



FROM THE CENTER

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

All in One Year!

On October 7th, the feast of the Holy Rosary, the official “ground breaking” on the IHM addition began with a blessing of the site. The dramatic clouds and panoramic view of the valley added a majestic drama to the ceremony. Once the blessing was over, Brother Anthony broke the ground with an excavator, in place of the typical gold shovel! Students standing outside the safety fence cheered and applauded while the dirt flew in the wind. Then as they filed back to their classrooms, the Brothers got right to work, excavating the site with heavy equipment lent to us from local companies.

By the end of October the outline of the new building could be seen. The foundation hole was dug and the footings were being poured to underpin the present building and additional footings for the new wing. Tons of re-rods jutting out of the cement awaited the next step, which the New England weather would determine.



In the meantime our campaign to raise the \$200,000 to cover the steel and the rest of the foundation began with Giving Tuesday (the annual global day of giving). We raised almost half of the needed funds from December 1–24! And that is only the beginning. For the first time in all our building endeavors we have made a goal of finishing in one year. Trusting in God and prayers, we know it can happen.

Authentic Catholic education, spanning all subjects,



Brother Anthony Marie breaks ground with our excavator after the blessing of the project!

A couple rooms in the present building get a front row seat to watch the pouring of the footings for the addition.





teaching prayer and morals to today's youth, may seem like a daunting goal but it is the only answer to today's problems. So many people complain about the abysmal ignorance of the Faith in society, yet do nothing. This is your chance to pitch in with a solution. There are plenty of people who can point to the problems, but what we need are people who are willing to do something to solve them!

Please consider making a donation through mail or online at www.saintbenedict.com or directly to the school site www.immaculateheartschool.org. Our one-year goal is just 10 months away.....but with your help, we can do it!

Above: Sisters check out the progress near the present IHM School.

Right: Brothers MICM and chaplains stand before the present building of IHM School as the sunset lights the area where new classrooms will stand.



An aerial view of IHM School with the footings being poured for the expansion. Nearby is seen Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel and in the distance (above the cross of the chapel) can be seen MacIsaac Hall and Gym.

A Still River Christmas



the Brothers and Sisters sing carols before the Mass and enjoy the timeless beauty of a little chapel that welcomes the Christ Child! This year we were blessed to have a Solemn High Mass offered by Father Daniel Becker at midnight!

Sisters carol to the newborn King before trekking to the convent after Midnight Mass! The reflective stripes the Sisters are wearing keep them safe in the dark!



Above: Jim Gaskell, center, stands with Father Martel, Sister Katherine Maria, Brother Peter Mary and Deacon James Rock.

Left: Father Becker and Brother Peter Mary MICM, stand behind Sophia Chen, Tristan and Francis Miyata who wear the white robes of the newly baptized.



Born Catholic (Through Baptism)

On November 1st, Sister Katherine Maria and Brother Peter Mary became godparents at an extraordinary conversion. Their godchild was 93 years old! Mr. "Jim" Gaskell and his wife Gwen are neighbors of Montfort Retreat in Washington, NH, where Jim came to know the Brothers and Sisters through their work with the youth. A deep thinker and avid reader, Jim was already quite spiritual and always intrigued by the Catholic Faith. Frequent interaction with the religious when they were in the area gave him a chance to get answers in a friendly way designed by Providence! After studying for many months with Brother Peter, Jim was baptized on the Feast of All Saints at Saint Mary's Church in Hillsboro, NH. We were honored to attend the baptism and celebrate with Jim on this momentous occasion.

Francis Miyata, Tristan Miyata, and Sophia Chen, culminated their search for the Truth when they received the sacrament of Baptism on November 18, 2019. The Miyata brothers live in Bolton, just down the road

from the Center here in Harvard MA. But it was through their discovery of the writings of the Church Fathers that drew them to seek the Faith and the Traditional Mass. After extensive study with Brother Peter Mary, MICM, these fine young people were granted the Gift of Faith and all three were baptized by Father Dan Becker in Saint Theresa's Church here in Harvard.

May God bless these new members of the Church Militant through their lives and guide them to their Eternal Reward!

Keeping Christ in Christmas



Sisters prepare their table of goods the night before the Christmas Festival.

learned some new techniques, and the children decorated gingerbread men, made jewelry or evergreen kissing balls! A mountain of donated prizes stood next to a paper-mâché chimney and kids took off their shoes and climbed into Santa's boots to toss a present into it. Three successes and they could pick a present... the excitement lasted all day!

It was nice to pick up a home-baked item, fill a bag at the "cookie exchange" or taste Father Paul's stunning Jubilee Pudding. Homemade jams and a variety of crafts made at the convent gave participants a chance to buy unique gifts, including a 100% convent-made Infant Jesus ready for your creche! High school students surprised the crowd with a "flash mob" caroling concert. Even some of the dads of students took the stage and sang their favorite songs. The day was so unique with its warm camaraderie, joy and peace that one person said, "Usually I like to fast forward after Thanksgiving to the 4th of July....but now I really am in the Christmas spirit!" A new tradition has been born at SBC!



Families enjoyed the day at this festive event!



Signed-Up SBC!

Thanks to the Father Sipperly Foundation, we recently had a number of new signs made on the eastern side of the monastery. Now everyone will be able to find the Gym, Gift shop, workshops and Convent easily!

Even if you don't live nearby, you can "stop by" the monastery and gift shop online by visiting our monastery website:

www.saintbenedict.com

and our gift shop website:

www.truedevotionals.com