



## Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center

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Dear Friends,

As promised in my last letter to you in 2013, I wanted to provide you with an update on our progress as we pursue the sale of a portion of our property.

We continue to be engaged in discussions with a number of interested parties about the possible future use of our land. These meetings are the culmination of a deliberate and thoughtful process at Mater Dolorosa - dating back to 2007 - about what type of land use would be most compatible with the needs of our Retreatants, our neighbors and the City of Sierra Madre.

We have explored a variety of development and non-development pathways before deciding on the current approach.

In this effort, I feel blessed to have the help of many longtime supporters of Mater Dolorosa who are sharing their time and professional talents as we strive to make prudent decisions. Our volunteers have expertise in city planning, real estate, the law, and zoning regulations and I am most grateful for their counsel as these are areas not well covered in the seminary! Because most of our property-use volunteers are current Retreatants, they have a deep understanding of the Passionist Mission which always informs our decision-making. We have, of course, also had the guidance of professional consultants provided by our Province leadership.

I invite you to visit our Mater Dolorosa website ([www.materdolorosa.org](http://www.materdolorosa.org)) as this will be the primary way we will communicate news related to our development project. I have come to appreciate that posting information to our website under the Property News tab is the most efficient way to quickly and simultaneously communicate with the many interested communities. Whenever there is something new to report, I'll make sure to write about it and post it to our website. If I am busy with retreat responsibilities when something new happens, I'll ask one of my colleagues to post that information to the website so anyone interested will receive it in a timely manner.

We continue to be in close touch with the relevant city departments who will be involved in a possible sale and we are listening to the comments of those in the community who both oppose and support possible development.

Sincerely,

Fr. Michael Higgins, C.P.  
Retreat Director