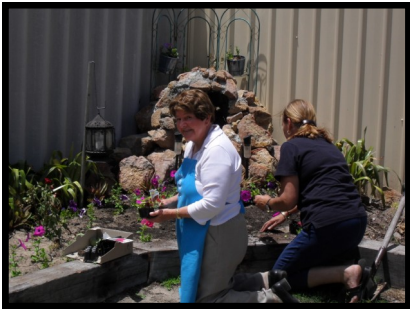


Our mobile soup kitchen is going well as we are servicing between 40 to 80 clients per night, two nights a week. We have been very grateful for all that has been donated during the year. A lot of businesses have come on board to supply fresh fruit, bread, chickens. We like to bake muffins, cakes or biscuits to serve on the run and next year one of the schools in the area are going to help us with this. We had a school donate vegies for the month of June and it was great to see the children involved. We have about 35 volunteers and in the New Year we would like to extend the service to another night and maybe open a drop in centre. We have also been given a lot of baby clothes, cots, prams etc for St. Pio's House of Hope. The House is running smoothly and we hope to include next year courses for the women in cooking, knitting, sewing, scrap booking and housekeeping. We have managed to pick up two knitting machines very cheaply and we have been knitting hand made dishcloths made out of 100% cotton. We hope to pass this skill on as well. We stand in awe of God and His Divine Providence and the way that He has provided for us during this year. Below are some pictures of the year past.



Eileen and Norma planting flowers



The Upper Room



Our beautiful chook pen



Our produce from Vegetable Garden



Jackie learning how to make soap

One of the first dishcloths on the Empisal Knitting Machine



Through Mary to Jesus

THE HOLY FAMILY HOUSE OF PRAYER

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December, 2009



The Holy Family House of Prayer wishes you all a Happy & Holy Christmas & a Blessed New Year

2009 has been a busy year with many outdoor projects completed. The main message we have discovered by reflecting on the year past is that we have been taught the lessons of faith, hope and love.

Holy Family House of Prayer has had a new grape arbour and vegetable garden completed. The pool fence has been moved and paving and concrete completed as well as a garden to the back fence. A deck has been added onto the prayer room down the back and an archway built for a climbing rose at the back gate.

St Pio's House of Hope has had a chook pen built, pavement in the shape of a cross with a flower feature in the middle and gardens built and a stone grotto built for a new statue we have been given of Padre Pio holding the baby Jesus.

Thank you to the people who donated money for the CD/DVD burner. We have received \$200 so far.

We have updated our website and added a shop called St. Benedicts which shows all that is available by donation from the Shrine. Mark has created a beautiful cross which has a picture of the Weeping Madonna at the feet of Jesus.

These projects have all required us to have faith in God's plan, hope and trust that He would provide for us and we have learned that these works have been completed as a labour of love to build up the Kingdom of God.

The grotto for St Pio

During the year we began to pray and plan a grotto dedicated to St Pio at the house we have been given to use for girls who are pregnant. This house is called St. Pio's House of Hope. The task seemed overwhelming as the yard had been left to overgrow and the roots of a big Japanese Pepper tree had taken over most of the yard. We made an opening in the fence and built an archway between the two properties. We were helping a friend clean up and he had a small archway with 3 arches. We were given this to use as our feature at the back of the grotto and were told that these three arches represented faith, hope and love. It was explained to us that the Holy Family House of Prayer was the house of faith, St Pio's was the house of hope and the work we did at both houses was the work of holy love.

God is so awesome in His planning. We discovered in the garden big rocks and decided that these would be good for the building of the stone grotto. Much prayer and thought was given to how we could build this grotto. During midday prayer one day it was given that we were to get a bird cage and use this as our structure and build the stones over the top. Eileen's daughter Jo had been given a bird cage and so this was used to form the base. Each day we lifted the rocks and concreted them into place. Gradually the grotto started to take shape. After completing the stonework our friend Mark came over with his tin snips and cut away the front of the bird cage. We stood back and looked and the opening was formed in the shape of a heart. Our friends were in San Giovanni Rotondo Italy for Padre Pio's feast day in September and a lightweight outdoor statue was purchased and sent to us. We needed to build a garden and before we could say anything we had been given 5 roses and some other plants to make our garden complete. Padre Pio was famous for his saying pray, hope and do not worry. We wanted to make stepping stones with these words on them. We were guided to go to a place which sells stepping stones and they had them on special for \$3 each. We painted the words pray, hope and do not worry on the stones and they were put in the front of the grotto.

Des holding the book for Father Teddy as he blesses the new little grotto.



The Upper Room

During the year we were blessed to have a friend Lee finish off the roof of the verandah and Eileen's son-in-law James built a deck. Once these were completed we realized that we were meant to pray our night prayers in this prayer room. A message was received telling us that this was the Upper Room. This is that message:

28th October 2009 (Night Prayer)

My dear little ones,

Look to the Scriptures to help you understand the ways of the Lord. You must take time in preparation just as the disciples were called to go to the upper room and pray in readiness to receive the gift of the Spirit of God on the day of Pentecost. You too must go to your upper room and pray fervently in preparation for the coming of the Eternal Bridegroom. Do not waste this opportunity you are given to change the way you live your life. Time is short and there are changes which need to be made. Do not leave these changes until the last moment as you may regret this decision. Many people search for fulfilment through worldly pursuits. This type of life will not last. Return to a simple way of life. Take time for your Lord and God, take time for your family and loved ones and take time to reach out in love to others. Share all you have with others. Do not hoard up your possessions. You enter into the world with no possessions and you also leave with nothing. Do not let your mind be consumed with the ways of the world, as these ways will not help you. Your time in this world is short but your time in eternity lasts forever. Be prudent and wise. Choose the narrow path of righteousness and you will inherit life eternal. Come my little ones to your upper room and spend time with your Lord and God in quiet contemplation. I am your Good Shepherd and I will lead you up the holy mountain of the Lord. Do not be afraid to take this path of holiness with your Lord and Saviour.

We were also guided to begin an hour of Praise and Worship on Sunday nights from 7.30pm until 8.30pm. These nights have been joyful and we have realized the graces we receive by giving praise and thanks to our Lord and God. This is the message given last night during the hour of prayer.

13th December 2009 (Night Prayer)

My little ones,

I am with you as you praise and give glory to your Lord and God. Where two or three are gathered there am I in your midst. Do not doubt but believe in My real presence. Listen and learn from Me – during your quiet moment I will speak to you from within. I will guide you by the words I give to you at this time. Take notice of the words of love I speak to you. Do not be afraid to open your mind, your heart and your soul to Me your Good Shepherd. Be still in My presence and listen to Me. Time is short and I need you to make changes while you have this time of grace. Stretch out your arms and open yourself up to your Lord and God. Read 2 Chronicles 6: 28-31. Look to the Wisdom of Solomon to guide you. Open your hearts up to the ways of your Lord and God. Listen to Me. I speak to you from the temple of your heart. Journey within and let us be united as one in thoughts, in your words and in your actions. Do not be afraid to stretch your arms out in praise and openness to the love I have for you. Be anointed in a special way with the holy oil of salvation. Pray fervent prayers my little ones. I hear all your prayers offered with a humble heart. Do not be distracted with other things. Spend this hour with your Lord and God in contemplation and experience the deep love I have for you. Be holy as I your Lord and God am holy. Read 2 Chronicles 6: 40-42.