



MONASTERY Bells

Life with the Cloistered Dominican Nuns

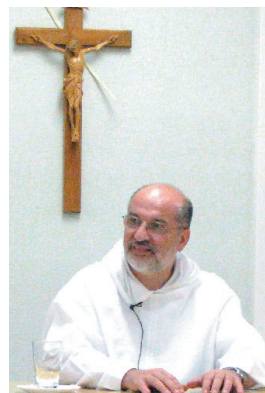
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Fall 2010

MONASTERY OF THE INFANT JESUS 1501 LOTUS LANE LUFKIN TX 75904

Blessed be God who heard our prayer

The Master General of the Order of Preachers, Fr. Carlos Azpiroz Costa, OP, and his socius, our long-time friend, Fr. Ed Ruane, OP, came for a much anticipated visit from June 30 to July 1. The time spent with them was brief, but memorable! Fr. Carlos and Fr. Ed arrived at the beginning of Vespers, so they joined



Fr. Carlos shares with us



Happy to be with our brothers

us in the singing of the Psalms. Then, after greeting the community, they graciously participated in the activities we had planned for them, including a photo-op in the Chapter Hall, two festive meals, and the conferral of Texas citizenship (complete with cowboy hats!). There was also time for Fr. Carlos to answer our many questions about the Order, especially about the nuns. Thank you Fr. Carlos, for your leadership of the Dominican Order, for your special concern for the nuns these past nine years, and for blessing us with your presence!



Lead me, Lord, according to your precepts

On July 7 we held our triennial election for the office of Prioress, presided over by Bishop Alvaro Corrada del Rio, SJ. We are happy to announce that Sr. Mary John was re-elected. We are grateful for Sister's generosity and her care for our community in the past, as well as her acceptance of this office for the next three years.



Newly elected Sr. Mary John with Bishop Corrada, SJ

On July 19, Fr. Eduardo Nevares was ordained the first auxiliary bishop of Phoenix, AZ. This was momentous for us because our monastery has known Bishop Eduardo since he first came to serve Mass in our chapel at the age of 15. We are thankful for Bishop Eduardo's years of service in our diocese of Tyler, for all he has done to support our monastery, and we ask God to bless him as he begins this new chapter in his life.



Bishop Eduardo



Fr. Bruno, OP

We also rejoice in the election of our new Master General, Fr. Bruno Cadore, O.P., on September 5. Father was a medical doctor before entering the Order. For the past eight years, he has served as Prior Provincial of the Province of France. He also taught biomedical ethics at the Catholic University of Lille. We offer him our support and our prayers.



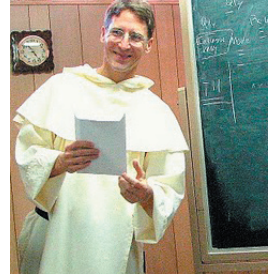
WE SEND OUR PRAYERS AND GRATITUDE TO ALL THE LA SALETTE FATHERS WHO HAVE SERVED THE LUFKIN AREA AND ESPECIALLY OUR MONASTERY FOR SO MANY YEARS AND WE ASK GOD'S BLESSING ON ALL THEIR FUTURE MISSIONARY ENDEAVORS.

Show me your way...



June 6-19 was an enriching time for the recently professed sisters, who took part in the Monastic Theological Studies Program, sponsored by our Association of Dominican monasteries and hosted right here in Lufkin. Eight of our sisters were joined by a trio of sisters from the Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary in Summit, NJ and one sister from the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament in Farmington Hills, MI. During the first week, they tackled philosophy with Fr. Brian Chrzastek, OP, professor from the Dominican House of Studies in Wash-

ington, DC. The second week they embarked on a study of theology with Fr. Bryan Kromholtz, OP, professor at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley, CA. All enjoyed the lectures and look forward to next year, when the Sisters will meet again for classes in Thomism and Scripture.



Fr. Chrzastek, OP,

Fr. Kromholtz, OP



Randy Alexander paved the way

One "way" we follow (as seen above) is study. Another, more natural "way", winds through our woods, giving us a view of God's work in His creation. However, this walking trail was in need of repair. Randy Alexander, a special friend and benefactor of the monastery, offered to pave the trail with asphalt. Now we can walk safely and serenely, contemplating God's goodness in the many trees and flowers which abound in our monastery grounds. Blessed be God in all his gifts!



New Friends

We have been blessed on two occasions this year to meet "Pilgrim George", a cheerful 60-something man who spends his winters as a hermit on the grounds of an Orthodox monastery in New York and the rest of the year travelling on foot, witnessing to Christ. Pilgrim George has walked through 40 countries and most of the United States. We are grateful to our friends Deacon Rudy Cockburn and his wife, Colleen, who introduced us to Pilgrim George and brought him to pray with us.



Pilgrim George

A surprise came one day in the form of three religious sisters from Kerala, India, who are presently working in the Beaumont diocese. *The Sisters of the Destitute* were introduced to our monastery by our good friend Fr. Jerome Robinson. Their congregation numbers about 1800 Sisters, and their apostolate is mainly concerned with health care. It was a joy to meet them.



The Sisters of the Destitute

In mid-June we were pleased to welcome John Meehan, one of the founders of Magdalen College in New Hampshire. Mr. Meehan came to give a series of lectures on the foundations of Catholic social teaching. "At base," Mr. Meehan reminded us, "social justice is nothing more than sacrificial love and service to our neighbor." We enjoyed his talks immensely and hope he will be able to return to give us another set of lectures next year.



Mr. John Meehan