



COMMUNITY OF
THE BEATITUDES

NEWSLETTER

November 2024

25th anniversary in Denver

The Community of the Beatitudes in Denver held a wonderful Shabbat in the Park on August 23, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Community House in Denver (Mary, Spouse of the Spirit). What a great kick-off to resume the normal Community schedule after summer. It was a beautiful Colorado summer evening in McDonough Park just across from St. Catherine's parish, with wonderful weather, a wide array of members and friends both old and new, and even some pets! Songs, celebration, and loving fellowship filled the air. We even had some local neighbors and parishioners join in after driving by and wondering what was happening. As always, it was so wonderful to have all the states of life together, from Consecrated Brothers and Sisters to Lay Members, Candidates, Disciples of the Lamb, Friends of the Lamb, as well as friends and neighbors of the Community, all singing, celebrating, and sharing... what a blessing to all of us our Ecclesial Family is!!!

-Jeff J. (Friend of the Lamb)



Sr. Mirjana and Br. Steve's first vows



I had the opportunity to travel to France and Belgium with my baby, Robert, for Sr. Mirjana (New Jersey) and Br. Steve's (Missouri) first vows and reception of the religious habit. It was so great to see Mirjana, and you could feel that she was ready to take this next step with the Lord. The day of her vows was very joyful, Sr. Mirjana was radiant as she received the habit and professed her first vows. Afterward, there was much celebrating and rejoicing for two new sisters. We set off early Sunday morning (with Sr. Mirjana!) to head to Belgium for Steve's vows. We got to the house in Thy-Le-Château about an hour before the Mass. Steven's parents, aunt, and uncle were there as well. During the Mass, you could feel the peace and joy of Br. Steve as



he entered this new step in his vocation. There was a great spirit of joy at both of their professions, and you could feel the prayers of the Community both near and far. Br. Steve will head off to seminary in Blagnac (France), and Sr. Mirjana will spend some time in Autrey (France) before coming to Denver this Spring.

-Laura B.

Pikes Peak Ascent

We took our annual summit up Pikes Peak this year and were able to all make it to the top with joy and praise to our Almighty Father. We had several people who were not sure if they would make it to the peak, but they did, and we were so proud of them. We were able to pray vespers together and even celebrated a communion service, including other Catholics from the camp, who were happy to be able to celebrate a Sunday liturgy with us. What a beautiful Creation God has made for us!

-Josh K. (Lay Branch)



Friend of the Lamb

Abundant blessings and JOY! My name is Debra Ricard, and I am a Friend of the Lamb. I was introduced to the Community of the Beatitudes at a Vespers service and communal dinner afterward more than five years ago. I became a Friend of the Lamb last year on Holy Saturday surrounded by my husband and three children. The Community has fed me and helped me to be drawn closer to the person of Jesus! I have been continually inspired and touched by the beauty and charity of the merciful Lamb slain in tender service of love. The Community has grounded me as an anchor and called me home in times of profound joy experienced in vulnerable humility amongst other members. I have eagerly grown in transparency and vulnerability through the inspiration of Christ at the center of life together! The Friends of the Lamb have provided me and our family, with a solid and recognizable bridge to the outside world within the expansive love and support of fellowship and community.



-Debra R. (Friend of the Lamb)

Welcome Sr. Deborah!



My name is Sr. Deborah, I am a French sister, and I entered the Community of Beatitudes very long ago... I was still very young. I arrived in Denver's Beatitudes house on the Archangels' wings on October 29th (I was in Denver for 3 months in 2013). I am very happy to be here with you all.

I had a quite a missionary life over my community journey (Morocco, Peru, New Zealand and more...) and years in France as well. Lately I was 5 years in Lourdes (where the Virgin Mary appeared to little Bernadette). I loved this place

very much. My parents have been part of the community for 45 years now. And they are the Beatitudes' oldest couple! I am very proud of them, they are following the whole prayer schedule at 90 and 97 years old.

I like very much to give the testimony of my faith, and help people to feel loved by God. I like to hike, to bike, to sing, to paint and so many other things. I will be happy to meet you when God will make it possible. God bless you, you are so precious to Him and to us.

-Sr. Deborah

Open Heaven Retreat

Open Heaven retreat provided an incredible opportunity to enter deeper into my relationship with Christ alongside nearly 20 other faith-filled young adults. The organizing team clearly put a tremendous deal of love, consideration and intention into orchestrating a powerful 4-day retreat immersed in nature. They provided such a refreshing experience of traditional liturgy with charismatic praise joined together with fellowship and lots of laughter. The talks were heart-felt and spirit-led. I appreciated the balance of religious brothers, sisters and lay members that really created a beautiful family atmosphere unlike anything I have encountered before. I have been on numerous retreats. I can honestly say that Open Heaven truly stands out above the rest. **-Daniel**

Jesus is alive, and he truly makes all things new. The Lord transformed me at the Open Heaven retreat in the beautiful mountains of Colorado. Through the intentional talks, warm fellowship, and time of adoration, the Truth set me free from lies that had been in my heart for years. And, I was able to revisit dark, traumatic memories, that aren't so dark anymore, and see Jesus with me in those places. I have been set free, and I am ready to serve and help others encounter Jesus' healing power. **-Alex**

I saw sunlight splash across the peaks of mountains, I smelled the aromas of trees and flowers around me, I tasted food cooked with care and served with love, I felt the gentle touch of a cool summer breeze on my skin, I heard the sound of many different hearts singing praise together as one: this is where a broken vessel was repaired and filled with joy, where I fell more deeply in love with the Lord. **-Christophe**



Open Heaven in Colorado was my first interaction with Beatitudes Missions. I was very pleased to have constant access to Our Lord in Adoration and to participate in the Liturgical life of the Church in morning prayer and experience Byzantine Vespers. It was beautiful to



see the Nuns and Priests joyfully living out their vocations. I was touched at the generosity of all the members of the Service team, who seemed genuinely interested in me and my wellbeing throughout the retreat! There are few things in this world as tasty as Shabbat Bread! I look forward to my further involvement with the Community of the Beatitudes!

-Ian

During the week I had the opportunity to experience a short glimpse of what the eternal feast with our Lord is going to be like. I would say the most Spiritual high for me was Saturday night when we had the opportunity to have the monstrance rest on us. I could feel the Lord's presence, allowing him to heal past wounds in my life.

-Fernando



Jubilee of Young People

Rome July 25 – August 03, 2025

A pilgrimage as massive as that of a

Jubilee Year in Rome!

This transformative event takes place only once every 25 years, and will be a tremendously wonderful spiritual and fraternal experience to renew and ignite more profoundly your faith! Contact us!

Jesus Our Hope Retreat House

"Be still and know that I am God"

For more information and reservations: jesus-our-hope.org

Hebrew Experience

Many years ago, when I settled down in the States, I created a program to teach Judaism to common folks, the laity sitting in the pews. I wanted to transmit what is essential about Judaism, the Judaism of Jesus and what the Church says about Jews, Judaism, and Israel. This program is called Hebrew Experience. It's comprised of three series of seven classes. Part 1 is the basic elements of the steps in the life of a Jew, a lexicon to understand terms like kosher, tassels, Torah, and the meaning of Shabbat. What are the pilgrimage feasts: Passover, Pentecost, and the feast of Booths? How did Jesus and the apostles, celebrate feasts at their time, and what is left of these celebrations nowadays? Part 2 is the historical feasts, Purim and Hannukah, and the modern celebration linked to the creation of the State of Israel. Part 3 consists in watching movies together, which I comment on while viewing.

This program gives me an opportunity to bring Catholics closer to Jesus and to the Church's theology of Judaism. And, hopefully, to work against antisemitism that still creeps into the hearts of some people. I must have taught more than 300 students, in different parishes in the past years. Here is a testimony from a student: "I have never had a class touch both my mind and my heart in such a way; The doors that it has opened are beckoning me onward to explore in physical and profoundly spiritual ways. May your work be an example for all of us of the joy of following God's will for our lives."

-Sr. Magdalit



You did not choose Me, but I chose you. (John 15:16)

This year, 7 aspirants took the step of joining the community to discern if God is calling them to the Beatitudes. The first stage of formation is called Common Formation, and takes two forms:

1-year on-site formation for singles who can live in the community house, or 2-year distance formation for couples and families who live at home but come to the community for formation, service and mission sessions, and who set up a rhythm of prayer at home.

Denver hosts one on-site aspirant: Maria, and 3 couples who live nearby and are following the Distance Common Formation: Terra and Jake Borchers, Luke and Lea Moscoso, and Alex and Marianne Frank.

They heard God's call through the words of Jesus: "You did not choose Me, but I chose you." (John 15:16), and they want to respond to it. Mystery of faith and gift from God, this call invites them to follow Christ until they no longer belong to themselves, but to Christ alone. This time of formation is a time for maturing desire, discernment and discovery of the community's own grace, through talks, fraternal life, spiritual life, mission and service. We entrust them to your prayers!

-Sr. Sarah



Disciples of the Lamb

On November 2, still surrounded by a multitude of Saints, we had the joy of accompanying twelve Disciples of the Lamb. During Vespers they pronounced their annual commitment: to be faithful to daily prayer, to daily reading of the Word of God, to a regular sacramental life, to have a spiritual guide, to a filial relationship with the Virgin Mary, to purity of heart and body, to bear witness to their faith in everyday life, and to serve the Church. “Through these commitments I grow closer to Christ every day,” says Ethan. And McKenna affirms: “Living as a witness for Christ as a young person becomes so much richer when we have the brotherhood of our peers to fall back on and draw inspiration from.”

-Fr. Nilson



“Friends of the Lamb” (adults) and **“Disciples of the Lamb”** (18-30 yo) are associated with the Community of the Beatitudes, and share its spirituality and apostolates.

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