

OST Students Minister to the Homeless at *Haven for Hope*

By Patti Radle

Students from the Oblate School of Theology are taking an active part in the spiritual services on the campus of the *Haven for Hope*, a non-profit, 22 acre campus in San Antonio, Texas with comprehensive services for the homeless. On April 26th, after four years of planning and construction, the *Haven for Hope* will open its doors, hoping to serve as a national-model of opportunities for human transformation.

At Oblate School of Theology, ministry is an essential part of the formation process. Students are asked to select a ministry that will help integrate studies with service to others. Through the efforts of Sally T. Gomez-Jung, MTS, MA, Director of the Theological Field Education Program at OST, *Haven for Hope* was glad to accept the students of OST for placement on the campus.

The first two students from OST to be assigned to this campus are Jesse Esqueda, a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate, and Br. John Bransfield, O.S.S.T. (Order of the Most Holy Trinity). John describes their responsibilities on campus as being “devoted to developing a full schedule of spiritual services programming for the members of *Haven*, such as community prayer and spiritual direction.” When *Haven for Hope* is in full operation, they will “be involved in more direct person-to-person ministry with members, which will include meeting with them at intake, in the chapel, or in the cafeteria.”

Jesse says, “I feel blessed to be part of the *Haven for Hope* family because I am certain that the experience will help expand my view and understanding of homelessness and it will challenge me to grow as a human being and as a Christian.”



Here OST students Jesse Esqueda and John Bransfield stand in the center of the new *Haven for Hope* campus with Patti Radle, vice-chair of the *Haven for Hope* Board of Directors and a member of the JPIC Committee for the US Province of the OMI.