Our Mission with Monasterio Madre de Dios
~ Manati, Puerto Rico ~

Our community has been blessed in every way through our friendship and unity with the cloistered Dominican Sisters of Madre de Dios. Over a year after the devastating Hurricane Maria, they are still severely affected by the damage it inflicted on Puerto Rico. Sister Mary John Paul continues to travel and coordinate the repair work they need with teams of professionals from Puerto Rico and the United States. Thanks to all those who have generously helped them!

Monasterio Madre de Dios

Photo Captions:
A Installing new pipes for hot water
B Plumber from Alabama installing hot water heaters
C Electrical being installed
D Josef, Sister Mary Jacinta’s nephew, installing the network equipment
E Beginning of the new Cistern construction
F Concrete truck begins placement of the concrete
G New 10,000 Gallon Cistern for holding rain water
H Jerry and Frank came from Alabama to install and replace all the damaged security cameras.

“The musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art.”
(Sacrosanctum Concilium, 112)

“To these works (sacred music) not only the human voice, but also the organ and other musical instruments, add dignity, majesty and a prodigious richness.”
(Pope Pius XII, Musicae Sacrae)
In January, the Sister Servants began hosting AVOW meetings once a month, using Sister Clare Matthiass’s book *Discerning Religious Life*, for young women from the Birmingham diocese who desire to follow God’s call for their life.

**Thoughts on Catechesis from our Foundress**

“No more than ever, parents are responsible for teaching their children the Faith. Ask your children daily what they have learned in religion class (and other classes), embellish upon it, and live it at home. Let them see how important Faith is.”

-Mother Mary Gabriel, SaEW

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**Father Lambert Greenan, O.P., Rest in Peace!**

January 11, 1917 - November 29, 2018

On December 5, 2018, Bishop Robert Baker celebrated the funeral Mass for our beloved Father Lambert Greenan, O.P., who almost reached his 102nd birthday. Father Lambert was a man of the Church par excellence, who received all the graces and blessings the Church has to offer at the end of life. We miss him and pray for him!

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**Seek 2019**

Once again, we participated in FOCUS’ SEEK conference for 19,000 college students and others in Indianapolis. There were over 400 students from various Alabama campuses at this conference! Shown above is one of the winners of the Blessed Pier Giorgio t-shirt raffle.

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**Families of Faith**

Catechetical Series — By Sophia Institute Press

Through an encounter at one of our retreats, we have become involved in assisting with the Families of Faith catechesis program in two parishes in our diocese. The necessity for parents to pass on the faith to their children is particularly vital today, and this series is primarily focused on equipping families to learn their catechesis together and share it with their children so that they may have a strong spiritual life as a family.

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**Save the Date**

“**Ignite Your Torch**”

July 11-14, 2019

University of Alabama Huntsville

We are excited that the diocese of Birmingham is hosting Ignite Your Torch Catholic Youth Conference, July 11-14, 2019. We have participated yearly in this youth conference in Kentucky since 2008, and have helped organize groups of student attendees from our diocese over the last several years. The richness of this conference is the excellent workshops, high ratio of priests and religious to student participants, beautiful liturgy, and pro-life emphasis.

**Come join us in Huntsville, AL at Ignite!**

www.igniteyourtorch.com

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**AVOW Discernment Group**

In January, the Sister Servants began hosting AVOW meetings once a month, using Sister Clare Matthiass’ book *Discerning Religious Life*, for young women from the Birmingham diocese who desire to follow God’s call for their life.