



MONASTERY BELLS

LIFE WITH THE CLOISTERED DOMINICAN NUNS

website: www.lufkinnuns.org

Blog: <http://lufkintxcontemplativenunsop.blogspot.com>

Spring 2011

MONASTERY OF THE INFANT JESUS

1501 LOTUS LANE

LUFKIN, TX 75904

FLASHBACKS

Our Community Retreat



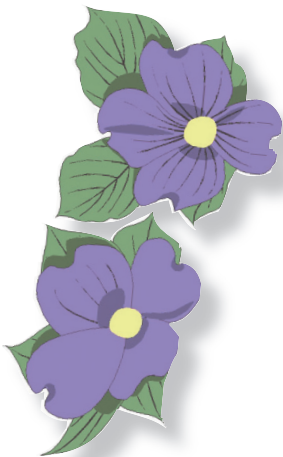
Fr. R. B. Williams, O.P. gave us an excellent community retreat this past fall. The retreat was called "Pictures at an Exhibition", and Father R.B. skillfully guided us through a showing of several Dominican "pictures" – talks on various subjects including the four pillars of our life: study, common life, prayer and mission – and also the "frames" surrounding some of these pictures (referring to our Rule and Constitutions, among other things). Father added to the picture theme by drawing some illustrations of his own, which enhanced our understanding of his message. Thank you so much, Fr. R.B.!

A Private Retreat



A retreat is an occasion of grace both for the one who gives it and for those who make it. Occasionally we are blessed to have a Dominican friar come to stay with us for a time of rest, prayer and spiritual renewal. Father Ian Bordenave, O.P., took time out of his busy schedule as pastor of Holy Rosary parish in Houston, Texas to make a short retreat with us last fall. We enjoyed having Father Ian with us as he concelebrated at Mass, prayed in our chapel, and joined with us in praise of God at the Divine Office. We hope that other Dominicans will consider stopping by our monastery for a retreat, or just to visit!

☞ Welcoming our Brothers ☞



Fr. Chris Eggleton, O.P., Provincial of the Southern Dominican Province, and his assistant, Fr. David Caron, O.P., visited our monastery in November. They could only stay overnight, but we managed to get in a lot of visiting in a short time! In addition to celebrating Mass for us, Fr. Chris and Fr. David brought

us up to date on all kinds of happenings in the province, and we in turn told them many tales of our monastic life. As a token of our respect and regard for our Dominican brothers, Sr. Mary John conferred Texas citizenship upon them! It was a wonderful Dominican encounter – and we hope it's not the last!

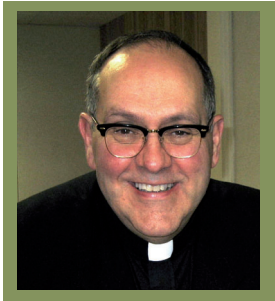
The brethren of the Order, "commissioned entirely for spreading abroad the word of God," fulfill their vocation primarily by preaching. The nuns, while commissioned by God primarily for prayer, are not for that reason excluded from the ministry of the word. For they listen to the word, celebrate it and keep it in their hearts, and in this way proclaim the Gospel of God by the example of their lives.

Nuns' Constitutions

The Matachines Perform for Us



The matachines from St. Patrick Catholic Church in Lufkin, Texas came and danced for us in December. Matachines are Mexican religious dancers, who traditionally perform their dances on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and throughout the season of Advent. They danced to the accompaniment of drum and maracas and other percussion instruments. Our matachines were made up of young and old, men and women, united in their love for Christ and his Blessed Mother. It was delightful to watch!



Silver Jubilee

Msgr. Phillip Leach, Jr., whose home is Lufkin, and who has been a friend of our community for many years, commemorated his silver jubilee of priesthood on the 6th of December, 2010. He celebrated Mass in our chapel

with a large crowd of mostly non-Catholic family and friends, giving him the opportunity to explain the Mass in more detail which made the occasion a truly ecumenical experience. Congratulations, Fr. Phill! We keep you in our prayers.

FOCUSING AHEAD

We are re-introducing some of Sr. Mary Catherine's drawings of nuns from the early issues of the Monastery Bells (with slight veil modifications). We hope you will enjoy seeing them again, or for the first time! ➤ ➤ ➤



Meet Sr. Bernadette Marie

Teresa Torres, from Corpus Christi, having completed her postulancy, began her two year novitiate on February 2, 2011. The beginning of the novitiate is always dramatic, as it includes the clothing of the novice in the Dominican habit and the reception of a religious name. To the delight of many in the community, Teresa decided to take for her religious name Sister Bernadette Marie of the Sacred Heart. She will be known in the community as "Sister Bernadette Marie"; the other half of her name ("of the Sacred Heart") is a mystery she will contemplate in the years to come. She will also celebrate her feast day on the solemnity of the Sacred Heart. Please continue to pray for Sister and for more vocations to our cloistered Dominican life!



Tree Plantation

Solomon wrote in the book of Ecclesiastes, "There is an appointed time for everything...a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant," and we are now in the "planting" time once again. A few years ago we harvested many of the trees from our land outside the monastery walls to sell for income. After the trees were cut down, new seedlings were planted, which will in God's time grow into trees ready to be harvested again. Although it hasn't been long since these were planted, they are already looking very promising!

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE (www.lufkinnuns.org) FOR A NEW ADDITION.

Soon you will be able to make a donation by using **PayPal** - a secure method of making an online credit card donation while keeping your payment information private. We are grateful for all of our benefactors and pray for you daily.