



Sisters of Benedict

NEWSLETTER

Summer 1998, Vol. 9: Issue 2

TIME TO BUILD! TIME TO GET INVOLVED!

We're raising the hammer at Red Plains Monastery! We're constructing an additional home, complete with a proper library as we commence Phase V of our building plan. This new home will be constructed southwest of our main monastery and will house some of our Sisters and potential new members as well as provide overflow space for retreatants. The conventionally-styled home will be built atop a basement/garage that can be utilized as the sole storm shelter of the 4 homes on the Community property.

WE NEED, OF COURSE, YOUR HELP.

Our goal is \$125,000, which is the portion still required to complete the construction. What we are asking is help with these items. Join us! Select something that you would like to donate:

MATERIALS INCLUDING THE KITCHEN SINK!

280	2x6 Studs	\$1,324
230	2x4 Studs	\$ 724
54	2x8x12	\$ 495
129	Bundles shingles	\$2,257
19	Windows	\$5,190
22	Doors	\$2,200
44	Doorknobs	\$ 704
2	Garage Doors	\$1,200
323	Pieces of Sheetrock	\$1,705
2	Bathroom Cabinets	\$ 600
4	Bathroom Sinks	\$ 800
2	Toilets	\$ 300
1	Shower	\$ 350
1	Tub Shower	\$ 650
1	Kitchen Sink	\$ 200
2	Hot Water Tanks	\$ 700
	Attic Fan	\$ 250
215	Batts Insulation	\$ 762
12,000	Bricks	\$3,120
120	Bags/Mortar	\$ 600
12	Tons/Sand	\$ 200

APPLIANCES

Range/Oven	\$ 850
Dishwasher	\$ 250
Microwave Oven	\$ 250
Refrigerator	\$ 600
Washer/Dryer	\$ 600

LIBRARY NEEDS

Computer	
Large Table/comfortable chairs	
Overhead projector	
VCR	
462 Linear Feet Bookshelf	\$5,313



If you can donate materials, please call the Development Office (405) 373-3392, or if you would like to donate funds, please send a check payable to RED PLAINS MONASTERY PHASE V BUILDING FUND in the newsletter envelope.

Sister Marie Ballmann e-Elected Prioress for Third Term

St. Benedict's Feast Day-- July 11-- was a day of plentiful celebration! Sister Marie Ballmann marked her birthday (though we never counted her candles) and the community and its many friends and co-members celebrated the beginning of her third four-year term as prioress at an installation ceremony consisting of Vespers and a summer supper.

During remarks at the ceremony, Marie noted, "I must remember that God's call is a universal call, to each one of us and to all of us together. Somehow we must blend the personal and the communal so that we have both a stable and creatively alive community."

"It is God's call," Marie continued, "It is God's hospitality that makes it possible for us to be *Church, Family and Community*...God sees our hidden self and lovingly draws us forth. It may be the gifts we don't believe we have, or having discovered them, we're afraid to use them, because it might upset the status quo. But God gives us the gift of each other to



Benedictine Sister Marie Ballmann upon being installed Prioress of Red Plains Monastery, Piedmont on July 11.

-photo by Jennifer Leirer

be both a support and a challenge to help our hidden selves grow strong so that we can share ourselves with others in community and in ministry."

Marie stated the four goals established by the community last February as part of the discerning process to elect a prioress:

1. We are calling ourselves to be authentic witnesses to the vision we've put into words in our Charism and Mission statements by

- a) deepening our community reality by valuing each other and building stronger relationships; and
- b) advancing courageously our prophetic role by expanding our hospitality into outreach and by moving steadily in claiming our full baptismal rights and responsibilities in today's Church.

2. We will actively engage in stimulating new vocations.

3. We will provide additional living space for present members, new members, guests and temporary live-ins.

4. We will develop long range plans regarding people, property and God's gifts by advance planning and stewardship of the generous gifts of God and our many benefactors.

Congratulations, Marie, as you re-assume your proven leadership role in the Community. May you and the Sisters of Benedict be ever blessed in the days ahead!

*In this issue
we thank:*

*Benedictine Sisters of Bristow, VA;
Benedictine Sisters of Elk County, PA; and
Diana Seago, O.S.B. Director of Planned
Giving, Benedictine College,
Atchison, KS*

PLANNED GIVING

CONSIDERATIONS

- ◇ When you are considering your annual charitable contributions for tax purposes.....
- ◇ When you are considering charitable gifts of appreciated assets.....**Please consider**
The Sisters of Benedict
- ◇ When you are considering making gifts in your will.....

BENEFITS

Persons with charitable interests have an opportunity to include significant philanthropy in their financial and estate planning, while saving taxes at the same time through an unlimited estate tax charitable deduction. Benefits received from such charitable contributions can include:

- ◇ savings from income tax deductions
- ◇ improved rate of return on assets
- ◇ reduction or elimination of the estate tax payable
- ◇ avoidance of capital gains tax
- ◇ tax-free income

EXAMPLES

Below are a few examples of financial planning tools and descriptions of their benefits to the donor:

◇ **CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST**

A charitable remainder trust is an irrevocable trust which provides an income to the donor and others. At the end of the trust's term, often at the end of the income beneficiaries' lifetimes, what remains in the trust is transferred to the *Sisters of Benedict*. Lifetime benefits include a substantial charitable income tax deduction, avoidance of a capital gains tax when the asset is sold to produce income, and, often, an increase in income from the asset. The benefit to the estate is a reduction in taxes equal to those applicable to the value of the assets ultimately transferred to the *Sisters of Benedict*.

◇ **CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY**

A charitable gift annuity is also a gift that generates an income for the life of the donor. The income is a flat dollar amount that is paid for one or two lifetimes. The difference between a gift annuity and a charitable trust is that no trust is established; the agreement is made between the donor and the *Sisters of Benedict* and the income is guaranteed by the *Sisters of Benedict* no matter how the gift annuity's assets are invested, if at all.

◇ **CHARITABLE LEAD TRUST**

This device is an excellent one for those who want to help the *Sisters of Benedict* and pass assets to family members, such as children or grandchildren, at a reduced tax cost. This type trust provides income to the *Sisters of Benedict* for a period of years, and, after the trust's term is complete, the assets in the trust are transferred back to the donor or children. In this sense, a charitable lead trust works in the opposite way a charitable remainder trust works.

◇ **GIFTS OF RETIREMENT PLAN ASSETS**

For persons who have accumulated retirement assets--IRAs, 401(k) plans and other retirement programs--which have grown in value through the years, the assets are subject to both an estate tax and a final income tax. Though they may be designated at death for children or others, transferring them--as opposed to using them for a charitable bequest--is often inefficient. Better to use other assets to pass to heirs. Because retirement assets have a special status, they generate "Income in Respect of Decedent" (ICD). This means that in addition to being subject to estate taxes, the asset is also subject to a final income tax. In effect, the asset is taxed twice. However, making gifts of these type assets to the *Sisters of Benedict* may avoid income and estate tax.

*This information is not intended as legal advice. For advice and proper procedures, please contact your attorney.
For other information please call the Development Office at (405) 373-3392*

TIME TO BUILD



Our new home is being built within sight of our main monastery. Constructed below ground level, this space will ultimately become our garage/storm shelter.



As viewed from our chapel, we're building space for the future.



Our trusted friend, Tom Temple, builder of our chapel, stands alongside a stem wall of the garage.



TIME TO GET INVOLVED



Hard working crews pour the cement flooring on a sweltering summer day -- temperature 105 degrees°.



This area will serve as a garage/storm shelter.



Air conditioning/heating duct work rests in the red clay subflooring of the house.



Build me a house...



A Summer Creed

- *I believe in the flowers and their glorious indifference to the changes of the morrow.*
- *I believe in the birds and their implicit trust in the loving Providence that feeds them.*
- *I believe in the prayer-chanting brooks as they murmur a sweet hope of finding the far-distant sea to which they patiently run.*
- *I believe in the whispering winds, for they teach me to listen to the still small voice within my feverish soul.*
- *I believe in the vagrant clouds, as they remind me that life, like a summer day, must have some darkness to reveal its hidden meaning.*
- *I believe in the soft-speaking rains, accented with warm tears, telling me that nothing will grow save it be fertilized with tears.*
- *I believe in the golden hush of the sunsets, reflecting a momentary glory of the great world beyond my little horizon.*
- *I believe in the soft-falling dew, revealing the infinite spring of living waters for everything parched and withered.*
- *I believe in the holiness of twilight, as it gives me sense of the presence of God, and I know I am not alone. And whatever else I believe is enshrined in those abiding feelings that lie too deep for words.*

-Anonymous



.....SISTERS.....ON THE MOVE.....



Sister Joanne stands proudly with her parents, Isabelle and Peter Yankauskis, at St. Michael's College on graduation day.

Sister Joanne Yankauskis received her Masters in Theology from St. Michael's College, Colchester, Vermont, at the end of the summer session. Sister Joanne has spent the past five summers pursuing the degree, and because of her ministry in the Archdiocese Office of Worship and Spirituality, knows that her concentration in Spirituality will be of benefit there and in her work as Vocation Director for Red Plains Monastery.

Sister Joanne noted two highlights during her study. Theology of Women included a comparison of first and third world's women opinion of God within their respective cultures. She also enjoyed her professor in an Ethics in Ministry course, who proved to be most practical and helpful.

Congratulations, Sister Joanne.....way to go!

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Sister Melissa Letts has been named chaplain at Alliance Hospice, which serves Edmond, Guthrie and metropolitan Oklahoma City. As she undertakes this ministry Sister Melissa finds that her work with persons who are facing death is challenging and rigorous. Sister Melissa also serves as the religious education director at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Calumet, Oklahoma.

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Sister Eunice Ballmann recently returned from a trip to the Holy Land and Rome. In the photo, Sister Eunice is at Caesarea Philippi, the headwaters of the River Jordan. She is renewing her baptismal vows with Rev. Kevin Ratterman of St. John's Parish in Edmond, Oklahoma. Sister Eunice received the trip as a retirement gift from parishioners of St. John's and was accompanied by her sister, Sister Marie Ballmann, and other parishioners on the twelve day trip.



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Representing the community at General Chapter of the Federation of St. Scholastica in Erie, Pennsylvania, in June were Sisters Marie Ballmann, Benedicta Boland and Miriam Schnoebelen. They joined other Benedictines from the United States and Mexico and heard Sister Mary Collins, OSB, speak on the Theology of Eucharist, which was followed by role playing and discussion. Sister Esther Fangman, OSB, of Mt. St. Scholastica, Kansas, was elected president of the Federation for a four year term.

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During the month of July, Sister Miriam Schnoebelen was an active participant in the Hildegard Festival on the campus of the College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, Minnesota. The festival honored St. Hildegard of Bingen, an 12th century visionary, mystic, composer, herbalist and healer. The festival featured Joan Ohanneson, author of Scarlet Music, a historical novel of the life of St. Hildegard, a Benedictine sister who shattered stereotypes of women, of saints and of God for all time.

Sisters of Benedict

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Sister Marie Ballmann, OSB, Prioress

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request.



*Nature provides abundantly
during the summer of
1998...our pear tree at Lucy's
Guest House is laden ...the
corn is the focal point of the
garden, standing in the midst
of the tomato plants.*

