

Sacred Heart Benedictine Foundation

Promise of the Prairie

SUMMER AND
FALL 2017

SACRED HEART MONASTERY ~ SUBIACO MANOR

Sacred Heart Monastery Hosts Impact Foundation Training

Few things generate enthusiasm for Giving Hearts Day like our training days and collaborative meetings with others in our area. The Impact Foundation, located in Fargo, sponsors this great annual giving event and has continued to adapt its expansion into all of North Dakota. We were one of the first non-profits invited in 2014 to participate in its extension into the southwest and it truly gets better every year.

Two recent big changes have a great potential for greatly improving our chances for a successful Giving Hearts Day on February 9, 2018. The first is that we can accept checks of \$10 or more *dated February 9, 2018*, but received earlier so we can scan them on Giving Hearts Day so they can count toward our online total. The second big and greatly appreciated change is regional training sessions. Staff from the Impact in Fargo now comes to the southwest for more frequent input and assistance. This change not only saves us time and travel, but enables us to be more specific about our needs and the unique potential we have in our area.

On August 16 we had the daylong training here at Sacred Heart Monastery. We have a different atmosphere here than in a public venue. Scott Holdman, Veronica Michael, and Jessica Offerman arrived here early on evening Tuesday after their daylong session in Bismarck. Thanks to some greatly appreciated rain we were able to show some green (not easily



During our Impact team's training day on Transformative Fundraising in preparation for Giving Hearts Day 2018, we took a break for a picture outside. Scott Holdman (seated center) from Impact Foundation is the easiest to identify. Standing (left to right) are Ashley Rebel, Camp ReCreation; Laura Hurby, Badlands Choice Clinic; (in the back) Veronica Michael, Impact Foundation; Tammy Hovet, Trinity Catholic Schools; Sister Renée Branigan, OSB, and Ila Perhus, Sacred Heart Benedictine Foundation; DeAnn Scheeler, Trinity Catholic Schools; (in front) Pamela Baumgardner, Best Friends Mentoring; Katie Vidmar (holding her daughter Felicity), Badlands Choice Clinic; seated on the swing, Margie Hande, Sunrise Foundation; Jolene Obrigewitch, Home on the Range; Bridgett Perry, St. Benedict's Health Center; Jessica Offerman, Impact Foundation. In case you are wondering about Felicity in her mother's arms, she has been attending our planning sessions since she was three months old; she gave this meeting countless smiles and a few "brrrrrts!"

done in the midst of a severe drought!) on their arrival. None of them had ever been here before and they marveled at the beauty and the quiet. They made the most of the campus even to taking a selfie with Liberty, our younger male llama. Before their coffee they sat outside and enjoyed the view.

Our training day was excellent with its input and interaction. We had newer groups represented and new representatives of some of our collaborative groups. It was a great day for dialogue by becoming more familiar with each

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other and how to make the most out of the Giving Hearts Day opportunity to raise funds for our various missions in service of human need in our area.

hospitality before but *Benedictine* hospitality is different! We may have fewer members than in the past (like all religious communities), but if we can preserve this oasis of prayer and presence into which others can enter, we are doing what we are called to do. It was good to hear that our guests knew the different atmosphere when they entered it. Our Benedictine motto is “That in all things God may be glorified!”

The refrain of Darryl Ducote’s “Song of Thanksgiving” is addressed to God, but it also says well what we would say to our donors: “Love that’s freely given, wants to freely be received. All the love you’ve poured on us can hardly be believed. And all that we can offer you is thanks.”

was setting the table—very smart restraint on my part! This memory always comes to mind when I read the passage from 2 Corinthians, and I realize how well my mother understood the “cheerful giver” point.

Proverbs 11:24-25 reveals yet another aspect of the relationship: “Some give freely, yet grow all the richer; others withhold what is due and only suffer want. A generous person will be enriched . . .” (NRSV). God cherishes those who imitate the Supreme openhandedness. St. Paul expresses this same idea more clearly and succinctly in 2 Corinthians 9:7: “Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (NRSV).

We freely offer our prayers to those who ask. Prayer is something we can give and we do so joyfully. We are grateful, of course, when those who ask for our prayers send a donation, but we hope it is as freely given as our prayers, with no sense of obligation.

“Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.”

PROMISE OF THE PRAIRIE NEWSLETTER

Our fund at the North Dakota Community Foundation has grown in the year since we opened it thanks to generous donors. We made a wise decision to open the Sacred Heart Benedictine Foundation Endowment Fund with the NDCF because it provides an opportunity for the donors to be rewarded for their generosity while they give to charities of their choice.

Donors who receive income from North Dakota and contribute through the NDCF can receive a 40% tax credit (annual maximum of \$10,000 per individual or \$20,000 per couple). While we will not be able to draw from the corpus of our fund, we can receive the interest generated on its investment. As the fund grows, more will be generated to support our projects and programs.

Presently the NDCF manages \$71 million for its 615 participating North Dakota communities, charities, and schools. We appreciate its mission to promote philanthropy here at home while making it easy to help neighbors and friends, now and in the future, in a way that is secure and profitable. Donors appreciate the fact that, with the tax credits offered, they are more able to support causes important to them.

If you would like to contribute to our fund in the North Dakota Community Foundation, you can visit their website at www.NDCF.net or call Sacred Heart Monastery and ask for Sister Paula Larson.



Turbines

After our north turbine was down for a few months, the parts arrived and the workers showed up to get them both working well. It was just in time, too, because the wind has been blowing overtime. We have, unfortunately, used up all the spare parts we had on hand. This year marks 20 years of good service and great savings from these first commercial wind turbines in North Dakota—they have pioneer status!

In 2010 we had an annual appeal for turbine repair and maintenance and we were blessed by your generosity that carried us through several repairs for these faithful servants. If you know anyone who can clone additional parts or has a spare turbine that is not being used, we would be interested!

This is not a trick question: How would you like to come spend a free evening with us and walk away \$100, or more, richer? It is quite possible—check out the second paragraph!

We truly look forward to welcoming you to our second annual “We appreciate you!” event on September 23.

First of all, dress comfortably because this is intended to be a relaxing evening. At 4:30 we will have a social gathering so we can visit with one another. We will continue with a simple, leisurely supper in the dining room where we can carry on our conversations.

At supper we will draw our ten winners of this year’s raffle, each of whom will receive \$100. You will find a raffle entry in this issue for a suggested donation of \$10. If you want more than one ticket, just please let us know. Now, you must admit that it would be great if you were here to hear us call your name as a winner, right? After supper, if you would like to take a tour of the monastery and grounds or sit to chat some more, we would welcome those opportunities too.

Please come and enjoy the evening with us! You can RSVP by a call (701-974-2121) or an email (shbf@sacredheartmonastery.com).



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P.O. Box 364
Richardton, ND 58652

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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.



Sister Marie Hunkler's golden jubilee provided a joyous occasion for a Hunkler reunion. Seven of her nine siblings were here to celebrate with her. Sister Marie, second from the left, is pictured here with her three sisters: Cec Reetz, Angela Hunkler and Madeline Gross.

Calendar

September 23	Appreciation Event at the Monastery RSVP
October 13	Sacred Heart Benedictine Foundation board meeting
November 2	All Souls Mass, 7:30 a.m. followed by a light breakfast RSVP
November 11	Empty Bowl fundraiser, Ramada Inn, Dickinson (SHM donates bread and soup)
February 9, 2018	Giving Hearts Day

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GHD Matching Fund

As we begin planning for Giving Hearts Day, February 9, 2018, we must secure our \$4,000 incentive fund in order to participate.

If you would like to contribute this amount as a yearend gift, please contact:
Sister Renée Branigan or Ila Perhus
Sacred Heart Benedictine Foundation
PO Box 384
Richardton, ND 58652
701-974-2121

We would be most grateful for your consideration!

