



NEWSLETTER OF THE HANDMAIDS OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

✠ Embracing the Future with Hope ✠

Pope Francis likes to remind us that God is “a God of surprises” and that we must always be ready to welcome them. God has certainly surprised us numerous times during this past year, and especially during the last six months.

In our Christmas newsletter, we mentioned how our property in Jemez Springs was sold and showed you some photos of our historic move from New Mexico. Everyone and everything arrived safely, but before all our boxes were unpacked, we found ourselves on another quest under St. Joseph’s lead, to discover where our “Nazareth” would be, after spending two blessed years in our “Bethlehem homes” in Benton.

East Tennessee is stunningly beautiful and each property we looked at increased our love and appreciation for this special part of our country. On the left is a snapshot of one of the adventures we had as we went exploring in a borrowed ATV.



After much prayer and assistance from our dedicated advisory team and with the blessing and approval of our wonderful Bishop Stika, Rev. Mother Marietta signed the papers for the sale of “Riveridge.” The photo at the top of the page

shows one of the beautiful views from the 55 acre property. If you are able to see our website (www.nunsforpriests.org), click on the news button and scroll down to find a short video that our IT (*Information systems technician*) expert, Scott Maentz, made for us with his drone camera. Thanks to Scott, acting as our intermediary, we are also now on Twitter and Facebook, so we invite you to sign up for our ‘tweets’ and take a look at our posts. These, too, are new adventures for us, and are among God’s latest surprises.

Our new property is in New Market, TN, about 35 minutes north east of Knoxville, between Strawberry Plains and Jefferson City. It is on a ridge overlooking the Holston River, with the Smoky Mountains to the south and the Clinch Mountains to the north. There is a lovely rustic Lodge and a ridgetop home, with enough bedrooms between the two for our whole Community to be together while we make building plans for our chapel and new Monastery.

This is such a grace-filled time for us, and how special it is that this is occurring during the Year of Consecrated Life. Pope Francis chose the same aims for this Year as St. John Paul proposed to the whole Church at the beginning of the third millennium. The third aim is to embrace the future with hope. In the following photos, you will see that we have great reason to do so.



Here is the Lodge at our new home in New Market, TN. We first visited this property on Friday, April 10th, during the Easter Octave and exactly 5 years to the day from when (then) Archbishop Raymond Burke counseled us to move from Jemez Springs.

"Go up into the hill country, bring timber and build the house that I may take pleasure in it and receive my glory, says the Lord." *Haggai 1:8*

...and in this place I will give peace.
Haggai 2:9



We were thrilled to see the cross made from stones at the top of the chimney in the Lodge and the heart shaped rock to the left of the cross. It was a special sign to us of "Cor Jesu" and Mary's Heart at the foot of the Cross.



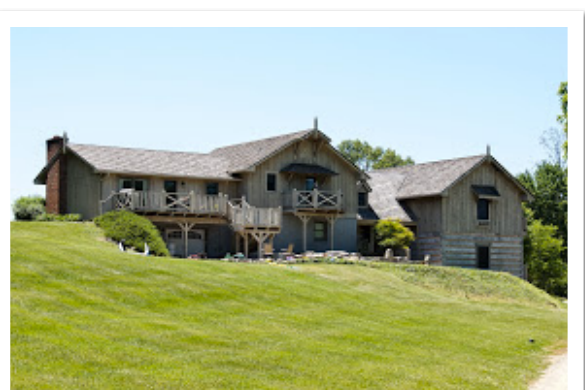
Rev. Mother Marietta signing the papers for the closing of the sale on Thursday, June 4th, Solemnity of Corpus Christi (in Rome) and eve of the First Friday in June, month of the Sacred Heart.



The Holston River seen from the deck and an aerial view thanks to Scott Maentz



Rev. Mother Marietta and her Council with David and Theresa Strom, members of the family who owned and built Riveridge.



The ridgetop home that will temporarily serve as our Monastery and chapel while the new structures are being built.



Four members of our "Handmaid Advisory Team" (HAT): Jennifer Goswitz (front) and in back l to r: Ralph Herbert, Wayne Erwin and Jimmy Dee. We are so grateful for their very inspired, generous, and invaluable support!



More photos of members of the "HAT" with Mike Hickey, our lawyer, on the far right.



Trey Benefield, landscape architect and master planner. Exciting plans are in the works!



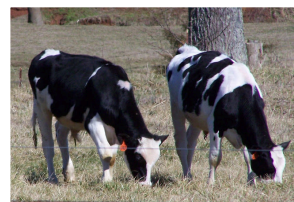
Herstle Cross, CPA, a wonderful teacher and guide from the time of our sale in New Mexico



It's moving time again! Here are two of our very best packers! Many thanks to all who supplied the materials and helped in any way.

"Meeting the Lord gets us moving, urges us to leave aside self-absorption...Christian life is defined by verbs of movement. Even when it is lived in the context of the monastery or contemplative cloister it is a life of continual searching."

- "Rejoice!" Letter to Consecrated Men and Women, #5



Meet Br. Chuck and Sir Loin: two of the seven Holstein steers the Sisters are caring for at Englewood.



(Below) Kitty Kat herself, her Spring portrait. She has been "on loan" to us for a few months for smiles and comic relief. Notice how well she blends in with "the Holstein boys".



Scott Maentz's dog Taz shows Sister Rose Philomena that he too is willing to give assistance with computers.



Feeding time at our temporary home in Englewood where 3 Sisters are living until we can all be together in New Market, TN.



(Left) Bishop Stika gives Rev. Mr. Michael Hendershott his call to Orders.

We were blessed to meet Jeff Cavins and hear his outstanding conference on what it means to be a follower of Jesus, and not a just a fan.



Please keep Deacon Michael Hendershott, Deacon Scott Russell, Deacon Jesus Guerrero Rodriguez and Deacon Ray Powell in your prayers. They will be ordained priests on June 27th.

As a seminarian at the North American College, Michael has kept in contact with us ever since we arrived in East TN. To the right is one of his visits with us.

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS AS OF JULY 16, 2015:

COR JESU MONASTERY 596 CALLAWAY RIDGE NEW MARKET, TN 37820

Visit our website www.nunsforpriests.org. Follow us on Twitter and view our posts on Facebook.



"You have not only a glorious history to remember and to recount, but also a great history still to be accomplished! Look to the future, where the Spirit is sending you in order to do even greater things!"

-Vita Consecrata #110

Like our dear Shepherd, may we "lift up our eyes and see that the fields are ripe for the harvest."

Jn 4: 35



Sharing Easter Supper with Bishop Stika and Alvin, Bishop's close friend and ours too.

How grateful we are for our marvelous Bishop Stika - who truly causes us to marvel: at his love and goodness to us, at the way he pours himself out so generously in order to be present with his large spiritual family, and at the graces he brings: especially that of hope and joy.