



Renovations underway on our historic campus

Gratitude and Hope.

A progress report on the Sisters of St. Benedict's work to become the "monastery of the future"

SISTERS
OF ST. BENEDICT
FERDINAND, INDIANA

Seek. Pray. Share.

Gratitude.

Our supporters' donations, input, and partnership since 2011 have enabled us to achieve the following:

- Converted an under-used building into affordable senior housing, now full to capacity with lay residents delighted to live on the monastery grounds. They are some of our best volunteers.
- Expanded our vocation program to reach today's Catholic woman, with five women in formation learning the life and serving the church and area.
- Joined with the Family Scholar House Program, a 20-year-old Louisville-based program providing academic and life-skills education to "eradicate poverty through education." Single parents in the program work to complete college degrees, and over 100 students have graduated or are completing their studies.
- Begun renovating our historic core building to serve as the Benedictine Hospitality Center to provide a place of welcome and reflection for all.
- Providing education for our sisters who are attending classes while serving in active ministry from Evansville, Indiana to Indianapolis; and Louisville, Kentucky to Jasper, Indiana.
- Provided for our senior sisters who continue their ministries and prayer. We have a 100-year-old sister who still plays the harmonica, eleven sisters in their 90s, and 33 sisters in their 80s. If I run really fast, I can almost keep up with them! Their salaries were around \$300 per month in their working days, and donor support is important to meeting their needs.
- Established a round-the-clock healthcare area, wellness program, and part-time clinic where our sisters who need assisted care or light medical care have access to service.
- Supported our dependent monastery in Morropón, Peru, where seven of our sisters (two in formation) serve in the local school of 850 children, in parish ministry, and in healthcare.
- Developed alternate revenue sources to help support our ministries: continuing to expand Monastery Baked Goods, renting our gym as an event hall, and leasing a small portion of our land for an assisted, memory, and skilled healthcare facility to be completed in fourteen months.

(over, please)



Hope.

Our work isn't finished. The Sisters of St. Benedict continue to consider several initiatives to keep us moving forward:

- Our Benedictine Hospitality Center will open on July 1, 2018. Through it, we will provide programming both at the monastery and off-site, including spiritual direction, retreats, and time away for reflection.
- Young college women have come to live with us for the past two summers and we are helping them discern their vocation. Will God call them to vowed religious life? After 1,500 years of Benedictine life and 150 years of this life together in Ferdinand, we know God is with us in making these decisions, and are hopeful.
- We hope to use one of our buildings to provide the housing Family Scholar House students need to have a true community of learning.
- We are assessing hydroponic growing to supply food to our own table and some of the surrounding area. We live in what is known as a "food desert" and this could blossom into an alternate way of supporting our ministries.
- Our technology is being upgraded and we are working to better use it to connect with those near and far. We are using social media to connect with the younger generation and tell our story.
- We seek to continue working with our local hospital, Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center, to provide spiritual care for the patients, administration, and staff.



Women in discernment visiting our dependent monastery in Morropón, Peru, with Sister Teresa and Sister Traci



Renovated areas at the new Benedictine Hospitality Center



Ora et labora - volunteers joining us for prayer and work

