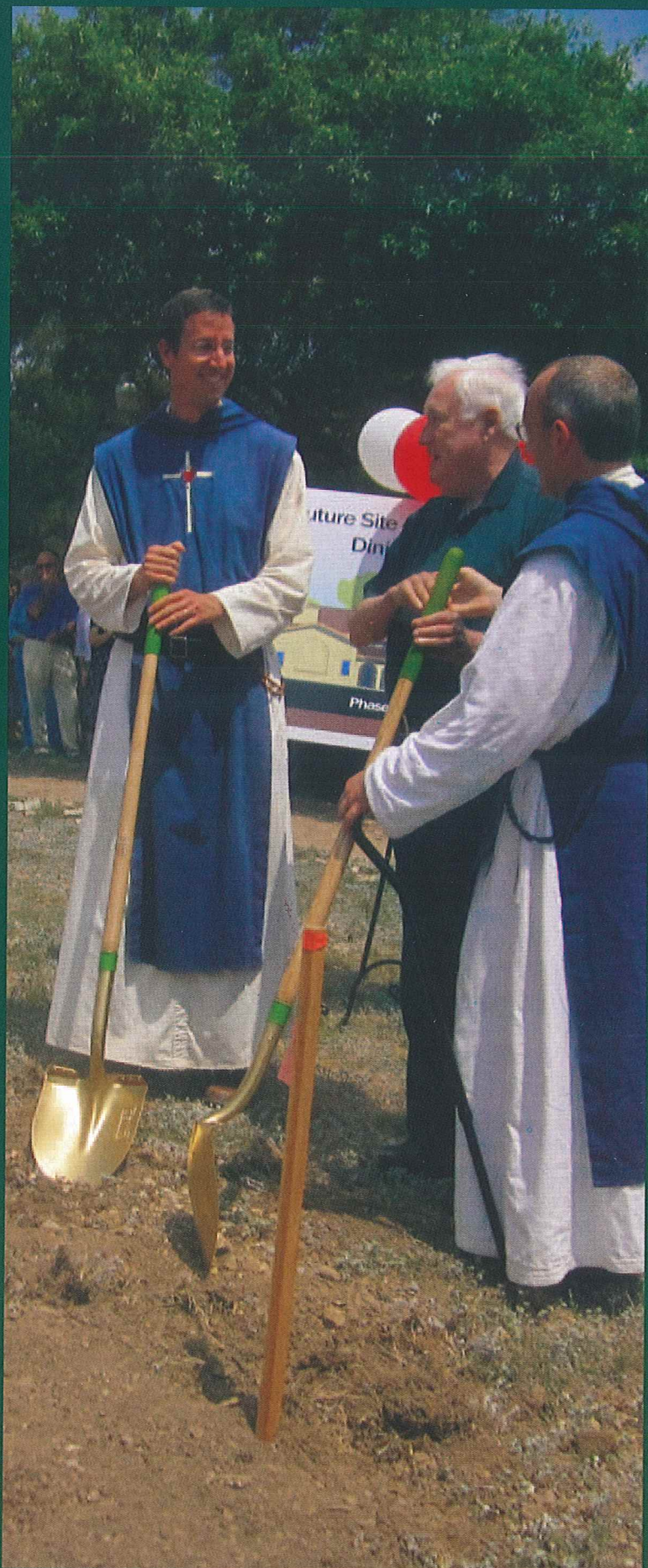
Following Mass, the Community and congregation gathered at the future site of the center and applauded the arrival of Msgr. Eugene O'Callaghan, after whom the building will be named. Red and white balloons marked the corners of the building-to-be. Flashy gold-dipped shovels (courtesy of Dave Sommers) glinted in the hot sunlight as Fr. John Mary and Monsignor broke the rocky ground.

Flanking the two priests, were MDM community members who carried with them images of Divine Mercy, Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Faustina and St. John Paul II as part of the "cloud of heavenly witnesses" who were also present for the historic event.

Addressing the crowd, Fr. John Mary said, **"With the construction of the Center we want to honor Msgr. O'Callaghan for the key role he played in the crucial early years of this Mission. And through him, we also wish to recognize all our friends of those early years, especially the parishioners of Sts. Peter and Paul.**

**"We are grateful for and impressed by the generosity of so many people, near and far, who are helping to make this great project possible. God willing, the O'Callaghan Divine Mercy Center will soon be up and running, and will be an instrument of God's Mercy for everyone who comes to the Mission."**      ❧

*Actual construction should begin in early June. Fundraising for the Center is on-going. All donations are greatly appreciated. ♦*





From Fr. John Mary:

*“Do not let your hearts be troubled....”*

*(Jn 14:1)*

#### PRACTICAL ADVICE FROM THE LORD

**A**re there times in your life when you have been troubled? Deeply troubled? Are you maybe troubled now?

Jesus is speaking these words to His apostles at the Last Supper, when they are already troubled and about to be shaken to the core. How could He tell them not to be troubled?

Have you ever had a time when you were worried and someone said to you, “Don’t worry. It’ll be fine”. And you thought, *That’s easy for you to say; it’s not your problem.* Or maybe that they didn’t really understand the situation.

But this is different. Jesus does understand the situation. He is not ignoring reality. In fact, He has been trying for some time to awaken them to the trial that is coming.

And they couldn’t say: *“That’s easy for you to say. It’s not your problem.”* Because it is His much more than theirs.

So what can we learn from this about when we are troubled?

He doesn’t say: “Just believe in yourself. Think positive.” He needs to give his friends very concrete, practical instructions on what to do right now. What is that?

***“Believe in God. Believe also in Me.”*** *(Jn 14:1)* Why?

Because He Himself is ***“the Way, and the Truth and the Life.”*** ***“No one comes to the Father except through Me.”*** *(Jn 14:6)*

In the midst of the danger and dark confusion, where wrong steps may be disastrous, someone needs to guide us on the way. He Himself is the Way.

So what can we do, concretely?

When we are troubled, and overwhelmed and tormented by so many thoughts, we can choose and try to turn our attention to Jesus, to look to Him. St. John Paul II said, *“the Church’s fundamental function ..., is to direct man’s gaze, ... toward the mystery of Christ.”*

True, even that may not be easy. But just the effort to do so is a step in the right direction.

And to help us do so, the Lord has given us tangible, easy helps. Like the blessed Image of Divine Mercy.



So one very simple, practical thing we can do is to get a copy of the Image, have it blessed, and put it in a prominent place. And then when we are troubled, look at it. That act is already one way of making an act of faith in Him.

And what do we see in the Image?

Not a scene of something that happened a long time ago. But of our Risen Lord Jesus, looking at you, *now*.

And not just looking at you, but radiating His grace and mercy on you. Giving His help to you.

And to make it even more helpful, the Image comes with very simple “instructions” on how to make an act of faith: “Jesus, I trust in YOU.”

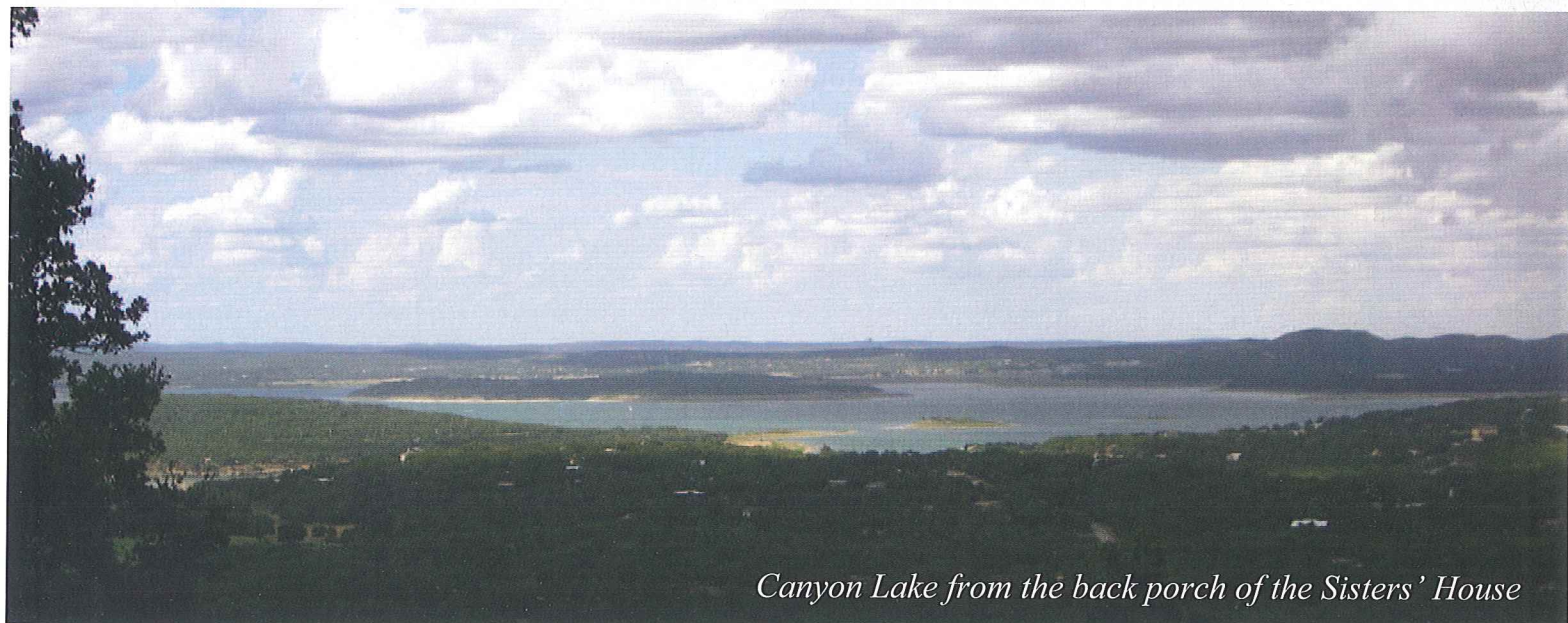
Jesus is THE TRUTH.

He doesn't comfort us by hiding the truth, but by leading us to the *fullness of Truth*. *“I have said this to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but take heart. I have overcome the world.”* (Jn 16,33)

*“Do not let your hearts be troubled.*

*... Believe in Me”*

*“Jesus, I trust in YOU”*



*Canyon Lake from the back porch of the Sisters' House*



The two weeks each spring from Palm Sunday through the Feast of Divine Mercy comprise our spiritual center of gravity here at the Mission.

# TRIDUUM



# 2014

The pattern is pretty well defined for the events of those two weeks: We accompany Jesus up to Jerusalem; witness with profound sorrow His Immolation on the Cross; rejoice with all of creation in His Easter Triumph; and finally immerse ourselves and the whole world in the Mercy that flows out from His Pierced Heart.

But this year there were several distinct additions to the traditional observance of this time at the Mission. First, something that Father John Mary had been wanting for years was finally realized this spring when **thirty-five people joined us for a special Triduum Retreat at the Mission.** Beginning on Holy Thursday afternoon the Triduum Retreat enables those who wish to, to live more completely the events of the Paschal Sacrifice of Jesus. While we were not yet able to offer overnight accommodations for the retreatants, please God, that possibility is not too far off.

Also for the first time this year—at the request of Fr. Francis McHugh, Pastor of St. Pius X Parish in San Antonio, and Fr. Albert Laforet, Rector of St. Mary's Cathedral in Austin—we offered two of the services of the Triduum in the Traditional Latin Form: The Service of the Passion on Good Friday and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday.

Then the English Easter Vigil was celebrated at dawn on Easter morning followed by a festive breakfast.





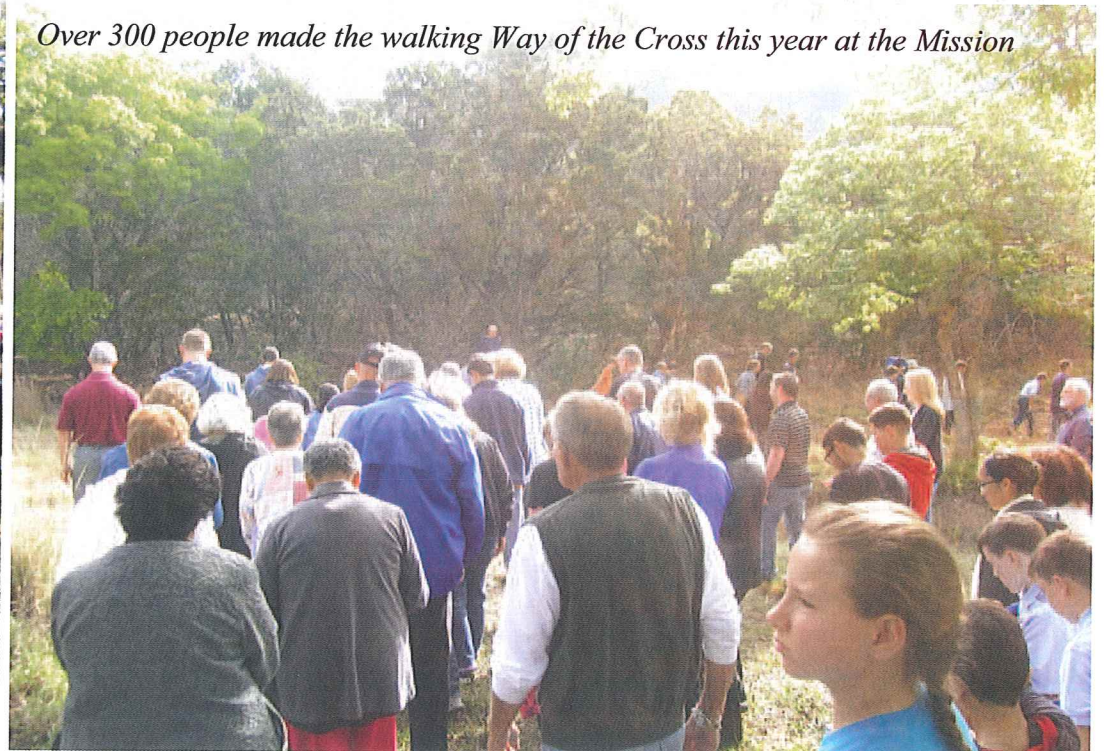
April 27<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of Divine Mercy, saw a long-awaited and wonderfully encouraging moment! After the 10am Mass we joined Monsignor Eugene O'Callaghan next to the steps below the Chapel and, gold shovels in hand, **broke ground for the construction of the O' CALLAGHAN CENTER.** Gracias a Dios! Work is scheduled to begin in earnest in June. Perhaps next year at this time we will be dedicating our new Center. ☺

Finally, since the Feast of Divine Mercy was also the occasion for the canonization of Popes John Paul II and John XXIII, **Archbishop Gustavo invited the whole Archdiocese to a solemn Feast Day Mass and celebration of the canonizations.** Given the providential role that St. John Paul played in promoting Divine Mercy, and the importance he has for our community,

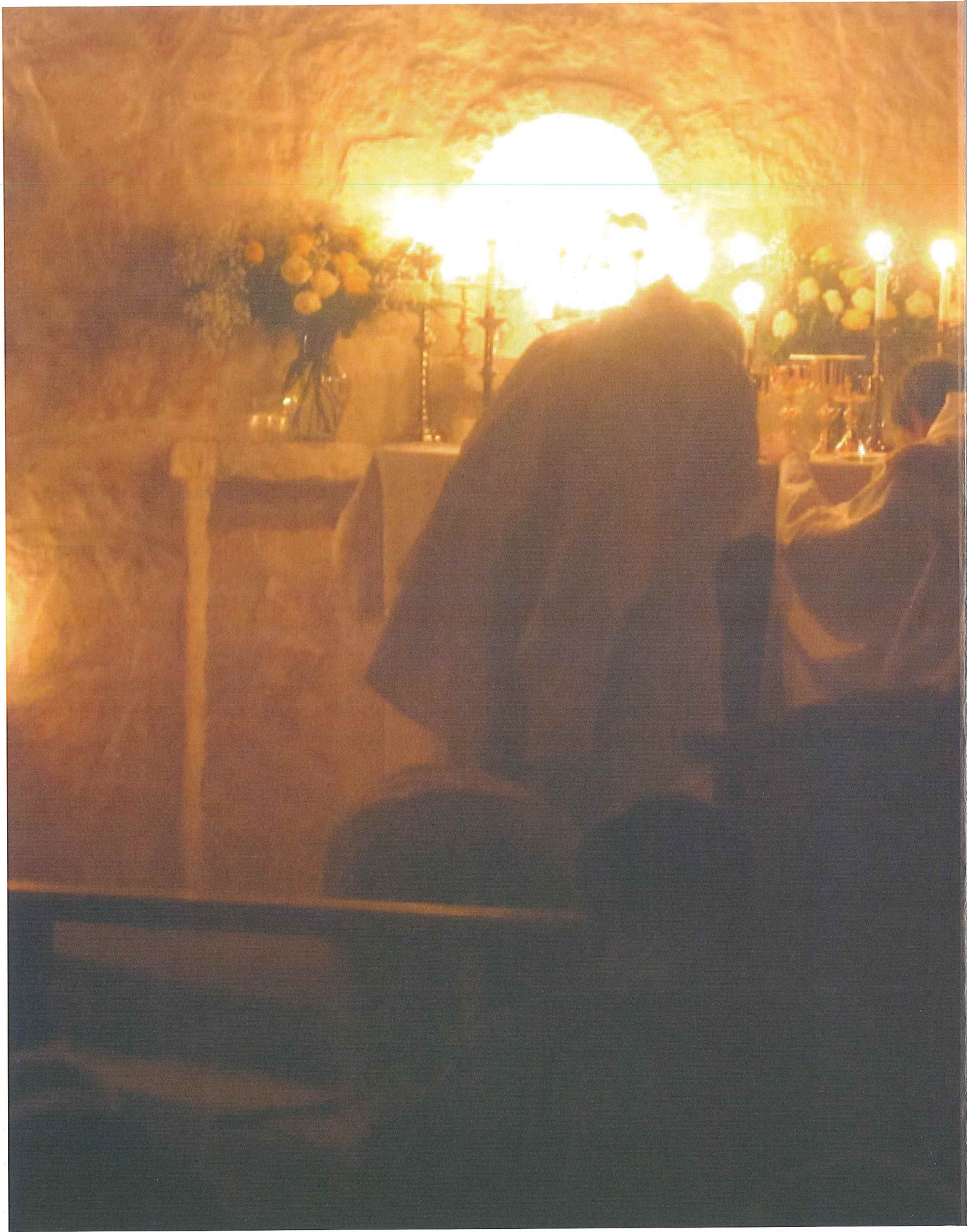
this was an especially blessed occasion. Having our own celebration and then also participating in the Archdiocesan Mass made for a very busy Feast Day, but also for a strong sense of one's membership in the Mystical Body of Christ manifested in the Universal Church. ♦



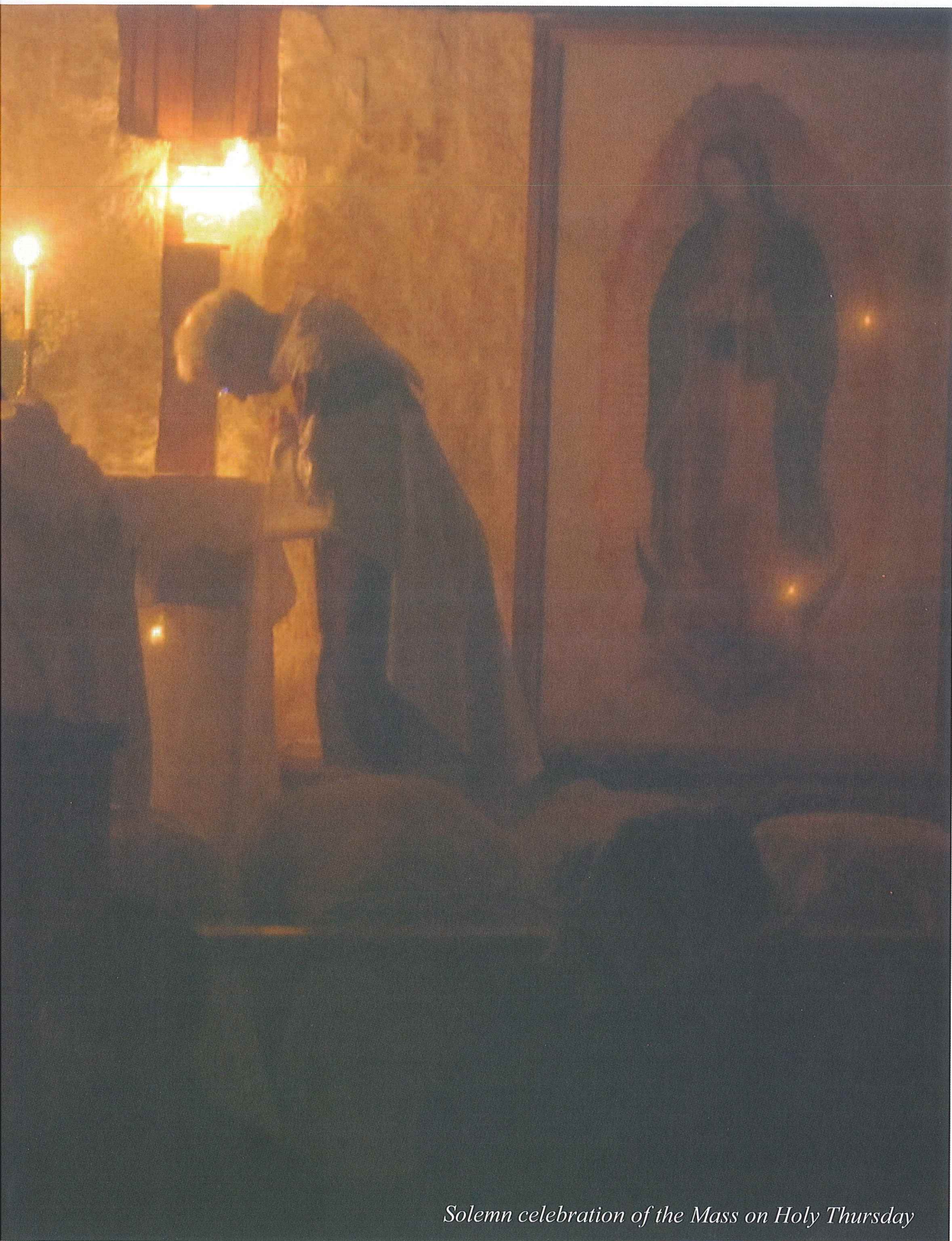
*Over 300 people made the walking Way of the Cross this year at the Mission*





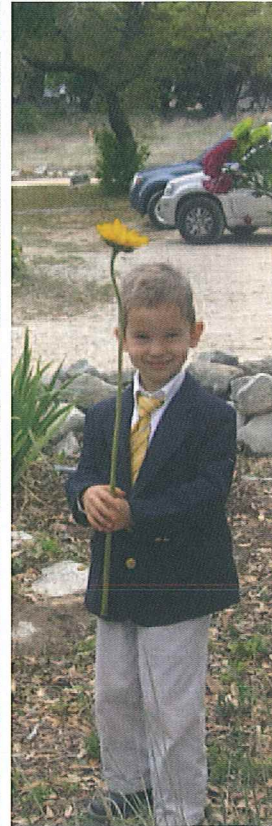
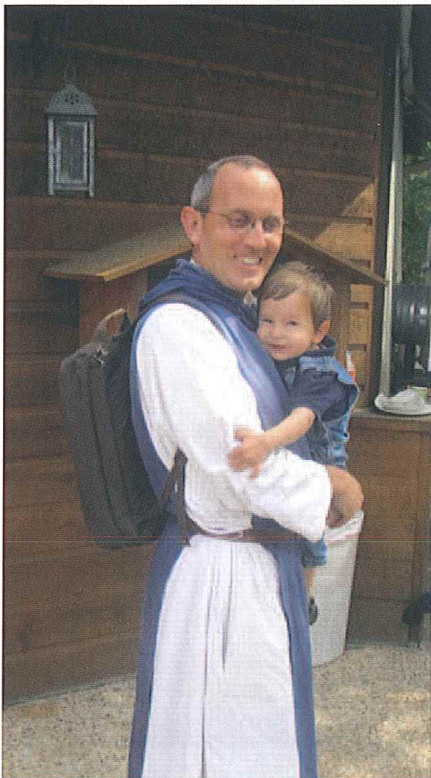
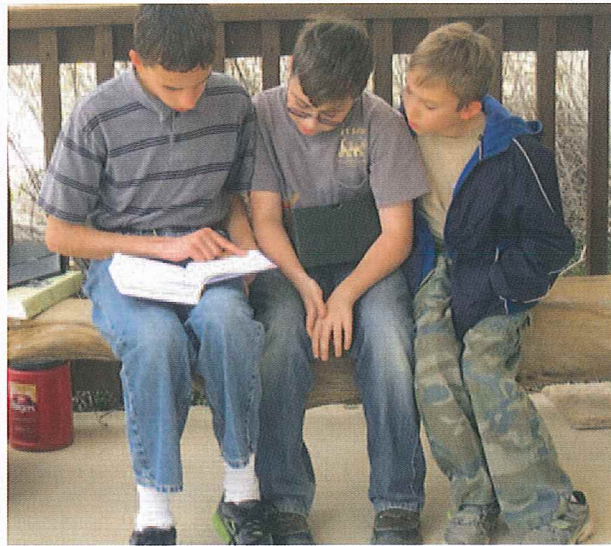
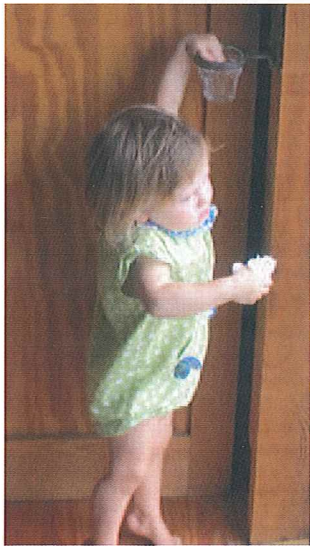
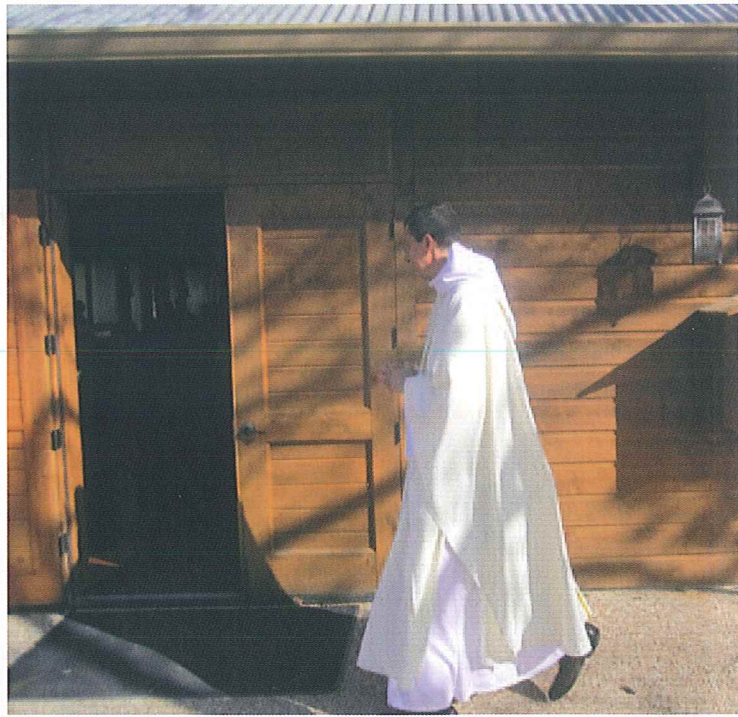






*Solemn celebration of the Mass on Holy Thursday*

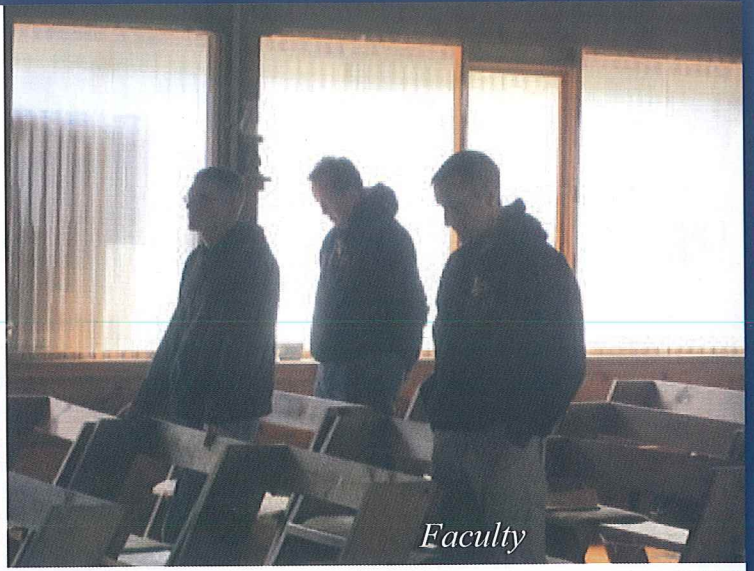
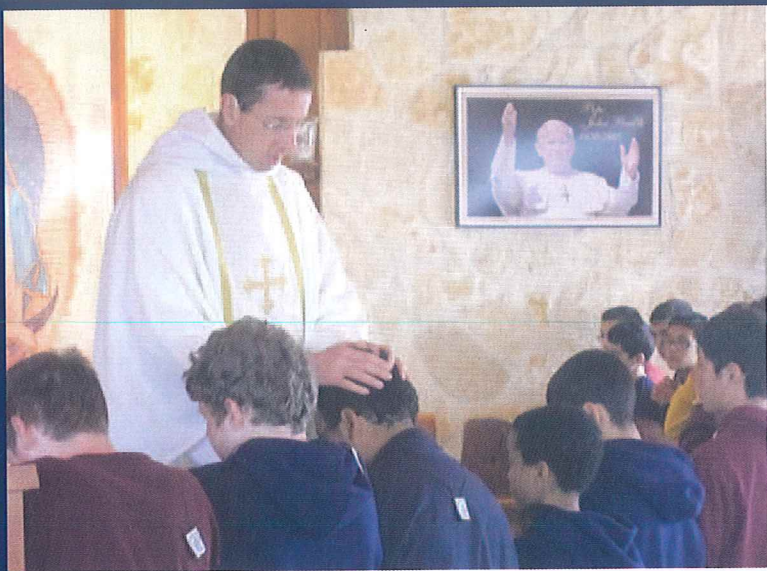












## Spring retreats for students from St. John Paul II High School.



## *Will this Answer Work at the Final Judgment?*

Dave Sommers keeps a box with small packets of animal crackers at the back of St. Joseph Chapel. They come in handy for occupying restless or fretful children. But Dave doesn't want the kids to think that the packets are just theirs for the taking. So recently when a little boy came up to Dave and asked for some cookies, Dave looked at him seriously and asked, "Well, have you been good?" The little boy paused and seemed to really think about it, and then his lower lip came out and he replied somewhat sadly, "I was almost good!" ♦





# What Are They Worth?

FROM A MEMBER OF AMICI CHRISTI.

I had recently moved an old car out of my workshop behind the house – gave it to my son – and was in the process of cleaning out the shop and making it usable again after about fifteen years of rats, mice and maybe a possum or two. Hot, dusty, silent, solitary work. Cardboard boxes originally intended to store nails, bolts, and what-all had raised generations of critters.

I was almost finished with one such box. Dirt, droppings and ancient rats' nests material a good inch deep still harbored three tiny, ¼ inch brass wood screws. I had already salvaged eleven of them.

Jesus broke the silence.

*"Throw the whole box away,"* He said.

I heard it only in my mind, but as clear and understandable as any words my ears had ever heard. Can you imagine being directly addressed by Jesus Christ?! In the milliseconds that it took to answer, simultaneous thoughts created pandemonium in my mind. He was speaking directly and clearly to me! Just what I'd been praying for every morning.

Fr. Moses had suggested getting out of bed twenty minutes early every day to visit with Jesus. I was good at talking but it really seemed like a one-sided conversation, so for several weeks I had been asking for clear and understandable communication. Here it was! Exactly what I'd been asking for!

I answered excitedly,

"Just a minute, Lord! There are only three more!"

He spoke again.

*"Throw the whole box away. You don't need them. You've already gotten some."*

Again, still excited, I answered,

"It'll only take a minute, Lord! I can find them!"

Patiently He told me a third time,

*"Throw the whole box away. You haven't used any of those in thirty years."*

A third time I answered,

"Only two more to go, Lord! It won't take long!"

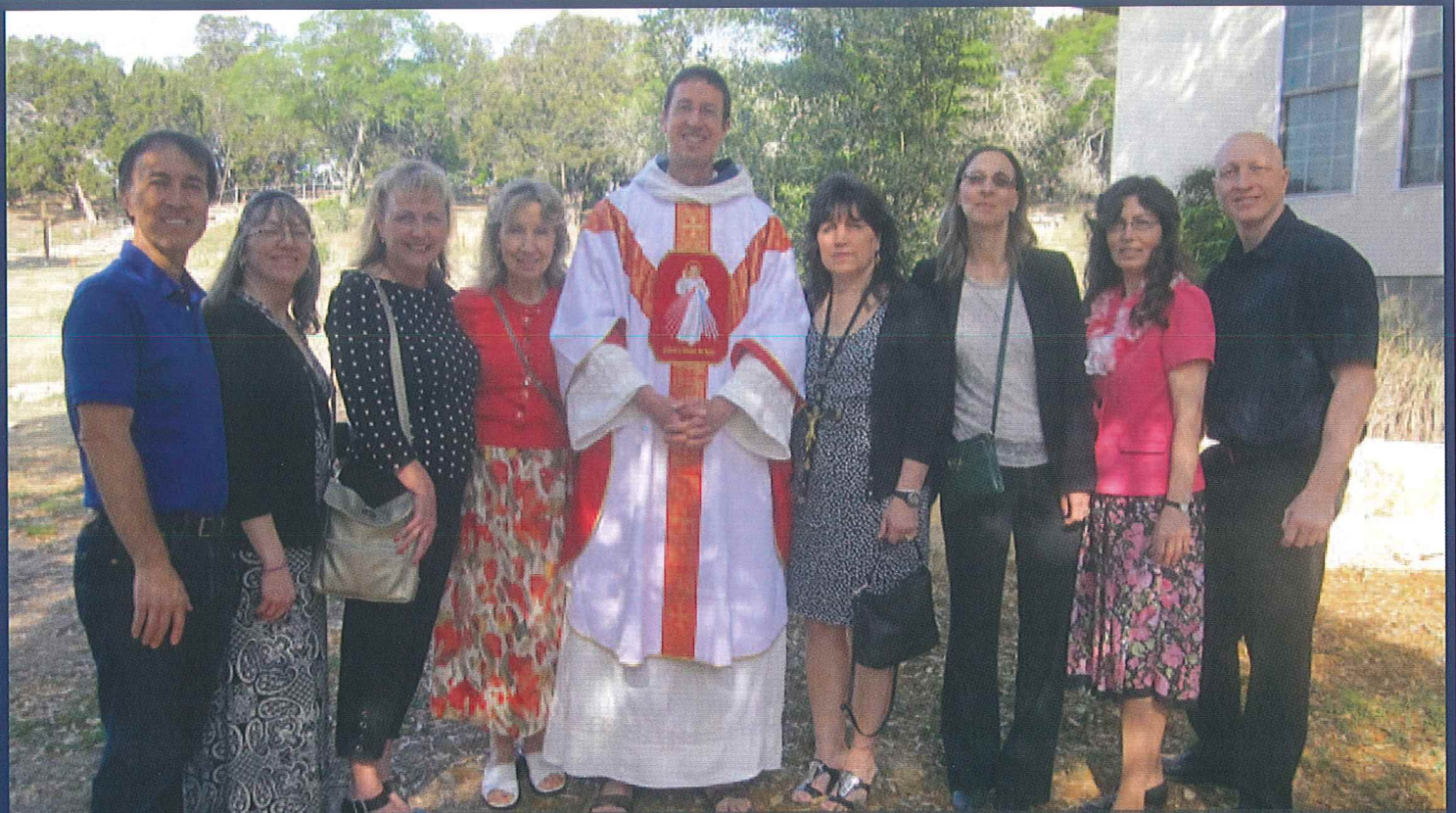
During this clear and very understandable conversation with Jesus Himself – just what I'd been seeking – I knew the whole time that this was exactly what I'd been asking Him for. And I was not doing what He was telling me. I should have been obeying Him! But I could still find the other screws and they wouldn't be wasted. It wouldn't even take a minute.

Sounds like a funny story, doesn't it? Not to me. How stupid can I be! Three times in a row I told Almighty God, "Not Your Will, but mine be done."

How stupid can I be.

He left me digging in the filth, and I did find the screws. And then realized that He was no longer there. ♦





*Our friend Tom Cruz and family present the Mission with a custom made Divine Mercy chasuble in memory of their father, Gilberto Cruz.*

## MISSION UPKEEP

**W**e would be very grateful if you would keep the financial needs of the Mission in mind this summer. The expense of running the Mission never takes a vacation. In fact, Dave Sommers tries to use the month of July, when no retreat activities are planned, to accomplish some of the upkeep and repairs that are difficult or impossible to do when people are visiting the Mission, such as road repair or restoring the floor of St. Joseph Chapel. Your gifts and regular monthly donations are what make all of this possible. God bless you for your generosity! ♦

## Summer Schedule

- ♦ **Thursday Evening Holy Hour:**  
May 22 will be the last Thursday Holy Hour until we resume in the Fall.
- ♦ **Two Week Closing**  
The Mission will be closed to the public from July 21—August 2, except for the Sunday Masses at 8 a.m. (TLM) and 10 a.m..
- ♦ **Weekday Mass Schedule**  
Our 8 a.m. weekday morning Mass schedule may change due to the wonderful noise of construction! The announcement will be made at Mass and posted on our bulletin board and website. ♦

## Mission Chic

## PROPER DRESS AT THE MISSION

As temperatures warm up, we ask our friends and visitors to the Mission to please respect our Dress Code. This is Consecrated Ground, and out of respect for Our Lord, His Mother, and each other **please refrain from wearing shorts (men and women), low-cut or sleeveless shirts, and hemlines or slits above the knee.**

If you are bringing friends to the Mission, it is a kindness to them, and to us, to acquaint them with the Dress Code, or as we refer to it, "Mission Chic." **Thank you for your cooperation!** ♦





# Dave's Corner

**W**e are looking forward to starting construction on the O'Callaghan Center very soon; possibly in June. When construction begins there will be some changes that will affect the normal activity of the Mission:

1. You may see some changes in the way we rout traffic to the parking areas. Since the main parking area will be very close to the construction site some of the parking space will be taken up with equipment. Weekdays we expect to lose most of the parking area in our existing lot; on weekends, however, most of the parking area should be available. Additional parking will be available near the Chapel. We hope to have this temporary lot prepared very soon.
2. The steps to the chapel will become part of the construction site so all foot traffic will have to use the road.
3. The traffic pattern to the tent and camp house will also change. The road that we normally use to get to St. Michael's and the tent area will be closed off; foot traffic will be directed to the tent area and St. Michael's Hall by going below the camp house area. We will have the area well marked and hope it will not present too much of a problem.
4. The construction site will be fenced off but I ask that everyone keep an eye on the children! Construction equipment and building areas are "kid magnets"; we all need to help keep the children safe.

During this time we may find that some work will be scheduled for Saturdays. This may have to be done out of necessity due to availability of equipment or contractors. Be aware that our normal quiet Saturday mornings may be interrupted by the sound of progress.

Indian Chief Trail is already a narrow road as we all know. During the weekdays we expect a significant increase in traffic, and much of it will be large trucks. Be careful. You may encounter a construction vehicle just over the hill or around the next curve. Drive slowly, carefully, and proceed with caution. You are a very important part of the Mission and we want all your parts to remain together. ♦ *Semper Fi*





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*Amici Christi Members renew  
their commitment*

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