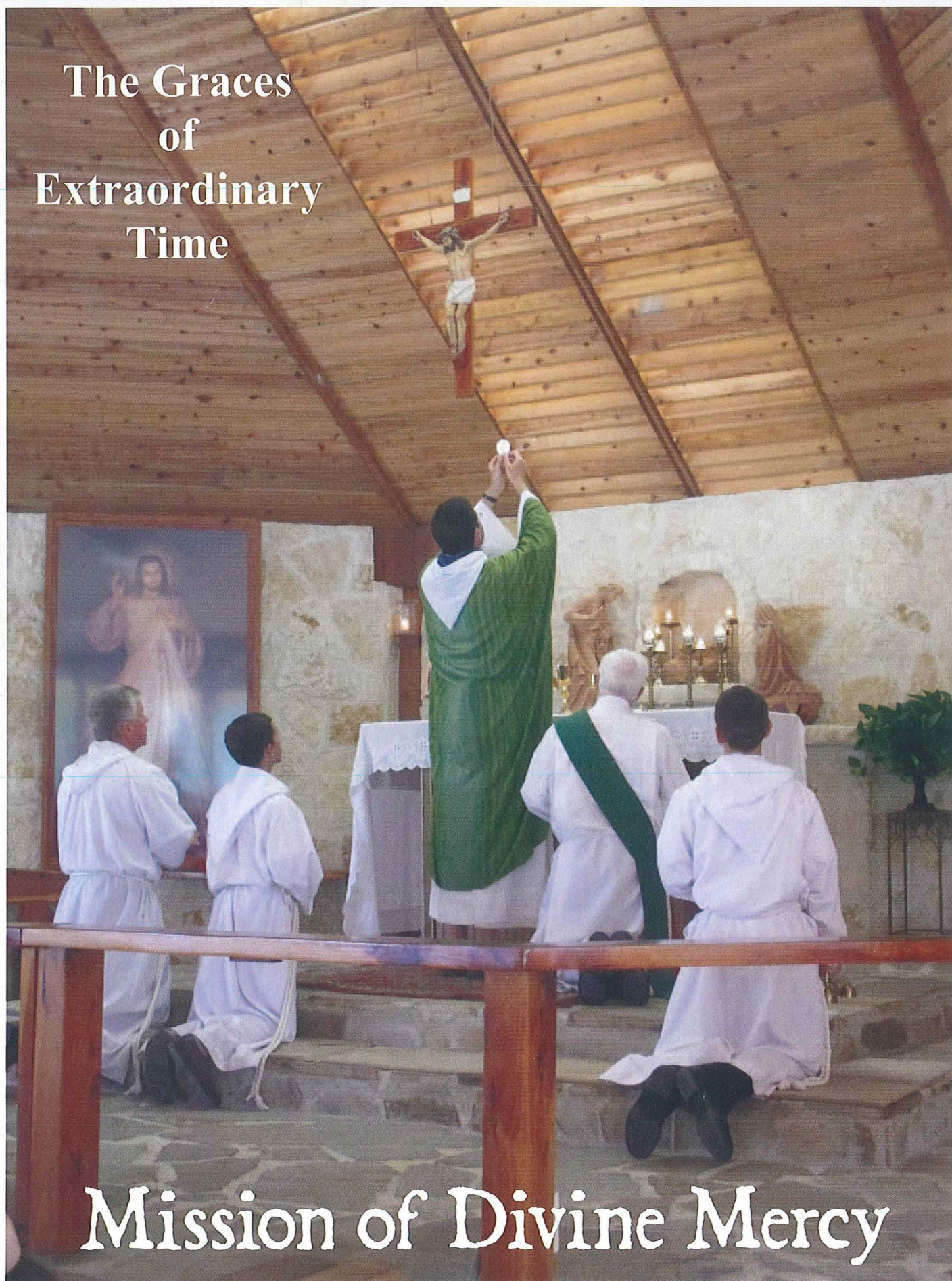
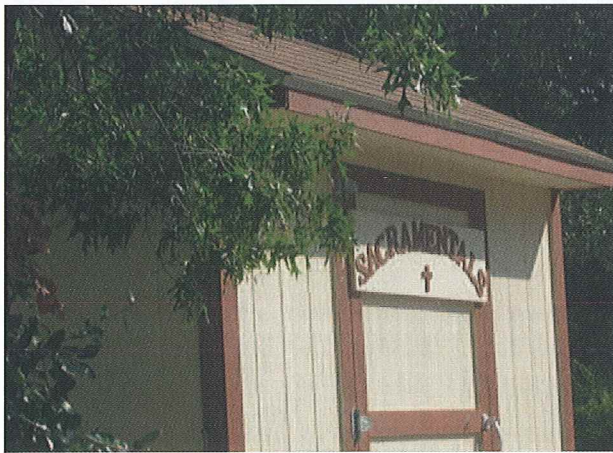
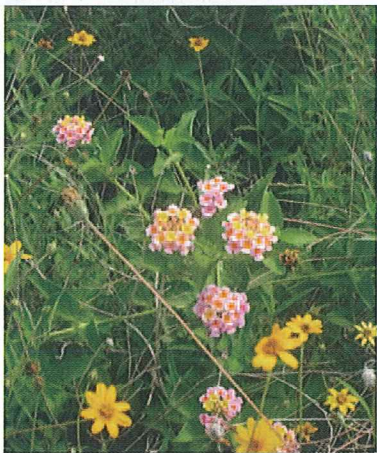


The Graces
of
Extraordinary
Time



Mission of Divine Mercy

Fall 2014, A.D.



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FROM FR. JOHN MARY:

The Charism of Faith

Lately I have been praying about the question of “charism.” Specifically, what is the *charism*, or special grace, that MDM is called to manifest? If each member of the Body of the Lord, which is the Church, has its special role in service to the whole, what is ours?

And I sense the Lord showing us more clearly that the charism of MDM is FAITH. A faith which is rooted in humility and accomplished in obedience.

If faith is the special charism, or grace, of the Mission of Divine Mercy, then how do we share the fruit of this charism with our friends and with all who come to the Mission? How do we help others to grow in FAITH? What are some of the actions that must be taken?

Maybe this example will help me to explain.

Say you are very sick, sick as a dog. And there is a good doctor, wise and competent. He knows what’s wrong with you and how to cure it. And he wants to help you. So much that he even comes to your house ---yes, a house call!

But for you to be healed, it doesn’t just depend on him. There are three simple but key things that you need to do.

1. **RECOGNIZE:** You need to admit that you’re sick and need help. If you don’t recognize that, you won’t be open to any help. It takes **humility** to recognize the truth of our need.

2. **RECEIVE.** Now you recognize that you’re sick. And you hear him knocking on the door. But if you don’t open the door and let him in, *receive* him, then he still can’t help you. If you don’t **trust** him, have **faith** in him, let him in and then listen to him, then no matter how good he is, you’re not receiving the benefit.

3. **RESPOND.** Now this good doctor has told you the medicine that you need to take, and the things that you need to do in order to be healed. And let’s say you trust him enough to believe him. But if you don’t *do* what he says and put it into practice, you still won’t get better. So you have to not only receive his advice, but respond to it by **obeying** it.

(Continued on page 5)

New Vocations

On the Feast of the Queenship, August 22, we welcomed two new men into the postulancy at MDM, and one more into the Saint Gabriel's Institute (SGI).

Dustin Bates of New Braunfels, 24, is a Mission veteran. He spent several years in the St. Michael's Squadron during high school and then was a member of the SGI for a semester afterwards. He graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula, California, with a degree in Liberal Arts and spent last year teaching at Glendale Preparatory Academy in Phoenix, Arizona.

On the other hand, **Patrick Ryan**, 49, from Austin, is a newcomer to the Mission. With a career in communications and development, most recently he has served as Director for the national Fullness of Truth Conference. He will fulfill his final obligations there with the conclusion of the San Antonio Conference, Aug. 23-24.

(We also hope to receive one female postulant after she finishes a business commitment later this fall.)



When someone discerns a call to consecrate his life to God, and to do that specifically with the Mission of Divine Mercy, then he en-

ters into a half-year of postulancy where he lives with the Community as a member and continues to discern that call. During this time there is no canonical commitment; if at any time he decides to withdraw from the program he is free to do so.

We earnestly ask for your prayers for all those who will be living with us this year.

We know that the devil prowls about like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. And he seeks especially the souls of those who are consecrated. Postulancy is a time of grace; but it's also a time of vulnerability, attack and discouragement. Pray for us and pray for them.



Also, upon request, we are resurrecting the SGI program which provides a place for young laymen to step away

from the world and to spend time in a consecrated setting drawing closer to God and seeking His Will for their lives. With us this fall will be another veteran of the St. Michael Squadron: **Jim Bergan**, 22, from Baton Rouge, Louisiana is taking off time from an entrepreneurial program to devote this time to the Lord.

As with our Postulants, we entrust him to your prayers. ♦



(Continued from page 3)

Our Lord is the Divine Doctor, coming to save us. God is offering His Mercy in a special way in our suffering world today, as He revealed to St. Faustina. He wants to help us, but we have our part to play. We have to:

Recognize the truth of our need = HUMILITY

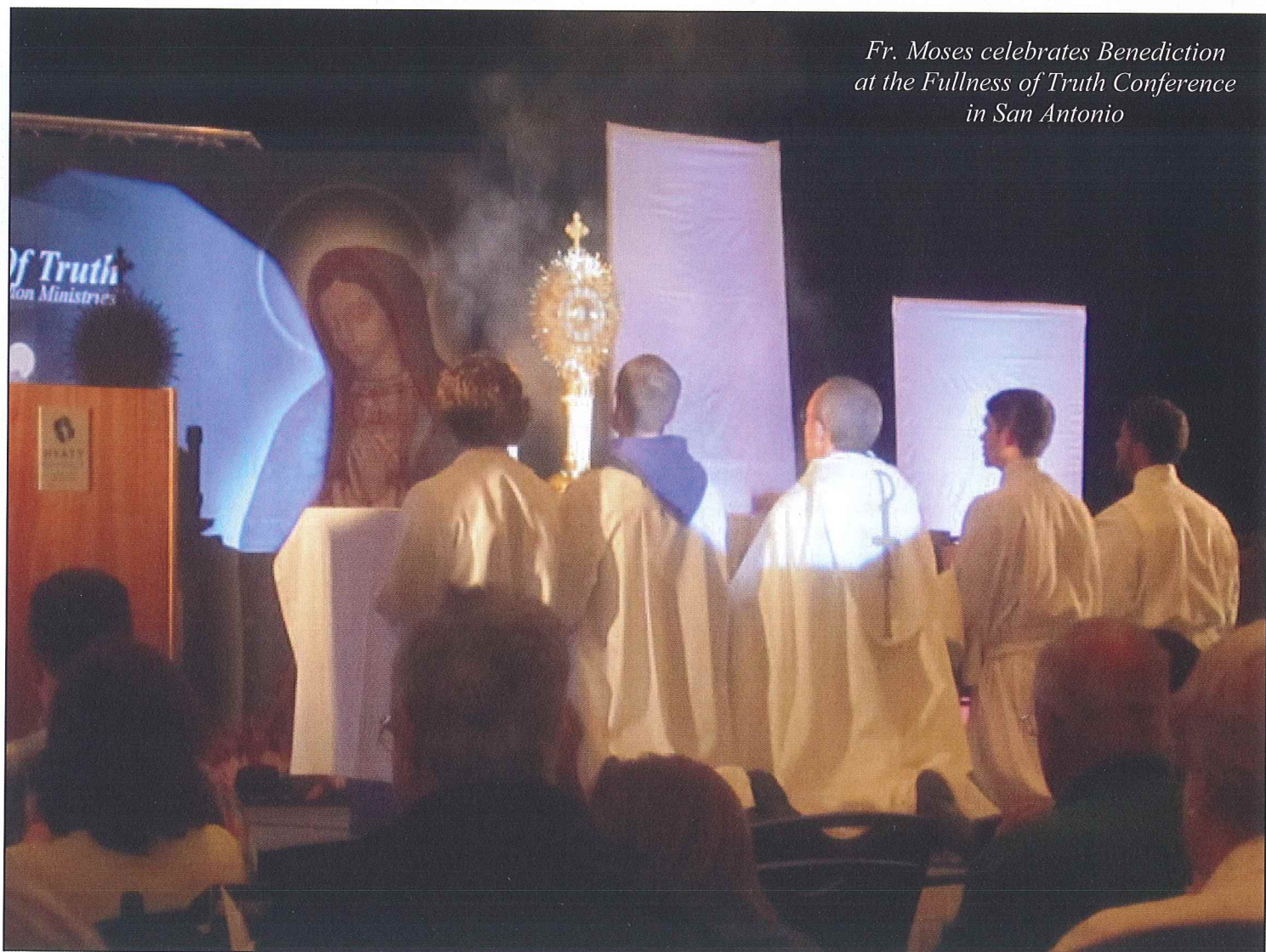
Trust in Him = FAITH

Put His word into practice = OBEDIENCE

We of the Mission of Divine Mercy feel called, daily, to grow deeper in our own faith and to draw others with us, trusting in and responding to the Divine Doctor.

In later newsletters, I hope to explore these ideas in more depth. But for now, let me leave you with the prayer that Jesus taught us, which contains all three actions:

"Thy Will be done". ♦



*Fr. Moses celebrates Benediction
at the Fullness of Truth Conference
in San Antonio*

O'CALLAGHAN DIVINE MERCY CENTER

Our Spring newsletter featured the ceremonial groundbreaking of the O'Callaghan Divine Mercy Center. In June the big machines rumbled in and the real dirt removal began. As we write this, the old contours of the hillside exist only in memory and photographs. Many, many truckloads of dirt, rock and caliche have been removed to create the site for the new building.

God-willing, with the next newsletter we will be showing you a concrete foundation, or perhaps even the skeleton of a building. In the meantime we thought you might like to hear reflections from some of the people who have been most involved in the planning process: Dave Sommers, Director of Op-

erations at the Mission; Sr. Amapola, MDM; and Mark Morkovsky, architect of the O'Callaghan Divine Mercy Center.

Mark Morkovsky is a principal in Morkovsky & Associates, an architectural firm based in San Antonio.

"In 2008 I was introduced to the Mission and the Community by my friend John Weber. On my first visit to the Mission I was given a tour of the property. As we stopped at several different sites I was amazed by the beauty of the views from hill top to valley below.

Dave Sommers and our contractor Johnny Friesenhahn staking out the area....



Excitement and Nostalgia As Construction Begins





"Over the next few years I met several times with the Community to discuss their needs and define their building priorities. These discussions brought us to the Msgr. O'Callaghan Divine Mercy Center.

"Having lived and worked in San Antonio, my normal day is full of noise, traffic, and the hustle and bustle of city life, but at this place all that chaos did not exist. The Mission was peaceful, quiet and a spiritual place where you could just close your eyes and 'hear' God's creation. Each time I drive through the entry gates I feel God's peaceful presence come over me.

"I feel very blessed to be part of this project and to have the pleasure of the friendships of Fr. John Mary, Sr. Amapola, Dave, David and all the staff at the Mission of Divine Mercy." ❧

Before **Sr. Amapola** joined the Community as a 20-year-old, she had begun her studies for a degree in architecture in Monterrey, Mexico. She gave up those studies when she entered religious life, never anticipating that her early training might be put to use later on, serving as a member of the Project Committee for the O'Callaghan Center.

"One of the most surprising and challenging aspects of being part of this project was seeing how many things needed to be in place in order to even choose the final location of the building. Trying to work with all the different regulations and restrictions; making sure you take into account the future development of the Mission; trying to stay within budget with all the different surprises that come up...I can't imagine what it would be like to have to build a sky-scraper in a congested urban area!"❧

Dave Sommers has overseen the physical care and development of the Mission since its inception, when part of his job description included responsibility for a small herd of cattle. He has witnessed a lot of changes.

"From my perspective, I think the changing landscape has been the most difficult thing to watch, especially the loss of the steps and the tomb."

"The hillside steps leading to St. Joseph Chapel were built by the St. Michael's Squadron during our second Squadron Summer Camp. We had little or no money to use for their construction. So we got some old railroad ties and started digging into the rock. All we had to work with were some donated second-hand tools and one old wheel barrow. But we had a bunch of motivated guys who were ready to make it happen! After the steps were completed we installed a handrail made out of fencing pipe."

"The steps were such a great improvement at the time, and over the years hundreds of people have climbed them on their way up the hill to attend Mass and Holy Hour. We all knew it had to hap-

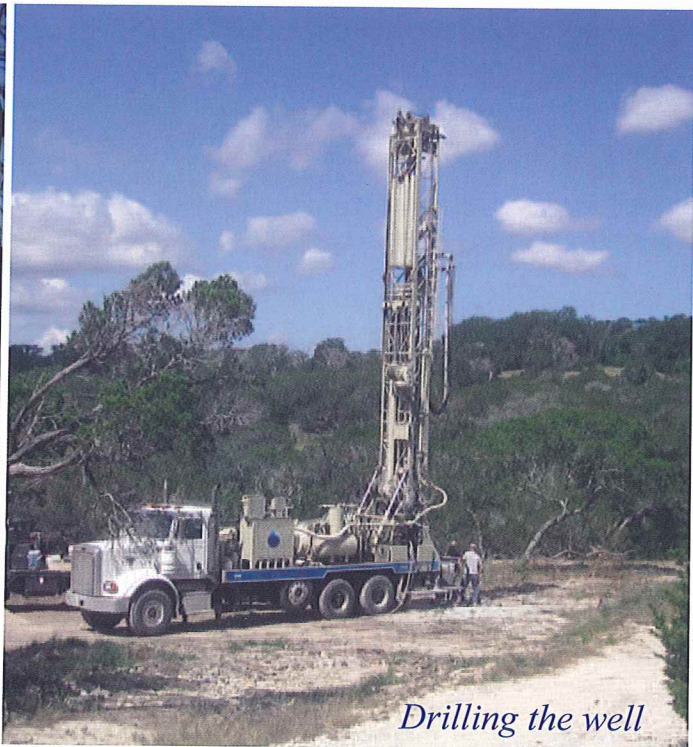
pen, but when the bulldozers moved in I was sad to see them go.

"The tomb was another difficult thing to see go away. The tomb served as our 14th Station of the Cross, and it is where our walking Way of the Cross ends on Good Friday. It was built using some boulders that we hauled down from up in the hills here at the Mission. The construction took several days, with most of the work being done by hand, with some help from the skid steer. We were really fortunate that no one ended up needing the tomb! I really hated to see the tomb dismantled, but I saved the boulders and hope to rebuild it in a new location."

"Even though I am saddened by some of the changes, that sadness is more than made up for by the look on Father John Mary's face each time he sees another stage of the site preparation. The construction of the OCC is a dream come true for the Community, a Community that has come so very far in such a short time. This is just the beginning, the Lord has a plan and we are just now seeing the start of that plan." ♦



Our new cistern



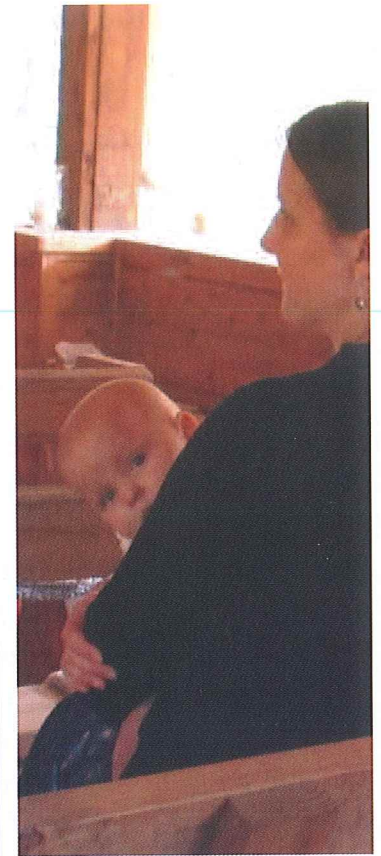
Drilling the well

Becoming A Bethany Associate

The Bethany Association is for anyone, nearby or far away, who consider themselves a friend of the Mission. We ask Associates to keep the Mission in their prayers; there are no other requirements. But all Bethany Associates and their intentions are THE intention of every MDM Sunday Mass. And we also make our Associates and their intentions the intention of our special Christmas Week Novena.

As a Bethany Associate you receive a unique reminder of your connection to the Mission, a blessed Mission Rock featuring the Mission logo, that carries with it "a little *peace* of the Mission."

If you have not already signed up as member of the Bethany Association, and would like to join, please just fill out the name, address and e-mail information on the envelope included with this newsletter, and indicate that you wish to be part of Bethany. Or e-mail us with your name and address at mdm@missionofdivinemercy.org. ♦



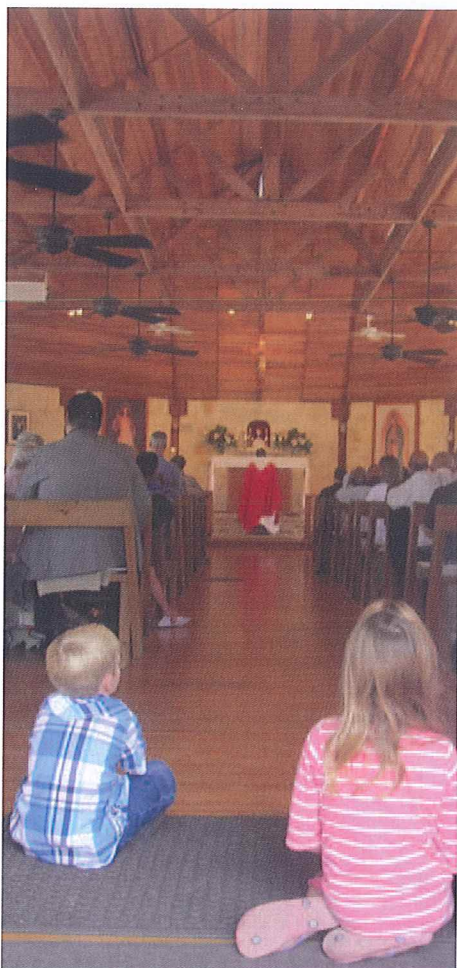
Don't Make Him Build It By Himself!

Msg. O'Callaghan came to view the progress on the O'Callaghan Divine Mercy Center. We could show him an enormous hole in the ground where a hill used to be, some big machines, and a lot of dust. He was impressed; but said he is looking for more....



He knows there is a need for the Center. Monsignor is anxious to see the Center take shape, even if he has to build it himself.

We are still looking to raise several hundred thousand dollars to cover the cost of the Center and the associated infrastructure. **Please help us raise the money, and make one special Priest very happy!** Please indicate O'Callaghan Center on the memo line of your check. ♦



Madeline Davis plays for Trinity Sunday Mass



Erecting our new bell tower

Change for the Sisters

For some time Mother Magdalene, who has been in charge of the Women's Community for over fourteen years, has been dealing with some health issues that are both time consuming and energy draining. In order to lighten her schedule and at the same time provide for the needs of new vocations, **Sr. Amapola has been asked to be in charge of the Women's Community for the coming year.** (Maria Felicitas, who is recovering from a round with lung cancer last year and is on cycles of chemotherapy, has her own health issues to deal with.)

We confide them all to your prayers. ♦

Jesus, we trust in You!



OUR MASS IN ENGLISH

Beginning Tuesday, Sept. 16th

As many of you know, for some time here at the Mission we have been celebrating an English-Latin Mass. But we have received requests to return to the Mass in English since we now have, in addition to our Community Mass, the daily celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass by Fr. Moses. **So, after prayerful consideration, and realizing that there is no perfect solution, we have decided to return to a Mass in English, beginning Sept 16th.** We will continue to chant some of the Mass parts (the *Gloria*, *Sanctus*, and *Agnus Dei*) and hymns in Latin, thus retaining the rich roots of Gregorian Chant. ♦



Men's ACTS Team, St. John Neuman Parish, San Antonio

Extraordinary Retreat Experience!

It was my first retreat with the Mission of Divine Mercy; an *Encounter with Jesus* retreat in an old convent in San Antonio. It was late and we'd just ended an hour of Eucharistic adoration in the Chapel off the main corridor of the convent. Last to leave, I was slowly and reverently exiting the darkened chapel.



Wait a minute! Was that a pile of dirty laundry in the back of the chapel? I turned and looked. In the dim light there appeared to be a pile of bedding or sheets or whatever tossed toward the wall of the corridor, but unmistakably in the chapel.

Is this the drop point for dirty laundry? In the chapel?!? Nuns couldn't be that irreverent. Could they? But there it was.

I'll at least go kick it out of the pathway, I thought, up against the wall beside the folding chairs. Yeah, but it's none of my business. I don't live here, I don't know the routine. But still! Dirty laundry in the chapel? NO!

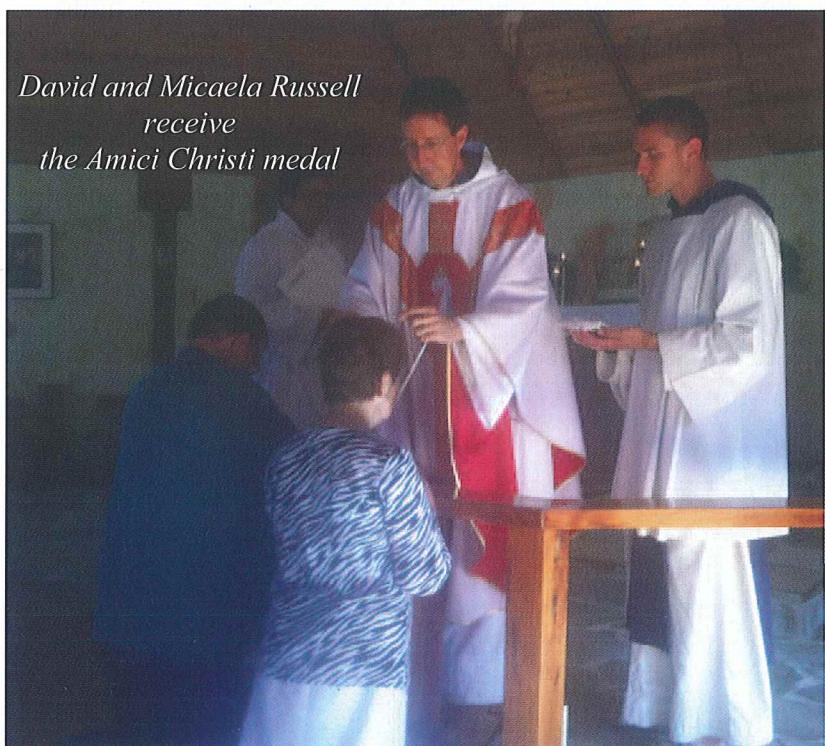
Indignant at such irreverence I hesitated, debating whether to go over and kick somebody's rumpled bed sheets out of the aisle or mind my own business and go on down the hall. I looked. Then I squinted, rubbed my eyes and looked again! Yes, the light was dim but there was no question; something was moving in the dirty laundry! Almost undulating, something larger was struggling to rise up from the floor!

I watched, spellbound, as Sister Amapola rose quietly from her prostrate position. Then I silently turned and melted away down the corridor. ♦

Amici Christi Reminder

We welcome back those returning to Amici Christi and look forward to another year of faith formation and fellowship. **If you know someone who has already become somewhat familiar with the Mission of Divine Mercy and who wants to learn more about this lay branch of MDM, they should first contact Mary Gorman before September 15th at marymgorman@sbcglobal.net or call (830) 629-0176. After October, new prospective members must wait until the following September to begin discernment.** ♦

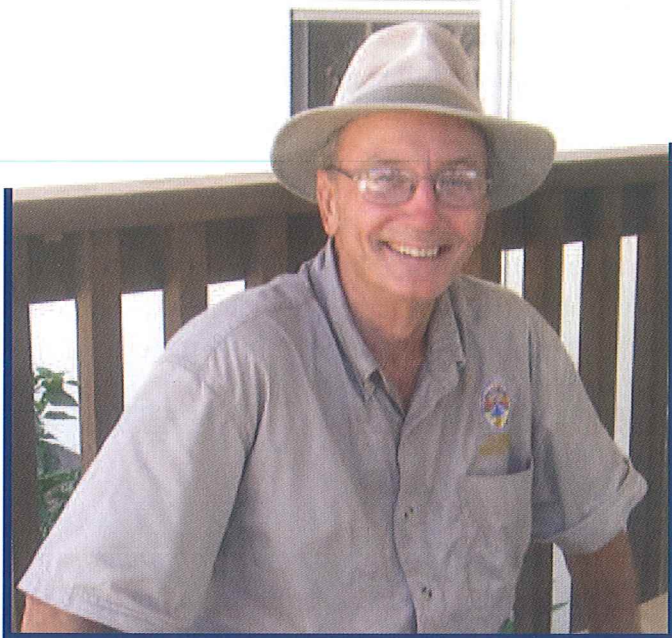
*David and Micaela Russell
receive
the Amici Christi medal*



New Faces at the Mission

STEVE MAGDICH

Assistant to Director of Operations



We would like to introduce you to Steve Magdich who comes on board as a part-time assistant to the Director of Operations.

Dave Sommer's job responsibilities as Director of Operations have increased exponentially with the addition of the Men's and Women's houses, as well as overseeing all of the new construction. His position was already a very demanding one for Superman, and then last year Dave had open-heart surgery.

The need for an assistant could no longer be postponed, but finding the right person was not going to be easy. Fortunately God provided the answer in the person of Steve Magdich.

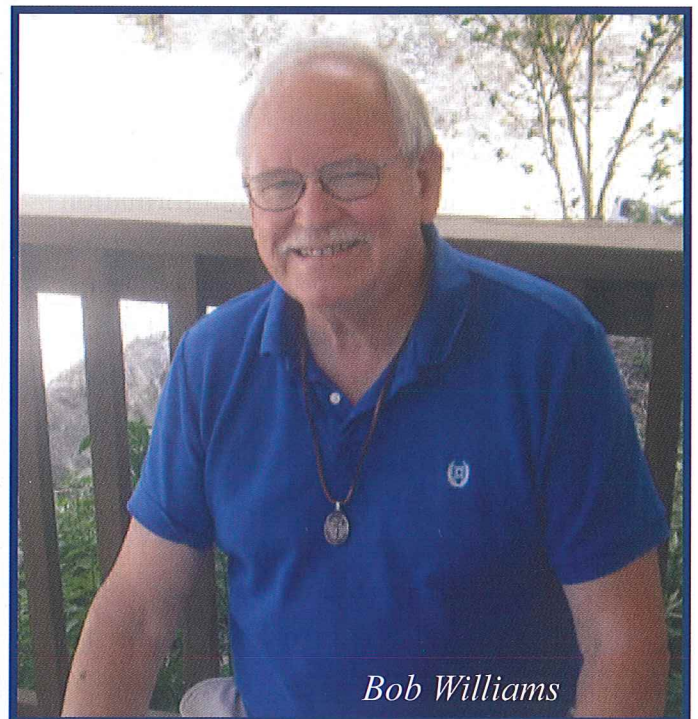
Years before he came on officially, Steve had been helping Dave with many projects at the Mission, when he could take time off from his own successful and wide-ranging career. Steve is retired from AT&T, he and his wife Pat have experience managing motels, and just recently Steve retired from his own contracting business.

In the short time that he has been in his new post, Steve has helped to put on the new roof extension at the Chapel and construct the new bell tower. Dave Sommers says of Steve, "He really knows his way around the Mission and he can build anything. He also has a good understanding of the spirit and purpose of the Mission. Besides that, he is younger than me, and that's a good thing!" ♦

We're Calling....

If you get a call from someone identifying himself as **Bob Williams**, asking you to volunteer your time at the Mission—please just say yes! Bob is very generously *volunteering his time* to identify, coordinate and contact volunteers to help out in myriad ways here at the Mission.

If you want to make his job easier, you can contact Bob at 830-899-5103 or bobwlms@gvtc.com. ♦



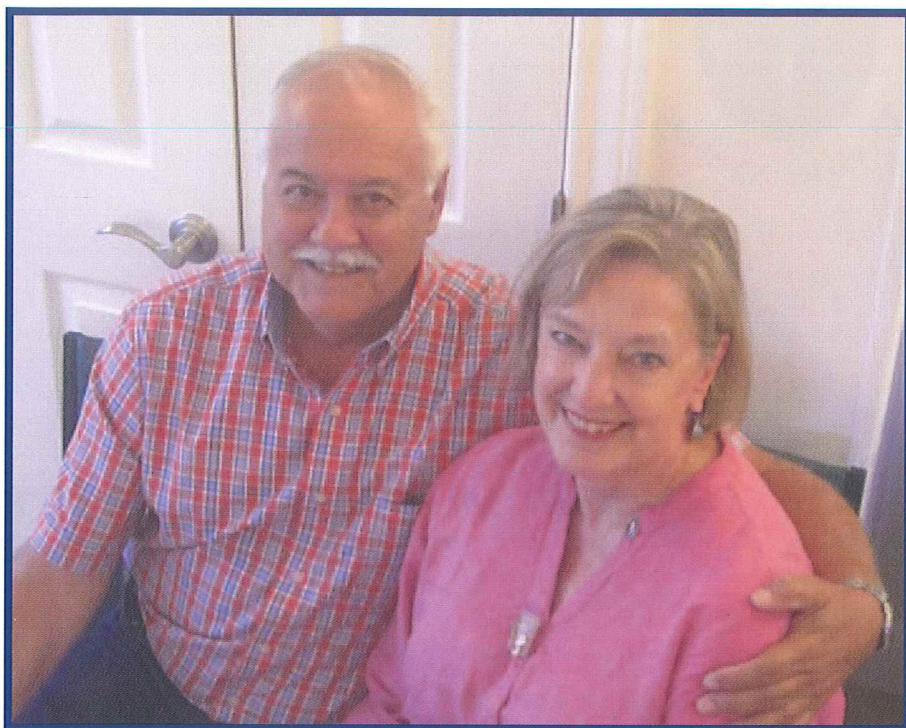
Bob Williams

MARIANO AND SARAH GRANADOS

Apostolate Coordinators and Special Liaisons for Spanish Language Speakers

Coordinating the logistics for, and answering the myriad calls involved in setting up each week's retreat activities is a time-consuming aspect of our growing ministry. It is made more challenging when the caller asks if you "habla español?" It is for these reasons that we are very glad to welcome Mariano and Sarah Granados as our new Apostolate Coordinators.

The Granados moved to San Antonio in 2011 from Monterrey Mexico. Sarah is a native of Chicago, but she lived in Mexico for 38 years after meeting and marrying Mariano, a native of Mexico City. Mariano is retired from his position as international sales manager for Terza, a joint venture with Shaw Industries. They have four children, **one of whom is our own Sr. Amapola.**



Prior to coming on board as coordinators of Apostolate activities, the Granados had volunteered their services, providing Spanish translations of MDM publications and acting as greeters and facilitators for Mission activities that were offered for those who speak Spanish. (They also sing in the Mission Choir. ☺)

Their contact information is: retreats@missionofdivinemeracy.org or they can be reached by phone at 830-302-9707. ♦

Our Weekly Meditation

Would you like to receive MDM's weekly e-mail Meditation?

It includes:

- Excerpts from St. Faustina's Diary
- Messages from the Community
- Photos of MDM

Just e-mail:

mdm@missionofdivinemeracy.org

STORY: One Never Knows

One weekend recently the mother of a busy home-schooling family came over to Brother Mikael, who had just cantored the Mass, and complimented him on the impact he was having on her young son. Brother smiled and thanked her, and she continued: "He picked up *LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE* the other day and then began chanting it to a Gregorian psalm tone...." ♦





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

Special Dates for the Fall

| | |
|-------------|--|
| November 1 | All Saints Day |
| November 2 | All Souls Day - <i>Please check our website for Mass times.</i> |
| November 15 | Divine Mercy Congress in San Antonio |
| November 16 | MDM Anniversary Celebration |
| December 6 | Advent Retreat (English) |
| December 8 | Feast of the Immaculate Conception |
| December 12 | Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe |
| December 13 | Advent Retreat (Spanish) |

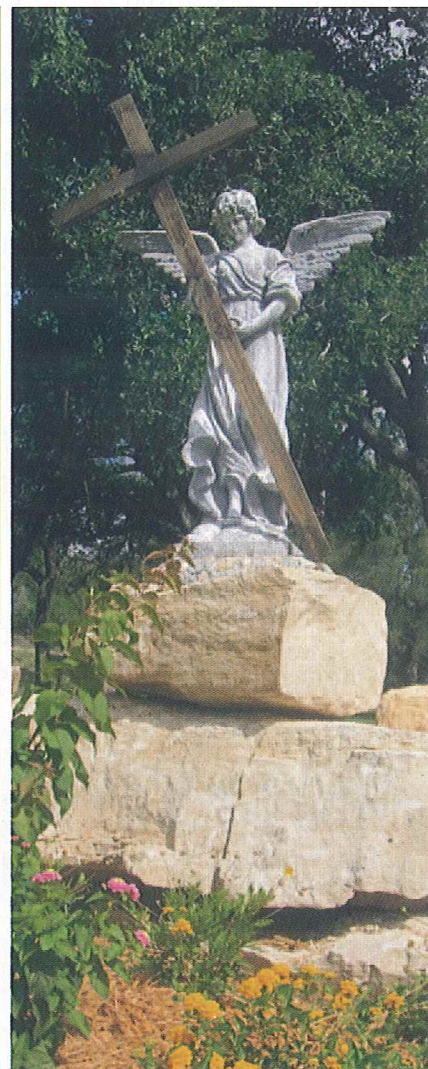
Mission Chic

PROPER DRESS AT THE MISSION

We ask our friends and visitors at the Mission to please respect our Dress Code. This is consecrated ground. 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! ♦



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