

FROM THE CENTER

A Newsletter For Friends and Benefactors of Saint Benedict Center Across The Country

The Little Flower Laboratory

Through the generosity of a benefactor, the late Helen Theresa Burke, a new science lab has been installed in Immaculate Heart of Mary School this winter. Four beautiful black-stone-top-tables comfortably accommodate sixteen students in the bright airy room, which overlooks the valley of Mount Wachusett on the west side of the building. The room that is used for the lab is the combination of two refurbished rooms from the original building purchased in 1976



Sister Mary Elizabeth guides 10th grade Biology students through an experiment in the new lab.

for the school. The new tables are equipped with sinks, running water and gas jets while attached cabinets provide storage for glassware, microscopes, and other supplies and equipment. Two whiteboards line the walls, providing ample room for instruction and reinforcement.

On February 12, 2008 at 11:00 a.m., the Saint Therese Lab was officially blessed. Characteristic of the patron after which it is named, there was a vase of beautiful roses on the lab table to greet Father as he read the prayers, asking God's blessing upon a room dedicated to the study of His created world. Then he sprinkled holy water on this room that will be used for the study of science in a Catholic atmosphere.

Classes in Life Science, biology, chemistry, physics as well as general science will benefit from this gift, which offers each student a wonderful opportunity to have "hands on" knowledge in experiments and research.

A number of Immaculate Heart of Mary alumnae have already pursued careers in the medical field, as well as the sciences. Presently two are in medical school, eight have become nurses and five are in science related fields.

We are most grateful for this addition to our academic program and we ask you to join us in praying for our generous benefactor, that she may rest in peace.



Saint Therese Lab is already broadening the possibilities of the science classes.

Windows in the Gate of Heaven (Chapel)



While the Brothers finish up the wainscoting, and the hardwood flooring and lighting fixtures for Gate of Heaven Chapel, the Sisters have been busy designing the windows.

gels in two separate windows. Working with Martino Studios, the Sisters hope to participate in the actual making of the windows. Overseeing some of the painting will be Nicolai Burnskiy, the resident artist, a native of Moldova. Nicolai has worked 15 years at the studio, which boasts of 30 years of craftsmanship. Over 30 churches in the New England area have windows designed or restored by the studio. Some also hang in Italy, Egypt, and Greece. We are looking forward to working on this project, anticipating the added beauty these windows will render to the Chapel, which will be a fitting place to house Our Lord and visit Him in prayer.

The lovely Tudor style chapel designed by the late John Howard at Saint Elizabeth's Convent is having windows made by Martino Studios in Framingham, as one of the last steps to its completion. Mike Martino, owner of the studio and shop, studied his craft in Milan, Italy under Maestro Lind Grassi. With his help the Sisters have designed the windows to match the décor of the chapel. They will be antique diamond panes with a medallion in the center. Each of these will depict a title of Our Lady from the Litany of Loreto. The main windows above the altar will have Our Lady in the center copied from a drawing of Albrecht Durer; she will be flanked on either side by an-



Above: Mike Martino discusses designs for the side windows of the Chapel with Sister Katherine Maria.



Left: Stained glass artist, Nicolai Burnskiy, demonstrates some of the technique to Sister Marie-Bernard.

Ride of a LIFETIME...

What would make 50 students and adults board a bus at 9:00 PM on a blustery cold winter night... after a fitful sleep, arrive at their destination nine hours later, then join a crowd of half a million people, pass out 10,000 flyers listen to speeches, walk a mile, board the bus again, drive another nine hours, and arrive home at 2:00 AM.? Commitment! This is the March for Life!



This year the entire cost of the bus rental was raised by students and supported by donations. IHM students, faculty and friends were proud to be able to join in the 35th Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. to take a stand in defense of the sacredness of human life in all its forms.

Mancipia Studios



Aside from the mail room, warehouse area and main office, Saint Anthony's House is also the home of Mancipia Studios, where Brother Anthony Marie keeps busy in his small, but well-equipped corner of the monastery.



No...its not big and glamorous...but then again we are just beginning, so watch out!

Above the warehouse in Saint Anthony's building, in a corner of the room you will find Brother Anthony intensely busy. With the fervor of a mad scientist in a laboratory he works on his experiments. Only instead of test tubes he pours over his Video Toaster 5 Integrated Production Suite with Speed Edit. Uncompressed video running on a dual zeon2.8ghz PC with over 800Gb of storage! Or he works with 3D animations and Titles-Lightwave 8.5 and Adobe After Effects CS3!

Sometimes, though, you find him with a Canon XL1 and XL2 on his shoulder or setting up a tripod in some obscure place. What is he actually doing?

So far Mancipia Studios, a fledgling endeavor..... with the potential of an eagle, has produced "The Pearl of York" our first feature film, on Saint Margaret Clitherow. It has also finished DVDs on: Una Voce

-10th Anniversary Conference, "How to Celebrate the Extraordinary Rite" (an educational DVD for priests), various SBC activities (Professions, summer camp, Holy Week Triduum etc.) and various IHM School activities.

What next? In production at the present time is: SBC vocation promotional, SBC first Confirmation, Biography of Father Leonard Feeney, and a Documentary of SBC.

A little more help, a little more time and you might be watching Mancipia Studio productions at a theater near YOU!

Rain or Shine...or Snow!

Surprisingly enough, this winter we were able to continue construction on the Montfort Retreat Center despite the uninterrupted snow! The main electricity lines are in, the deck is finished on the main lodge, and all buildings are now awaiting final electric and plumbing.

The main progress however, was made on the Chapel where the deck flooring and log sills were finished. Meanwhile, the Brothers and workers were constructing the massive log trusses on the ground, which were lifted by crane. These logs were hand hewn and notched, each truss weighs more than a ton!

Now that the mud season has arrived, all heavy traffic will be blocked from the town road. Work will continue... but not at the magnitude it has been. Dates for camp will be announced soon. We anticipate that they will be late July for the boys and early August for the girls. So stay tuned!!!

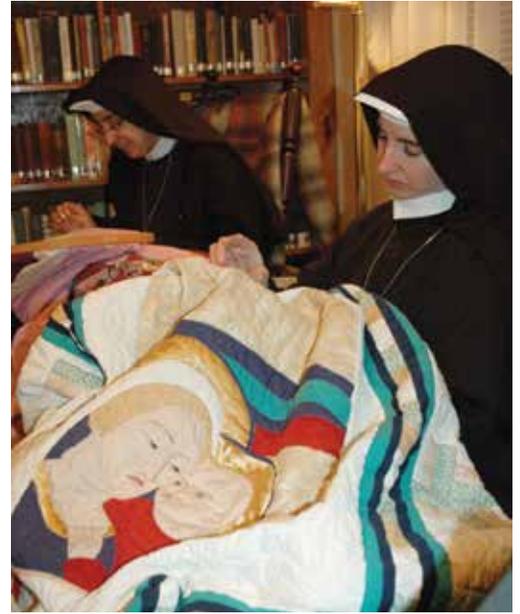


Our Lady Appears at Harvard (at an art show)

This fall a community group called “For Art’s Sake,” sponsored an exhibit “Made in Harvard” for local artists...so on November 15, 2007, Our Lady of Good Counsel made her debut at the old Hapgood Library in Harvard Center. Hand quilted, Sister Marie-Jean did this rendering of an ancient icon. It was her first quilt. The earth tones of the picture are very close to the original colors of the painting in Genazzano Italy. The exhibit was shown for one month, enabling many patrons to appreciate this piece and the tremendous work involved, and to learn a little about the Mother of God.

Needlework is one of the art activities that the Sisters enjoy during their evening recreation. Presently there are four quilts and some very intricate cross-stitch in the process. Already completed works include seven quilts and a variety of framed needlework hanging in the convent. But that is just the needlework...then there is the painting, drawing and woodwork.... and we’ll save that for another time!

Sister Martina Marie, left, and Sister Marie-Jean enjoy quilting during evening recreation at the convent.



Father Joseph Richard, Augustinian Assumptionist, was pleased to say the Latin Tridentine Mass in his later years.

Father Joseph Richard, RIP

On January 13th, 2008 our beloved chaplain of five years passed away at Saint Francis Home, where his declining health forced him to finally retire. He was 94 years old.

Father Joseph Richard was a well-loved chaplain at the Center. Often you would find him with a circle of first graders kneeling at his feet for a blessing. In Pontifical solemnity he would call upon God and deliver the requested benediction. Then without fail he extracted a Hail Mary in return for what he called his “conversion”.

Even as his health declined, he would sit outside the Chapel waiting for a penitent or someone in need. He was always available. At his funeral, the superior of the Augustinian Assumptionists remarked, “Father never imagined not performing his priestly ministry. Even at his place of retirement, he continued to hear confessions, give blessings and say his breviary and numberless rosaries every day. He took his priesthood seriously.”

A French Canadian, Father was raised in New Bedford, MA. He was the “Benjamin” of his family and surviving youngest of 14 children. Only 5’ tall he was cheerful and witty and loved to make clever remarks especially in French at which he was a master of puns. His childlike joy accompanied by songs and stories hid the genius

and adventurous background of this beloved man. A master of five languages, he had spent a total of 9 years in Moscow as the Apostolic Delegate during the Cold War. He also served as Novice Master to his community and taught Gregorian chant.

He was extremely devoted to Our Lady and he loved to celebrate the Latin Tridentine Mass, which he did for the school children during the last years of his “active” life, until his health forced him to stop at the age of 91. He was a perfect example of “La Joie de Vivre” which he spread to all who knew him. May he rest in peace.



Father Richard kneels in prayer while the Brothers chant during the blessing of IHM Cemetery.