



FROM THE CENTER

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

Picking up the Pace!

The Brothers have been making up for lost time on the IHM School Expansion Project throughout September and October! The skeletal structure of the first floor is now visible and the goal is to have the roof on before Christmas.

Before the framework began, however, the CMU block firewalls had to be built between the buildings, as well as an elevator shaft and a three-story fire-safe stairwell. Joseph Maney, a stone mason by trade, has been tirelessly working to finish the project while the good weather lasts. A graduate from IHM in 1994, Joe and his wife Sarah are Third Order members at IHM Chapel. The completed stairwell is 30 feet high for three levels of stairs, while the elevator shaft on the opposing wall is even taller.

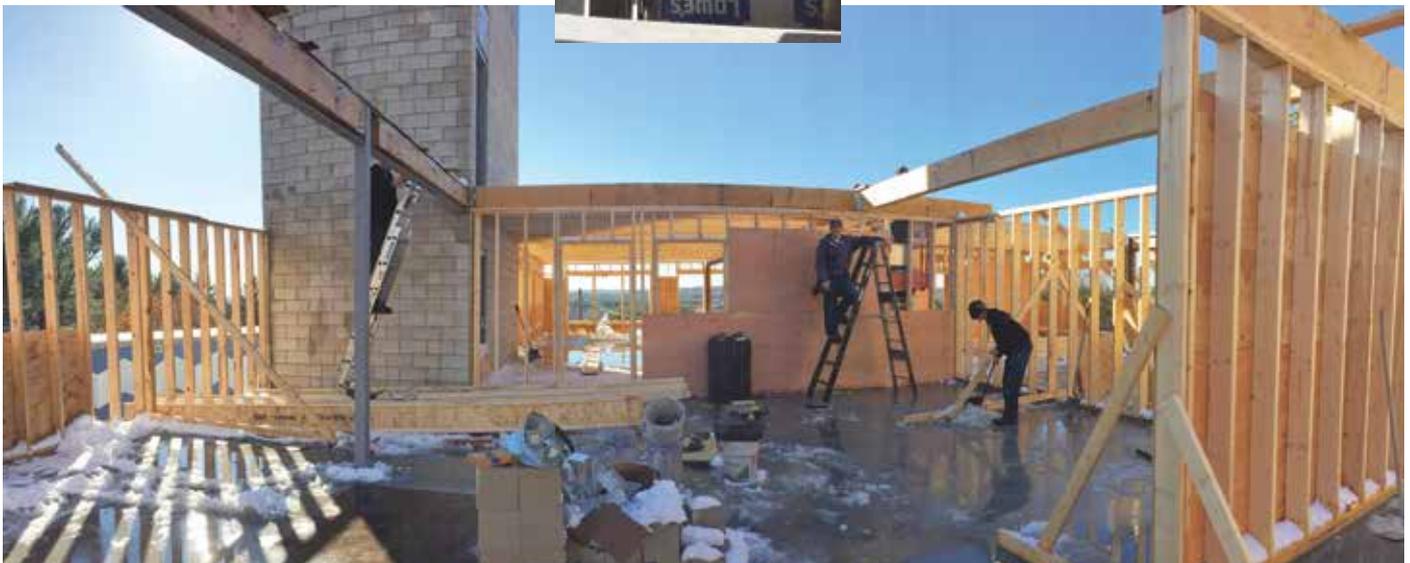
The Brothers, master builders, having already built six of the twelve buildings on the monastery, and the 15 cabins and 7 buildings at Montfort Retreat, are working with Joe and the rest are busy with the other levels of construction.

The walls and windows on the first floor



The framing for the first floor begins as Joseph Maney finishes the necessary blockwork for the structure.

Below: Brothers shovel off the first snow of the season and keep moving forward!





Above: Brothers get ready to raise the first framed wall in early October.

Right: Saint Philomena's statue waits for the construction to reach her perch atop the firewall.

Below: Sisters enjoy peeking in on the progress after the work for day is finished.



have been framed and raised up and now the beams for the second story floor are being installed. Fire-treated lumber is being used for the perimeter walls and "I" joists for the larger spans on the first floor. This space on the first floor will be used as a larger kitchen and larger dining rooms for our growing Religious community. The present dining room will be renovated later into a larger library and meeting room for the school, and the old kitchen will serve many creative and science classes.

Saint Philomena has been designated as our patroness for the project, and a statue of this powerful little saint is perched high on the firewall, overlooking progress. "Our goal is to reach her before the snow flies," said Brother Anthony Marie, MICM, the supervisor of the IHM School Expansion Project. At the rate they are going, it is looking very possible... but New England winters are no joke!

If the crew of Brothers and volunteers are going to reach their objective, it's going to take a lot of hard work, prayer and generous donors!

As we approach the final months of 2020, and the season of "Giving Tuesday," please consider supporting the IHM School Expansion Project. Once we get these walls and joists firmed up we will jump up to the next floor which will have 4

large classrooms! With these new classrooms and the reconfiguration of the existing rooms, the enrollment of IHM will be able to double!

Every gift towards this project directly supports Traditional Catholic Education and our Catholic Future! God will reward you abundantly!





Volunteers: Reward to Come!

Rose Window Repair

Recent visitors to Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel immediately notice that our rose window above the altar is missing! The window, which depicts the Immaculate Heart of Mary surrounded by the five Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary, is the climax to the sets of windows on both sides of the chapel depicting the Joyful and Sorrowful Mysteries. The New England weather has done a lot of damage to the main window which has been a glorious backdrop to the Sacred Liturgy for over 40 years. The rotting framework became unsafe and it's no small job to re-frame an 8-foot round window! Thanks to two volunteers the frame is being built and replaced by the master carpentry skills of Luke Austin and Thomas Oldfield. The six large sections of the stained

glass were removed and the framework is being worked on in our Saint John Bosco woodshop. In the meantime, the plain glass holds the place in anticipation for the return of the beautiful stained glass.

Convent Reflections

During the onset of the lockdown in March, while the world stood still, Sister Brigid Mary, under the direction of Sr. Christopher Margaret, took "Timothy," our new tractor with a backhoe attachment, and began making a Koi pond at the top of our convent orchard. The Sisters dug a hole that would eventually turn into the beautiful site it is now, thanks to Mr. Mike DiVerdi. Mike, whose artistic flair, experience on heavy machinery and many hours of generous work, fixed up our work and turned the pond into a true haven of beauty and peace! It was a popular place during our three-day silent retreat before renewing our vows this past August! Mike, who has had the experience of building a Koi pond on his own property, saved our first attempt digging with our backhoe! May God reward him for taking the time for this project! We love it!



Bazaar Success

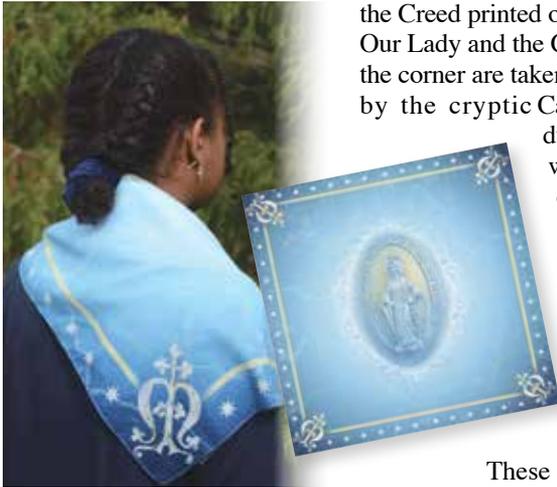
Thanks to the pie-makers, the yardsale pricers, the food booth chefs and all those who helped in so many ways, the IHM Bazaar was a success once again this year! The annual fall event took place on Saturday, October 10, 2020, in two locations on the monastery property to accommodate state Covid regulations. The giant Yard Sale had its usual place on the front lawn of IHM Chapel and the food booths and bakery table were located in front of MacIsaac Hall. We missed the usual music, games and clothing/craft areas but it was still a successful day! The Bazaar totaled an amazing \$24K, which is a big boost for our IHM School Expansion Project!

It was wonderful to see many campers come by, as we missed seeing them this summer – and a few from Connecticut brought along an unexpected gift! Emma Lekovich presented us with over \$1,200 ... the fruit of the fund-raising that she and her friends Claire, Anna, and Giovanna, (also campers) had taken upon themselves to raise for our school project! What a surprise! May God reward them ... and all those who helped raise funds through the Fall Bazaar!



GRACEful Scarves...

A new addition to our products at True Devotionals Gift Shop makes its debut this Christmas: two beautiful scarves designed to proclaim your Faith in fashion. These new E-veil-gelizing tools allow you to start conversations on the Faith wherever you go. Measuring 36" x 36" the "Miraculous Medal Scarf" showcases a soft batik-like image of the Immaculate Conception of the medal in beautiful tones of blue. Each corner has the symbol of *Mary* and twelve stars, similar to the image has on the back of the medal.



The new "Miraculous Medal Scarf" is a beautiful Blessed Mother blue and displays a lovely image of the Miraculous Medal in the center! This delicate scarf is such a graceful way to evangelize.

The "Credo Scarf" is also 36"x36" and has the Creed printed over a Japanese style image of Our Lady and the Christ Child. The symbols on the corner are taken from a samurai symbol used by the cryptic Catholics to identify each other during the persecution in Japan where the last priest was exiled or executed in 1665. For two hundred and fifty years Catholics in Japan handed down their Faith to their children with only one sacrament that they could administer – Baptism – along with the Creed and devotion to Our Lady. When a missionary finally returned to the shores of Japan, he discovered an amazing community of Catholics intact with the Faith.

These limited edition scarves are available for \$28.00 each. Be sure to shop at TrueDevotionals.com to get them while they last!



The new "Credo Scarf" is held out to show the beautiful artwork and detail on this unique design.

Christmas Shopping: 1 Purchase = 2 Gifts!

'Tis the season for Christmas shopping... and we are stocking up the lovely items in our True Devotionals Gift Shop for all the Catholics out there! Whether you're shopping in our handsome little store here on the monastery grounds, or in our up-to-date online gift shop... every gift you purchase is not only a treasure for the receiver... but it is a gift to the monastery as well! By shopping at TrueDevotionals.com you directly support the Traditional Catholic life and works of the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Saint Benedict Center – and you will be blessed for that! So this Christmas season shop at Truedevotionals.com and give Gifts x 2!

Requiescant in Pace



Laura Ann Jones – 86, the mother of Sister Mary Germaine, MICM, passed away on August 28, 2020 in Kansas. Laura had two favorite sayings: "Everything happens for the best," and "This, too, shall pass." They summarize her simple faith and her perpetual optimism. She firmly believed that

God is always in control, that He will work good out of any situation. This point was proven when she calmly passed into eternity with family at her side, a priest present to bless her on her way, and a Rosary in her hand. Laura is survived by her husband of 63 years, Jim Jones, Sr., and her eight children, 51 grandchildren; 52 great grandchildren; and 1 great-great grandchild! May she rest in Peace!



Andrea Bacon – 49, the mother of Postulant Matthew Bacon, passed away October 4, 2020. Daughter of Edward Foss and the late Betty (Riddle) Foss, she graduated from Shepaug Valley High School in Washington, CT. She then studied aviation and obtained her pilot's license, following in the footsteps

of her father who was a Navy pilot. Andrea married Matthew Bacon, Sr. and devoted the rest of her life to raising her four children, Matthew, Elizabeth, Nicholas and Annemarie; all of whom attended/attend IHM School. Andrea had the ability of making new friends wherever she went, and will be missed by all who knew and loved her. May she rest in peace!