



20 men. 1 virus.

1 house.

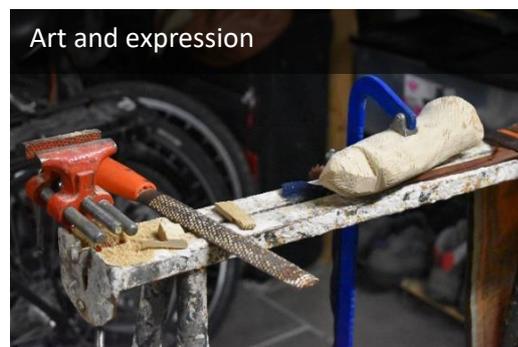
This is a difficult time for many around the world. But in an effort to face this time with action, many members of the community have taken up practices to ease tension and prevent bloodshed. The activities range across the hobby spectrum from art to sports. On the individual level, several brothers have used this time to get in touch with their artistic side. Br. Juan, for example, has taken up painting find his happy place, channeling Bob Ross



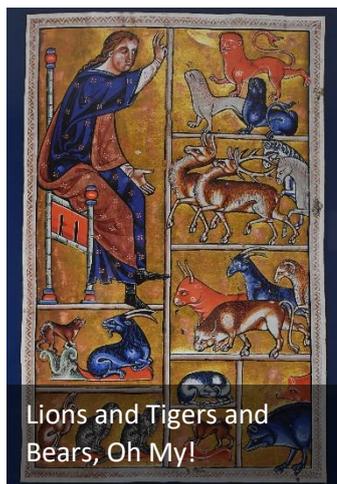
Proud Papa

with every stroke. When asked why he paints, he said “I want to develop my creativity.” Right next to Juan’s painting lie the drawings and paintings of Br. Tomás Basallo who, being an accomplished artist already, is experimenting with a variety of techniques and mediums. When asked the same question, he responded “I want to exercise the gift.” Traveling deep into the bowels of the formation house, we find Br. Riley Blanchard hacking away at a block of wood which, he assures me, will eventually be a statuette of Christ. “I carve for the sake of art and expression,” he told me during our interrogation.

On the community level, the frequency of sports has been increased to three times a week, when we play soccer in the gymnasium of the school. The ping pong table has also been set up in the basement and a tournament is already underway to determine the ultimate champion.



Art and expression



Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My!

In regards to events this time has not been lacking. Friday 17th we held a book forum for the book *Seréis como Dioses* (You Will Be Like Gods), the story of a young woman in a (seemingly) utopian future who seeks to find meaning in an immortal, heartless existence. We were also blessed in these weeks with a record breaking four Eureka's. A Eureka, for the uninitiated, is a practice of the Disciples in which a member of the community presents a topic or interesting discovery of theirs to the others in the house. The first was by Mark, who gave us some techniques for singing well that will be put to good use in the chapel and elsewhere. The second was a presentation of the Aberdeen Bestiary by Br. Cesar. A bestiary, he explained, is a type of book popular in

the middle ages that provides illustrations and descriptions of a variety of animals, usually linking their characteristics with a moral dictum. The Aberdeen bestiary is one of the most famous and well-preserved examples. Br. Juan gave the third Eureka, highlighting the book *The Hungry Soul* by Leon Kass. The book develops a philosophy of food, combing through history and literature to show what food and eating means for Man. Another layman in the house, Fernando Juste, shared his passion for Flamenco music with us in the final one, showing us several examples of the music and the dance and culture surrounding it.

A Symposium with the theme of “community” was also held, which broke from the tradition structure. Playing with the theme, each community of the house (superiors, juniors, novices, and Navigare) ate together in a separate room for the main meal, and the whole community later came together for the final toasts and sweets. We all agree that it was an excellent event which allowed us all to reconnect with our close companions in this year experience.

