Fall 2021

FROM THE CENTER

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

Profession and Novitiate

Sister Gabriel Marie Trimble, MICM, receives the veil and crown of roses of Final Profession as a Bride of Christ on the feast of the Queenship of Mary. Sister met the community when she first attended Morning Star Camp in 2011.

The Queenship of Mary, May 31, 2021, was celebrated with full glory here at the monastery! At the Offertory of the Sung Mass for the feast, Sister Gabriel Marie Trimble made her Final Profession of Vows as a Slave of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. After signing her vows on the altar, Sister received a blessed veil and crown of roses symbolizing a Bride of Christ. Thanks be to God, the travel restrictions of the past year were lifted, allowing most of Sister's family to travel from as far as Arizona, Indiana, and Ohio to be present at the event!

The Holy Sacrifice continued after the Profession Ceremony. Following the Communion Verse, postulant Christel Lim was accepted as a novice, receiving the habit and white veil, as well as a new name in religion: Sister Mary Anne. Sister now begins her two-year program of study and formation before First Vows. Over 50 viewers from Singapore watched the event live-streamed, and joined with their sister and friend in heart and spirit.

A formal luncheon for family and those representing family followed. More photos of this lovely day can be viewed on the Sisters' site: SistersMICM.com

Sister Mary Anne, novice, is congratulated by the Sisters after taking the habit and her new name in religion. Originally from Singapore, Sister came to know of our Order through friends in her Latin Mass community.

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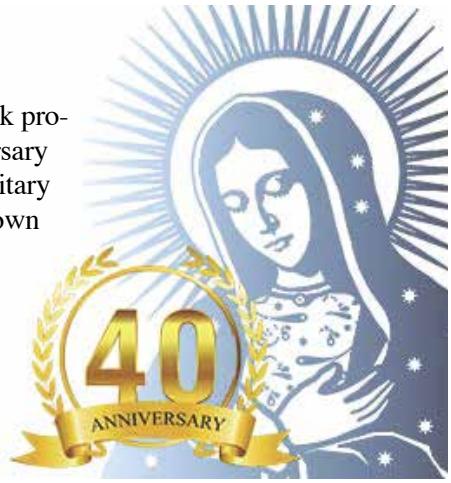
40 Years of Morning Star!



Morning Star Camp celebrated its 40th season this summer with four one-week programs that were packed with campers! While gathering footage for a short anniversary video, we are amazed that time has flown by so fast. What started in borrowed military tents in the convent backyard in 1982, has now graduated to the log cabins at our own Montfort facility.

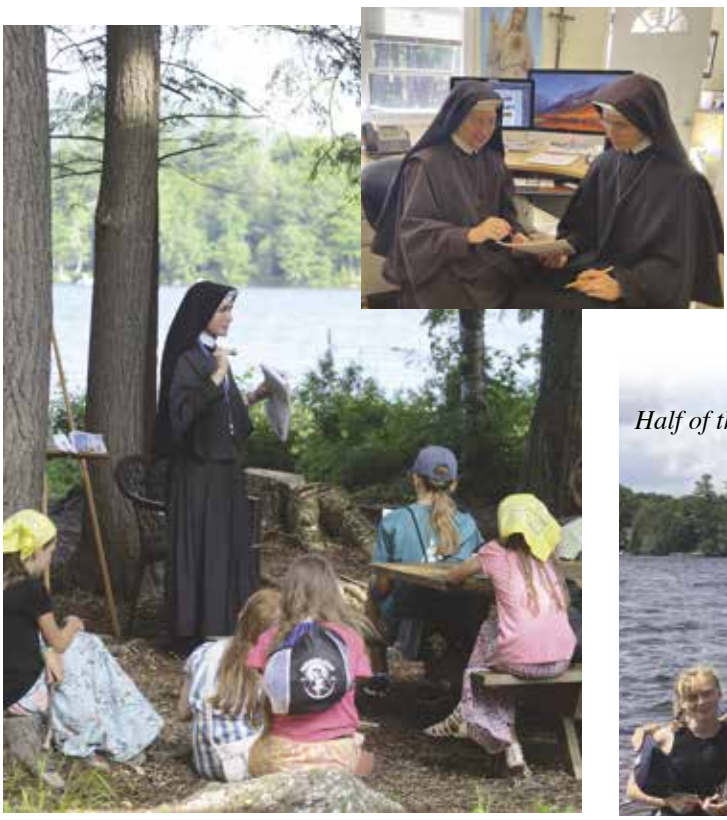
We finally built our own facility which opened in 2008, and has welcomed hundreds of campers from across the country each summer ever since. There is a second generation of campers now attending… children of campers!

Above: The first Morning Star Camp in the convent backyard, and one of our four weeks during this past summer.

This year was a first for our new directress, Sister Marie-Celine who has been acting as secretary to Sister Katherine Maria. Sister Katherine has been directing the camp since it began and has passed on the baton this anniversary year. Sister Marie-Celine and her assistant, Sister Marie-Bernard, both having attended as campers for many years, will now direct the future of Morning Star Programs.

There is something irresistible about our simple program that makes it so much more than just an average summer camp. It is a place where stories of Faith are shared, life-long friendships made, vocations sparked, and Catholic life vitalized. There isn't anything in particular that attracts campers… it's everything. It's all for Jesus through Mary.

For 40 years Morning Star Camp has never been advertised, yet it grows yearly… for one reason only: it is a program dear to the sweet heart of Our Lady. May she continue to bless her Morning Star campers, past, present and future!



Left: Sister Katherine Maria discusses schedules with the new camp directress, Sister Marie-Celine.

Half of the Sisters' community had once been Morning Star campers!

Expansion Update

The exterior of IHM Expansion Project is now a lovely structure, completing the New England style school building. Windows and siding are on most of it and the wrap-around porch is being constructed with our own milled beams.

Although the addition looks great from the exterior, the interior is still far from finished. With another New England winter ahead, the Brothers continue to seal and weather-proof the building so that during the winter months they can start the more intricate interior work. The plumbing, electricity, wall boards, flooring, lights, and heating are all challenging and expensive. Please consider making a donation to help speed along the progress!

Above: The expansion begins to blend with the original building! Brother Gerard and Brother Peter Mary stand on the porch on the rear side of the addition.

Above: Siding and windows in the south side of the addition.

Right: Someday this will be the refectories for the monastery!

Right: The third floor of the addition will eventually be space for the school's music room and art room.

Happy Campers in Idaho

The state of Idaho again hosted both Montfort Boys Camp and Morning Star Girls Camp this summer… on the same week… but ironically at completely opposite ends of the state!

Montfort Boys Camp

Four Brothers flew out to direct the Montfort day-camp program in Eagle, Idaho, at the beginning of August. This is the second year for the camp in Idaho and sixty enthusiastic campers were signed up for the day program held at Twin Oaks Farm. The balance of catechism, sports, music, competitions and relays kept everyone moving from start to finish!
We send special thanks to Chris and Megan Cheek, Twin Oaks Farm, volunteer Dads, and all those who helped make Montfort Boys Camp in Idaho possible again this year!

Morning Star Camp at Ross Point (above) and the parish day-camp for smaller campers seen at left.

Morning Star Girls Camp

Meanwhile, the Sisters brought Morning Star Camp program to Saint Joan of Arc Parish in Post Falls, Idaho, where they directed for the third year, two camps, an overnight and a day-camp.

The 4-day overnight camp took place at a nearby facility called Ross Point, and was attended by 50 eager girls ages 9–17. There, the Morning Star schedule of Faith was integrated into a day packed with activities centered around our spirituality of "To Jesus through Mary." Sport activities were embellished by the amenities of the camp ground. On the last day no one wanted to leave!

When that was finished, a 2-day day-camp took place on the parish grounds for girls ages 5–12 and was attended by 45 happy campers! Special thanks to Father Gordon, the staff of Saint Joan of Arc Parish, our volunteer counselors, and all those who helped make Morning Star Idaho shine once again this summer!

New Inspiring Gifts from SBC

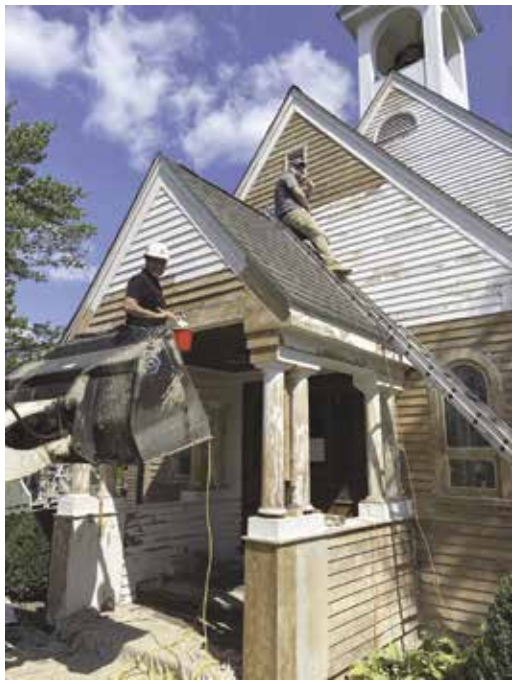
The Sisters have designed some beautiful coffee mugs and unique denim aprons available only at our shop! You will want to browse our selection on our e-shop at TrueDevotionals.com.

Monastery Upkeep

While camps are going on, and the School Expansion Project never stopped… there are still lawns to be mowed and many other maintenance projects that the Brothers tackle behind the scenes.

At the end of August, the peeling paint on IHM Chapel could no longer be ignored. So the weekend before school started, 30+ volunteers showed up to help the Brothers scrape the entire 30' high wooden building before painting it.

With all the selfishness in today's society, this was nothing short of miraculous. God bless you all.



A crew of volunteers helped the Brothers prepare IHM Chapel for a new paint job! May God bless them one and all!

Music for Mary

The Sisters love to sing, whether in the choir loft, Morning Star campfires, conferences, events, or even in the car… they never get tired of it!

Over the years, the Sisters have made only two CDs…..one with the Brothers called "Christmas in Still River" and the other is a hum-able collection of Morning Star Camp originals, and not-so-originals called "This Faith is What I Love." But now we are planning a few new ones!

Dan and Marian Kelly have volunteered to act as managers, doing all the ground work for the recording as well as putting them online for purchase. We could never have fit this into our busy schedule, unless driven by the enthusiasm of the Kellys!

We hope to finish the first one this fall… so stay tuned for a new CD from the Sisters at our shop!

Above: Sisters sing at the Old Home Day in Washington, NH, in August and at Saint Teresa's Church in Henniker, NH, in September.

Retreating to Montfort

The Annual Men's Retreat took place on September 10–11 at our Montfort Retreat facility. Forty men from the New England area attended the 24-hour silent retreat. Religious conferences were given by Father Becker and the Brothers MICM, and Mass and Benediction were offered by Father Becker. It was a wonderful time of spiritual refreshment in a world full of anxiety.

Sacrament of Confirmation

A group of our students received the sacrament of Confirmation in the Traditional Rite from Bishop McManus on the Feast of Corpus Christi, June 3rd, at the beautiful Church of Saint John the Evangelist in Clinton, MA. It was quite a moving ceremony in the Traditional Rite. May these young soldiers of Christ be our bright Catholic future!

Requiescant in Pace

Rita Lombardi – 102, passed away peacefully at home on July 6, 2021. Rita and Anthony raised their six children in New Jersey, re-locating to Massachusetts to be near Saint Benedict Center in the '70's. Their youngest is Brother Matthew, MICM, Prior. Always actively involved in the many parishes and communities where she resided, Rita became the first woman to run for county clerk on the pro-life ticket for Westchester, New York.

A woman of great faith and a daily communicant, Rita enjoyed many years as a Saint Benedict Center Third Order Member. She volunteered at the Center's gift shop until well into her nineties and remained a devout member of the Universal Living Rosary Association. Affectionately known to so many as "Nana," she was the proud matriarch to generations of her loving family. Rest in peace, Nana!

Joseph Anderson – 25, passed away unexpectedly on August 25, 2021. Joseph was the son to the late Marc E. Anderson and Sheila Anderson. He and his three siblings were raised directly across the street from IHM School which he attended for 12 years, graduating in 2014. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends and the community of Saint Benedict Center. Rest in peace, Joseph!

Angelo Nicoloro – 18 months, passed away suddenly in an accident on June 19, 2021. He was the youngest son of Robert and Kathleen Nicoloro, whose children attend IHM. The deep faith of the family was manifested in their heroic acceptance of God's will. The Mass of the Angels was celebrated for Angelo, and we await the day we see him in Heaven. Pray for us, Angelo!