



# Holy Cross Retreat Center

## Center for Franciscan Spirituality

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### An Extreme Makeover!

It not only happens on television, but is happening here at Holy Cross Retreat Center. The exterior walls of the hotel units were in "extreme" need of a face lift. When they were built back in the 1950's there was no thought of insulating the buildings. So, we decided if we were going to do an extreme makeover, we needed to think about what would help us take care of "Mother Earth" by conserving the energy it takes to heat and cool the rooms.

The work began on the hotel unit on the north side. The workers began by cleaning the outside wall to make sure that the foam would stick to the outside wall. They then covered the building with an 1 1/2 inch foam, followed by nylon mesh, a primer coat of stucco, and the final color coat of stucco. It truly made a big difference in the appearance of that particular section.

We not only thought of the outside, but decided it would be important to install vents and heaters in the bathrooms. The only ventilation in the bathroom was opening the room, which would be okay during the summer months, but the winter months are a different story. Once the electri-

cians laid out the conduit for the electrical wires, the stucco guys continued their work on the back wall.

These improvements have been made possible because of the Holy Cross Retreat House Foundation. We receive funds from the foundation twice a year to assist us in any major capital improvement.

Due to the assistance of the Foundation, we have been able to update our conference rooms to provide a projector and sound system for those groups that use power point presentations. The equipment in the kitchen was also updated for more energy efficient equipment.

You may not have the means of providing the finances to pay for such big of a project as stuccoing one of the hotel units; however, there are small projects that are needing our attention. Some of these smaller projects are: replacing the outdoor chairs, replacing the chairs in the large conference room, getting the chairs in the small conference room reupholstered, and painting the dining room. These are but a few of the on-going projects at the Re-



**In the picture above the workers are placing the foam insulation on the wall. The picture below, the workers are putting the final color coat of stucco on the wall.**



treat Center. If you are wanting to help finance one of these projects, please let us know.

These type of projects assist us in providing a great atmosphere where people can get away from the business of life. Know that what you are able to give provides the opportunity for someone to take the time to discover the presence of God in their lives.

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### An Advent Psalm

Awaken, my heart, God's reign is near; the Peaceable Kingdom in my hands.

If the wolf can be the guest of the lamb, and the bear and cow be friends, then no injury or hate can be a guest within the kingdom of my heart.

Eden's peace and harmony will only return when first, in

my heart, there hides no harm or ruin, for the Peaceable Kingdom is in my hands.

Isaiah's dream became Jesus' vision: "Come, follow me," Emmanuel's echo rings. "Reform your life, recover Eden's peace," for only then will salvation appear.

For Advent's dream is the

healing of earth, when the eagle and bear become friends, the child and the serpent playmates.

Arise, awaken, my heart, the peaceable Kingdom is in your hands.



-Edward Hays



The architect's rendition of the new chapel.

## If You Build it They will Come!

We continue to receive monies for the new chapel. The architect has provided us the cost for the construction documents and the construction of the chapel in phases. The price of the project has since doubled in price due to the increase of the price for supplies. We presently have enough in the fund to do the design development and construction documents for the new chapel.

The first phase would include: site preparation and development, chapel and colonnade foundations, restrooms, gift shop and corridor, grotto,

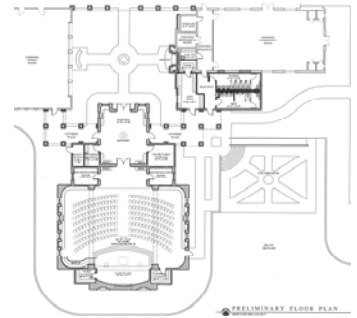
courtyard, and the north colonnade. The estimated cost of the first phase would be \$563,000.

The second phase include the chapel shell and the south colonnade. The estimated cost would be \$857,000.

The last phase would include the chapel finish-out and the columbarium. The estimated cost of the third phase would be \$680,000.

With the present situation of the economy, we want you to know that we continue to move forward with this great

project that will provide a worship space for the different groups who use our facility.



*"Grant me the youthful and wide-eyed wonder to recognize, and even to expect life-giving miracles on every street corner, miracles of kindness and generosity and care."*

## A Christmas Psalm

O Blessed One, it is said that Christmas is for children.

Indeed, I agree: it's only a feast for the young of heart, a feast for finding beneath the tree gifts to surprise and delight the eternal child.

Peel back the scabs of cynicism from my eyes so that this calloused and aging child, may see holiness blazing at the tip of every branch, may see every tree as a Christmas tree.

Let me not be ashamed to dance with delight at hidden gifts wrapped in shimmering paper with bows of rainbow-colored ribbon. But also grant me the youthful and wide-eyed wonder to recognize, and even to expect, life-giving miracles on every street corner, miracles of kindness and generosity and care.

Gift my all-too-calculating heart with the excitement of anticipation to truly receive the gifts of life, the capacity

to feast and rejoice. Give birth within me to a spaciousness of heart that can celebrate this feast of the birth of Christ, the Child, as a child.

-Edward Hayes



David and Nancy Hemminger celebrating their 50 years of marriage in Milford, OH

## David & Nancy Hemminger

David and Nancy Hemminger celebrated 50 years of marriage on August 10, 2008 in Milford, OH. Nancy is Fr. Arthur Young's sister. Fr. Arthur was a member of the community here at Holy Cross Retreat Center.

Since David and Nancy realized that it was their faith in God that kept them together for 50 years, they decided to celebrate this great event by

a special request for Fr. Arthur. Realizing that the presence of their family and friends were enough, David and Nancy asked their family and friends to donate toward the Chapel Fund, which was very dear to Fr. Art. Those who contributed towards their anniversary celebration gave over \$10,000.00 in memory of Nancy's brother. While he was alive, Fr. Art spread the word about the financial

needs toward making the dream of the chapel become a reality.

We are grateful for the Hemminger Family and their continued dedication in fostering the Franciscan tradition at Holy Cross Retreat Center.

## In Memoriam

Praise be You, my Lord for Phil Shannon, who truly was a man of few words but preached the gospel in his actions. Phil met Sister Death on October 29, 2008, after 90 years of truly living out his life in ministering to the people of God. His Mass of Resurrection was celebrated on November 3, 2008 at the Basilica of San Albino in Messina.

We remember in our prayers those he left behind especially Beth N. Shannon, his wife of 67 1/2 years, his children Philip Lane Shannon, Barbara Shannon, Irene Collier, Teresa

Stevenson, and Bettina Mirdjani as well as his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Phil will be fondly remembered for his gifts of photography, music and his skill of carpentry. He not only played his clarinet at San Albino and St. Genevieve, but also played for the Franciscan Festival of Fine Arts every year.

Throughout the facility of Holy Cross Retreat Center, one will come across shelves, cabinets, small tables, chapel altar, lectern, and book stands, that

Phil built for the needs of the Retreat Center. His last project for the Center was the bulletin boards that were placed on the doors to each of the retreat rooms.

Phil's presence will greatly be missed. His ministry to the home bound, his music, and his skill in carpentry. We thank our God for the gift of Phil, and continue to remember his family in our prayers.



Phil Shannon providing music at the Franciscan Festival of Fine Arts 2008

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



Parrendo



The staff here at Holy Cross Retreat Center would like to extend to you and

your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We pray that you allow the Word of God to take flesh in your lives and truly reflect the power of God in our midst.

The Retreat Center will be closed during the Christmas

holiday to give our staff a well deserved vacation. We will re-open on January 5, 2009.

Know that you and your families will be in our prayers as we celebrate this great feast of Christmas and ring in a New Year.



*"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son."*

*John 3:16*

## Franciscan Festival of Fine Arts

Once again we were blessed with great weather for a successful Festival of Fine Arts. This year brought a few new artists, and a couple of new food booths to add to the flavor of the weekend.

Throughout the weekend, people were able to listen to some great musicians. If we stop to listen, visitors were able to hear the Native Indian flute of Randy Granger, the sweet sounding clarinet of Phil Shannon, and the guitar play-

ing of Gipsy Gitano. This gave the people the opportunity to sit and enjoy the great music.

We are grateful to the many volunteers who make the weekend a success. From the students from St. Albert the Great Newman Center who assisted with the parking of the vehicles, to the Gibson Family, who helped at the information booth. Of course the staff from Holy Cross Retreat Center, who helped with

much of the activities behind the scenes that make such an event a great success.

Thanks to all who came out to support our annual Festival of Fine Arts. Please mark your calendar for next year's festival which will be September 5-6, 2009. Come out and purchase your gifts for Christmas 2009!



Zandra Santiago stands in front of her painting of St. Francis which was selected for the 2008 Festival poster.



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[HOLYCROSSRETREAT.ORG](http://HOLYCROSSRETREAT.ORG)

## Mission Statement

Holy Cross Retreat Center is a place of prayer, study and reflection located in the Mesilla Valley of southeastern New Mexico. Founded in 1954 by the Franciscan Friars, Holy Cross Retreat is committed to fostering an atmosphere, in the Franciscan tradition, where all those who seek spiritual and intellectual growth will find a welcome.

As Catholic, the Retreat Center affirms its fidelity to the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church and its close relationship to the Diocese of Las Cruces wherein it is located.

It welcomes and respects people of all faiths and encourages them to contribute to the spiritual and intellectual life of the Retreat Center by sharing their own values and beliefs and thereby enriching the life of Holy Cross Retreat Center.

In particular, the Retreat Center strives to create an environment where the celebration of the Eucharist is the fountain and source of all its activity; to promote the life of prayer through retreats, times of silence, and spiritual direction; to integrate faith and knowledge through seminars that address questions central to the living of the Christian faith and the religious life; to support from its means those who come in need of food or shelter.

On entering the Retreat Center you will find an environment that promotes a vision of life that is expressively godly and authentically human.

