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Desert House of Prayer

Fall, 2013

## HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME

Dear Desert Companions and Friends,

I have been reflecting on the Lord's Prayer as a guide for deepening my spiritual path. It has not been easy to lift my eyes beyond my own little world with all of its anxieties and vicissitudes. In Matthew's Gospel Jesus teaches us to pray: "Hallowed be your name" (Mt. 6:9). These words allow a petition for me as well as for all of God's creatures. The Divine Source of All Being waits to be glorified through me and all of creation. Charles de Foucauld reminds us that God alone is our sole purpose for whose sake we must act and who teaches us to pray simply: "*Hallowed be your name.*"

The Lord's Prayer always invites me to enter into a transformative process, into the depths of my "little self" before God. However my *little self* often deceives me into thinking that it is much bigger than it really is. The *little self* wants to hold on for dear life and is afraid to let go into the larger grandeur of the Divine Source of All Being. It is in God and God alone where I find my true self – my naked self – created, graced and loved by God.

In my meditation practice I, with all of my mind and heart and soul, seek to become conscious of the greater glory of God. God and God alone is all that matters. The more I seek God and God alone the more my true purpose emerges and my identity becomes sharper. I am created to give witness to something more beyond my *little self*. Every moment of my life - my entire being, all my works, the fruits of my labor - belongs to God and God alone. Everything that I am and everything that I am not – everything that I have and everything that is lacking in me – is resolved, reconciled, healed, graced and made whole in God. It is not that I love God but that God loves me. Everything that is and everything that is not belongs; all that is possible and all that is impossible is in God alone. With each breath let me rest in God and God alone! My friends as you breathe and let go may you too rest in the Divine Source of All Being.

### DHOP NEWS

The Desert House of Prayer reopened for the 2013-2014 retreat year on August 18. We are entering our fortieth year as a place of silence for the practice of contemplation.

A recent study revealed that our retreat occupancy this past August was higher than in any August since 2003. We are grateful to Mr. Charles Miller a retired college math profess and volunteer for his statistical analysis of the DHOP retreat population for the past ten years.

Life at DHOP is continually changing. After two years of generous service as librarian and purchasing manager, Sr. Annemary Miller, SNDdeN has moved on to a new ministry not yet determined. During the summer, Sr. Anne pursued a course in Spanish at the Mexican American Cultural Institute in San Antonio, Texas in preparation for her future ministry.

We welcome our newest staff member, Fr. David Louch, C.Ss.R., a Redemptorist from the Edmonton-Toronto Province. Fr. David arrived on Labor Day from Vancouver, British Columbia where he served as pastor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish for the past four years. Fr. David will assist with spiritual direction, preaching and the liturgical life of DHOP. He will also assume the responsibilities of librarian. He comes to us with a wealth of experience in religious formation, spiritual direction, teaching, preaching and pastoring. This is the first time in the 40 year history of DHOP that there will be three Redemptorists on staff.

DHOP has a new software system for cataloging books. Staff member Sr. Marilyn Omiencyznski, P.B.V.M. is coordinating the training of Fr. David and volunteers Dr. Diana Lamposa, Rev. Evy McDonald, Lin Kosubal, and Anne Shubitz in operating the new system. The original work of computerizing the library began during the time when Fr. Bill Parker served as Director of DHOP. We are grateful to Fr. Bill for his foresight and vision.

New volunteers assisting our Guest Coordinator Michael Gibson include Rev. Evy McDonald, a recently retired Methodist pastor and Sr. Liz Christensen SDS a retired Salvatorian Sister.

We are grateful to David and Jeanne Engle and Anne Shubitz who helped to raise funds and install new sliding blinds replacing worn out drapes and curtains in many of the guest quarters.

Bro. Bill Coughley spent the summer fulfilling his long check list of maintenance projects including the painting of the east guest building. Unlike the previous two summers, this summer was kinder and gentler, sparing DHOP of any serious maintenance emergencies.

In the October issue of *Liguorian Magazine* appears an article by former DHOP Director Fr. Bill Parker, C.Ss.R. entitled: *Contemplative Places of Silence*. It features three retreat centers including the Desert House of Prayer. Also featured are Osage Forest of Peace located in Sand Springs, OK where former staff member Sr. Jane Comerford, CSJ is director and Ruah Spirituality Center in Houston, Texas where Sr. Mary Adeline O'Donoghue, CCVI, frequent DHOP guest is director. We are grateful to Fr. Bill for featuring DHOP in his *Liguorian* article.

DHOP experienced a sad loss in September. Roberto Barrientos, the husband of our weekend chef, Migdalia Barrientos passed away due to complications of liver cancer. We celebrated the funeral Mass for Roberto across the street in the chapel of the Redemptorist Renewal Center.

Shortly after Fr. David arrived on Labor Day to assume his new position, Most Reverend Michael Brehl, C.Ss.R., the Superior General of the Redemptorists in Rome, asked Fr. David to be his special representative for the official review of the Redemptorist Vice Province of Manila, Philippines. Fr. David was deeply moved by the work of the Redemptorists in the urban slums of Manila and environs. After a two and a half week journey halfway around the world, escaping an earth quake and typhoon in the Philippines, Fr. David has safely returned to DHOP.

Recently DHOP has witnessed an unusual number of sightings of desert creatures including gila monsters, desert tortoises, deer, coyotes, javelina, bob cats, tarantulas,

scorpions and a wide variety of birds. Our welcoming and growing family of desert creatures makes for lively and amusing table conversation.

We wish to thank all of our Desert Companions and Friends for your support for the Desert House of Prayer. Without your prayers and assistance we could not continue our ministry. *If you wish to make a lasting gift to the House of Prayer please consider including us among the charities listed in your will.*

May you continue to be blessed as richly as you have blessed the Desert House of Prayer!

Peace and joy,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fr. Tom Litz".