

# Sacred Heart Benedictine Foundation



WINTER AND  
SPRING 2016

SACRED HEART MONASTERY ~ SUBIACO MANOR

## Give 'til Your Heart Sings on Giving Hearts Day, February 11, 2016



Mavis Berger is a long-time friend, donor of beautiful embroidered dishtowels who even advertises for us!

You can give your presence, your time, your expertise, your money—whatever someone needs. But at the end of the day you wish you could *do* more, *for* more, *with* more. Well, you can! Any time on Giving Hearts Day, the 11th, you can satisfy your “more” by joining with others giving on that day and make a fantastic difference in the lives of so many. [Impactgiveback.org](http://Impactgiveback.org) is a golden portal to support these non-profits which do so much to enhance lives, especially in our area, southwestern North Dakota. Last year, the eleven of us in our Pledge from the Edge group raised a total \$123,576 in that one day!

We have been hard at work in our Richardton group (Assumption Abbey, Richardton Healthcare Foundation and Sacred Heart Benedictine Foundation) to make this a community event for our small town. In December Brother Michael Taffe, Kathy Hueske and Sister Renée approached local businesses to help each of us build our required incentive funds of \$4000. Amber Waves, Bremer Bank, Stone Mill and Red Trail Energy responded with generosity. Other local businesses (Country Drug and Springfield Market in Richardton and Dakota Community Bank & Trust in Taylor) are helping us advertise the event with drawings for baskets we have assembled as prizes and provide necessary

items for our gathering at our new City Hall 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. We hope people drop in during that time, have a hot dog, some of Sister Michael's pickles, coffee, and visit with us. We will have a computer there for those who wish to make an online donation but do not have access at home. Every online gift of \$10 moves a match from the incentive fund into the charity's total for the day. Come even if you donated on your home computer!

In addition to our local outreach here in Richardton, our Pledge from the Edge collaborative for southwestern North Dakota has grown to thirteen members: AMEN Food Pantry, Assumption Abbey, Badlands Choice Clinic, Badlands Ministries, Best Friends Mentoring Program, Dickinson Backpack Program, Dickinson Catholic Schools, Home on the Range, House of Manna, North Dakota Hands & Voices, Sacred Heart Benedictine Foundation, Richardton Healthcare Foundation and St. Luke's Home. We work together for the good of the whole area by widening the reach of our mailings, sharing costs, sharing media, and working on behalf of all the charities. It feels good to work for the whole rather than merely our own non-profit because the benefits touch far more people in need than we ever could on our own.

On behalf of all these participating charities, our group will be mailing an oversized postcard, putting stickers on drink cups and pizza boxes, doing television (thanks to a Success Grant from KXMA in Dickinson) and radio commercials, posting a YouTube video ([you can find it on our website: sacredheartmonastery.com](http://www.sacredheartmonastery.com)), and hosting a Cyber Café at the West River Community Center in Dickinson 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Giving Hearts Day. So please, watch your mailbox, check out our video and tune in to the Giving Hearts Day events in your area. Give yourself a huge dose of joy by going to [Impactgiveback.org](http://Impactgiveback.org) on February 11 any time in the 24-hour period, find some charities and show some love!

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Sister Michael Emond and Ila Perhus are preparing the thank-you bags for our local business sponsors.

## *We Are Grateful for “Reflections” of 20 Celebrate the West Events*



The idea began as “Taste of the West” in 1996, when a group of women gathered to host an event for the Sisters with the first-year proceeds supporting the education fund. It was a huge success not only for the funds raised, but to let the communities know a bit about who the Sisters are!

Taste of the West evolved into Celebrate the West in 2001 and has been going strong ever since. There are over 160 “friends of the Sisters” who have had their imprint in one way or another on the success of Celebrate the West; so many people who are committed to the Sisters for who they are and what they do. We are in awe of the well-oiled machine that pulled together the one night event year after year! Some of the areas you as donors have supported these last 20 years include the wind turbines, formation,

vocations, the Spirituality Center, outreach ministries, mission advancement, education, renovation, windows for the new rooms and chapel, air conditioning, retirement and many other areas of the Monastery.

The picture of the shadow box that was in registration area in September gives you a glimpse of past events. It brought back memories and reflections of fun evenings spent together. Some of the reflections might be of a western theme, or of popcorn, cotton candy, mural circus trains, a clown, a mime, and someone on stilts from 2001. Our awesome MC, Kathy Sardelli, who changed outfits multiple times for Celebrate the Seasons; Oktoberfest with Scott Karsky and Shannon Galster as co-MCs; the Renaissance and the turkey leg that Sister Renée didn’t get to try because they went so fast! Who can forget the beauty of It Only Takes a Spark, Calling All Angels, through Amazing Grace and Reflections? Our fondest memories are working with the committee members, who help to pull the event together year after year—we wish we could name you all, but we might forget someone. Ross and Sheri Glass, the best auctioneer team in . . . well the world, who would most years have an auction during the day and still commit to doing our auction in the evening. Then you the donors whom we count on for support, many of you were here for each event! Thank you all!

Old friends or new, the Sisters thank you for twenty years of support of the Celebrate the West event.

*Ila Perhus, Assistant Director*



*Stayed tuned for announcements of our centennial events at Sacred Heart Monastery.*

*We want you to come celebrate with us!*

### **Your Year-End Gifts Are Already at Work!**

So many of you were generous to our year-end appeal to engage a firm to help make Sacred Heart Monastery more widely known and cultivate vocations to our community. We are most grateful for your assistance in our effort!

Brian Smith of Summit Marketing was onsite in late January to become more familiar with us as a community, getting pictures and ideas for the appeal. The only way to know Benedictines is to be in the monastery with them for a while. Monastic life is all about presence. Much of our life is daily: Divine Office, Eucharist, and personal prayer; communal life at the dining table and the dishes, the household chores, at our assigned work and what comes up that needs to be done, at recreation, in common discussions and decisions.

Our home is on the North Dakota prairie, so we are part of its people, promise and politics, its lifestyle and living, its hopes and hazards. We cherish the people: the Native Americans whom we first came to serve, the early settlers who remained for generations and from whom many of our Sisters have come, and the new neighbors who have arrived in recent years. We cherish this land and resources and prove it by our commitment to a greener, more nature-friendly carbon footprint.

The only way a newcomer can know if she is called to our community is to spend time with us, but they need to hear about us first. Blessings to all of you who enable us to do this with your gracious gift!

### **Giving Hearts Day . . .** (Continued from page 1)

There are several options available at the Giving Hearts Day site. You can give gifts in memory or honor of someone. You can even buy impact gift cards to give to friends and family allowing them to support a charity of their choice. Giving Hearts Day ups the ante on this one day to increase the charities’ income on the second Thursday of February every year. Charities can earn additional funds from the Impact Foundation in various categories. For example, last year Assumption Abbey received \$500 in additional funds because they had the most out-of-state donations. There are also monetary prizes for the most returning donors, increase in new donors from last year, etc. Your gift of \$10 or more has greater ramifications and possibilities than you can imagine! Find a charity to love—better still, find several!



*Give ’til your heart sings*

*February 11, 2016 • [impactgiveback.org](http://impactgiveback.org)*





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

*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.

## ***For All Good Gifts and Giving, We Bless the Lord!***

May God answer you in time of distress,  
may God's name protect you.  
May you receive help and strength  
and be remembered for your offerings.  
May your sacrifices be found favorable.  
May God give you your heart's desire,  
fulfill every one of your plans. (Psalm 20 1-4)

At morning praise in the third week of our Divine Office we pray Psalm 20. It never fails to touch me. These opening four verses always bring our Sister Anita Soukup into my heart. She was the prioress of our community when I entered the convent, through Vatican II and our move to Richardton. Those were tumultuous times and yet she had serene gentleness about her. She died in 1993, but she comes alive to me every time I pray these words.

Remembering someone in prayer is one of the greatest gifts we can give them—and us—because they are with us in these sacred moments. Sometimes it helps to have a reminder to remember to pray for those we love. I have a tiny pillow made by a native people to remind me to pray Hail Marys for them. From the many requests we receive asking for our prayers, we know you believe in its power. We hold these requests as a sacred obligation. The Sacred Heart Monastery cobalt blue votives we have to offer are a good reminder to you and to us that prayers are being offered to God on behalf of those in need—and, yes, we all need the prayers of others! It always heartens us when people write and tell us they are praying for us, that we will grow in membership and will have a joyful celebration of our centennial this year.

✂

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Intention to be placed on the votive candle: Limited to 36 characters.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Send to: SHBF • PO Box 364 • Richardton, ND 58652



Lent begins on February 10, Ash Wednesday. For a gift of \$100 or more, a Sacred Heart Monastery votive candle will be identified with your named intention, placed in our chapel sanctuary, and lit every Saturday night at First Vespers throughout Lent 2016. After Easter we will send you this exquisite votive for you to continue praying for your intention and as a

reminder our prayers are still with you.

We hope you join us in this unique partnership of prayer. Please complete the form with your donation of \$100 and return by Ash Wednesday. If you would like to make the \$100 donation on Giving Hearts Day, February 11, that would work also. If you choose this option, we ask that you give us a call at 701-974-2121 ahead of time so we can reserve your votive for Ash Wednesday. When the donation comes in online on that day, we will label your intention and display it in the sanctuary with the others.

### **April Showers**

Everyone has a bit of the gambler in them. We have April Showers to help you scratch that itch and do some good at the same time!

This is one of the very few raffles where your ticket goes back into the mix—last year we drew the very same ticket twice! All the entries are folded, put into a big tote box and each day a different Sister draws the winner. After posting the winner on the calendar, we put the winning date on the ticket before putting it back into the tote. For the suggested donation of \$10, your ticket has 30 chances of winning \$50 in the daily drawing and \$250 on Tax Day April 15. Some folks, of course, increase their odds by buying more than one.

While it is true that the funds we raise help our Sacred Heart Benedictine Foundation, the real fun for us is writing the letters and checks to the winners. We like to give too!