



FROM THE CENTER

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



Father Becker blesses the 6th grade classroom assisted by Brother Christopher Isaac, MICM.

Finish Line in Sight

The Immaculate Heart of Mary School has now moved into the new addition of the Expansion Project! On Holy Thursday, we received our occupancy permit, and Father Becker blessed the building on Easter Sunday as the Brothers and Sisters sang and the lay people followed in procession through the rooms. It was a memorable and long-awaited moment for everyone. It was also an excellent opportunity to see the building before the classrooms were set up. A new chapter for Saint Benedict Center begins as we expand our apostolate and growing community.

During the final days of our Easter Break, Grades 5–8 classrooms were set up and ready to go. The students were overjoyed and excited as they entered their new classrooms on Monday morning! At last, the day had come! Even though much work remains to merge the two buildings into one planned structure, we are grateful for your prayers and support, which have helped us reach this significant milestone.

The progress leading up to the final inspection was exciting! On March 28, 2025, Religious and students watched as a 22-foot cupola was lifted to the top of the new addition. Despite the windy conditions, the 5,000-pound structure was easily hoisted by a 165-foot crane. We thank Astor Crane Services for generously performing this work free of charge. It was an



Above: Sisters take Saint Philomena (patroness of the project) on an elevator ride after we passed the inspection!

Left: Waiting in the new third floor library during the Blessing.





Above: Luke Austin's masterly crafted shrine, designed for the front entryway of the new addition.

Right: The Brothers mounted the large mosaic station that had been in storage.

Below: A valley side view of the installation of the cupola being lifted into place atop the elevator shaft.

exhilarating event to witness this piece of IHM School history!

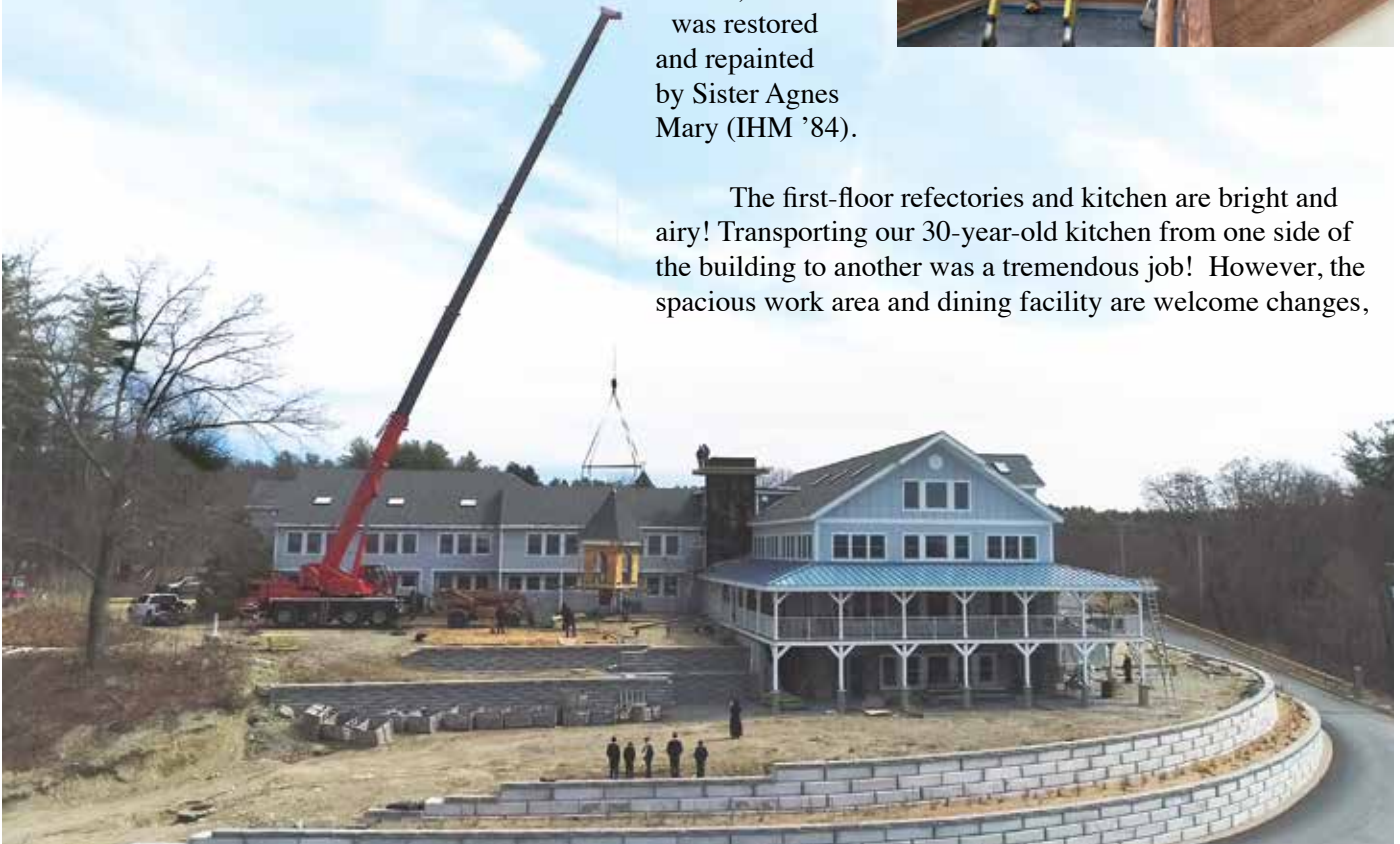
The cupola adds a beautiful finishing touch to the building, although we still need to complete additional trim and stonework before it is fully finished. Eventually, a statue will be enshrined within it, watching over both IHM and the monastery grounds. It is an impressive sight overlooking the valley, and you can enjoy a video of this event on our website!

We were thrilled when the new elevator passed state inspection, allowing us to cross that off our list. The elevator was one of the significant delays in the project, requiring special installation and compliance with safety codes. It is now operational and used to transport equipment and furniture as we settle in.

The addition's entryway features new rubber flooring and is adorned with a lovely shrine to Our Lady. The wooden niche was designed and built by Luke Austin (IHM '99) and holds an almost life-sized statue of Our Lady and the Christ Child, which was restored and repainted by Sister Agnes Mary (IHM '84).



The first-floor refectories and kitchen are bright and airy! Transporting our 30-year-old kitchen from one side of the building to another was a tremendous job! However, the spacious work area and dining facility are welcome changes,



especially as we grow. We had the first dinner in the refectory for the feast of Saint Louis Marie! The old refectories will be converted into a first-grade classroom, and the kitchen will be transformed into an office and an elementary science lab.



On the lower level, overlooking the valley, the function hall recently had a stunning floor poured, and the woodwork, trim, and details are currently being finished. The stone facade on the exterior of this lovely room has already been completed.

We are now well into the final quarter of the academic school year. While the four new classrooms are being used for the first time, we are pleased to announce that the whole facility, including the new Art Room, Music

Room, and Library, will be ready for use by this coming September. Both students and teachers are excited about this change.

In the meantime, during the summer months, parts of the older side of the building will be remodeled and improved to merge the two buildings. We are excited to finally reach this stage of this massive undertaking!

Thank you for your continued support of this project. Every donation, big or small, directly supports Traditional Catholic Education! God will bless and reward you! Please continue to keep us in your prayers.



Making art in the sixth grade classroom.

Brothers MICM Website

On April 28th, the Brothers MICM launched their new website. The launch date was intentionally chosen to coincide with the feast of Saint Louis Marie de Montfort, whose writings and devotion form the cornerstone of their spirituality.

The Brothers MICM site aims to be an engaging and informative resource for those interested in their traditional active religious life. It provides a comprehensive overview of the Brothers' history, mission, and work, highlighting their commitment *"to Jesus through Mary."*

Visit the Brothers online at www.BrothersMICM.com



The Brother Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

The life of a religious Brother consists of a voluntary consecration of the Body of the world through the life of Poverty, Obedience, and Detachment and adherence to the life of total commitment to God alone. It is a radically countercultural calling that is not understood in its complete and authentic meaning without the life of Jesus Christ himself.

"They give their lives all to Jesus, to God, to others, to duty, to prayer, to work, to service, to love for the poor, to the small things of life, and that makes the greatness." (John, 1912)



Holy Week 2025

“Let your door stand open to receive Him, unlock your soul to Him, offer Him a welcome in your mind, and then you will see the riches of simplicity, the treasures of peace, the joy of grace. Throw wide the gate of your heart, stand before the sun of the everlasting light...” ~St. Ambrose

We followed Christ through the sacred rites of the Sacred Triduum, from the solemn Mass and procession of Holy Thursday to the pain and suffering of Good Friday, where we adored the Holy Cross. The quiet expectation of Holy Saturday and the blazing light of Christ shining in the darkness at the Easter Vigil culminated in the glorious beauty and triumph of Easter Sunday.



Photos from the Sacred Triduum at Saint Benedict Center. See the full gallery of photos on our website!

Below: Brothers erect the statues near the crucifix on Holy Thursday.



Once again, we have been blessed to celebrate these traditional rites during the holiest days here at our monastery. God is so good. We now enjoy the presence of the Risen Christ and the “*treasures of peace and the joy of grace*” that He brings. *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

On Holy Thursday, the Brothers installed the marble statues of Our Lady, Saint John, and Saint Mary Magdalene at the marble Calvary scene overlooking the valley. Now, they are working on a drivable path along which the beautiful Carrara marble stations will be installed. Fathers and students joined the Brothers during Easter Week to clear brush and make this shrine an aesthetic place of peace. It’s a monument that Saint Louis de Montfort would have been proud of.



Cardinal Kung Anniversary



The group at the tomb of Cardinal Kung.

Afterwards, a small group gathered for dinner with Cardinal Burke and Archbishop Cordileone as the guests of honor. Archbishop Cordileone celebrated a Solemn High Mass the next day, and Cardinal Burke gave an inspiring sermon. It was a beautiful tribute to the Cardinal's life and legacy and the critical work of the Cardinal Kung Foundation.

Cardinal Kung endured 25 years in communist prison camps in defense of the papacy. It has been a great blessing for the Saint Benedict Center to have known Cardinal Kung and to have been friends with the Kung family and the Foundation for many years.

On March 14th and 15th, the Cardinal Kung Foundation commemorated the 25th anniversary of Cardinal Kung's passing, and we were honored to be invited to a private celebration with the Kung family in San Francisco, CA. Brother Matthew and Brother Peter Mary represented the Brothers, while Sister Agnes Mary, Sister Miriam Teresa, and Sister Marie-Jean represented the Sisters' community.

The events of the weekend began with the recitation of the Rosary at the Cardinal's tomb with his family.



Above: The Sisters with Cardinal Burke.



Left: The Brothers view the Golden Gate Bridge.



Brother Gerard and Brother Thomas Augustine work in Saint John Bosco Wood Shop, creating the new confessional seen at left.



Confessional & Shrine

Since building the IHM Chapel in 1976, the sacristy has functioned as the confessional. As the community grows, as well as the school's enrollment, it has become apparent that a confessional was next on the "to-do" list!

Brother Thomas Augustine, the Superior, took a break from office work to design and construct the confessional from oak in a small alcove outside the sacristy. It looks like it has always been there!

Our shrine to Maria Bambina was moved to a more appropriate place in the chapel's foyer to accommodate the confessional. The Infant Mary is encased in an ornate wood-carved shrine with a kneeler in front. The Sisters look forward to showcasing this devotion on a new website within the next few months!



Above: Our beloved Maria Bambina shrine in its new location in the chapel vestibule is much more accessible.

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Brothers Sing Requiem

We are pleased to announce the release of our new CD featuring the Brothers of the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary alongside a talented ensemble of male singers under the direction of organist and conductor Michael Olbash. Titled “Requiem,” this recording honors the *Missa pro Defunctis*, or traditional Mass for the Dead, drawing its name from the powerful opening words of the Introit: “*Requiem Aeternam Dona Eis, Domine.*” This sacred Mass is a profound expression of prayer and supplication to God for the souls of the faithful departed. The CD features ten distinct musical selections, with “*Subvenite*” as the processional hymn and “*In Paradisum*” as the closing anti-phon. Purchase your copy on TrueDevotionals.com



Meet the Sisters

We often receive requests to speak to confirmation classes, parish groups, or schools. Recently, the Sisters spoke to students at Saint Christopher Academy in Nashua, NH. We are happy to fulfill these requests when possible, knowing that this may be the only opportunity for many children and young adults to see and speak with a religious Sister. Such interactions are important for cultivating vocations.

The Sisters have also participated in several Catholic music events and recently performed a concert at the request of Saint Cecilia’s Parish in Leominster, MA. Traditional music and chant resonate with souls in ways that words alone cannot.

Rest in Peace



Miyoko Hazelrigg, 82, passed peacefully surrounded by family on Sunday,

March 9, 2025. Born in Hiroshima, Japan, Miyoko was the older sister of Sister Miriam Teresa, MICM. A convert, Miyoko took her Faith seriously and was a devoted Catholic mother and long-time associate of Saint Benedict Center. She is survived by her legacy of eight children, their spouses, 23 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Montfort Texas

This year, the Brothers launched the first of the 2025 camps in February. Brother Anthony Marie, Brother Christopher Isaac, and Brother Gerard returned to Texas for the second Montfort Boys Camp in the Tyler area. Although the cold weather from Massachusetts followed them to Texas, the program continued without interruption! Sixty boys participated in this all-Catholic, all-boys camp, a well-established program of the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart for 40 years. The Brothers were pleased to reconnect with many families from the previous year and were delighted to see that the Montfort spirit of “To Jesus through Mary” is thriving in Texas!

