January 2023

FROM THE CENTER

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

This is the Year!

The new year dawned with an exciting announcement from Brother Thomas Augustine, Superior: September 2023 will see the opening of the addition of IHM School! The occupied classes this year will be moved to the new expansion so that the renovation of the old school building can begin. How exciting! The move will mean bigger classrooms, larger library, science lab, real offices for the Principals, and more restrooms… not to mention a music classroom and an art room with a sink!

Brother Anthony Marie, the project manager, explains some of the construction process to a few of the Sisters.

Contractor and Master Electrician, Luke Austin (IHM Class of 1999) works in the basement of the new addition.

Our Giving Tuesday campaign was a great success, and we heartily thank all those who so generously contributed. The $10,000 Matching Gift was met, and our goal of $25,000 was exceeded! All combined, the total raised was $35,885. The Advent/Christmas Campaign was again a beautiful reminder that charitable hearts still exist! Surely your alms were recorded in Heaven, and God will bless you, for Scripture says: *Prayer is good with fasting and alms more than to lay up treasures of gold*. (Tobias 12:8)

A tour through the construction site, however, makes it apparent that if we are going to reach our goal of September 2023, there is still a lot of work to do! The Brothers pray and work, and work and pray – and teach – and it is amazing to see the amount of construction they have accomplished!

We trust in Divine Providence to bring this project to completion so that Traditional Catholic Education will be available to more young souls! The Catholic future is in an education that will provide good moral formation to our youth, and by supporting this project you are part of that future.

The Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of SAINT BENEDICT CENTER • P.O. Box 1000 • Harvard, MA 01451
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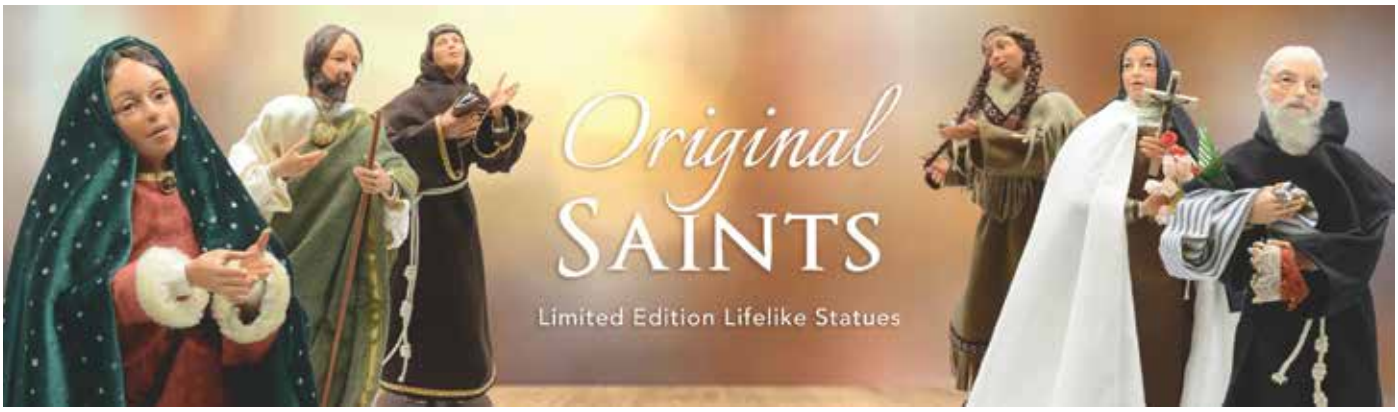

True Original Saints

During the summer of 2022, the Sisters received a call from a gentleman who wanted to make a donation…not money….but hundreds of Saint Dolls!!! His religious shop had closed and he was clearing his storage unit which was filled with figurines. Soon after, the "Te Deum" sewing department began to refresh the statues with new clothes, sewn by our expert convent seamstresses! The collection of "Original Saints" figurines, each measuring 18.5" high, has had a definite makeover! Most of the clothing is hand-sewn by the Sisters MICM along with hand-made accessories, like Saint Kateri's wooden cross and Saint Maximilian Kolbe's eyeglasses. These are true "Original Saints" now! You won't find another one like it anywhere!

Thanks to the Sisters' hard work and love of the Saints, you can now browse *TrueDevotionals.com* and order your own life-like figurine statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Saint Anthony of Padua, Saint Jude, Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Saint Peregrine and Saint Therese of Lisieux! For a limited time only!

Above: Customers sign up to have their new Sister-made leather purchase custom stamped!

Left: Christmas Karaoke was enjoyed by all ages!

Making Spirits Bright

Entering MacIsaac Hall on December 10, 2022, was like a trip back in time... for the Christmas Fair, an event focused on raising Christmas Spirit rather than money, was buzzing with activity!

Nativity scenes, displayed in museum fashion, were on the stage where you could both admire and vote for your favorite. The gym was a little village of quaint booths featuring a variety of treasures from baked goods to convent crafts and everything in between. The young were engaged in gingerbread decorating, ornament making, coloring nativity pictures, and throwing gifts into a chimney to win a prize. There were also bargains to find and Christmas Karaoke with nonstop singing.

It was a fun day, and from the smiles all around, it was evident that the Christmas Fair was a success in its mission to bring Christ back as the center of the celebration.

December 8th

On the feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2022, a Solemn High Mass was offered in IHM Chapel by Fr. Joseph Briody, assisted by seminarians from Saint John's Seminary as deacon and subdeacon, and the Brothers MICM.

The afternoon of the feast day saw the continuation of an event that started last year – a fun and competitive basketball match-up with the IHM Eagles and Brothers vs. the Seminarians! It was a fun afternoon and an exciting game, and the Seminarians won 58-46! We are looking forward to next year's rematch!

IHM Christmas Program

The IHM School Christmas Program took place in MacIsaac Hall on the evening of December 17, 2022. The show was a great display of talent and the successful outcome of all the hard work the teachers and students put into it.

This year Grades 1–3 presented "An Ancient Polish Christmas Legend," which featured a taxidermied bear and an imaginary village in Poland! It was unforgettable! Grades 4–6 presented "The Long Awaited Savior" focusing on the prophecies of the coming of Christ. Students in IHM Band from Grades 7–12 wrapped up the night with a festive Christmas Concert!

You can watch the performances on the school site: *immaculateheartschool.org*!

Deep South Camps

The last camp sessions of Morning Star Camp for Catholic Girls and Montfort Camp for Catholic Boys for 2022 took place in November in Louisiana! Thanks to the hard work of the moms organizing the events, the camps took place simultaneously at separate locations in the Covington area.

This year will see three more "away" camps for Morning Star – Tyler, Texas; Tacoma, Washington; and Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Although the cold was moving in up North, the Louisiana November proved warm and green for the last campers of the year! This was the fourth year for the Morning Star Camp and the second session for the Montfort Boys Camp in LA. The three-day camps got good reviews from happy campers, and the schedule for 2023 in the deep South is already set!

Setting the Pace

Brother Patrick Joseph, MICM, and Brother Louis Marie, Novice, made monastery history this past fall by running the Saint Jude's marathon in Memphis, TN. The Life Runners took a big part in the Saint Jude's Marathon, and the Brothers were so happy to represent the Still River Life Runners at this huge event!

Brother Patrick Joseph and Brother Louis Marie chat with Bishop Paprocki (who also ran the race!) at the Saint Jude Marathon Expo.

Rest in Peace

Rev. Daniel D. Magni, 83, passed into eternity on September 19, 2022. Father Magni was as a Xaverian Brother for 17 years before studying for the priesthood. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1978 and served as a pastor in Lowell, MA. Long-time friend of Saint Benedict Center, Father will always be remembered as an unassuming gentleman and an exemplary priest.

Robert J. "Bob" Kendra, 81, passed away on Monday, October 10, 2022, in Naples, Florida. A civil engineer by trade, Bob came to the rescue when we were building Montfort Retreat. He and the Brothers spent countless hours surveying the property and planning the development of the facility! For the past 19 years, the 2/3 mile driveway he designed has withstood torrential rains without one wash-out! Bob will be remembered in prayer by the hundreds of campers who make their way to Montfort each summer!

Matthew A. McGrath, 65, passed away unexpectedly on January 10, 2023. Marine veteran and avid historian, Matt was also one of the 1812 Marine Guard for the USS Constitution. Many of our students and campers enjoyed his presentations! Matthew and his wife Catherine have been regular attendees at the monastery for many years. Whether it was security for Pro-life 5K or Sunday Mass, Matt was always there. He will be greatly missed.