



The Circuit Rider

Life in the Big Bend Episcopal Mission – March 2006

Annual Retreat Well Attended Despite Cold

Despite the unusually cold and windy weather, the hearts were warm at the Big Bend Mission Annual Retreat at the Longhorn Motel in South Brewster County, February 17-19th. Brother Laurence Harms from Mt. Calvary Monastery in Santa Barbara, California lead the discussion on Benedictine spirituality. He pointed out that as Episcopalians, we are all Benedictines. The Book of Common prayer includes the daily monastic offices and our very style of worship is very Benedictine. He shared some details of his life in at Mt. Calvary and how



he reached the decision to become a monk after teaching school for many years.



The Saturday night star party was “blown away” by the cold and wind, but a lively discussion about responsible stewardship of our planet warmed the evening. Many thanks to all who helped make the retreat a success including Nereda and Tivo, the managers of the Longhorn Motel.



Jack Murray Retires from Active Ministry

The Rev. Jack Murray announced his retirement from active ministry at the Annual meeting of the Big Bend Mission in January. Jack was ordained in the Episcopal Church in 2001 after having served as a Lutheran pastor. He has been helping with services at all three Big Bend Mission churches and will continue to do so on a fill-in basis.



We are fortunate that the Murrays will be staying in Marfa and attending St. Paul’s for the foreseeable future.

Tom and Don Received as Associates in the Order of the Holy Cross.



During the Sunday Eucharist at the Annual Retreat, Tom Graf and Don Viator were formally received as “Associates” of the order of The Holy Cross by Brother Laurence. They join Aurie West and Libi Rhodes in making this commitment to a Benedictine based rule of life.

FOR HEAVEN’S SAKE

by Mike Morgan



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What Goes on at a Threshold Quiet Day



The Threshold group is hosting a monthly "quiet day" at the Christian Church facility in Marfa. The next quiet day will



be on Saturday, March 4th starting at 6:30am and ending at 2:30pm. Attending a quiet day is like being by yourself for a time of peace and quiet, but with other



people around. Some people bring books or other study materials, and others use the time for quiet meditation.



There are optional worship and prayer activities during the day for those who wish to participate. Simple meals are served. Participants come and go as they please during the day. The mood is low key and relaxed. If you have not tried a quiet day, stop by the next time to see what it's about. For more information, speak with Tom Graf, Aurie West, or Charlotte Harris.

Ms Tracy's Café Hosts Junior Chili Cook-off to Benefit Boys & Girls Club of Terlingua

On Saturday, February 18th, members of the Boys & Girls Club of Terlingua gathered at Ms. Tracy's Café in Terlingua to see who could cook the best chili. There were 15 cooks. First Place went to Ayla Smith; Second Place to Markus Irwin and Third to Beto Salgado. The judges said that all the kids made good tasting chili. There was no "bad" chili. Beth Garcia, executive director of the club said, "All the kids took this very seriously and did outstanding jobs."

The cook-off was attended by Jim Ezell, President of Chili Appreciation Society International (CASI) and two other directors: Jimmy Taylor and Ken Rodd. Ken is the Texas State Champion for 2005. He said that he has not had so much fun since he started cooking chili!



The event included an essay contest



won by Anthony Galindo. The essays were on "Why I want to Play Guitar" and the prize was a guitar, case, and lessons with Ted Arbogast, music teacher at the Terlingua School. Another contest won by Beto Salgado involved coloring/decorating the T-shirts. Every entrant received a black and white T-shirt which said "I cooked at the first ever Terlingua Junior Cook-Off". Over \$400 was raised to benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Terlingua.

St. James' Collecting Snacks for Kids

Thanks to Judy Probst, there is a special place in the parish hall at St. James' to drop off snacks for the kids at the Boys & Girls Club of Terlingua. When the kids get out of school and go to the club, they start each afternoon with "Power Hour," a time for getting help with school work. Being kids, they always arrive hungry. The snacks you donate help them buckle down and focus on their work. Prepackaged individual servings of apple sauce, pudding, crackers, etc. are good. Peanut butter, chips, and cookies go fast. Use your imagination. Drop your snacks in the basket and they will be delivered to the club.



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Last Month's Question: What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

Answer: It means that we are free to make choices: to love, to create, to reason, and to live in harmony with creation and with God.

This Month's Question: Why then do we live apart from God and out of harmony with creation?

Many Thanks to Everyone Who Makes this Newsletter Possible

Every once in a while, at the risk of leaving someone out, it is appropriate to acknowledge all the wonderful people who help put this newsletter together. Thank you to Amber Walters and Ken Whitley for providing pictures on a regular basis. Thank you to Elaine Ponton for tireless work preparing the calendar each month. Thank you to Judy Burgess for proof reading and making helpful suggestions. Thank you to everyone who has submitted articles including Al & Thelma Hoyle, Charlotte Harris, Tom Graf, Elizabeth McBride, Pat McMurray, and others who have contributed in the past. I couldn't do it without you. - Seth

Listening and Hospitality.... "We are making assumptions when we take for granted that we already know what a speaker is talking about or what another person is going to say. The result is that we stop listening to *understand* and begin listening to our own internal conversation about what we imagine is being said. Another clue that an assumption is getting in the way of our listening is when we have an emotional response to what is being said."

The Sacred Art of Listening by Kay Lindahl



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