



Winter Newsletter

40 YEARS AND COUNTING

Peace and Good in Christ!

At the General Gathering in October 2018 we celebrated 40 years of history of The Brothers in kept sisters of Charity at Little Portion Hermitage and Monastery. Beginning at the old Alverna Franciscan Center in Indianapolis Indiana in 1978, and moving to the Diocese of Little Rock Arkansas in 1982, the community has continued on an exciting journey to the past 40 years.

Though surprises were bursting forth all weekend, it was formally celebrated at our closing Liturgy with Bishop Anthony Taylor with many presentations of icons for various achievements and long friendships. John Michael's godfather, Chuck Callahan, long lasting producer, Phil Perkins, and sound technician, John Cotton surprises JMT by their presence. JMT's lovely daughter and grandson were in attendance. It culminated in a good old Texas barbecue with beautiful decorations, and a video presentation of 40 years of history with old photos and videos of our first days. It was highlighted by a wonderful surprise performance by long time friends and co laborers in music ministry, Tom Booth and Tony Melendez, who did versions of songs they had sung with JMT decades ago.



VOCATIONS CORNER

Br. Maximillian Kolbe, Br Francis and Sr. Mary Kiara were given the opportunity to promote religious vocations to the fifth graders around the state at Subiaco. They were able to speak to more than 400 youth. A great experience for our novices and temporary professed!



Into the future



Peace and Good in Christ!

Not only did we celebrate the past 40 years at our General Gathering, we also celebrated our hopes for the future!

In some ways the last 40 years have been a wandering in the desert of a founding generation. Now we are hopeful of entering the promised land of seeing our charism more completely and solidly lived and fulfilled.

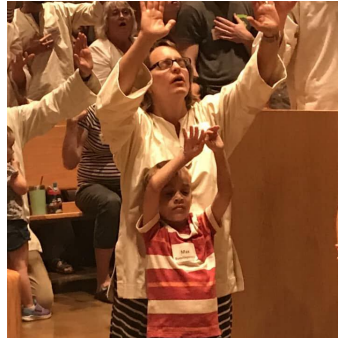
We are seeing more folks interested

in both the monastic and domestic expressions of our gospel way of life.

The integrated monastic life promises to restore the more ancient pattern of monasteries being the contemplative beating heart of the Church. This has been largely lost in our country. We hope to humbly, but radically reestablish that venerable ancient pattern. This is true for our celibate monks and nuns, singles and families. It's a radical, but not fanatical calling

from God!

Our domestics who live in their own homes also have great hopes for further cluster communities where our domestics live in a given neighborhood in order to provide necessary support to each other, and the local parish for living our authentic gospel charism in an increasingly secularized culture and challenged Church. We are getting a LOT of interest in this model!



REGIONAL AND LEADERSHIP GATHERINGS 2019

The regional gatherings have been finalized for date and location. Please contact your regional minister for additional information.

NW Regional Fri Jun 7–Sun Jun 9

NC Regional Fri Mar 22–Mar 24

NE Regional Fri Jun 7–Sun Jun 9

SW Regional Thurs Jun 20–Jun 23

SC Regional Fri May 24 –Sun May 26

SE Regional Thurs May 2– Sun May 5

Leadership Gathering April 10–13

All cell group leaders are invited and encouraged to come.

AUGUSTINE



We were blessed with a most special gift from Nancy Zeigler at Willowcross Goldens in Rogers AR! Right after the Gathering we brought home little Augustine (Augie for short). He is a truly fine English Golden puppy, but he's almost doubled in size! Known for friendliness, obedience, and loyalty, Goldens are great monastery doggie members of our community. They protect us, welcome visitors, and just exude love. Would that more monastics, Christians, and people in general manifested such Christ like qualities. He was greeted by his older Golden brother, Solomon the Wise. They are getting along just fine. Welcome Augie!

Traditionally monasteries have been seen as the beating contemplative heart of the entire Church. Here at Little Portion Hermitage and Monastery we take the charism and tradition very seriously! We need your partnership and help to continue living that call in Christ. We just celebrated our 40th anniversary since our foundation in 1978. We look forward to another 40+ years as well! The first 40 we “wandered in the desert” a bit because of we were still learning the monastic way. We often sinned. We haven’t learned everything, but we’ve learned a lot! Now we are truly hopeful as we enter into the “promised land” of our charism and gospel way of life in the years ahead.

Especially after our 40 year celebration at our General Gathering in October 2018, we are convinced that our community is unique in the Church in the United States. We have been given a special gift from God. What we see is unfolding before us is nothing short of a phenomenon in the Spirit!

As we see so much grave trouble within every aspect of western culture, communities like ours are vitally important. Authentic, yet new integrated expressions of ancient forms of community life are the glue that will keep much the Christian community together. What we’re doing is challenging and prophetic. And it is very difficult. We need your love, support, and prayers in order to succeed.

Please partner with us! You can do this by praying for us, joining our monastic or domestic expressions of community, or by your generous financial gifts.

Please be assured of our heartfelt prayers for everyone who asks us, especially all who support us. God bless you.

Please send donations to :

or online at : <https://littleportion.org/donate>

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