

THE BENEDICTINE *Witness*



VOL. 1 October 2019

SACRED HEART MONASTERY AND SACRED HEART BENEDICTINE FOUNDATION

FROM THE DESK OF SR. PAULA!

Greetings to all!

We have accomplished our move to a new Monastery building!!! In this issue of *The Benedictine Witness* we would like to share with you our news around the move and our new residence.

We are most grateful for all the support and understanding we have received from you via phone, emails, and letters. This means a lot to us.

So here we go. On August 19, 20, and 21 we had the service of very nice crew from Jobbers Moving Company from Bismarck, ND. They are connected with Allied Van Lines so those were the big trucks that we used to haul our things. Each Sister had packed her own things and all of us packed the communal items. You will see a picture of the movers in front of our Richardton Monastery building. After the movers were finished with their work we gave them a blessing.

In the last three weeks Sisters are getting things in order. As I expected, things would go back to the Richardton building and we would bring something else. It is easier to make decisions when we are in the space.

As far as the saints, they were brought over here after everything was settled so not to damage these precious items. The statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus gives you a wave from the front atrium. St. Benedict and St. Scholastica are back in our dining room keeping us company. And last but not least our beloved statue of St. Ann with the child Mary is in one of our breezeways. This statue has been with us from our early days on the Ft. Berthold Reservation. Some say it goes back as far as Elbowoods.

So we are now living in a building about 15% the size of our previous Monastery building. Everyone has their own living space, we have two common areas for various activities, a central kitchen and dining room and most of all a beautiful chapel in which we carry on our normal prayer life as if we never moved.

Throughout this newsletter we will have many pictures of the areas we spoke about. Enjoy.



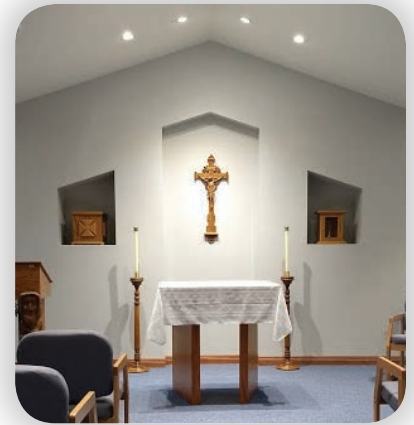
The Future...

With our move we have also reduced the ministries we will be able to provide. The most visible one for us is that we have no room for guests, therefore we will not be able to offer any in house spiritual programs. This does not preclude the Sisters providing programs elsewhere by invitation.

In the past two years two Sisters have been educated in Spiritual Direction and are providing this service in the area. Also, Sisters are planning to do volunteer work in Dickinson. As time goes by, more will be involved in services that fulfill the corporal works of mercy.

Work that has not changed is the work of prayer. We maintain our daily prayer schedule, receive prayer requests and continue with private prayer for the needs of the world. One Sister daily via the internet answers prayer requests and where possible offers spiritual support.

Once a week our dearly beloved brother monks/priests from Assumption Abbey come in and offer Mass for us. We continue to accept your Mass requests and stipends but now we will forward them to the Abbey when they cannot be fulfilled in house.



Sacred Heart Benedictine Foundation...

The Foundation is still active and vital to our continued work of mercy. We will be reducing the number of events that we will participate in mainly due to limited personnel. One that will for sure continue is our All Souls letter to each of you. We so appreciate the opportunity to pray for your beloved deceased during the month of November.

Other events such as Giving Hearts Day and one or so raffles will continue. We have reduced the office staff to part time.

We continue to appreciate your financial support. May God bless you for your generosity!

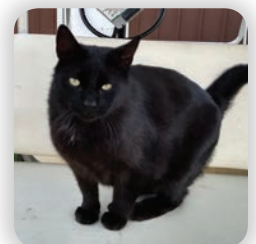
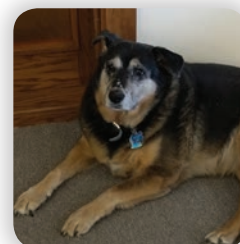


Animals...

I think the most often asked question about our move are: What is going to happen to the llamas? Are you taking Molly (dog) with you? What about the cats?

We loved our nearly twenty years with the llamas but city requirements would not allow them in town nor do we have the acreage to feed them. We found wonderful homes for them and they are “happy” and settled.

Molly is here with us now and is settling in the new the environment. The hardest part for her is not having free reign of the outdoors though we have a fenced in patio. As for the cats, the one who was so friendly in the north barn and was rejected by the other cats went to Bismarck to be with Sister Jill. For being a barn cat she has



adjusted to city and house living quite well. The other three cats will come here to Dickinson with us. They are also barn cats so they will dwell in one of garages. We hope we can catch them! Winter is coming and they have no livestock to keep them warm.

Our Richardton Building & Property...

We thought we had a buyer until the third week of August when we were notified that it fell through. We were saddened but we always feel and know God is in charge, so we ask you to join our prayers for a good buyer. It is a great place.

THE MOVE DAY



It has happened – we have moved! August 19, 20 and 21 were big days for us at Sacred Heart Monastery. After months of sorting, selling, donating and packing the day to move arrived. With the help of each of the Sisters, the staff and the moving crew the days were long and productive. By Monday evening each of us had a place to rest our heads and prepare for the next two days of moving and unloading. By Wednesday evening, we sang a blessing over the awesome crew from Allied Jobbers Moving and Storage. They were generously thanked and sent on their way.

The part about moving, which everyone knows, is that whatever you pack to take with you, you need to unpack! This was the next phase of moving.

Faced with multiple boxes to unpack, furniture to arrange, pictures to hang, we dug right in and began making our rooms, our homes.

Each of us has our own living space. There are spacious areas on each end of the new Monastery for gathering, a beautiful chapel area, and office space for the business office and the foundation office.

We are feeling more and more at home; we look forward to being in the Dickinson community.



FROM ILA'S DESK!

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven...

(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Seasons and the purpose of the Sisters and Sacred Heart Benedictine Foundation from the early moves in Elbowoods, to Garrison, then on to Minot, to Richardton, and now to Dickinson, have always been mission minded. Each move had a timed purpose, a greater vision, a new way to minister to the communities they served. This new move is purposeful as well. The Monastery in Richardton was too large for the number of Sisters living there, too beautiful a facility to not be used to its fullest potential.

This purposeful move will also bring changes to Sacred Heart Benedictine Foundation. The Foundation was created in 1994, sponsored by the Sisters, to support the lives and charitable works of the Sisters. Through the years there have been many fundraisers, gatherings, celebrations, needs met, and mailings that the Foundation has generated. Many of these will continue, some will change with new direction from the Sisters.

Those that will continue will be our All Souls Mailing for November, Giving Hearts Day in February, the May calendar fundraiser, and we will celebrate our 103rd year with a raffle again this year. Donations will continue to support the needs of the Sisters.

We now have a combined newsletter; this is our first issue! In the past we have had a *Witness*, the newsletter about the Sisters, and *Promise of the Prairie*, that was the Foundation newsletter. Due to combining the newsletters, we will no longer publish the names of donors, nor will we recognize the donor levels, honor and memorial gifts in the publication. We will still celebrate those donor milestones here at the Monastery. Donor levels will be kept in a binder and with each new level attained that donor will be remembered at prayers during the week, where we will also recognize any gifts given in memory, honor, or prayers that are requested.

Sister Renée Branigan continues to be the Foundation Director. Another change will be that I, Ila, will be working part time beginning September 3! I began working here in the fall of 2001. I am thankful for the years of employment and friendships made with the Sisters and you, their friends and donors, and look forward to continuing those relationships. I am excited to be here in Dickinson. I read a quote that said, "One reason people resist change is that they focus on what they have to give up and not on what they have to gain" (Rick Godwin).

As we move forward please keep us in prayer as we transition in this new season!

As we continue the process of settling in here at our new Monastery site in Dickinson, we will continue to reach out in a variety of ways and ministries as we are able to do so, as, for example one of us just completed orientation to begin a volunteer ministry involving women in need. God continues to guide our hearts and lives as always and we respond to God's callings when they arise for us.

grow
IN FAITH

FROM THE DESK OF SR. PHOEBE SCHWARTZE!



On September 3, we were blessed as a community to be joined by Abbot Daniel Maloney of Assumption Abbey. He blessed our new Chapel and, after our first Mass, he blessed our individual rooms and gathering spaces. Abbot Daniel then joined us for lunch. The monks of Assumption have been our brothers and friends since our beginnings here in North Dakota and we will be blessed with one of their priests coming once a week for Mass, and when we need it, the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As Benedictines we feel that more blessings are better than fewer blessings and this occasion helped us to feel more at home. We are excited to be in our new home as we adjust to life in a new place. We would welcome any of you to stop by for a cup of coffee.



Sr. Carol Axtmann helping with recycling in Dickinson

Being true to our Benedictine spirit, we are ever mindful of how we use God's gifts here on earth! We are super excited that we are able to participate in the rather new venture of recycling in the city of Dickinson. Some of us have participated in recycling efforts elsewhere and, thus, most of us are easily able to think recycling rather than thinking garbage is for the landfill!

We received our recycling bin nearly a week ago and filled it for the first pickup and now are filling the bin for a second pickup, which occurs every two weeks. As we each learn what materials can be recycled and which items cannot be recycled, we know we will become experts at this recycling effort! We are mindful that we need to think reduce, reuse, and recycle, all in relation to our stewardship of the earth.

Benedictine Sisters of Richardton

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Welcome home...

Left to right: Sr. Laura Hecker, Sr. Renée Branigan, Sr. Phoebe Schwartze, Sr. Lucille Heidt, Sr. Carol Axtmann, Sr. Patti Koehler, Abbot Daniel Maloney, Sr. Ruth Fox, Sr. Kathleen Kuntz, Sr. Marie Hunkler, and Sr. Michael Emond. Standing in the front center is Sr. Paula Larson, Prioress.

Sisters not pictured: Sr. Monica, Sr. Mary William, Sr. Janeane, Sr. Dolores, Sr. Anna Rose, and Sr. Jill.



Online donations: www.sacredheartmonastery.com