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November 2023

Our dear Friends,

**PAX+ be with you!** It has been a while since we last contacted you. MAY THIS GREETING FIND YOU WELL! We THANK THE LORD for his many blessings in 2023, as we share highlights of our life here.

As you know, our Benedictine motto is, *Ora et Labora* which means *Pray and Work*! Both dimensions are key for us to live a life pleasing to the Lord and for the salvation of souls, for whom we offer our lives. We are especially thankful for the gift of Fr. Henryk who provides daily Holy Mass at the Monastery. We no longer commute to nearby parishes. Many people call for him to hear their confession, seek advice, guidance or a blessing.



Our *Ora* times in which we remember you are:

5:45 am Liturgy of the Hours

6:15 am Lectio Divina

6:45 am Holy Mass

8:30 am Adoration, Rosary & Lectio Divina

12:45 Noon Praise

3:00 pm Prayer

5:30 pm Vespers

7:30 pm Compline

"When we face the sun, we get a tan...but when we stand before Jesus in the Eucharist, we become saints." Blessed Carlo Acutis

This Chapel was built especially for you!

St. John Paul II encouraged every Catholic institution to have an

adoration chapel so ours was opened in 2005 and many people have spent time with Jesus, just BEING there with Him, sometimes in tears and sometimes rejoicing.

Our *Labora* happenings, which we initiated included: Grief Retreats, Rachel's Vineyard, and our Annual Oblate Retreat lead by Fr. Ignacio Gonzalez, OSB of San Anselm's Abbey in Washington, DC. We also sponsored Spiritual Warfare and the Family series at several parishes to promote awareness of demonic attachments in our culture-through involvement in Ouija boards, tarot cards, séances, using psychics, etc. and provide guidance on how to guard and protect their family.

Most recently, a Blessed Carlo Acutis mini-retreat was held here; featuring his *Highway to Heaven through the Eucharist*—also chalked on the sidewalk leading to the Adoration Chapel.



**Other retreats also took place here** sponsored by: Catholic Home-schooled families, parish retreats for adults, youths and children, small prayer group workshops, Lutheran women's

Bible study group, School Boards, Teacher retreats, CDA, and multiple silent retreats for Sisters and laity.

We were **blessed with gifts.** We have reminders of war, in beautiful religious art pieces, gifted to us from the Ukraine. May we ALL **pray** the rosary daily to help counteract the hatred in the hearts of people. Another special gift was three beautiful stain glass windows placed in our monastic chapel.



We are **most thankful** to God and <u>your financial</u> <u>support</u> that allowed us to dig **a Water Well** and find

St. Benedict & St. Scholastica

much needed water. We are blest with a 30-foot natural spring approximately 640 feet below the surface.

We are **so thankful** for our kindred families. Sister Luella's and Sister Nancy's families stayed for extended

times with us, which is a great JOY!! Another very meaningful event was the celebration of Fr. Henryk's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination.

Our KSGS 99.9 Good News Catholic radio station continues to be cared for by a team of faithful people who help to carry out live programs on Wednesday mornings. **We are blessed** to have our local priests and laity involved in the programs. We encourage you to check them out!

Finally, we thank the Lord for your love, prayers, financial help, friendship and our **Oblates** that sustains us and the work of the Good Shepherd here!

In 2024, we encourage you to pause to refresh your spirit; Come aside and enjoy the peace found in nature and in one of our\_hermitages.\_Spend time with Jesus, the "Highway to Heaven", in the Fountain of Life Adoration Chapel.

We invite you to begin the New Year with a Novena of Masses, January 1 to-9, 2024. Send us your prayer intentions in the enclosed card along with your donation to support our ministry as you are able. We listed our needs on the attached return card. Finally, we would love to hear from you. Send us a note to share the special joys and sorrows of your life.

Prayerfully, Your Good Shepherd's Handmaidens,

Sisters Luella, Fran and Nancy

"Do not be daunted immediately by fear and run away from the road that leads to salvation. It is bound to be narrow at the onset. But as we progress in this way of life and in faith, we shall run on the path of God's commandments, our hearts overflowing with the inexpressible delight of love." *St. Benedict*