

2018 Spring Appeal



Mr. and Mrs. Sample, your generous gift will help us bring **hope** to our historic monastery and the communities we serve. Please make a gift today.

\$LG \$UG1 \$UG2 Other: \$ _____

The Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, Indiana is a tax-exempt not-for-profit organization. All or part of your gift may be tax deductible as a charitable contribution; please consult your tax advisor.

Please ask the Sisters of St. Benedict to pray for my loved ones and the special intentions I have written on the other side of this slip.

Please make your check payable to: **Sisters of St Benedict**
802 E. 10th Street • Ferdinand, IN 47532-9374 • 812.367.1411 • www.thedome.org

[Donor name]
[Donor address]
[Donor Address2]
[City, State Zip]

ID# xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

GUTTER

March x, 2018

Dear Mr. & Mrs Sample,

Gratitude and hope!

It seems that it has been raining for thirty days and thirty nights in Indiana, and the violence and chaos of our society screams at us each night. Ironically, these two words have still found a way to resonate in my heart as I write you this letter.

As the second-largest women's Benedictine community in the United States, the Sisters of St. Benedict are faced with great challenges and awesome possibilities. You've heard our calls for support in the past, and because of your help, we have arrived at a position of amazing opportunity.

Seven years ago, we embarked on a program of good stewardship. During this time, we reflected amongst ourselves and with our supporters regarding how to thoughtfully and strategically bring the Benedictine way of life to those seeking to grow their faith.

This self-reflection has given us many reasons to be **grateful**. We began looking to renovate our campus and programming with a \$6 million need. In these few years, **we have reached 96% of this goal, with just \$250,000 left to be raised.**

Today, almost half of our buildings are being used in ministry and hospitality, and the other half are being used in our monastery residence. This "right sizing" has positioned us to better carry out our mission while reducing our operating costs. Our facilities are now vibrantly in service in the same way that our sisters themselves serve.

Mr. and Mrs. Sample, by supporting this appeal with a gift of \$LG, \$UG1, or possibly \$UG2, you will help us complete the process of bringing our monastery into the future and enable us to provide hope to the communities we serve through vital ministries. I pray you will be able to make a gift today to support the Sisters of St. Benedict's important work.

Here at Monastery Immaculate Conception, we remain **grateful** for so much, including our many faithful supporters who have helped us reach this point. The contributions of many who have

(over, please)



Renovations underway on our historic campus

Gratitude.

With our supporters' donations, input, and partnership, **we have achieved 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.

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CREDIT CARD DONATIONS

Please charge my gift to my:

MC VISA AMEX DISC Amount \$ _____

Account #: _____

CVV Code: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Yes, I'd like more information on how to leave a legacy with the Sisters of St. Benedict.



Sisters of St Benedict • 802 E. 10th Street • Ferdinand, IN 47532-9374
www.thedome.org • e-mail: donors@thedome.org • 812.367.1411 • fax: 812.367.2313

These are my special prayer intentions:

Stay connected to the Sisters of St. Benedict!

Your e-mail address and phone number enable us to update you about our sisters and events at the monastery and to communicate with you about your gift. You'll also help us save on postage!

E-mail: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

GUTTER

believed in God's goodness and shared it with us have brought us to the threshold of becoming the monastery of the future, and we stand at the brink of completing the transformation of our campus. Your assistance is greatly appreciated as we prepare to meet the "future full of hope" promised by the Psalmist.

Fifteen centuries ago, St. Benedict set forth a mandate for us to live lives of prayer, community, hospitality, and service. He didn't know that our community would stretch from California to New York and from Canada to Peru. In this vast area, we are **grateful** for the many supporters who have caught the Spirit and generously helped us arrive at the brink of this new beginning.

We also feel great **hope** that you and others will be moved to continue your support of our work and keep us moving into the future. Will you please make a donation today?

With **Love, Hope, and Gratitude,**

Sister Barbara Lynn Schmitz, OSB
Prioress

P.S. We are so close to achieving our goals! Please return the enclosed slip today, and don't forget to note any prayer requests on the back of the enclosed reply form. Our sisters would love to pray for you.



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

Gratitude, continued.

- Provided for our senior sisters who continue their ministries and prayer. We have a 100-year-old sister who still plays the harmonica, 11 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 14 months.

Hope.

Our work isn't finished. We continue to consider several initiatives that will help us keep 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.