



Behold Your Mother

Newsletter of the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple

Issue Number 51: Christmas 2011

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With Jesus on Straw

Excerpt from Fr. George's book, *Mary's Life in the Spirit*

What does it feel like to have no suitable place to lodge for the night? One October in Nepal as we were taking the novices on our annual trek through the foothills of the Himalayas, three days from the nearest town, we reached a trekkers' lodge, euphemistically called a hotel, only to find every inch of the facility taken. Apologizing, the owner said the only space available was the chicken shed, so that's where we bedded down for the night. The chickens seemed upset at the intrusion but finally guests and hosts slept peacefully, if not comfortably, together. But this was nothing like the frustrating search for a birthing couch for Mary 'till finally a trough with ox's straw provided a bed for this child the angel said was a king. Could straw be so welcoming?

With two of my novices I once visited a remote village in Nepal, where we were welcomed by a poor family that had

no other place for us to lodge than on the floor of a storage room. The father laid out on the floor armfuls of straw, and there we bedded down for the night. Strangely, I was flooded with love and joy as I fell asleep. If the Fathers of the Church could say that the Jordan waters were blessed by Jesus when he was baptized, I wondered if maybe the child Jesus hadn't blessed the straw we slept on that night.

The joy was in knowing that I was exactly where God wanted me to be. If the Holy Spirit was with Mary and Joseph, I'm sure their joy that night was not only in the birth of Jesus, but in knowing that there in the straw of the barn was exactly where God wanted them to be. Did they fret because they didn't have better quarters? I think rather they were beginning to understand what this God was about, a God who turns things upside down, a God who so loves the poor he wanted to be born among them, or maybe even better yet, to take the place of a service animal for the night, for that's why he had come, like his mother, to be servant. Showered with the joy of being right where God wanted them to be, in the home of service animals, Joseph and Mary might even have laughed at the ridiculous, topsy-turvy ways of the God who had caught them up in his Ferris wheel and was giving them the supernatural joy of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22).

Wishing you a Blessed & Merry Christmas!

As we remember God's Gift to us at this time of year, we want to express our deepest thanks to our benefactors whose generosity has fostered our stability and growth.

Support 40 Days for Life

Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller and Auxiliary Bishop Oscar Cantu led a rosary procession from St. Mary Magdalen church to Planned Parenthood, 104 Babcock, on October 1 to kick off 40 Days for Life. Our community supported the event as some of our members signed up to pray for an hour in front of the clinic each week. Over the past years, 94 babies have been saved by the ongoing work of the San Antonio Coalition for Life, organizer of the 40 Days. *Photo (courtesy Today's Catholic): BBD aspirant Gabriel Ruiz (next to the Jesus sign), Fr. Joseph Mary Marshall, pastor of St. Mary Magdalen, holding the speaker, and Archbishop Gustavo leading the rosary over the microphone.*



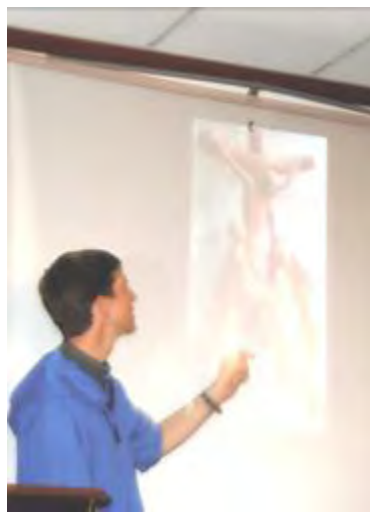
Fall 'Life in the Spirit' Draws Over 100

The seven-week-long 'Life in the Spirit' Seminar was heavily attended. It is a series of prayer and formation meetings culminating in the pray-over, for the greater release of the Holy Spirit and equipping with gifts for ministry.



In Great Demand

Fr. Bob Hogan, BBD, associate liaison for the Charismatic renewal in San Antonio and chair of the National Service Committee, has, since our Easter Newsletter, spoken at events in Chicago, Toronto, Montreal, Charleston WV, St. Louis, and Louisville KY.



BBD Present JEMS Retreat to Young Adults at San Antonio College

A new outreach to young adults began in September when the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple took their JEMS (Jesus, Eucharist, Mary, and the Spirit) Retreat to college students at San Antonio College.

In photo: Fr. Will Combs presenting the talk on Mary.

A Special Intention

Please remember in your prayers our dear friend and benefactor Domingo Torres, who went to the Lord this past October.



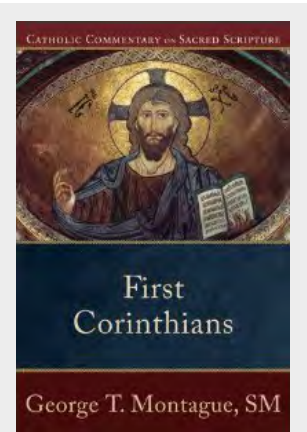
At Southern California Charismatic Conference

Father George gave three talks at the Southern California Renewal Conference in Anaheim, CA, on Labor Day Weekend. Accompanying him, manning the BBD booth and asked to do the first reading at the concluding Mass presided by Archbishop José Gomez, was aspirant Sean Stilson.



Magnificat Breakfast in Dallas

Fr. George spoke for the Saturday Breakfast of Magnificat in Dallas on September 17. Magnificat is an international organization of Catholic women committed to promoting the role of Mary and the Holy Spirit. Fr. George's book *Mary's Life in the Spirit* was a hot item at the breakfast. He also spoke at a charismatic conference in Bangor, Maine, on October 15.



Father George's Latest Book

On November 1, Baker Academic released Father George's new 307-page book on Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. Like the one he earlier wrote on the Letters to Timothy and Titus, it belongs to the Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture Series, and is good for personal or group Bible study, homily preparation or spiritual reading. Price: \$19.95. Order from your local Catholic bookstore, from Amazon or Father George with \$3.00 for shipping.



A Shot Heard Round the Block

Take a careful look at these twin doors on the south side of our parish church. The left is frosted, the right is plain, a temporary replacement for the frosted glass that was shattered by a bullet fired in an exchange of gunshots just outside these doors on a Wednesday evening in October. No one was in the church at the time, nor was anyone hurt. This kind of violence is abnormal for the church grounds, though we are an inner-city parish.



Leading Medjugorje Pilgrimages

Photos: (Left) Father Will Combs, BBD, led these pilgrims to Medjugorje September 27–October 11.
(Right) Father Joseph Mary Marshall, SM, in the midst of pilgrims he led to Medjugorje in June.