



# FROM THE CENTER

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

## IHM School Expansion

The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12, 2018 will mark the first anniversary of the purchase of the 77 acres adjacent to IHM School. Now, one year later, almost to the day, the first phase of our growth is about to begin! The site work is finished and the building plans for the future expansion of Immaculate Heart of Mary School are almost complete!

Founded in 1976 by Brother Hugh MacIsaac in a little ranch house, for a handful of pre-homeschool advocates, this small make-shift school building has grown into the present IHM facility through the hard work of the Brothers and numerous volunteers. In the 1990's an addition was added and a second and third floor. We were only able to accommodate 120 students, grades 1-12 until Mac Isaac Hall opened across the street in 2016 for the High school students. Even though the empty classrooms left behind by the move were quickly filled, no additions to the building could be made unless we acquired more property. Enrollment left us with a waiting list with our peak capacity at 100 students in grades 1-8 and 40 in grades 9-12. Then our prayers were answered and we acquired the "valley" behind the school that would enable us to finally build an addition.



*The left portion of this 3D rendering shows the planned addition to Immaculate Heart of Mary School building.*



*An artistic 3D rendering of the back yard of the future school addition which looks out over the valley.*

Architects, surveyors and engineers have been working with the Brothers to develop a design for the new addition that will tie together the styles of both the present building and MacIsaac Hall. The new facility will provide the school with enough classroom space to seat 25 students per grade, increasing enrollment by 100 students in grades 1-8!

The community's kitchen and refectories, which take are located on the first floor of the present building will also be moved to the new facility to accommodate for new vocations. This will free up area for much needed principals office and nurse station, as well as an enlarged library and music and art rooms. A large function room in the lower level will also provide an appropriate size room for a function hall to be used for special events and Sunday coffee and donut social.

There is no doubt that there is a crisis in education, especially for Catholic families who want their children surrounded with the same morals at school that they teach at home. IHM is a true Catholic School. IHM keeps the Catholic focus. We look forward to offering this lost form of education to even more young souls!

Make a donation for this project and be a part of our Catholic future in America!



*Above: the west side of the school will be built into the hill which now lies behind the school, looking out over the valley.*

*Right: The front view cropping out most of the original building. A new entry way will lead to offices, library and classrooms in one direction and refectories and kitchen in the other direction. The second level will be all classrooms.*





## Building Up the Future

Immaculate Heart of Mary School celebrated its 40th Anniversary of Catholic Education in 2016. Since its founding in 1976 a steady stream of young families have passed through its doors and found in its classrooms and halls the spirit of *Jesus through Mary* and the charism which brought it into existence by Brother Hugh MacIsaac. As one priest friend fondly observed, “Our Lady walks these halls” ... and students and teachers live, learn and teach in the warmth of her presence.

In supporting our apostolate of evangelization through the school you will sharing in one of the greatest and most important works of the universal church. The future of our Faith and our country lies in the hearts and souls and lives of the children and it is such an important job to shape those futures in the Light of Christ. Help us lay the foundation and raise the walls that will preach the gospel to those who will *Come to Learn...* and *Leave to Evangelize*.



*Top Left: Students of early IHM in the 1980's. Top Right: Brother Hugh MacIsaac the founder of our Saint Benedict Center and spirit behind our work. Bottom left: Volunteers help Brothers raise the first walls of the present school building in the 1990's. Bottom Right: Sisters stand outside the “almost finished” school building in the 1990's.*



## Leading in Spirit

A big part of the academic year for IHM high school students is promoting and participating in pro-life activities. Students often visit pray as a group outside of the Planned Parenthood in Worcester MA., and attend the March for Life in D.C. annually. Other student sponsored works include billboard campaigns and fund-raiser events for nearby pro-life facilities.





*Sister Agnes Mary takes stock in the True Devotionals gift shop here on the monastery grounds.*

## Gifts for Consecrated Souls

Ever since our new *True Devotionals Gift Shop* opened about a year ago, it has been pretty much popping with business. The bright happy interior of the new location is much more appealing and lends to some happy shopping as visitors peruse our lovely collection of items which are hand picked (designed by or made) by the Sisters!

While Sister Agnes Mary keeps our shelves stocked with new items constantly appearing, and our volunteers service customers, there is another shop open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week..... online!

We are excited to announce that we are now *shipping world-wide*,

making our *TrueDevotionals.com* available for just about everyone, everywhere! What is even more exciting, is that we have had a tremendous response to our exclusive Sterling Silver True Devotion Rings and Bracelets this year in particular! Orders have been coming in daily from across the country and beyond. Already this year we have sold 500 rings! It is awesome to know that there are so many joining the ranks of Consecrated Souls under the banner of To Jesus through Mary!

We live Total Consecration to Mary and promote it to everyone looking for peace and protection from our Blessed Mother! She will never be outdone in generosity! If you haven't already, pick up "True Devotion to Mary" by Saint Louis Marie de Montfort... make the 33-day preparation as prescribed in the original writing, in our Manual for Total Consecration to Mary. Consecrate yourself to her as soon as possible! Wear the ring or the bracelet (or both!) Live your True Devotion... and know a peace that this world will never be able to give! To Jesus through Mary!



## Catholic Men Unite

The Brothers have an active apostolate of prayer and work that varies from teaching to building and everything in between. It is always exciting to be able to share the spirit of Saint Benedict Center at conferences and vocation fairs. They have attended the Boston and Worcester Mens Conferences for years and this fall also attended the Catholic Men's Conference in Bristol Connecticut for the first time. The conference was attended by 1,200 men and share the work we do at the Center with so many new faces!



*The Sisters moved their vegetable garden to the new field below their orchard this year and had a wonderful harvest! There has been a lot of canning going on... not to mention a bumper crop of potatoes!*

