

# Sacred Heart Benedictine Foundation



SUMMER AND  
FALL 2014

SACRED HEART MONASTERY ~ SUBIACO MANOR  
and SPIRITUAL & PASTORAL SPONSORSHIP of ST. VINCENT'S and MARILLAC MANOR

## Monastic Hospitality: Let All Be Welcomed as Christ



Sister Kathleen Kuntz takes great care to make the guest rooms homey and inviting for our many guests.

Hospitality has been a pillar value of monastics since the beginnings of monasticism and today is certainly no exception for us as Benedictines. It is true that the prefix of monasticism is *mono*, meaning one, alone or single, and yet St. Benedict, the father of Western monasticism, says that a monastery is never without guests. Even his predecessors, the Desert Fathers and Mothers who had gone into the desert to seek God, held hospitality in such high esteem that it trumped the daily rules. Why? Because, as St. Benedict begins chapter 53 of his Holy Rule, "All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ, for he himself will say: I was a stranger and you welcomed me." So we try to welcome guests as Christ would welcome them, all the while welcoming Christ in the guests who come to us. To better attend to Christ's commission we have made some changes in our lives to keep up with the times.

In the last several years we have been right-sizing and upgrading our building to better and more efficiently accommodate ourselves and our guests. After converting the chapel portion of the original building into two stories to

create Sisters' bedrooms upstairs, our second phase focused on converting smaller bedrooms into larger guest rooms with private baths. The original four guest rooms are scheduled for upgrades this year, so soon we will have thirteen fully functioning guest accommodations. We easily fill those rooms on weekends when we host groups such as quilters, scrapbookers, retreatants, etc., or an assortment of guests for different occasions. The weeks (and sometimes days) are rare when we have no guests.

The 1967 original heating system has proven inadequate and inefficient, and we never had the equipment to cool the building universally. According to a recent newspaper article, North Dakota is just behind Alaska now in rising temperatures, but those of us who have lived here for a long time know that summers can be as brutally hot as other parts of the country. So this summer we have begun the installation of a new hybrid system that would heat and cool with exceptionally high efficiency as well as save us money in the long run. Soon our guest will have as comfortable settings as we enjoy in our renovated portion.

Housing guests has always been a value for us, but our opportunities have taken new shape. With fewer able Sisters here at the monastery to help with the service of guests in housekeeping and meals, we shifted from housing and presenting to larger groups to hosting smaller ones or individual guests. With the rapidly rising population, increase in traffic, and cultural shifts in western North Dakota, the beauty and quiet of our Monastery and grounds help people slow down, stroll along the

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The Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery  
invite you to attend their  
19<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**Celebrate the West**  
**Amazing Grace**  
Saturday,  
September 27, 2014  
Elks Lodge #1137  
Dickinson, North Dakota  
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Basket Viewing & Food Stations  
7:15 p.m. Auction  
\$45 Per Ticket  
Proceeds support the Sisters  
For more information call  
Ila or Sister Renée at 974-2121



These are some of the lovely items we have been collecting for our auction baskets for this year's "Amazing Grace."



## **“More than we imagined . . . greater than we deserve”**

Grace is a word that is often used with “effortless.” That is only sometimes the case. But when we say “Amazing Grace,” it is always true. The Sisters have been blessed by an amazing group of people who have supported them in pulling together the Celebrate the West events over the past 19 years. Some have graced by their presence since the beginning in 1996 and many for a range of years. The efforts of these women and men have not gone unnoticed, and their talents and labor on the Sisters’ behalf have been “amazing” to say the least. Our gratitude knows no bounds in depth or breadth!

The Celebrate the West committee and the Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery present this year’s theme “Amazing Grace” and invite you to the 19th annual event at the Elks Lodge in Dickinson, September 27, 2014. Preparations are well underway for another enjoyable evening with the Sisters: basket items are being donated, food stations planned, decorations discussed, raffle tickets mailed, and advertising scheduled. We invite you to grace us with your presence that Saturday evening.

If you are unable to join us but would like to contribute, you may use the enclosed envelope to let us know that the gift is for Celebrate the West. You may also support us by entering our raffle with the ticket tucked in this issue of Promise of the Prairie. Just fill it in and return it to us to be included in the drawing of the night of the event. Though we would so enjoy having you there, you need not be present to win.

For further information about tickets or donations, please call Ila or Sister Renée at 701-974-2121 or email us at [shbf@sacredheartmonastery.com](mailto:shbf@sacredheartmonastery.com).

Your support is, as always, as Max Lucado says of grace, “more than we imagined . . . greater than we deserve.”

## **April Showers 2014**

April Showers does bring May flowers, but here at the Monastery it also brings daily “Congrats!” to 30 winners of the daily drawings during the month of April. As a community we have a good time drawing the names at supper and talking about our connection to the winners. Thank you to all who participated and “took a chance” with us. You are all winners to us!

*“Grace is . . .  
the amount of light in our souls.”*

Pope Francis

## **Giving Hearts Day 2014**

The Sisters were winners this spring! They accepted the invitation to be part of the Giving Hearts event, an online fundraiser held annually in February. Now they have even greater grateful hearts for your giving hearts because of the additional \$4,000.00 in matching funds received thanks to Dakota Medical Foundation and Impact Foundation because of your help. We are listed throughout the year at the website [www.impactgiveback.org](http://www.impactgiveback.org) and online donations can be made at anytime during the year.



***Please help keep our mailing list current:***

- New address  
 Please remove my name  
 Receiving more than one copy

Mission Statement  
Benedictine Sisters of Richardton

We are a vibrant community of Catholic Benedictine women who strive to deepen our relationship with God and one another through sharing the spiritual and material gifts God has given to us on this prairie.

## Q&A

**A donor asked for an explanation of the donor levels we have (Bell Tower, Leader, etc.).**

Gifts are accumulated over the years and so sometimes people are a bit surprised to receive an acknowledgement and letter of appreciation when they change levels. Names listed in this newsletter under “The Honor Wall” are of those whose level has changed.

The gifts that accumulate are from all categories: some people send gifts in memory of a deceased loved one or in honor of someone they appreciate; some gifts are in response to a certain mailing such as All Souls or April Showers; still others are just general donations that come in because donors wanted to put the envelope enclosed in the newsletter to good use. Each donor’s gifts are recorded under their name so we can honor the givers.



## Monastic Hospitality . . .

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outdoor path, and get into a rhythm of reflection and prayer. What we hear the most is “It is so peaceful here!” Well, that, and “Oh, you’re spoiling me!”

As keepers of this sacred place, we want to be able to welcome those who come to stay with us for a while into a lovely, comfortable, homey and quiet space. Their donations help support us, it is true, but we want to be ever mindful that it is Christ who is welcomed and sheltered as our guest. So we offer our warmest welcome to those who want to come away for a while and our heartfelt thanks to those who have supported us in building this ministry.

You would be most welcome to come be our guest!