



Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center

The Passionists of Holy Cross Province 700 N. Sunnyside Avenue, Sierra Madre, CA 91024-1023
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December 2, 2013

Dear Friend of Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center,

You may have read recently in the *Mountain Views News* a story regarding the possible development of a portion of our property. We had hoped to communicate with you before any news story appeared but the newspaper moved more quickly than we had anticipated. Still, because we Passionists have had such close ties to St. Rita's Parish for so many years, we feel you deserve some word directly from us.

The Passionists of Holy Cross Province with the Board of Directors of Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center Madre have been exploring the sale of a parcel of our property for development. This open field parcel is located immediately north of our entrance gates on Sunnyside Avenue.

We undertook our planning process because, as good stewards of our resources, we have to plan ahead in order to care for our aging Passionist priests and brothers, and to strengthen our various ministries in the United States and elsewhere.

This planning process is in its preliminary stages. Any comment or speculation about how this parcel may be used would be premature. As plans begin to take shape, we will keep you informed and look forward to your input.

We can assure you that the quiet setting of Mater Dolorosa and its retreat ministry will in no way be diminished by the sale of this parcel. Our retreat center is healthy and our ministry strong and vibrant. As these plans mature, we Passionists hope that we can count on your ongoing support.

We will likely see change coming to a portion of our property. What remains unchanged, however, are our strong ties of friendship with St. Rita's Parish, ties we have had for 90 years.

Sincerely,

Fr. Michael Higgins, C.P.
Retreat Director