

Sacred Heart Benedictine Foundation

Promise of the Prairie

SUMMER AND
FALL 2015

SACRED HEART MONASTERY ~ SUBIACO MANOR

Come, Fill Our Room So We Truly Celebrate the West

All good stories begin with “Once upon a time . . .” and this Latvian/Lithuanian tale is such a story.

Once upon a time a farmer had three sons. The two older boys always boasted to the youngest brother about how much bigger and stronger they were. When the boys grew up, their father built a brand new house for himself and told his sons, “Whoever can fill this house will be the one to own it.”

The oldest son was absolutely sure he could fill it up. He brought in a horse, a cow, and a pig, but they only took up one corner of the house. The second son smiled to himself because he was confident that he would surely win. He hauled in bale after bale of hay, but, alas, they only filled half the house.

At last it was the youngest boy’s turn. His brothers burst out laughing when they saw him come in with a small sack. Their laughter died, however, when he took a candle out of the sack and lit it, filling the whole house with light. So in the end it was the youngest son who got the house.

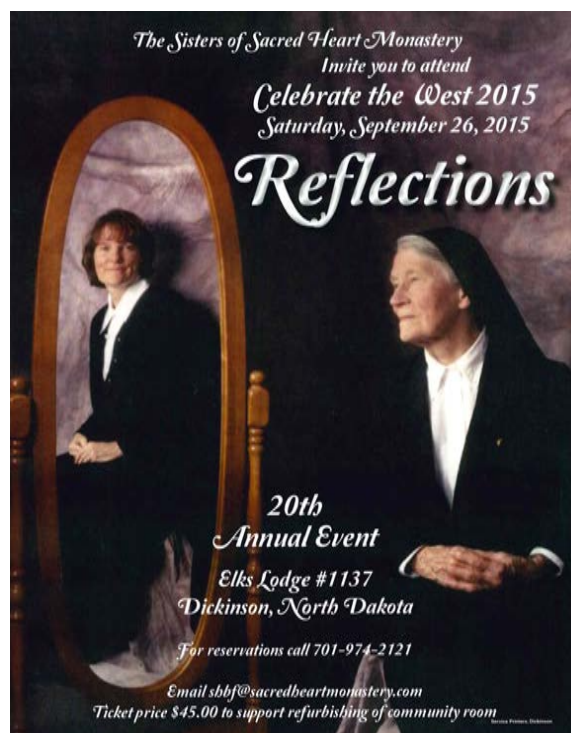
A slight change of perspective can make all the difference!

Our theme this year for Celebrate the West, on September 26 at the Elks Club in Dickinson, is “Reflections.” The present and the future can be greatly enhanced by looking back to the past in order to establish perspective, to recall the memories and to enter more deeply into the present experience. This will be our twentieth year of this event coordinated by a core of volunteers who give so much of their time and expertise on our behalf. This benefit was begun by and sustained all these years by volunteers.

We want to celebrate with you! In many respects it will be celebration of how far we have come together these last twenty years. It has always been about people—those who plan and work, donate and decorate, come and enjoy, dine and bid. We have always tried to have a fundraiser that emphasizes the first three letters: fun. As we approach our 100th anniversary as an independent monastic community next year, putting things in perspective is valuable as well as refreshing. Sharing experiences builds friendships, and Celebrate the West evenings have been great opportunities to enjoy your company.

Over the years these events have helped us fund many necessary projects to enable us to better live out our mission here on the prairie with good stewardship of our resources. Celebrate the West events have helped fund various renovation projects throughout the monastery in our chapel, health care room, kitchen, bedrooms for the Sisters and guests, climate control within

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Sister Brigid McLean, right, reflects as the younger version of herself through the image of her niece, Sister Jill West, left.

Tickets for Celebrate the West 2015 “Reflections” are available for \$45.

A phone call to Sister Renée or Ila at the Monastery (701-974-2121) or by email (shbf@sacredheartmonastery.com) is all you need to do to secure your participation in this twentieth anniversary Celebrate the West.



Come, Fill Our Room . . . (Continued from page 1)

the building, as well as for vocations, monastic formation and ongoing education. We have been able to keep our entire campus up-to-date as well as accommodate our changes in ministries, thanks to the generosity of all those involved as volunteers and attendees at these fundraisers.

Please plan to spend the evening with us Sisters at Celebrate the West this September. Those of you who have attended before will recognize items from past themes as well as our usual fare of great food and drink stations, an amazing range of baskets for live and silent auction—and the most delightful auctioneer ever, raffle prizes, the now-famous Nuns on the Run race and, of course, surprises. Those of you who have not joined us before are in for a casual evening of the above with some of the best people in southwestern North Dakota. Join us and help us fill the room with light and joy!

There are two ways of spreading light:
to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.

Early in March each year, the committee gathers to think of a theme for Celebrate the West. A theme that will bring people together to celebrate, something that will be fun to decorate, something that will be fun to remember! This being the 20th annual Celebrate the West Event it was almost too easy to pick the theme . . . “Reflections.”

We celebrate reflections of past events, reflections of the spirit, of faith, and of friendship.

This event has evolved since 1996 and has changed each year by reflecting back to what was done in the past, what worked, what didn't. The committee is always striving to make the next event more memorable than the past one. Themes began with a western look, then went from Under the Big Top, Along the Boardwalk, Oktoberfest, to Candy Land; we even threw in The Renaissance and Windows of Time, ending with tranquil decorations of Calling All Angels, Blessings, and last year Amazing Grace. Each one unique, each one a fun memory!

We invite you to join the Sisters and the committee in prayer as we plan the 2015 Celebrate the West Event. We invite you to attend if you are able; if you are unable to attend you may participate with a donation or a raffle purchase. Proceeds from the event will support the refurbishing of the monastery's community room. We look forward to hearing from you and hopefully seeing you at the event!

Ila Perhus, Assistant Foundation Director

This year, as in years past, we have a variety of lovely donations of which these are a few. Sharon Neurohr (left) and Cheryl Smith (right) display the gift they made here on a quilting retreat especially for us. Even if you do not want more “stuff” for yourself, our auction is a wonderful opportunity for searching for beautiful and practical gifts for others.

(More auction items can be found on page 7)

April Showers 2015

Among the many letters we like to write are those to the daily winners of April Showers. We get to send checks! We have it straight from the winners that it is delightful to win a daily draw for \$50 and, even more, to win the Tax Day draw on April 15 for \$250. As many of you know, the winner's name goes back into the big tote after their win is recorded and the ticket dated. This year, within a few days, we drew the same winning ticket from the hundreds of entries! Each day a different Sister draws with her unique style, but each mixes first then draws from the bottom or the top or the middle.



Please mark your calendar
for Giving Hearts Day, February 11, 2016



Additional Auction Items . . . (Continued from page 2)



8969 Hwy 10
P.O. Box 364
Richardton, ND 58652

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
UNITED PRINTING

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.

**Questions
from Our
Readers**

**Q: Do I need an
invitation to attend
Celebrate the West?**

A: Absolutely not—everyone is invited! Those who have attended in the past do get an invitation from us so we can get an estimate on how many will be attending when they return the RSVP cards. If you would like to attend

(and we would like that very much) just give us a call or drop us a note so we can count you in. Walk-ins are welcome, but it does really help us to know ahead of time because we need to pay for a certain number of meals.

Q: Could I attend Mass sometime at the Monastery?

A: We would welcome you to join us any time! We have Mass at 9 a.m. on Sunday; at 7:30 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; at 11:25 a.m. on Wednesday and 8:00 a.m. on Saturday. Since you probably will not remember this schedule, just give us a call and tell us when you would like to join us. If we know you plan to come, we will even put your name in for breakfast or lunch as the case may be!

Q: Who is the Sister who writes our birthday cards?

A: That would be our dear Sister Janeane Klein. She is bashful in person, but she writes good notes!

Q: Who keeps the grounds looking so beautiful?

A: Frank and Ross are the best maintenance men both inside and out! We have been blessed with employees who take pride in this place and it shows.



Stephanie Goetz, Ila Perhus' niece, took this photo in late July before she touched down on the landing strip not far from our back door.