

# NORBERTINE OUTREACH



SANTA MARÍA DE LA VID ABBEY

## Coming Together

*Fr. Graham Golden, O. Praem.*

The act of "coming together" has organically become the most concrete expression of the ministry of our office to date. I believe it is a real and authentic outgrowth of our charism and life as Norbertines. As we seek to foster *communio*, as we strive to witness the real transforming power of an intentional life together persevering through moments of challenge and conflict and celebrating in moments of shared joy, we consistently come together as the *eclesiola* (small church) that we are. In so doing, the Holy Spirit continues to draw many others together around and through our presence and ministry.

We have begun to take a more systematic and intentional approach to the pacing and structure of our programs and activities. Although this leads to fewer events, it also has proven to bridge wider divides and has brought a greater diversity of young people, and the not-so-young, together in more meaningful ways. Our summer retreat had the widest representation of parishes that we have seen, and our Come to Christ and Café *Communio* ministries continue to be invited to new parishes and communities. The Art at the Abbey initiative has taken on a new sense of connectedness as it has surfaced local leaders to help guide and direct this outreach. Our theme this year, "Puentes de Compasión" is a clear embodiment of this. The Abbey continues to be more and more recognized throughout the Archdiocese by a wider range of individuals, both Catholic and non-Catholics.

Returning from the National V Encuentro, I was reminded of the significance of what it is to be open to both giving and receiving from the other.

**Continue on Page 4**



Br. Patricio, Br. Lorenzo & Fr. Graham,  
First Vespers of the Solemnity of St  
Augustine



Fr. Graham facilitating a Question-Answer  
session during Our Lady of the Most Holy  
Rosary's Parish Renewal



Ladies Who Share Faith-Sharing Tea Event

## OUTREACH SPOTLIGHT

Over the past nine months, we have been intentional to foster more consistency within our programming. Since January, our event, "Come to Christ: A Night of Praise, Worship, and Adoration" has continued to take place on the first Thursday of each month and is planned out through December of this year. One of the main elements of this event is a faith story shared by a young adult speaker. In December, our speaker will be our office's Program and Communications Coordinator, Celina Chavez, and as the event will take place during Advent, we will offer an opportunity for Reconciliation. We thank God that people have been inspired to meet our Lord through the young adults of our community as well as through the consecrated host, the sacraments, and worship.



Our Come to Christ  
Praise & Worship Team

## Drawn Together

As our focus is young adult ministry—how young adults might come to know, understand, and embrace their vocations, and how the Holy Spirit through us might move them to deeper faith—we have been blessed to witness God's grace time and time again through the young adults of our community. While all of our programming is planned, organized and facilitated for young adults by young adults to include our office staff, staff of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe Office of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus ministries, and other young adult volunteers and initiatives, we thank God for using these events, services, and retreats to draw people of all generations together.

Our monthly Come & Celebrate events, *Come to Christ* and *Taizé in the Desert*, continue to gather people together for intentional time in prayer. While *Come to Christ* has almost reached its first year as an ongoing opportunity for praise and prayer, we celebrated the 6-Year Anniversary of *Taizé in the Desert* as an ongoing ecumenical form of prayer in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. We are truly grateful that the Abbey has continued to faithfully host *Taizé* and services such as these. In addition, our events of evangelization, *Café Communio* and *Christ in the Community*, have allowed us the grace to embrace our community as a people of faith toward people who were made for faith. We partnered with Our Lady of Guadalupe in May and St. John XXIII Catholic Church in August for *Café Communio*, and we took *Christ in the Community* to several summer events at the Rail Yards Market, Civic Plaza, and Isotopes Park. Our *Ladies Who Share Faith-Sharing Group* also met again this summer, ending with a special tea event. Many of the young women who participated have since sought to join together with other young adults to further their faith journeys. Finally, as part of our collaboration with the Archdiocese of Santa Fe Office of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministries, we hosted two Lenten Retreats, one for young men and one for young women, and a Summer Retreat for both young men and women. Each of these retreats gave young adults a chance to

## Upcoming Events

### October

4 Come to Christ: A Night of Praise, Worship, & Adoration<sup>^</sup>

5 Café Communio @ Our Lady of Annunciation<sup>^</sup>

9 Christ in the Community-4th Annual Glow in the Village<sup>^</sup>

19 Taizé in the Desert<sup>^</sup>

### November

16 Taizé in the Desert<sup>^</sup>

17 Puentes de Compasión: Reaching For Hope - Opening\*

### December

1 Christ in the Community- Winterfest on the Plaza<sup>^</sup>

6 Come to Christ: A Night of Praise, Worship, Adoration, & Reconciliation<sup>^</sup>

8 Young Adult Advent Retreat<sup>^</sup>

20 Puentes de Compasión: Reaching For Hope - Closing\*

21 Taizé in the Desert<sup>^</sup>

\*proprietary programming

<sup>^</sup>collaboration with the Archdiocese

literally remove themselves from the busyness of their lives for a short while and to discover more about God's sovereignty and desire that we should walk together. Apart from our collaboration with the Archdiocese, we are grateful that people continue to show an interest in seeking God in everything, specifically in movies. Our *Theology on Film* series featured *The Way* (2010) in June, *A Better Life* (2011) in July, and *The Help* (2011) in August.

Among our other activities these past months include the following: Fr. Graham and Br. Patricio took part in a few pilgrimages, both in this year's Pilgrimage For Vocations in June and Br. Patricio in the Pilgrimage for Christian Unity earlier this month; Fr. Graham and Celina participated in this year's National Young Adult Ministry Summit in Washington, D.C. in mid-May, a gathering of over 130 young adult ministers from across the nation; Fr. Graham was officially installed as Pastor of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Catholic Community and led the community through a significant Parish Renewal; Fr. Graham participated in the National V Encuentro in mid-September in Grapevine, TX, a gathering of Hispanic/Latino ministers, religious and delegates from across the nation; and we joined in the welcoming of Br. Lorenzo Romero-Ramos, O. Praem. into the community at the First Vespers of the Solemnity of St. Augustine. Additionally, we join in the welcoming of Andres Myers as a Postulant to our community. We thank you for your prayers and for walking alongside our young men in formation as they continue their journeys toward God.

In the coming weeks and months, there will be one last Café Communio until next year in early October at Our Lady of the Annunciation, two more festive Christ in the Community events celebrating the Fall and Winter seasons, an Advent Retreat for young adults in early December, and our third annual art exhibition on the theme, "Puentes de Compasión: Reaching For Hope." Furthermore, we hope to participate in and support events and gatherings organized by other young adult groups of and in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe which aspire to draw us more and more together.

As an abbey that defines itself as a “formational community” this seems a most appropriate model to engage in. This implies that we are not only here to guide those who come to us in discernment and to form the men who come to be a part of us, but that we are also consistently open to being guided by those discerning and be transformed by those who become a part of us.

I have seen just in the recent months a very hopeful and energized growth within our own community, one that seems directed toward truly “coming together” not only in the diversity we already reflect within our community, but in a deeper way with those among whom we journey. From our fledging Spanish language mass once a week, to some of the other shifts that will be coming in regards to our liturgical postures, and movements around art and environment on the abbey campus. These realities continue to allow us to be more receptive to a wider diversity of individuals, spiritualities, traditions, and cultures. This is a distinctive shift from a place where a few come to flee from the rest of the Church toward the creation of a place where all can come to find refuge not against something else, but toward a deeper communion.

When I first visited the Abbey over a decade ago it was clear that the community saw itself as here to “teach and form” and had a certain understandable commitment to particular ideologies and emphasis on particular interest groups. However, I believe that we are now in a moment of great growth toward a deepening of our charism and mission. For now we appear more open to also “receive and be transformed” and thus seek an authentic unity that is more open to a real and authentic diversity rooted in this place, its history, traditions, spirituality, and the universal traditions of the Church. I now see a hesitant hope, but hope nonetheless, in a real and vibrant future for our community and those who because of the work of grace in us continue to come together.



Fr. Graham, Jessica Rios (ASF Young Adult Coordinator) & Celina, National Young Adult Ministry Summit



Br. Patricio & Fr. Graham, Pilgrimage For Vocations



Young Adult Summer Retreat on “Rejoice and Be Glad: Gaudete et Exsultate”

*Our hope and mission is to support the increase of the young adult presence in the community and the bridging of gaps to the larger faith community. Any and all Norbertines are welcome to participate.*