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Mater Dolorosa Launches Web Source For Information on Property Development

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Mater Dolorosa has added three new pages to its website, materdolorosa.org, to keep the community informed about its proposal to sell the unoccupied 20-acre “Meadows” parcel at the Retreat Center for development as single-family homes.

The pages can be reached by clicking “About,” then “Property,” on the home page of the materdolorosa.org site, or by their direct URLs:

- Materdolorosa.org/property-news: News releases and other public communications about the proposal are posted on this page for reference and downloading.
- Materdolorosa.org/property-faqs: Launched with nearly 30 questions and answers, this page will be updated continuously to provide timely, accurate information in response to questions about the development proposal.
- Materdolorosa.org/property-questions: Reflecting the desire of Cam Thornton, the chair of Mater Dolorosa’s Development Task Force, to provide personal answers to questions from Sierra Madre residents, you won’t find the usual “Contact Us” fill-in form here. Instead, Cam provides his direct phone and email contacts.

“We are committed to being open and forthright in our conversations with our Sierra Madre neighbors,” Thornton said. “Please, before accepting a rumor as truth or guessing what is going on, check our FAQ and news pages. If you don’t find an answer there, call or email me. If I have the answer, I’ll provide it; if I don’t, I’ll research it and get back to you.”

The Passionists of Holy Cross Province purchased the 88-acre Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center site in 1924 and have held retreats there continuously since 1926. In 2013, plans were announced regarding the Province’s intention to sell the unused 20-acre Meadows portion of the site to raise funds for Passionist ministries and the care of their senior priests and brothers. The project is now in the early stages of planning, and a full environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act will follow.