



Congregation of the Good Samaritan

“Little Thoughts from the Big Thicket”

October 20, 2010

Check out our website at <http://www.cgsorder.org>

CGS HAS MOVED AND IS SETTLING IN

ON AUGUST 18, 2010, driving a 24” U-Haul and the Saturn and pulling the ‘86 Gran Fury, we headed down I-10 from Lafayette, LA to Beaumont, TX on our way to our new home in the Big Thicket area near Rye, Tx. If you want to find it on a map, search between Liberty and Livingston. About half way in between, on Highway 146, you will find the big city of Rye, a post office and 72 residents. Then, head up into the Thicket from there.

Way back in the hills, you will find the Congregation of the Good Samaritan hard at work unpacking, cleaning, painting, sewing, and, of course, four times a day, praying in their own little chapel. There are windows all around,



THE CHAPEL

trees everywhere, a creek running through the back and a beautiful lake almost exactly across the road. The evenings now are cool, often with just a slight breeze through the leaves of the trees. The stars and moon shine brilliantly and sunrises are beautiful.

By now, even mid-day is pleasant, although back in August it was HOT!



So, what are we doing here?

Well, first of all, the property is being donated to the Congregation. It includes a 3-bedroom, 2-bath house and a little over an acre of land. There is property available both adjoining and nearby, and it is our hope to be able to get another acre or two perhaps even just for back taxes.

With a little extra property, we plan to create here, in the Big Thicket, a Retreat Center for individuals and small groups and an Educational Center for new clergy, continuing education for Priests, Deacons, Lay Readers and the laity, and inexpensive retirement housing for any interested clergy and their spouses. These three projects are all desperately needed in the ACC and all three fit easily into our Religious program and into the property

which God has so graciously provided. We will include detailed information on each program in Newsletters to come.

Brother John of the Cross - 24 Years of Service

At a small community dinner on October 11th, the Feast of St. Francis, the Congregation of the Good Samaritan honored **Brother John of the**



Cross, FODC, the newest member of the CGS on the 24th anniversary of his profession in the Franciscan Order of the Divine Compassion. Brother John brought his membership under the umbrella of the Congregation in May, and has moved with

us to Rye, Texas.

Brother John lived most of his Franciscan life at St. Mary's, Denver, and most of that time, he lived alone. It is very hard to live a religious life without the support of others in the community, and it was for this reason that the Congregation of the Good Samaritan was formed as it is. Members of small religious congregations are encouraged to move their vows under the Congregation where they can share in the prayer and social life of a community while continuing to explore their own spiritual journey.

Brother John seems to be very happy in his new surroundings, even if it is full of boxes and strewn with extension cords. He believes we will get it all "fixed" soon, and he is looking forward to living up here in the woods. His big thing right now is that the television and internet have been installed and he is hoping to get his computer up and going soon.

He has also become the adopted father of a very small black kitten which he named Blackie (short for Sister Mary Blackie). She is keeping him very busy.

Intercession List is up and going again.

Now that we have internet, Sister Anne has re-established the Intercession List. Our Prayer

Team numbers about 50 faithful pray-ers, who not only pray but also keep us updated on folks who need our prayers. If you would like to be added to the mailing list and to pray for those in and outside the ACC who need prayers, send a note to Sister Anne at her email address:

srannecgs@gmail.com. We will be glad to add you to the mailing list. If you know of someone who needs our prayers, send those to her as well. We like to have at least a first name and some idea of the problem that our prayers will address.

Anyone who prays with us will tell you that it is amazing how God works through this group to answer our prayers. There is no more rewarding work than to pray.

Father John Benedict, Carpenter

He's a Priest. He's an Hospice Nurse. He's an organist and cook. And now, with a place for all his tools (downstairs on the sleeping porch) he now is turning to woodworking—his second love. Well, maybe not second, but...in any case he has big plans for making cabinets, bookshelves and even furniture for the new Monastery, as well as hopefully being able to sell some of his wares at the local flea market to raise a little money to help with building and remodeling expenses. He has almost everything he needs—except—

The "Z-Truck" on his carving machine is damaged and has to be replaced. A new one costs about \$200, so we are working on that.

Which also brings us to DONATIONS

Can you do something to help? We desperately need your financial and prayer support. All donations should be addressed to the **Congregation of the Good Samaritan**. Our mailing address is:

P.O. Box 527
Rye, Texas, 77369-0527

We are tax exempt.

Any amount, however large or small, will be most greatly appreciated!

Until November, may God bless you all.