



Preservation of Our History

Prior to our move as a motherhouse to Dickinson on August 19, 2019, we spent a couple years making countless decisions. One area of decision-making was our artifacts. We had to decide whether we would keep or sell artifacts that were on display in our museum and other areas of the Monastery, or whether we could think of other options for some of the most precious historical items.

As our process progressed, we began our ongoing relationship of working with the staff at the State Historical Society of North Dakota. We presented our donation offerings of various artifacts to the museum collections committee. The process used by the Heritage Center is interesting. We as a Monastery submitted each of our items with a photo and a brief description of it and any story connected with it. Any items we offered were required to be North Dakota related. Our collection is assigned a number and we wait in line for our turn for the collections committee to put us on their monthly meeting agenda. Following the committee's decision that is usually based on what they do or do not have in their collection, the museum director makes the final decision and informs us of the decision. Our final step is to deliver the items to the Heritage Center.

The staff processes each item by assigning it a number, cleaning the item according to their standards, taking a photo, and placing the item in a climate-controlled area. It is a great feeling to know that the artifacts we donate will be protected into perpetuity and can be viewed by the public, and, according to the staff, will someday be online for the world to enjoy.

Among the artifacts we donated to the museum were our two coif machines and a couple coifs. We are grateful the coifs will be stored in a climate-controlled place, as no one makes coifs anymore. Thus, the public will be able to view our coifs and the pleats will remain intact. The staff were intrigued by the story of the coif and how the coifs were made.



Our Monastery donated the coif machine and the coif seen in this picture.



Sister Lucille Heidt (right) adjusts the white headdress of the habit called a coif, which frames a sister's face, on the mannequin in preparation for the Fashion and Function: North Dakota Style, at the Heritage Center, in Bismarck, ND. Sister Marie Hunkler provides pins to secure it in place. Representatives from the State Historical Society of North Dakota in Bismarck remarked, "We are grateful that they answered our call for help. Dressing a mannequin with the many layers of a habit was beyond our areas of expertise."



Mother Pia Tegler 1850-1928, our Foundress, used this desk and we have it on display at our Monastery in Dickinson.

The Benedictine sister is part of the religious story section of the display. Our Monastery donated her coif.



Since the museum staff was acquainted with us, we were contacted by Lori Nohner, the assistant curator of collections, in 2020, to ask if we could assist them with putting the coif on a sister that would be part of a two-year exhibit at the North Dakota Heritage Center. Sister Lucille Heidt and Sister Marie Hunkler properly dressed the nun. They used one of the coifs that our Monastery donated to the museum; Annunciation Monastery donated the Benedictine habit. This current display is entitled “Fashion & Function North Dakota Style” of a variety of clothing worn in North Dakota. Earlier in the year, Sister Marie was interviewed by the staff and described the various articles of the Benedictine habit.

Sister Marie viewed the display recently and highly recommends everyone to tour the display in person; give yourself a couple hours to view the display properly! You can also extend your experience of the display by visiting www.statemuseum.nd.gov/bonus there is also an interview with Sister Marie on YouTube Extend the Experience: **Sister Marie Hunkler - YouTube.**

Stay tuned; in future newsletters we hope to tell new stories about our museum artifacts.

Sister Marie Hunkler



A larger view of the display containing the Benedictine sister.

Then and Now

In 1994, the first year of fundraising, the Foundation exceeded its goal and our expectations. Knowing the generosity of God and God's people, we should not have been as surprised as we were!

Many of our friends gathered on September 18, 1994, on the lawn of the Monastery in Richardton to celebrate the successful capital fund drive. Over 150 volunteers in towns and communities throughout North Dakota and eastern Montana worked on the ten-month campaign. In her greeting to those attending, our prioress Sister Paula said, "The financial success of this campaign is of great importance to all the Sisters in our community and to each institution that we serve. This means that we can continue the work we are now doing and begin plans to fulfill other needs for people in our region. It is especially gratifying to meet and talk to the many people who participated as volunteers and donors during this campaign. Because of their friendship with us and the realization that they have benefited from our work, they wanted to share in our mission for the future."



In establishing Sacred Heart Benedictine Foundation, its purpose was clear: to provide guidance, hope, and inspiration through programs and services for those who struggle with complexities of modern life and to provide outreach that would benefit the residents in the community. The Foundation helped support the Sisters in providing education and retirement, as well as in our ministries at St. Vincent's Nursing Home and Marillac Manor in Bismarck and Subiaco Manor in Dickinson. This new venture in establishing our Foundation was, indeed, an ambitious and fruitful endeavor!

Twenty-seven years later as a Foundation and 105 years as an independent Benedictine community, we look back with a grateful sense of community support as our community that reached far beyond western North Dakota. We have made connections across the country through our immediate families and friends, our Benedictine "families," through teaching, pastoral care, spiritual direction, and all the other ways we have served, but especially through spirituality programs and retreats held at the Monastery in Richardton. The connections with many of our donors has passed down through generations.

Now that we have moved to a much smaller Monastery in Dickinson, we no longer have our spirituality center to welcome visitors, but our outreach is still active. Two of our Sisters are certified spiritual directors who accept directees in our area. Now through the internet, we receive prayer requests from all over the country and internationally, and post them in our prayer folder in chapel for all of us to read. We keep in touch with our donors in correspondence and through our newsletter. We care about them and thus we pray for them.

We are grateful to our friends and donors over the years who have enabled us to live by the truth of the Rule of Saint Benedict: That in all things, God may be glorified!

Online donations: www.sacredheartmonastery.com

Benedictine Collaboration

Every three years we monasteries that belong to the Federation of St. Gertrude meet for approximately a week to transact Monastery business. With COVID and all related issues, the meeting had to be postponed several times. Finally, we are meeting in person this August. We did have one day of virtual meetings but that is nothing like begin in person.



Sr. Jill



Sr. Phoebe



Sr. Paula

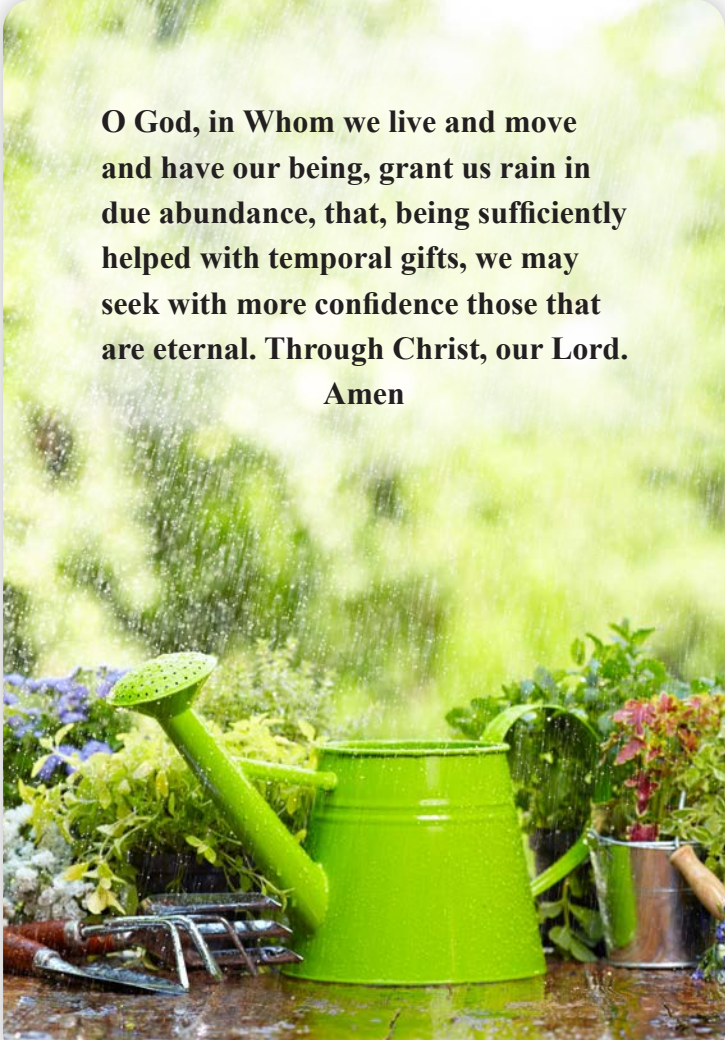
We belong to the Federation of St. Gertrude of which this Monastery is one of the founding members in 1937. There are now thirteen monasteries in this group. The purpose of the meeting is to deal with issues and concerns as it relates to religious life on a level above each monastery. In addition, the Federation is there to assist member monasteries if communities need assistance or guidance. It is very good to be able to share with others even though we each maintain our autonomy.

These triennial meetings are called the “federation chapters.” Each monastery sends its prioress and two delegates. This year, Sisters Jill West and Phoebe Schwartze are the chosen delegates who will be attending the meeting with Sister Paula.

Rain, Rain, Rain

This is a very dry year. The farmers and ranchers are in a very difficult spot. If it doesn't rain there are no crops and the cattle have to be sold off. Think about this disruption in the food chain. What can we do? We decided that we would sponsor a novena to St. Isidore, the patron of farmers, on Facebook to pray for rain. The response, the number of people joining us in prayer, was outstanding! Yes, we did get some rain. Some areas got too much. Others not so much. We continue to pray for rain, as it is still dry.

We remember all the other areas in our country that are scorching as crops die, dams dry up, and rivers shrink. We ask you to pray with us this prayer:



**O God, in Whom we live and move
and have our being, grant us rain in
due abundance, that, being sufficiently
helped with temporal gifts, we may
seek with more confidence those that
are eternal. Through Christ, our Lord.**

Amen

"for when you believe, anything can happen"

(Mark 9:23)

Foundation News

In a year where anything can happen, "Anything can happen!"

When this thought came to me, my mind of course went to all that we as a country, and world, experienced this past year and a half. Where we thought some days, "What will happen next?" It has no doubt been a challenging time, more for some than others.

My next thought about anything can happen led me to Giving Hearts Day 2021. We thought, this might not be the year to do a fundraiser and yet once again you, our caring donors, supported us in prayer and with donations. Funds will support the continuing Spiritual Direction program and will help fund the permanent fence around the cemetery in Richardton . . . anything can happen!

In May, we decided to have the Calendar Raffle, so thanks to those who participated this year. We dedicated this raffle to all fathers and father figures. It was exciting to give money away each day to the winners. The names of the fathers had been on the chapel prayer board since April when they first started arriving. They all stayed on the prayer board until Father's Day June 20, when the grand prize was drawn. If you participated, you might have been the winner . . . anything can happen!

The prayer needs coming in have increased on our website prayer request page. Prayer requests are read and responded to by Sister Michael Emond and then placed in the chapel for all to read and pray over. They are remembered at Mass on Wednesday, and stay in the booklet for a month. Many send return notes in thanks for answered prayers . . . anything can happen!

The Sisters have stayed very healthy, two had tested positive for COVID, but through vigilant isolation and now with the vaccine everyone else has stayed COVID free . . . anything can happen!

The Foundation has gained new donors, through word of mouth, from internet connections, and by the Sisters moving to Dickinson. We are thankful for new connections . . . anything can happen!

Ila Perhus, Foundation Director



Another donation on display from our Monastery is this nun doll. Some of you may recognize it from our Adopt-a-Nun program.

DONOR LEVELS



FRIENDS: Donations up to \$999.99

BELL TOWER: Donations \$1,000.00 and higher

LEADER: Donations \$5,000.00 and higher

BENEFACTOR: Donations \$10,000 and higher

BENEDICTINE SPONSOR: Donations \$25,000.00 and higher

PRIORESS: Donations \$50,000.00 and higher

(Lifetime accumulated gift total)

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Rain Down

I have been humming and singing frequently these past weeks a favorite hymn of mine, “Rain Down” by Jaime Cortez. It is based on Psalm 33, a favorite psalm of mine. We so desperately need it to literally rain down up here in the upper plains and elsewhere in our country. (Even while other places would like it to cease for a while!) As one drives or walks by gardens, lawns and fields, one almost can hear the grass and plants gasping for water. Although blessed with some rain recently it has not been sufficient.



As we focus on much needed rain, it is easy to forget the many ways we are being blessed each day. We are more and more each day returning to how things used to be. Less masks and social distancing, more hugs and being able to see family, especially grandparents again. We remember the blessings that the God of life has rained down upon us of family, friends, joy, laughter, tears, hope, and many other things.

One of the themes of the hymn is hope. I know for many of us that seemed to be in short supply over the last 16 months but hope is essential for us. As God is faithful and true we can have hope in God’s mercy which God does rain down. All of our hope is in the God of creation whose love fills the earth and who will not leave us to starve. So we can have hope that we will receive the rain we need but also the love that we need from God and from each other as we are called to manifest God’s love in our care for one another and our earth. So: “Rain down your love, God of Life!”

Peace, Sister Phoebe