



Behold Your Mother

Newsletter of the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple

Issue Number 48: Christmas 2010

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Daniel Dominguez & Sean Stilson made their promises as Aspirants on September 23. To pay off their debts Daniel is working at Lowe's and Sean is teaching at St. Mary Magdalen school. They have a formation program tailored to their schedule.

L to R: Fr. Will Combs, Daniel, Fr. George, Sean, Kirk Vandeventer (novice), and Fr. Bob Hogan. Fr. Joseph Mary took the picture.



*A blessed Christmas to all
our families, friends and benefactors!*

A Baby Shower for Jesus

By Fr. George

“At end of January,” she said. I had asked Melissa, my grand-nephew’s pregnant wife, when their baby boy was due. She stood there with Bill, the father, a 300-pound former college tackle, proudly and gratefully announcing the good news. I had married the couple fourteen months earlier and had come to the family ranch house for the baby shower. A cluster of guests hovered over chips, dips and a bowl of sangria in the foyer; others over the chili, rice, cookies and cakes in the dining room that was big enough to house five Budweiser stallions (my father had built BIG), others were sharing tales and laughter in the kitchen, and when we all gathered in the equally grand living room to watch Bill and Melissa open their gifts, they were washed by a tsunami of a festive bags and boxes that rang out the joy of welcoming new life.

A baby shower.

Advent is Jesus’ baby shower. It’s a big shower. It lasts four weeks. And the gifts? None other than ourselves. The shepherds brought what they had, probably a ball of goat cheese, the Magi brought gold, frankincense and myrrh, but the real gift was themselves, come to share the joy of Joseph and Mary at the birth of the straw-bedded child-king.

Advent and Christmas, like the baby shower at the ranch, confront the culture of death with the good news of LIFE. One of the ways we could capture the Christian creed would be to proclaim, “We believe in Life,” the life of the baby Jesus, the life of the risen Lord. And the life of the unborn child. For that reason in this newsletter we feature our community’s participation in the Forty Days for Life, prayer vigils aimed to deter despairing pregnant women with alternatives to abortion. If there is any being that by its very nature lives on hope, it is the yet-to-be-born child.

Jesus, we believe in your coming. Child, whoever you are, we believe in yours.

Participants in 40 Days for Life

Our community supported the parish and the San Antonio Coalition for Life in the 40 Days for Life Campaign praying outside the Planned Parenthood abortuary, which is just a few blocks away. St. Mary's University students also participated, shown here with Fr. George as they gathered with others October 30 for the closing of the campaign outside the Allied Women's Center, a nearby pro-life alternative to Planned Parenthood.



Pilgrimage Opens 40 Days for Life

After a Mass at St. Mary Magdalen, prayer warriors opened 40 Days for Life by processing to Planned Parenthood. In the right side of the photo above, Mrs. Robles is pulling a wagon holding her young son. She said that she and her husband took him to a healing Mass at the parish because he had a speech defect. He was prayed over, rested in the Spirit, and when he got up he could speak normally.



Above:Children played an important role in the 40 Days for Life. Twins born at 27 days came to witness to life.

Life in the Spirit Seminar Draws Many

Over 100 persons made the Life in the Spirit Seminar during September-October. The success of the seven-week Life in the Spirit seminar was due in great measure to the weekly planning meeting of facilitators and sponsors under the direction of Ruth Siller.



Priestly Corner



Fr. Bob Hogan spoke at the National Charismatic Leaders' Conference in Minneapolis Oct. 29-31. He is a member of the National Service Committee for the Charismatic Renewal & Associate Liaison for the Renewal in the Archdiocese of San Antonio.



Fr. Will Combs parochial vicar for St. Mary Magdalen Church and fluent in Spanish, ministers largely to the Spanish speaking in the parish. With Fathers George, Bob, and Joseph Mary he also teaches our three members in formation.



Fr. Joseph Mary Marshall pastor of St. Mary Magdalen Church, specializes in deliverance prayer and acts as the Archdiocesan moderator of Courage, a group that strives to seek holiness while dealing with same-sex attraction.



Three Days for Deacons in Austin

Father George conducts a 3-day course on the Holy Spirit at a regional gathering of deacons and their wives in Austin August 27-29.

Healed of Cancer



In May, Nancy Valdez was diagnosed with incurable lung cancer stage 4, which had already spread to her brain, spine and bones. This brought her to a profound conversion. She received a flood of prayers and attended several healing Masses. At our October 28 healing Mass, only four months

after her diagnosis, she told the congregation that her doctor, to his amazement, reported that her PET scan revealed no trace of cancer anywhere in her body. Jesus continues to heal!



BBDs Craft JEMS Retreat

One day in prayer Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD, was reading the book of Revelation 21:19-21 describing the heavenly Jerusalem with all kinds of precious gems. This suggested to him the possibility of crafting a retreat around that theme and using it to share our charism. Instead of GEMS, it would be called JEMS for Jesus, Eucharist, Mary, and the Spirit. Each of the BBD priests gave a talk on one of the topics, and retreatants were teamed according to one of the precious gems (see labels on chairs) for sharing on the topics presented. Over 100 members of the parish participated from Friday evening October 8 through late afternoon October 9.