



FROM THE CENTER

A Newsletter for Friends and Benefactors of Saint Benedict Center across the Country

New Horizons

On the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Brother Thomas Augustine signed the deed for the transfer of Evans Farm to the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Thanks to your support “The Valley” is now part of Saint Benedict Center!

With Christmas looming on the horizon, the Sisters volunteered to “fix up” the interior of “Bud’s house,” (which we unofficially named “Cristo Rey”) so it could be used by the Brothers for their Christmas gatherings. A team of Sisters descended



Sisters clean up the living area of the new house before Christmas.



Sister Katherine Maria touches up an old painting after installing it in the new building.

like a hive of bees, for the next week and a half, scrubbing, painting, polishing and deep cleaning. New hardware was even put on the painted cabinets in the kitchen, blinds for the windows and food in the fridge.

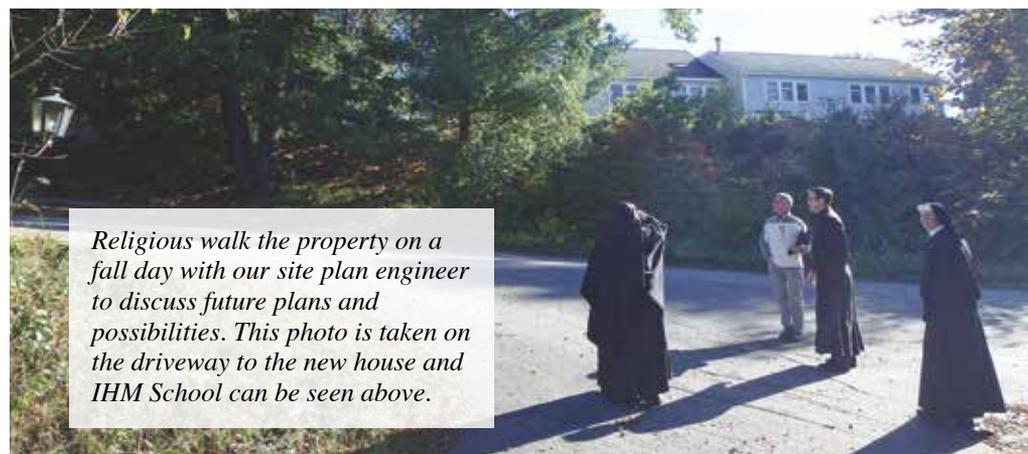
Of course time only allowed for the first floor to be renovated for December 25th, but it looked ready to move in. We brought down used bookcases from the convent and furnishings donated by a friend in California. It looked cozy, yet monastic, with an alpine view of the fields below, and it was a perfect solution to the over-crowded house the Brothers now occupy.

The new year having begun, and gatherings over, the upstairs is now being addressed. Wallpaper is being removed, rooms painted and floors polished. When it is all finished, the Brothers hope to move some of the religious in temporarily, as they make plans for a more permanent solution to our monastic needs.

A generous site plan engineer has offered to help us maximize the 77 acres, with a new

Brothers’ house, shrines, agriculture, ball field and school expansion.

Everyone is excited with ideas galore, but we all know in the end it will be what Our Lady wants, because we do all for Jesus, through Mary. We know that she will somehow provide the finances, too!



Religious walk the property on a fall day with our site plan engineer to discuss future plans and possibilities. This photo is taken on the driveway to the new house and IHM School can be seen above.

Profession Day

December 8, 2017, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, was celebrated at Saint Benedict Center with much rejoicing. The feast marked the entry of three religious, to the different stages of the religious life, as Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Father Neil Roy officiated at the Solemn High Mass, assisted by Father Withoos as deacon and Brother Christopher Isaac, MICM as sub-deacon.

Clothed in wedding gown and bridal veil, novice Sister Gabriel Marie was led down the aisle of the Chapel by her father, Patrick Trimble.

At the Offertory of the Mass, she presented herself at the altar and pronounced her first vows as a Slave of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,



Sister Mary Imelda receives the veil and crown of Final Profession.

for which she received the beautiful and assuring response from the celebrant, “And I, on the part of God, promise thee, if thou keep these vows, life everlasting.”

After Sister signed her vows on the gospel side of the altar, the ceremony continued with the blessing of the ring, which Father placed on Sister’s finger with the words, “I espouse thee to Jesus Christ...” She then received the habit and black veil of the Order, as well as a lighted candle, “as a sign of immortality, that, dead to the world, thou may live in God.”

As the choir chanted the traditional antiphon, “Veni Sponsa Christi,” Sister Gabriel Marie, MICM left the chapel to don her new habit and veil.

Immediately following, Sister Mary Imelda knelt at the altar rail. Sister had completed her three years of First Profession on September 8, 2017, and so was ready to publicly pronounce her final vows. “I renew and ratify today,” she stated,

“the vows of my Baptism, giving myself entirely to Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Wisdom, and vow to God perpetual poverty, chastity and obedience as a Slave of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.” Like Sister Gabriel Marie, Sister signed her vows, and then knelt to receive from Father the blessed veil and crown of flowers, a sign of her anticipation of the Eternal wedding feast as a bride of Christ. Sister Mary Imelda then left the chapel, and the two newly professed sisters returned together to receive a final blessing.



Ben Orbeck leaves the Chapel to don the suit of a Brother Postulant.

At the end of Mass, Mr. Ben Orbeck was received as a postulant into the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Ben is from Minnesota, and has attended Montfort Boys’ Camp for several years. He will continue his six months of postulancy, a period of discernment, prayer and study. Please pray for his perseverance.

May Our Lady watch these religious and continue to bless her Slaves with many vocations.



Sister Gabriel Marie, Bride of Christ.



Sister Gabriel Marie and Sister Mary Imelda cut the cake made by the Sisters in honor of their Professions at the reception celebration.

Bishop's Decree

On October 10th, 2017 Bishop Robert McManus called us for a meeting at the chancery. Brother Thomas Augustine and Sister Katherine Maria were named to represent the order and also present were the chancellor and diocese's canon lawyer. The purpose of the meeting was to finalize the status of our community.

The Bishop with the affirmation of the others present said that he was elevating The Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Saint Benedict Center, Inc., to the status of a "Public Association of the Faithful" in the Diocese of Worcester Massachusetts. It was "long overdue," as the Bishop said. We all agreed and could feel the blessing of the late Brother Hugh, our second founder, on this momentous event. The entire community rejoiced with the news and a week later, we celebrated when the formal document arrived.

During Christmas week, Sister Katherine Maria invited the Bishop for an informal lunch at the convent to meet the all the Sisters. It was a delightful afternoon with a lively exchange of stories. Some of the Sisters sang a song they wrote to commemorate this long-awaited blessing of our status. The Bishop recognized the tune "Roddy McCorley" almost immediately! The visit ended too soon for all of us and was definitely the highlight of our Christmas week.



Bishop McManus gives his blessing to the Sisters after a casual lunch during Christmas week.

Brother Gerard

February 2, the feast of the Purification, marked the end of the Christmas Season, but for postulant Nicholas Fretwell, it stood as the beginning of the next chapter in his religious life. Having completed the required six months of postulancy, Nicholas became a novice of the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He was given the habit of the Order, and received his new name, Brother Gerard, in honor of the humble Italian Redemptorist, Saint Gerard Majella.

Nicholas was raised in Pepperell, Massachusetts, and attended Immaculate Heart of Mary School. After graduating in 2015, he became a set-up machinist at New Hampshire Ball

Bearings, Inc and finish woodworker on the side. He continued to be a regular attendee at the Latin Mass at Saint Benedict Center, and in August 2017, Nicholas entered the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary as a postulant.

Brother Gerard's two year novitiate will be a time of more intense prayer and study. Pray for his perseverance as he takes this important step in his religious life.



Diocese of Worcester
Office of the Bishop
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Worcester, Massachusetts 01609

DECREE

Erection of the Association of the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Saint Benedict Center, Harvard, Massachusetts as a Public Association of the Christian Faithful

In Nomine Domini. Amen.

The Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Saint Benedict Center have petitioned to have their association erected as a public association of the Christian faithful in accord with canon 312, §1, 3° of the Code of Canon Law.

According to the Statutes of the Association of the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Saint Benedict Center, the purpose of the Association is "the glory of God, the perfection and salvation of its members through the spirituality of Saint Louis de Montfort, and the defense and propagation of the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church" as authentically taught and defined by the Church's teaching magisterium. "Through study and evangelization the members provide religious instruction and carry on charitable activities for the sanctification and salvation of souls purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ."

In accord with canon 314, I reviewed and approve the Statutes of this Association.

Therefore, I, the Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, Bishop of the Diocese of Worcester, Massachusetts, hereby declare:

- That the Association of the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Saint Benedict Center, Harvard, Massachusetts be erected as a Public Association of the Christian faithful in accord with canons 312, §1, 3° and §2;
- The Association is constituted as a private juridic person by the law itself, in accord with canon 312;
- The requirements of canons 50 and 51 have been fulfilled;
- Canons 312 through 319 apply.

This decree of erection is effective immediately.

Given in the Halls of the Chancery Office, this the twenty-seventh day of October, two thousand seventeen.

Robert J. McManus
Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, S.T.D.
Bishop of Worcester

Raymond L. Delisle
Raymond L. Delisle
Chancellor

The Decree of Most Reverend Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester, erecting the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Saint Benedict Center as a Public Association of the Christian Faithful.

Saint Anthony's Studio



Brother Matthew gives some of the Sisters a tour of the recording room of the studio in Saint Anthony's.

Finally, this past summer, the upper level of Saint Anthony's was vacated again and ready for a make-over!

With a little carpentry, some paint and a new rug... it is now home to the audio/visual departments of Mancipia Studio! The space is used for recording segments for the local Catholic Radio station WQPH, along with some taping of vocal and singing tracks.

Brother Matthew also teaches his Public Speaking class there, where IHM Juniors and Seniors learn the art as well as all the behind-the-scenes technical aspect of audio/visual recording.

Brother Anthony Marie, who films and edits productions as well, stated that, "Eventually, we hope to get to the point where we will record interviews there." Saint Anthony's is just another corner of the monastery with endless possibilities! All for Jesus, through Mary!

"Multi-purpose" is an understatement in describing Saint Anthony's, one of the first buildings the Brothers ever constructed back in the 70's.

Out of all the buildings on the Center's property, Saint Anthony's has gone through the most changes over the years, accruing a long history of varied occupations.

The first floor was used as a woodworking shop, mechanic shop and at one time the offset printshop. The second story of this building, which is roughly the size of a small barn, started off as the Brothers' living quarters.

When the Brothers moved into the house next door, called Saint Pius X House, the former living space was turned into offices and a shipping room / storage room for publications and gift shop inventory.

Over the years, as the monastery kept growing, Saint Anthony's was revamped again and again.



The IHM Juniors and Seniors in Saint Anthony's studio during Public Speaking class with Brother Matthew.



First audio recording! Recently the Sisters tested out the studio (with the Brothers' professional help of course) by recording a hymn to Saint Agnes!

Enjoy the recording of "St. Agnes, Holy Child" in a video format on our website!



Brothers put up the sign over the new True Devotionals Gift Shop here at the monastery!

Right: This custom embroidery was recently made to cover a statue of Our Lady of Svata Hora for a priest friend.



True Devotionals - on Location

Looking for the perfect Catholic gift? True Devotionals Gift Shop is now open online and in real life! Situated next to MacIsaac Hall, True Devotionals Gift Shop of Saint Benedict Center has an inviting and happy interior, painted and decorated by the Sisters. Above the door is our new sign, “TrueDevotionals.com” making it easy for new customers to find it on Route 110.

The shop specializes in a full line of traditional books and rare and elegant religious gifts, each hand picked to reflect and promote a deep spiritual life. Many items are exclusively designed and sold at our shop, such as our True Devotion rings and bracelets, tapestries, suncatchers, and embroideries.

Right now we are offering custom embroideries for small items, for example, Infant of Prague statues, monstrance covers etc. Contact us at www.truedevotionals.com to see if we can supply your embroidery request.

So stop in – or shop online, and help support our traditional Catholic Religious Life!

Leading the Eagles

Over ten years ago, the game of basketball was brought to IHM School through the initiative of Mr. John Vail, a seasoned coach and father to Bridie Vail, a Junior High student at the time. Fast forward to 2018, and the game has “caught on,” igniting a great school spirit and foundation of young players who are coming up through the ranks working to make the team!

After a few years off, Coach John Vail has returned again, and along with Coach Arthur Farris, they are leading the IHM Lady Eagles basketball team in a fantastic season! Thanks to great coaching, the ten players have had a winning record of 10–0!

The high scoring record, however, did not just happen by chance. Players have been hard at work drilling their skills even out of season. “The summer league in Lowell, Massachusetts, helped out a lot,” Coach Vail said. “They played Division I.” Coach Farris stated that the team is really coming together. “Individuals step up at different times,” he said. “They listen, try hard and are team-oriented.”

Not only a lot of practice and teamwork, but a family-like attitude keeps the girls playing well. Humor is essential, and when asked what can be one of the most challenging parts of basketball at times, Coach Vail said, “I have two twins on the team, and I can’t tell them apart!”

The Eagles have had a mix of Junior Varsity and Varsity games, and have about five more games to go before the end of the season. The coaches have high expectations of the girls, and it is in this that the girls have learned to exceed their limits. “Have confidence, and you’ll surprise yourself!” Coach Farris tells the girls. “So far, so good!”



Coach Vail (left) and Coach Farris with the Eagles before a game in MacIsaac Hall.



Brother Patrick Joseph works with the new SMART Board in a High School class at MacIsaac Hall.

for the elementary and junior high school. With the available space, Immaculate Heart of Mary school has also added an art room and a music room.

In the art room, you will find a bright and exciting atmosphere, where students from grades 3-6 experience working with papier-mâché, salt dough, nature crafts and a variety of other art forms. The art room gives Immaculate Heart of Mary School a place where children can be creative, use their hands, and develop skills in a room set aside just for that purpose. Students learn the key elements of art, as well as an appreciation for fine art throughout the ages, and skills that will stay with them the rest of their lives. From pencil drawing to painting to paper crafts, you will always find a happy and productive atmosphere in the art room!

On the other end of the building from the art room, you will find the music room. Each week this little room welcomes a total of 90 students from grade 1-6 where they learn the rudiments of

Sister Mary Clair (left) makes music with the first graders in the music room.

Sister Marie-Bernard (below) folds autumn leaves with fifth graders in the art room.

music, and experience making music together. Class activities include singing, rhythm band, music appreciation, and developing skills such as sight-reading and singing in parts.

Besides learning the chants for the Mass, the third graders learn to play the recorder, their first instrument, and are also introduced to reading music. This elementary knowledge of music definitely helps many students when they eventually join the high school marching band and chorus.

Saint Augustine has said, "He who sings well, prays twice." The students of Immaculate Heart of Mary School learn this in a practical way from first grade on, using the music they make as a means to glorify God.

School Upgrade

In 2016 MacIsaac Hall opened its academic doors to Immaculate Heart of Mary High School. It was an exciting and historic year! But the excitement continued into the 2017-2018 school year when the IHM High School acquired, through a grant, its first "SMART" Board.

The "SMART" board integrates the display features of a projection screen and Internet with the interactive capabilities of a whiteboard. This addition as a teaching tool has made learning more visual, attractive and exciting. It is used daily, brightening up such tedious subjects as geometry, physics and biology. This modern technology makes learning more engaging and challenging. The faculty has observed that the students are more attentive and enthusiastic with the use of the SMART board. We are grateful for this modern tool... so whiteboards watch-out!

When the high school grades moved to MacIsaac Hall, more room became available

