



FROM THE CENTER

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



Raising the Rafters!

Thanks to the response to our appeal on Giving Tuesday, we were able to purchase the 80 trusses needed for the roof of the addition. The truck load of 44-foot-wide, 16-foot-tall trusses arrived just before Christmas and were quickly protected from the winter weather.

Although our nine Brothers MICM enjoyed their Christmas break...no sooner had the Magi left, when the big crane arrived on January 8th to hoist up the first section of roof trusses! It was incredible to watch as the building be-

gan to take its full shape and size within a matter of hours! But that was just the beginning! Now the Brothers had to secure each truss with 6 to 16 pieces of hardware (depending on the load it will carry) connecting it to the attic deck. Some of this hardware needs from 26 to 50 screws to hold them in place. This time consuming job has lasted right into February. Thanks to a large number of volunteers (some driving almost two hours to get here) the progress has moved steadily along.

Next step will be putting up the gable end walls with the cantilevered 2x10 overhangs for the fascia board and the small roof for the stair tower and the over-build from the old school onto the new. Once those are down we will finish the 3/4 plywood roof and work on the soffits, fascia and trim. Then the porches, decks and shed roofs so that we are ready for the shingle and metal roofing. At this point, the completion of this phase will probably bring us to Easter.

Over the past year, God has shown in many ways that He is pleased with our school expansion project. Soon the classrooms and hallways will be filled with souls eager to learn the Faith and academia in a Traditional Catholic school setting, where almost all the teachers are religious. Join us in this important work by contributing to the IHM School Expansion Project and by supporting us with your prayers!

Visit the monastery website www.saintbenedict.com for updated footage and photos of the project! Stay tuned for updates!

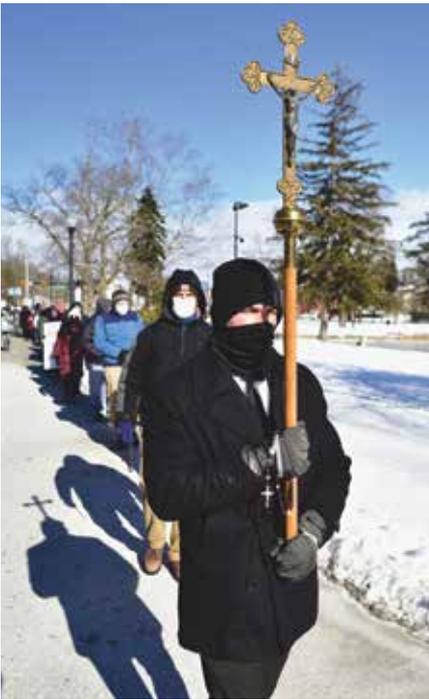


Above: Brother Anthony Marie stands on the top floor of the addition with the project patroness, Saint Philomena, nearby.



Left: The crane lifts trusses into place.

Standing for Life



The 2021 March for Life in Washington D.C. was “physically” cancelled but instead many mini-marches have taken place all over the country! Saint Benedict Center organized its own in nearby Worcester, MA, (the infamous city where “the pill” was invented) coinciding with what would have been the D.C. march. About 200 supporters of the pro-life cause were not deterred by 12-degree temperatures as they prayed and sang hymns from Elm Park to the Planned Parenthood abortion facility on Pleasant Street.

“The intention was to hold a prayerful and peaceful demonstration against Roe v. Wade. The marchers



proceeded from Elm Street to

Planned Parenthood and back again to the park while praying the rosary, singing hymns, and reciting various litanies,” Brother Thomas reported. “There was plenty of support from those passing by and all was peaceful from beginning to end.”

The prayerful march was led by Postulant Matthew Bacon carrying the processional crucifix. Prayers, litanies and hymns were led by Father Becker and Brother Peter Mary, MICM.

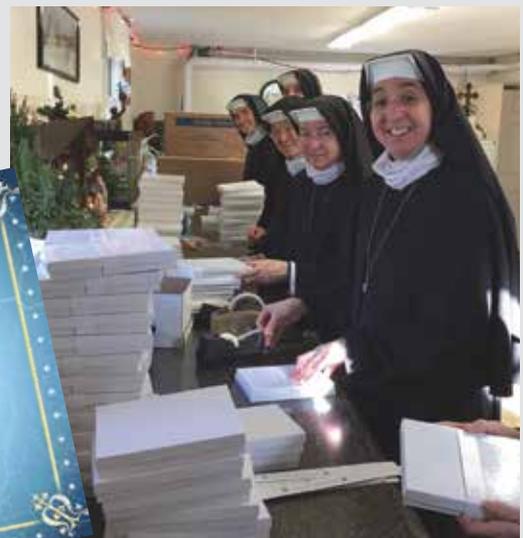
Students from IHM School, St. Thomas Aquinas School in Warren, and members of the broader Catholic community participated as well as a number of local families and pro-lifers from other organizations. Now, more than ever, we cannot let the momentum to reverse Roe v. Wade stop.



More of Mary!

When our new chiffon “Hail Mary” scarves and “Credo” scarves were packaged up and advertised, we weren’t fully prepared for the tremendous response we got! Since the day it was first advertised, the “Hail Mary Scarf” especially, has been flying off the shelf! Within a month we sold over 250 and almost as much of the “Credo” scarves. We have re-ordered our unique custom design three times!

It’s just proof that Our Lady is the key to so many hearts and souls and that her devotees are never lacking. It is so reassuring in these strange times to know that we are not alone and the triumphant Immaculate is ever with us! As Saint Bernard said, “Of Mary there is never enough” ...and there really isn’t!



Sisters package Hail Mary Scarves that were quickly sold!

It's Sugar Shack Season

With lumber cut on our own sawmill, a lovely little sugar shack was constructed in the backyard of Saint Elizabeth's Convent by the Brothers during the March lock down. This log cabin structure was a challenge to their creativity an enjoyable distraction from the Covid frenzy.

Sister Brigid Mary, a native of Vermont, has been the motivator for this project, tapping trees and collecting gallons of sap (40 gallons to 1 gallon of syrup) for a number of years now. She has been boiling down the sap in a make-shift set-up in a heavy duty garage tent. Now, thanks to the Brothers, she's got a real Sugar Shack, where she can more efficiently work during the "sugaring season." Next year she will need to address the homemade stove contraption that is about to fall apart.



Above: The Sugar Shack where the maple syrup is made here at the monastery.

Left: Sister Brigid boils down maple sap assisted by our two trusty labs. It takes 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of maple syrup!

At this point we are not making enough to sell, outside of small containers in the gift shop...but maybe someday we will when the operation is staffed full time. There is nothing like the smell of maple syrup in the cold winter air!

Ever New

Sister Brigid Mary and Sister Marie-Celine took on the challenge of making a new stable for our chapel nativity scene this year! The previous one was made by the late Brother Joseph, 20 years ago and because of storage difficulties, it began to fall apart. The new creche was made by the Sisters in such a way that it could be dismantled and stored completely flat!



Over the years, the chapel manger has grown with additional figures of barn critters that add to the ambiance and warmth of the scene. It is a real delight to see the children kneel before it during the whole Christmas season. Unknown to most visitors, though, is the origin of the green cloth that the stable sits on, which is embroidered with the words: My Lord and My God. This altar cover was given to us by a Sister from Molokai, who worked with the lepers. It once covered the altar at the church on the island built by Saint Damian. It is one of the treasures of Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel.



It's still wintry cold here in Still River... so it's the perfect time to announce a few new products designed and sold exclusively at our monastery shop that will help keep you warm! The Sisters designed these two high quality knit scarves with reversible designs that are boldly Catholic! It is time to show your colors... and these scarves are a great way to do it!

Viva Cristo Rey ~ Reversible Scarf

The "Viva Cristo Rey Scarf" is an eye-catching reversible scarf with an incredible story behind it! For almost 100 years, the words "Viva Cristo Rey" (Long Live Christ the King) have echoed in the hearts and lives of Catholics throughout the world. Countless people, like Blessed Miguel Pro and the Cristeros stood up for their Faith in the midst of persecution. They were not afraid to show it! This exclusive scarf is red on one side and black on the other, with the words "Viva Cristo Rey" in white and the symbol of the cross and the crown on both sides. Its a distinctly Catholic scarf with a strong message!

Hail Mary ~ Reversible Scarf

The new "Hail Mary Scarf" is designed by, and made for those who truly love Our Lady! This unique scarf is as beautiful in quality as it is in design! Every devotee of the Blessed Mother will love it and wear it with affectionate devotion! The crisp, attractive design is not only impressive and the knit of a very high quality... but every time you wear this scarf it is a prayer! This exclusive scarf is a reversible design in beautiful blues with the words "Hail Mary" and a symbol of Our Lady and crown of stars in white. It is a stylish scarf with a great message ~ and a prayer!

Both scarves are 100% Acrylic and measure 60"x 6.75" including fringe. Visit our website and online shop to watch great videos about these scarves! *Order at www.TrueDevotionals.com.*



The Sisters love their Hail Mary Scarves!

Requiescant in Pace



Sarah Jane Kearns – 14, of Abita Springs, Louisiana called home to God on January 7th, 2021 after a brief and intense battle with cancer. She was home schooled and was an excellent student as well as a chorister of the Latin Mass Girl's Choir of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Latin Mass Community in Covington. A talented pianist, with a love for drawing, Sarah Jane enjoyed attending Morning Star Camp at our Montfort facility and also at the mini-camps in Louisiana. May this sweet girl rest in peace!

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Muriel Brooks – 82, passed to eternity on January 12, 2021. Muriel graduated from Bates College with a degree in mathematics after which she met and married her husband, Richard Brooks, who predeceased her. The couple lived in Bedford where they raised their two sons. After retiring from the Mitre Corporation, Muriel spent many years teaching high school math at Immaculate Heart of Mary School. Muriel was very devoted to the Latin Mass will be greatly missed. May she rest in peace!

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