



FROM THE CENTER

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



Despite the summer heat, the Brothers removed the old walkway and installed a beautiful new one.

each room. The floors of the former refectories were refinished, and the room was transformed into a bright first-grade classroom, with a school nurses' station next door.

Additionally, the old kitchen was redesigned to function as a lunch service kitchen, and office. The Brothers are also converting

Top Right: Sisters sand and finish the bookshelves that the Brothers and volunteers made for the new library.

Bottom Right: The 7th grade classroom has a lovely view of the valley.

The New IHM

The 2025-2026 academic year at Immaculate Heart of Mary School (IHM) began on September 3, 2025. Preparation for this year, however, took place throughout the summer with a considerable amount of hard work to prepare the new facilities.

Renovations to merge the old and new sides of the building started immediately after graduation, beginning with the paving of the newly rerouted driveway. Brothers and volunteers removed the old brick walkway and replaced it with a new path leading to the building's entrance.

Old classrooms were enlarged by removing the walls between them and adding closets to





Above: The 5th graders make their way up the new front staircase to their classroom.

overlooking the school campus and chapel. Landscaping has begun, and a new shrine was recently constructed to enhance the front lawn, that will feature a marble statue of Saint Louis Marie de Montfort.

Just a few details remain; and the completion of the Expansion Project is finalized. We are already seeing its positive impact.

Thank you to our generous donors for helping us reach this milestone and for your continued support of Traditional Catholic Education.



Above: Sister Mary Imelda guides the first grade class in her new classroom, which used to be the monastery refectories.

Left: A drone photo of Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel and Elementary School taken on the day of our annual fall Bazaar.



The newly rerouted and paved driveways can be seen, as well as the Crucifixion scene. Behind and below the school can be seen the new playing field and baseball field called Saint Joseph's Field.

the old library into the principal's office and a conference room.

Thanks to the new elevator, books were relocated to a spacious new library on the third floor, where custom-made shelves provide better organization. On same level is the art room, from which can be seen a panoramic view of the valley below and Mount Wachusett, inspiring creativity among our young artists. The basement of the new addition, referred to as the function hall, is currently used as a lunchroom for grades 5 through 8.

Outside, the exterior stone facing of the cupola is finished. Soon the cupola will house a marble statue of Our Lady Help of Christians,



Behind the Scenes

When the Brothers erected the marble Crucifixion scene last year, we did not anticipate the level of attention it would draw to our grounds. Set against the backdrop of the valley and stunning sunsets, many travelers stop by to contemplate this inspiring scene. Indeed, the Cross continues to beckon souls!

The footings for our granite and Carrara marble Stations of the Cross have been laid, and soon, the Stations will be erected. The names of the original donors who contributed to these beautiful Stations are inscribed on an engraved marble monument, serving as a lasting tribute to their generosity.

Above: Brother Louis Marie and Brother Thomas Augustine, MICM Superior, discuss how the stations will be braced. The pathway for the Way of the Cross, to the right of them, will climax at the magnificent 12th Station Calvary seen below.



Universal Church

In August, we had the pleasure of hosting Bishop Siby Mathew Peedikayil from the Aitape Diocese in Papua New Guinea, a country located in Oceania. It was an honor to spend time with this humble and faithful shepherd from the other side of the world. This experience highlighted the universality of the Church, and we look forward to welcoming him again during his next visit to the United States.

Right: Sisters stand with Bishop Siby outside IHM School.



Catholic Identity Conference

What a powerful weekend at the Catholic Identity Conference in Pittsburgh, PA! The event, which took place in October, brought together four holy bishops, along with priests, religious, and laity from around the world. Everyone was united in their love for the truths of the Faith and the Holy Mass.

It was a joy to participate, especially with our Sister Mary Clair, MICM, speaking at the conference. May God bless everyone who contributed to making the conference such a great success!



Above: Sister Mary Clair speaks at the Catholic Identity Conference.



Left: Sisters with Bishop Strickland.

Food for Thought

The expansion of the IHM School building has not only improved the school itself but has also significantly enhanced our monastery's kitchen and refectories. The Sisters sing the praises of the spacious new kitchen daily!



Above: Brothers prepare the reading before dinner in their new refectory.

Right: Sisters and volunteers make apple pies for our fall Bazaar.



The Sisters' new refectory.

As previously mentioned, the old kitchen has been converted into two rooms: an office, and a lunch service/canning kitchen. The Sisters have already enjoyed the extra space during canning season and food preparation for our fall Bazaar.

Now that meals are being served in the new refectories, it's remarkable to see

how much smaller the old rooms look in comparison. We finally have ample space for growth!



Thank you to everyone who helped make these significant improvements possible!

Camp Season Highlights

This summer, a big highlight occurred before the campers even arrived, when the McMinamen family from Buffalo, New York, donated and installed a water purification system at the facility. Their hands-on involvement made a big difference, and we are deeply grateful.



Above: Sisters and Leadership Campers in a procession of the Blessed Sacrament through the camp grounds on Corpus Christi.

Right: Sister Magdalene Marie guides young archers at the archery range.



Above: Montfort boys enter the chapel for evening Rosary and Benediction.



Above: Morning Mass during a session of Morning Star Camp for Catholic Girls.

The Sisters directed four weeks of Morning Star Camps, hosting 100 campers weekly from twenty-five states, with a memorable celebration of the Feast of Corpus Christi on the Montfort Retreat grounds. With the support of generous donors to our Wish List, we have acquired new equipment, and you can view photos on our website.



as well as attending daily Mass and catechism class. This environment allows young men to build friendships and connect with religious Brothers. You can watch Montfort Camp videos on the Brothers' website, www.BrothersMICM.com.

To meet growing demands, the Brothers also took their program to "away camps" in southern Idaho, Texas, and Louisiana. Meanwhile, the Sisters reached groups in Washington, Colorado, and Indiana, concluding their activities in Louisiana. Our Lady takes joy in these programs!



Left: Brother Peter Mary, and Montfort campers enjoy an evening fishing trip aboard our boat, Lepanto!



Arbor made by the IHM High School boys' woodshop.

Of Shrines & Arbors

The final project for the IHM High School Boys' Woodshop for the 2024-2025 year was the design and construction of an oak arbor, completed under the guidance of Brother Gerard. This arbor beautifully frames a painted terracotta statue of Our Lady of Grace, which overlooks the Sisters' koi pond on the convent grounds. We are grateful to the class for this lovely and fitting addition to Our Lady's garden.

In another location, an arbor at Saint Anthony of Padua's garden shrine recently collapsed after

standing for over twenty-five years, leaving the wisteria plant unsupported. After searching online for a replacement, Sister Magdalene Marie, the shrine's gardener and a devotee of Saint Anthony, decided to build a new arbor. On June 2, the Sisters visited Lowe's to purchase

lumber, offering a prayer to Our Lady for guidance. Just as they finished the prayer, a carpenter named Ron approached and asked if he could help. Not only did he assist them in selecting the wood, but he also donated two days of his time to help construct and install the new arbor. Within a week, the new arbor was in place! It felt almost miraculous that the shrine was ready for Saint Anthony's feast on the 13th. May Saint Anthony bless Ron for his generous support!



Sister Magdalene Marie and Ron construct a new arbor for Saint Anthony.

Requiescant in Pace



Grace Rock, age 82, passed away on July 7, 2025. The mother of Sister Brigid Mary, MICM, and a dear friend of our community, Grace was a devoted Catholic and pro-life advocate. She cherished her role as wife and mother above all else.

She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Jim, and leaves a legacy of nine children, 37 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. May she rest in peace.



Richard Thibodeau, age 90, passed away peacefully on August 9, 2025. He was the epitome of hard work, dedication, and love. As a skilled mechanic, Richard traveled from New Jersey for many years to assist the monastery with its automotive

needs. A true Catholic gentleman, he was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He will be greatly missed.



Jimmy Palmer, 80, of Sun City West, Arizona, passed away on June 18, 2025. He was the loving husband of Diana and the grandfather of Sister Gabriel Marie, MICM. Lovingly known as "Dude," Jimmy was a "gentle giant" with his formidable

height and quiet demeanor. He was hard-working and multi-talented. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



John Carr, age 65, passed away on September 11, 2025, after a long illness. Originally from Brockton, Massachusetts, he and his wife, Margie, served on the Police Department before retiring and moving to New Hampshire. He was also a former

coordinator of the Third Order of Saint Benedict Center. He is survived by his loving wife, six children, and 10 grandchildren.