



FROM THE CENTER

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

Montfort 101

The facility at Montfort Retreat closed for the season in November. Several trips of Brothers and volunteers “nailed down” and winterized everything until it reopens in May.

One of the last precautionary jobs was the removal of several large pine trees that stood sentinel to the chapel. The possibility of a heavy storm sending them crashing on to the beautiful timber and stone structure was more than we could bear! Chain saws and professional tree removal apparatus enabled Brother Anthony to climb the over-80’ trees and take them down from the top. Our refurbished chipper made the branches into pathways and the logs are now heating the convent wood stove. Later, a trip of school girls and Sisters cleared some more woods for a more peaceful appearance around the dining facility.

Before the snow came, footings were poured for a long-needed priest’s cabin and nurse’s station in two different locations. Their construction will begin in the Spring. Right now the phone is ringing with inquiries for the Morning Star Girls and Montfort Boys camps... and the brochures are in the works.

We look forward to opening another season for the camp aposolates at Montfort Retreat... and in the meantime “Morning Star” will be having another mini-camp in Dallas in April... so stay tuned! *All for Jesus through Mary!*



Brothers and volunteers clean up around the chapel of Montfort Retreat before closing the facility for the winter.



Sister Katherine Maria addresses the Confirmation class at Saint Mary’s Parish in Chelmsford, MA., one of the largest parishes in the diocese.

dress the large confirmation class of 124 students on “Jesus in our life” as part of their program. Sister Katherine Maria addressed the crowd of eager faces and was followed by Sister Martina Marie, Sister Marie-Bernard and Sister Magdalene Marie who sang a parody on the passion of Christ written to a well known tune by James Louviere. Both presentations gave food for thought in a spiritually enriching moment to today’s teens who face so many obstacles in our secular world.

Strengthening Confirmandi

Sacred Heart Parish in East Brookfield asked the Sisters to come again this Fall to address the girls in the Confirmation class on religious vocations. Sister Marie-Therese gave a wonderful explanation to the enthusiastic group on the Fruits of the Holy Ghost and cooperating with grace.

In December St. Mary’s in Chelmsford also invited the Sisters to ad-

Br. Hugh MacIsaac Hall

Yes! We've named the new building after our second founder, Brother Hugh MacIsaac. Brother Hugh was born in Judique, Nova Scotia, in 1922. Later his family moved to Roxbury, MA, where he and three brothers and two sisters were raised. Brother Hugh served in WWII and after returning home from the frontlines, studied at Boston University. It was during this time that he became involved with Saint Benedict Center which was a student center located near Harvard University.

It was founded by Catherine Goddard Clark to help Catholics keep their Faith and also a forum for those interested in becoming Catholic. The over-



200 converts and vocations that resulted caused quite a stir to the rich and powerful, who put pressure on the hierarchy to silence Father Feeny. During the ensuing years of Father Feeny's white martyrdom, he was maligned, and held in contempt for not being politically correct, in his preaching the necessity of the Church for Salvation, a doctrine as old as the Church. Brother Hugh stood by him, sometimes often acting as bodyguard especially when he would preach on the Boston Common.

Brother later moved with the community in 1958 to Still River and there lived as a religious Brother. In the 1970's the community began to fracture for different reasons, one of which was that the aged and sickly Father Feeny (who suffered with Parkinson's disease) was no longer able to administrate. Three groups emerged. At this point the property was legally split and Brother Hugh, and those that followed him were given 3 acres, with two houses and a little barn.

In 1976, Brother Hugh, whose dynamic faith inspired those around him, re-founded the community of Brothers and Sisters and many young people joined the group. Sadly, within three years at the age of 56, he was called home to God after a short battle with melanoma. His charismatic personality, love for Our Lady, zeal for the Faith and religious discipline, left a legacy for those who followed, who to this day can still "hear his voice" in

some of the principles he drilled into the community. The years after his death were filled with hardships, and traumatic ups-and-downs, but the strength of his convictions brought the community through it all. Today the little 3 acres has grown to 24 acres plus 150-acre summer camp facility. The Brothers have built eight of the twelve buildings on the Still River complex and all the New Hampshire retreat facility.

We are proud to dedicate the new building as a testimonial of our loyalty to the one who gave us such an incredible example of a true Slave of Our Lady.

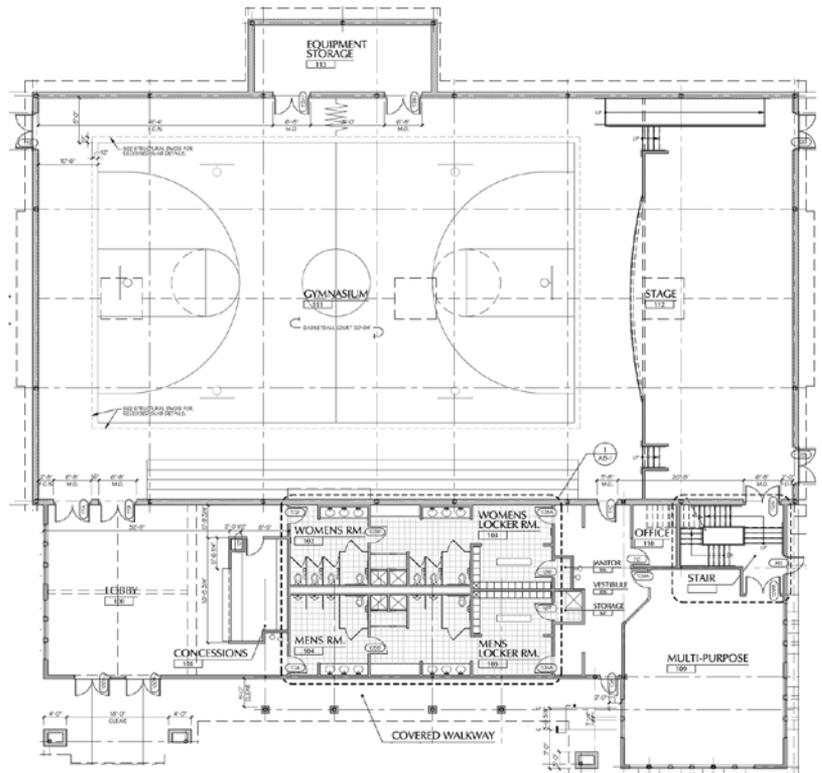


Brother Hugh (right) and Brother Joseph serve Mass for Father Leonard Feeny.



Progress Report

As the new building continues, its majestic architecture becomes more stunning with exposed hand-hewn beams in the entry, balcony overlooking the gym, copiously windowed meeting rooms and framed shower/locker rooms. It looks like the finish date is around the corner! However the details of the inside and donations needed to complete them will be the deciding factor how fast things move from here. An estimated \$250,000 will finish off the plumbing, lighting, large window, and heating system. Hopefully this will also include the fine details, like stage lighting and curtains, chairs, bleachers and sports equipment. With the outside structure nearing completion, and the inside about to begin, we thank all our donors who made it possible. With the help of God, a few more generous souls will answer the call to complete the project. If you decide to be one of them, please let us dedicate a memorial in your behalf or in memory of a loved one by including the information with your donation.



Saint Clare Host-Making Room

The awe-inspiring assignment of making altar breads for the most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is progressing slowly for Saint Clare's Host room, where we are taking each step with great care.



Sister Christopher Margaret and Sister Mary Imelda begin baking the hosts.

We have not offered our products for sale yet as we work out the details, progressing in efficiency to higher production. The equipment we have was manufactured before 1960, so there are some rewiring, replacement of heating elements and new timers needed. We are extremely grateful for the new air compressor that was recently donated replacing the loud distracting one, making the job quieter and easier to pray.

Once we get production up to the maximum we will be mailing out samples to those interested in buying.

Please keep this beautiful work in your prayers!



“Te Deum”... Embroidery

Saint Joseph's house, one-time guest house, one-time home economic classrooms, has now become St. Joseph work shop, home to the host making and on-line order shipping rooms downstairs and now the *Te Deum* embroidery room upstairs. New paint on all the upstairs walls, new engineered hardwood-flooring (thank you, generous donor!) give a fresh, clean look to the rooms that will house our 16-spool embroidery machine and sewing operation.

The Sisters will not be making vestments, but the little hard to find details needed for the Traditional Mass chapels, such as monstrance covers, humeral veils, ciborium covers and burses. As the antiques collected over the years for these uses begin to shred or show severe signs of age, we will offer replacements with the same dignified art embellishments appropriate for their use. Plans are to begin in April after Easter, offering a line of designs to put on custom-sized liturgical pieces. Please email smb@saintbenedict.com with your name and address for future notices regarding this project.



*Above: Sister Marie Bernard stands near the embroidery machine in the new sewing area of Saint Joseph's House
Left: In the foreground, Saint Joseph's House has been newly renovated for Sisters' work space... as MacIsaac Hall looms behind!*

In Honor of Saint Kateri

The first canonized native American Indian, Saint Kateri Tekawitha, took center stage this year at IHM's annual Christmas program in a dramatic presentation called "Kateri's Dream."

Grades 4-6, dressed as Indians from the Turtle Clan acted out the Huron Carol, a Christmas hymn written in the native language by Saint John de Brebeuf. Their act was preceded by the 1st through 3rd grade's traditional Christmas story and was followed by a stunning concert of the IHM Band, grades 7 through 12.

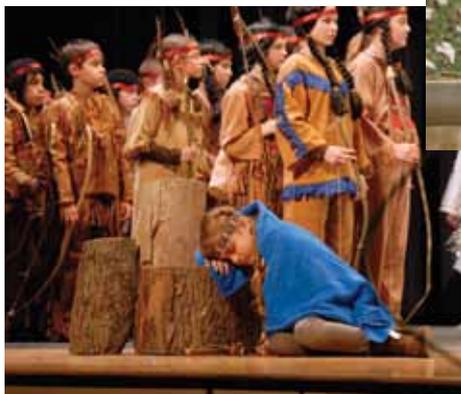
Saint Kateri Tekakwitha was born to a Christian Algonquin mother and a pagan Mohawk father in 1656, in what is now Auriesville, New York. Her parents and baby brother died in a smallpox epidemic, which left the 4-year-old Kateri badly disfigured and half-blind. She then moved in with her pagan relatives, but because of her disabilities, she was ignored and lived a solitary life. When she was

10, the tribe moved closer to where French missionary priests had erected a small chapel for the converted Mohawks. It was in that chapel, at Christmas, that Kateri was drawn to the Catholic Faith. She was baptized 10 years later—on Easter Sunday.

After enduring a year of persecution from her family, she ran away to Caughnawaga, in Canada where she received her First Holy Communion

on Christmas Day, in 1677. She spent her remaining years there in prayer and penance. She died in 1680 at the age of 24.

The performance acted out the words of the Carol, which depicts Christmas, as it would have been in an Indian village. A stellar performance, great costumes, dancing, and singing, left the audience with a wonderful, peaceful anticipation for the Birth of Christ in a modern world filled with anxiety.



Life-Size Statement

Every year our life-size Nativity scene is displayed on the front lawn of the Chapel, stopping traffic down Route 110 as passersby pause to behold the beauty of the scene. Neighbors and townsfolk often comment on how much they love to see the set go up... and those who venture through the snow for a closer look are struck by the fine detail and craftsmanship of each and every figure. Just think, what used to be part of Christmas decorating has now become a controversial affront to those who hate Christ and a rally point for those that love Him. *Viva Cristo Rey!*

Doctor Byrne Conference

“Brain death” is a commonly accepted medical term, but Dr. Paul Byrne of *Life Guardian Foundation* disputes its validity. In unequivocal terms, SBC’s guest speaker at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Leominster, MA, told the audience that a patient labeled “brain dead” is very much alive with a beating heart and circulating blood! Surgeons, to enable vital organs to be removed for transplantation, subsequently killing the donor, contrived such a misleading term.

IHM’s pro-life league sponsored this informative and shocking lecture on Sunday, November 11, 2012. Approximately 150 people attended this event, which also covered a discussion of the *Affordable Care Act*, euthanasia, and assisted suicide as well. After the impressive power point presentation, a highly spirited question and answer period followed.

The speaker, Paul Byrne, is a renowned physician and past president of the Catholic Medical Association who directed the pediatrics and neonatology department at St. Charles Mercy Hospital in Ohio. He has made television appearances on “Good Morning America” and “Cross-Fire,” as the opponent of Jack Keivorkian and the assisted suicide campaign. Dr. Byrne furnished Vatican officials with medical updates and information on this life issue. *Finis Vitae* is the title of his latest book addressing these subjects.

One of the stories featured in the power point presentation was the true account of a young man named Zach Dunlap who was declared “brain dead” after a terrible accident in an all-terrain vehicle. Only hours before the arrival of the organ transplant team, two nurses, both related to Zach, decided to visit him and test his vital signs. To their great surprise, Zach moved his hand away when a sharp object was placed beneath his fingernail. A similar test was performed on his foot with the same response! The scheduled heart transplant operation was called off instantly! Zach came out of the coma and had much to reveal to everyone. He heard all the discussions around him and was furious when labeled “brain dead!” Dr. Byrne told the audience that a coma is simply like a comma; a pause, an interruption in the normal functioning of the body. The brain is capable of amazing healing in time. Zach resumed his life as before the accident. Today he is a married man with a family of his own!

Dr. Byrne feels it is urgent to educate the world on this poorly understood life issue. Many charitable people are being duped into donating their organs without knowing: 1. That is one of the most lucrative businesses in the world, not for them but for the doctors; 2. That they will be “harvested” without really being dead; 3. That in most cases they are not even anesthetized when vital organs are being taken from their medically paralyzed body. Dr. Byrne runs his *Life Guardian Foundation*, based in Vancouver, Washington, where he promotes the Catholic teaching to protect life from its beginning at conception to its natural end. *Thank you, Dr. Byrne, for your all-important pro-life work!*



IHM Pro-Life

Thirty-two students of IHM’s Saint John the Baptist Pro-Life League attended the March for Life on January 25, 2013. Student volunteers raised money through a pancake breakfast, bake sales, candy drives and raffle ticket sales. In addition to the pro-life league’s

efforts, generous support was offered by the Knights of Columbus in Sag Harbor, NY, and the Daughters of Isabella in Clinton, MA. Thanks so much!

The bus drove through the night to DC, arriving in time for a 7 AM Latin Tridentine Mass at Old Saint Mary’s Church. When the March began students joined in, either behind the IHM School banner or the pro-life league’s banner. The students were naturally surprised and thrilled to see so many young people in the March, many of whom were chanting pro-life cheers at the top of their lungs! It was a contagious spirit of liveliness and determination for victory! EWTN reported that 500,000 people in total marched up Constitution Avenue... and IHM students were proud to be a part of it!

Lila Rose

A courageous pro-life advocate and founder of Live Action League,

Lila Rose has dedicated her life to stop abortion with a daring campaign to uncover illegal



proceedings in abortion clinics. Her undercover work has resulted in many of them being shut down. The Sisters met Lila at the March for Life through one of our alumni who works for her. Keep up the good work, Lila!

Fit for the King

When the choir sings the beautiful “Wexford Carol” during the Midnight Mass of Christmas, “with thankful heart and joyful mind” we sincerely join with all our hearts as we look out into a Chapel decorated in splendor appropriate to greet the newborn King!

Thanks to the donations of friends from numerous nurseries and farms, our Chapel here in Still River is transformed into an alpine beauty with evergreen roping on every beam, tall



majestic Christmas trees in the sanctuary and garlands twined with glittering ribbons festooning the walls, not to mention a mountain of poinsettias. It is Christmas through and through as the smell of balsam pervades the atmosphere.

Across the street, in the convent chapel “Gate of Heaven,” another gem, rivals in beauty the decorations at IHM. A much smaller room, at the convent chapel you can almost sense the presence of Christ in the intimate prayerful surroundings. We are forever grateful to all those who helped make this a wonderful Christmas at Saint Benedict Center.



Top Right: The decorating of the Chapel on Christmas Eve is a lot of work – but definitely worth it in the end! Special thanks to our volunteer helpers! Above: A Sister prays before the Infant in the Convent Chapel.



Not Forgotten

January 15, 2013, marked the eleventh anniversary of Brother Joseph Mueller’s death. Every year on that date friends and relatives gather at his gravesite to pray the rosary and share memories. Brother Joseph died at the age of 45, the year after his 25th profession as a Slave of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Even if it is freezing cold and snowy, and because of that the crowd is small... he will never be forgotten by those he left behind. May he rest in peace.



Rest in Peace

Lucille Maney

On December 5, 2012, Mrs. Lucille Maney, long-time friend and benefactor of Saint Benedict Center, passed away surrounded by her family. She was 88 years old.

Lucille is predeceased by her husband, Joseph, who supported and preserved the Latin Mass in the New York area during the troubled times of the 60's and 70's.

For years the Maney Home welcomed the Sisters whenever they were on missionary work in the area, providing for all their needs! Mrs. Maney was the perfect hostess! She will always be remembered for her kindness and thoughtfulness.

Lucille is also predeceased by her son Timothy and daughter Patricia. Surviving members are Dennis Maney of MA., and Third Order Member; Terence Maney of VA; John Maney of NY; Sister Mary Francis; and Margaret Mumford of MA. She also leaves behind a legacy of grandchildren including Sister Marie-Bernard, and fourteen great grandchildren.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Lucille Maney. May she rest in peace!



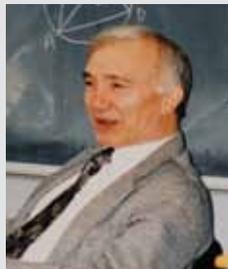
Richard Brooks

Close friend and retired teacher at IHM school, Mr. Richard Brooks, went home to God on January 28th, 2013 after a lengthy illness. Richard volunteered 10 years teaching various math courses at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Still River.

He was a graduate of Northeastern University with a Masters degree in electrical engineering.

Previous to his teaching at our school, he worked many years at Raytheon and taught engineering at Wentworth Institute. On the side he was an astounding artist displaying his works in Boston, Springfield and NY galleries.

His wit and dry humor left a lasting memory to all who knew him at the Center, where he went to Mass regularly. Richard had a beautiful Faith and loved the Latin Mass. He will always be remembered with great affection. May he rest in peace.



Rest and Relaxation

Every spiritual writer of worth reminds religious how important it is to be human, adding that the hour allotted to recreation is a healthy and important aspect of life at the monastery.

So... thanks to some generous donors, the Brothers flooded the multi-sport court in their yard for Ice Hockey once again this winter! The cold weather co-operating, many nights drew students, graduates, and friends to a great game on ice. The students used it for gym classes, and of course the Sisters were invited to also use it for their recreation hour when it was free!

Special thanks to all who helped make this wonderful winter activity available!

