Fall 2026

FROM THE CENTER

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



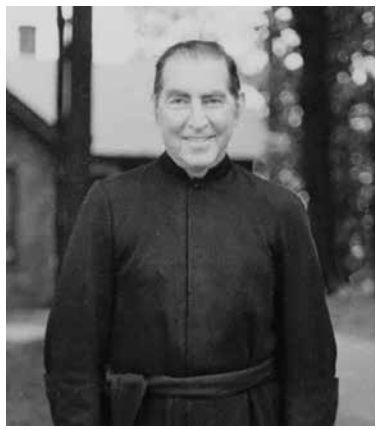
Sister Mary Anne signs her Final Vows on the altar of IHM Chapel on the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, August 22.

50 Years of "True Devotion"

Monastery Celebrates Golden Jubilee

On August 22, 2026, the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Saint Benedict Center at 282 Still River Road in Harvard, celebrated its 50th anniversary!

We give special thanks to God for Brother Hugh MacIsaac, who founded our community in 1976, and for the many blessings received over the past fifty years. Commemorative picture booklets created for the anniversary share our story and highlight our journey over the past half-century. It is truly inspiring to witness all that God has accomplished!



Brother Hugh MacIsaac

A special grace of the day was the Final Profession of Sister Mary Anne, MICM, along with the Renewal of Vows by the Brothers and Sisters, also made during the Sung Mass of the feast.



After Mass, we celebrated with cake, and later in the afternoon, gathered with Sister Mary Anne's family and friends from Singapore for a private luncheon of Chinese food. A slideshow of historic monastery photos played throughout the event, prompting many fond memories. The day concluded with Solemn Vespers and the singing of the *Te Deum*.

Sister Mary Anne cuts the cake at the reception for her Final Vows. Sister Katherine Maria, Sister Superior, Sister Christopher Margaret, Prioress, and Sister Mary Elizabeth entered on this day 50 years ago.

After the 9 am Mass on the following day, we celebrated with a picnic for the larger community and school families at MacIsaac Hall. The enormous potluck table fed nearly 300 supporters, young and old, some of whom wore our 50th Anniversary T-shirts to mark the occasion.

The feast and anniversary celebration were just the beginning of a year-long commemoration. We look forward to sharing historic photos and stories in the months ahead. Join us in celebrating by visiting our shop to purchase your T-shirt and give thanks for the past 50 years, while promoting True Devotion to Jesus through Mary.





Sisters hold the 50th Anniversary T-shirt designed to reflect Saint Benedict Center's spirit of True Devotion to Mary. It has been a popular item on our online gift shop! This fall a long-sleeved T-shirt with the same design was added as well! Purchase your 100% cotton T-shirt or long-sleeved T-shirt on www.TrueDevotionals.com



The Potluck celebration with friends in MacIsaac Hall on the Sunday after the feast day!





It's History!

For the 50-year milestone, we printed a commemorative booklet sketching the history of our foundation and the developments that have taken place, with God's help, over the past half-century. Contact us if you would like a copy.









Lourdes Grotto

This fall, we finished the Lourdes shrine we have been preparing for the past few years. This replicated grotto is nestled into the hill above the sports field and closely resembles the original in France. The statues of Our Lady and Saint Bernadette were gifts to Brother Thomas Augustine for his 50th anniversary of Profession.



A professional crew spent weeks creating the authentic look of the rock with gunite, carefully carving and painting it. The breathtaking new shrine area will feature a small running stream, a niche for votive candles, and a marble altar, which are yet to come.

On December 8th, Bishop Robert McManus will bless the new grotto. We ask Our Lady of Lourdes to watch over her valley and protect her slaves and the pilgrims that come in the future.







Photos of the artists at work on the grotto throughout September. The statue was placed in the niche for the first time on the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, October 7, 2026.

Conference in Rome

In mid-September, an unexpected opportunity arose for the Sisters to travel to Rome. A generous donor sponsored two sisters' attendance at the *De Maria Numquam Satis* International Congress, held just outside the Vatican. Just two weeks later, the Sisters boarded a plane to the Eternal City.

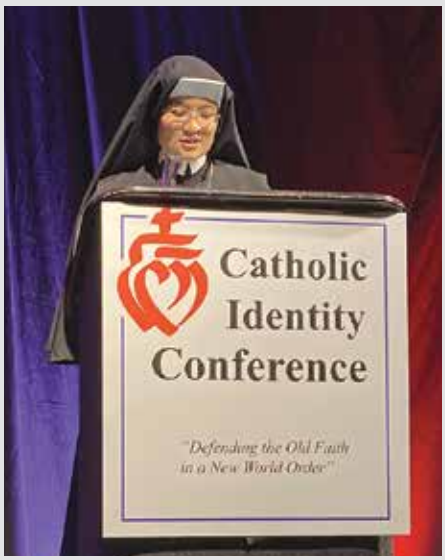
The Conference began on October 7th, the Feast of the Holy Rosary and the 455th anniversary of Lepanto. Cardinal Raymond Leo Burke opened the event, followed by international speakers. Each talk explored Our Lady's titles and privileges from different perspectives—history, devotion, doctrine, and dogma—highlighting her role as Mediatrix of All Graces and Co-Redemptrix. The Congress concluded the next day with figures like Cardinal Gerhard Ludwig Müller and Professor Roberto de Mattei. Meeting attendees from the Caribbean, Nigeria, and New Zealand showed the true universality of the Catholic Church.





Sister Magdalene Marie and Sister Gabriel Marie enjoy their first visit to Saint Peter's Basilica, and chatting with Cardinal Burke at the Conference.

Arriving in Rome three days before the Congress, the Sisters visited many holy sites and relics. This awe-inspiring pilgrimage brought them to kneel before relics such as the Crib of Bethlehem, the Table of the Last Supper, the Pillar of the Scourging, the Holy Stairs of Christ's condemnation to death, the chains and tombs of Saints Peter and Paul, and the Mamertine Prison where the two saints were incarcerated. The Sisters walked the streets of Rome "in the footsteps of the Saints" and prayed before the tombs of many saints and martyrs. What a special spiritual experience it was to have representatives of the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at the conference and pilgrims in such holy places.



Catholic Identity Conference

This October, three Sisters traveled to Pittsburgh, PA, to attend the annual "Catholic Identity Conference," organized by Michael Matt, editor of "The Remnant" newspaper. The conference featured leading Catholic speakers, including Bishop Athanasius Schneider, Bishop Mutsaerts from the Netherlands, and Bishop Donald Francis Lippert of Papua New Guinea, along with several other lay speakers, including Abby Johnson and Diane Montagna. This year, our Sister Mary Anne, MICM, joined the roster. Each speaker offered a perspective on the present state of the Church and how to bring about restoration. Sister Mary Anne added a delightful recounting of her recent stay in Singapore and the amazing evangelization of her Chinese Grandmother and others during her trip. The event was very successful, and we were blessed to be part of it.

Honoring Saint Louis Marie de Montfort

After Mass on the feast of Saint Louis Marie de Montfort, attendees gathered in front of the IHM Elementary building for the blessing of the 2,000 lb. marble statue of Saint Louis de Montfort, holding a crucifix in one hand and standing on Satan. Surrounded by flowers in the circular granite garden designed and built by the Brothers, he stands majestically at the school's entrance.

This imposing statue was modeled after the one in Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome. Saint Louis de Montfort is the patron of our order, now celebrating 50 years of True Devotion in the spirit of "to Jesus through Mary," as outlined in the writings of Saint Louis Marie. May this statue stand sentinel and bear witness to our "True Devotion."





Above: Brothers stand by the new statue after putting it in place with the help of Erlon Dos Santos and some heavy equipment!

Left: The blessing of the new shrine on the feast of Saint Louis de Montfort.



Bishop McManus chats with students in the second grade class which was also the First Communion Class of the year.

Bishop Visits

We were honored to welcome Bishop McManus of the Diocese of Worcester to the new IHM Elementary building in May. The bishop visited classrooms, asked thoughtful questions, and engaged students in friendly conversations. Many classes performed songs or recited poems for him. Before leaving each room, Bishop McManus blessed every class.

After a leisurely lunch with the Brothers, Bishop McManus then took a quick tour of the new Stations in the valley and the tailor/embroidery shop across the road. The memorable day was a blessing and a joy. May God bless Bishop McManus!

Pro-Life Banquet

IHM School's Saint John the Baptist Pro-Life League hosted its third annual banquet on May 16. This event featured a special guest and old friend of the Center, Father Robert McTeigue, SJ, the radio talk show host of The Catholic Current.

MacIsaac Hall was filled with approximately 250 guests eager to hear the popular speaker while enjoying a banquet meal served by the ProLife League members. Father delivered the pro-life message with doctrinal clarity and in such a way that it reached the heart. Thank you, Father, for your presence and wonderful talk!

The IHM students lived up to their reputation for excellent service with a smile. Thank you, students, for your dedication to the cause! It was a truly wonderful event!



Above: Guests listen to Father McTeigue speak in MacIsaac Hall at the Pro-Life Dinner.



IHM High School students pause their work busing tables to listen to Father speak.



Fall Retreats

September was a busy month with IHM School beginning a new acadmic year, followed by two weekend retreats, one for men and one for women.

The Men's Retreat was held on September 11-12 and drew 45 men, who enjoyed the silence in the beautiful woods of Montfort Retreat. The Brothers enriched the weekend with spiritual talks, and Father Becker provided Mass, Confession and a spiritual talk.

The following weekend, 65 women attended the retreat provided by the Sisters, who gave inspiring talks. Once again, Father Becker provided the sacraments and began the retreat with the opening conference.



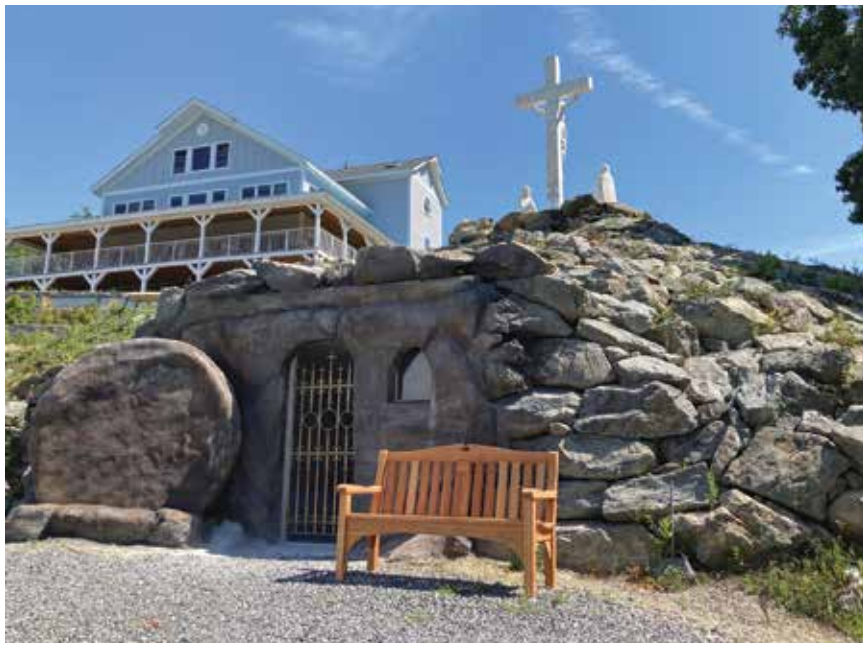


The 14th Station

From the crucifixion scene, at the top of the valley, a path leads down behind the hill of Calvary to the 14th station: Jesus is Laid in the Sepulcher. The tomb displays the Body of the deceased Christ: a beautiful, life-sized marble figure that was part of the Stations we obtained from the Shrine of Our Lady of Grace in Holbrook, New Hampshire. The shrine was built in 1948 by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, but closed in July 2014.

The Brothers built an 8'x 8' room under the hill where the cross stands. The interior is 7' high and tiled in warm white marble. An ornate, gold-painted gate from a closed church in New Jersey stands at the entrance.

Inside, a stained-glass window of Saint John the Evangelist, also rescued from a church in Boston, was installed on the valley side, letting in a beautiful array of colors at sunset. Inside, a candle rack lets pilgrims light candles for their intentions as they contemplate Christ's sacrifice for our salvation.





Above: The Fourteenth Station tucked behind Calvary is now a quiet spot of prayer and reflection at Saint Benedict Center.

Left: Inside the little chapel rests a breathtaking, life-size marble statue of Christ in the tomb.



Real Prayer and Real Work for Real Men

The Brothers MICM live a traditional, active religious life based on True Devotion to Mary and nourished by the Traditional Latin Liturgy. They are dedicated to evangelizing through daily prayer and work. We are looking for young men between the ages of 18 and 30 who are serious about their faith, enjoy working with their hands, and desire to serve God while pursuing skills in woodworking, printing, mechanics, teaching, or landscaping. We encourage you to visit the BrothersMICM.com website. Real prayer and real work, for real men – all for Jesus through Mary!

Youth Camps of 2026

This year, the Brothers directed six weeks of Montfort Boys Camps: three weeks at our own facility and one week each in Idaho, Texas, and Louisiana. The Sisters directed ten weeks of Morning Star for Catholic Girls Camp: four weeks at our facility and one week each in Colorado, Washington State, Indiana, Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana. It is beautiful to see the reception of the Faith among the attendees and their enthusiasm for our spirituality – "To Jesus through Mary."













May They Rest in Peace



Andrew "Andy" Alexander, 32, passed away suddenly on May 12, 2026. Nephew of Sister Brigid Mary, MICM, and a member of the IHM Class of 2012, Andrew will be remembered as a true gentleman who loved his Faith, family, and country. The IHM School and Center communities remember him fondly. *Requiescat in pace*.



Claudine Sonnier, 93, passed away on June 30, 2026. Grandmother to Sister Mary Clair, MICM, Claudine was a devout Catholic with a kind heart who always saw the best in others and often offered insightful wisdom. Her gentle spirit and wisdom touched everyone privileged to know her. May she rest in peace.