



Monastery Bells

Life with the Cloistered Dominican Nuns

Winter 2017

Christmas is the Feast Day of our Monastery!

LUFKIN, TX 75904

1501 LOTUS LANE

MONASTERY OF THE INFANT JESUS

Website: www.lufkintxnuns.org Blog: <http://lufkintxcontemplativenunsop.blogspot.com> Email: nuns@lufkintxnuns.com



*And for this reason we celebrate it with special solemnity.
An Infant - the Word became Flesh.
Jesus - the One Who Saves.
Bethlehem - House of Bread -
Eucharist - Thanksgiving
Emmanuel - God with us! Always.
Forever.*

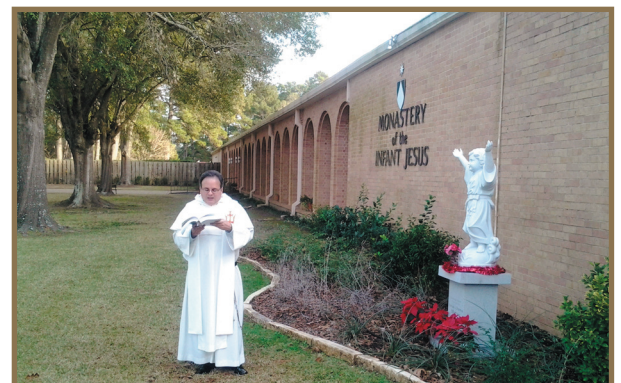


An Infant is Born

In the early days of our monastery, on what was then a rural route, a statue of the Infant Jesus greeted visitors with arms outstretched. But when we moved up to the new building that statue was retired to our Infirmary yard. Although we were aware of the lack of a visible image of what our monastery represented we never seemed to get around to doing anything about it. Until recently. A local friend at East Texas Monument took a picture of our old statue and sent it to his supplier. What resulted was a somewhat younger and a little chubbier Infant (which suited us fine!) Getting it here and setting it up is a story of its own



as you can see! But it was installed just in time for Christmas. The Infant now graces the front of our building near the monastery sign in a garden of its own. We are very grateful to all those who have helped make this possible. The statue was blessed on the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. May it find a lasting home here.





You might think that K of C stands for Knights of Columbus. And you would be correct. But in this case it refers to Knights of Christmas! For the last 34 years our Knights have provided our Christmas dinner. While we are at Mass and Morning Prayer, they are in the dock area with their big grill. Eventually, their



families come to join them. After Mass we all go over to the parlor and visit with this fun-loving, wonderful group of people. Sometimes the children bring their Christmas gifts to show us. They might even bring a new puppy with them. Babies are always a big hit! Over the years, the group has grown, so much so that we had to section off three quarters of the parlor so that they all could fit. These people give up their whole Christmas morning to be with us. They have become family to us. It is one of the highlights of our day. We are so grateful for the gift that they are.

Raffle Winners (last year)



Sr. Mary Regina with her 1st prize cross-stitch



Rosary Pilgrimage and Rosary Exchange

To celebrate the 800th jubilee of the Order, the 200 Dominican Monasteries throughout the world participated in a virtual rosary pilgrimage. Each monastery was asked to make a special rosary to be sent to the Master of the Order, Fr. Bruno Cadore, OP, who blessed them during the opening ceremonies of the Jubilee Year. These were then distributed to all the monasteries, each receiving one from another monastery. Two days were assigned to each monastery on which to have some sort of public event to honor the Rosary; our assigned days being December 18 and 19, 2016.

We decided to combine our usual Advent Holy Hour for Vocations with the rosary pilgrimage event at 7:00 p.m. on December 18th. We invited nearby parishes and our local Dominican Laity Chapter to participate. Our chaplain Fr. Marcos Ramos, OP led the recitation of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary using the rosary sent to us by the Santa Catalina de Siena Monastery in Paterna, Valencia, Spain. Each mystery was introduced by a Scripture reading read by Fr. Marcos, and two brief meditations read by lay friends and various nuns. We concluded with sung Compline and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, after which our guests gathered for hot cocoa on a bitterly cold (for East Texas) winter night.

It was a beautiful experience to pray this beloved Dominican devotion with our friends and to meditate together the week before Christmas on the mysteries surrounding Our Lord's coming into the world.



Conclusion of the Jubilee Year

For the last year from November 7, 2015-January 21, 2017 the Order of Preachers celebrated the 800th anniversary of its founding and official approbation by the Church.

In Rome, to conclude the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis celebrated Mass at his cathedral Church, St. John Lateran, with the Dominican Master General, Fr. Bruno Cadoré, O.P., and members of the Dominican Order. Each province, priory, convent and monastery marked the closing of the Jubilee Year in its own way. Here we decided on a quiet day of prayer in thanksgiving for the blessings of the Jubilee Year. It being the day after the presidential inauguration, we also took the opportunity to pray for our country during this time of transition.