Starr County Benedictines

Benedictines of the Good Shepherd
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Our Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you from our Lord, Jesus Christ.

We send **our warmest greetings to you** and your loved ones. Thank you for your unwavering support for our Good Shepherd Monastery. Your generosity is a source of strength, helping us to sustain both our community and our sacred mission. The enclosed **newsletter shares the wonderful fruits of your kindness** this past year. In particular, **we completed the construction of our new San Jose Renewal Center.** We cannot thank you enough for making this Center a reality.

This past year, has been transformative for our community. But God has providentially provided and divinely guided us through the process. **What a God we serve!** After a time of deep, prayerful discernment alongside our board of directors, and our, Bishop Daniel E. Flores, S.T.D., we formed a Transition Team to guide our monastic community into a new phase in our life. As we sisters enter a season of deeper contemplation, **it is the shared decision and goal of our board, monastics, and lay oblates to ensure that the Monastery remains a lasting legacy of our founding Sisters' original vision and mission.**

To prepare for our future, we have updated our foundational documentation to welcome new board members into our leadership family. We are also joyful to share that following a review of our Canonical status, our Monastery will remain a Public Association of the Faithful in good standing with our Diocese of Brownsville.

While we sisters continue our life of prayer and contemplation within our sacred walls, I will continue to be responsible for our day-to-day operations as my health permits. **To support us**, our vital ministries---including bookkeeping, retreats, media, gift shop, and fundraising ---**will now be shared with faithful oblate volunteers**. These dedicated members are deeply gifted in their respective fields and are committed to their tasks--- having long lived their Benedictine charism in our community. We have complete confidence in their ability to carry our mission forward with the same deep faith that has always defined our work.

Please be assured that the spiritual heart of the monastery remains unchanged. Our daily life of prayer and work continues as it always has. To ensure our Benedictine spirituality flourishes for generations to come, we have **formed a long-term partnership with The**

Benedictine Sisters of the Divine Will who will be sending sisters to support our mission initiating this Fall and in 2027.

We are praying for a partnership with another Benedictine Monastery to send monks who will help provide spiritual formation to our lay oblates and guidance to our monastery. This new leadership model allows our vital ministry to thrive, while tenderly respecting the natural seasons and changing needs of our members. **We have expectant faith about the path ahead**, knowing that God has always provided. He is our Lord, our good Shepherd and nothing shall we want as we journey into the unknown!

Yet, it is your faithful personal generosity that breathes life into this work. Your ongoing support is the bridge to our future, ensuring that our legacy of intercessory prayer will continue to make a difference in your life and bring light to the darkness in our world.

As we look to 2027, we invite you to partner with us to reach **our fundraising goal of $45,000**. Gifts to our 2026 campaign will directly fund the essential final steps of our growth:

- **Furnishing the San Jose Renewal Center** to make it a welcoming space for all.
- **Upgrading our website** to be able to share community news and to simplify other communications.
- **Acquiring a golf cart** to safely transport our elderly staff and guests throughout our expansive grounds.
- **Installing solar panels** to dramatically reduce energy costs for the new renewal center.
- **Assisting with the specialized caregiving needs** of our dear Sister Fran.

Reaching our fundraising goal will allow us to fully open the San Jose Renewal Center to our beloved Rio Grande Valley community and anyone seeking a sacred space for meetings, healings, or quiet retreats.

Send your gift with **the prayer petition card** listing your intentions. We want to include them in our **Novena of masses from January 1 to 9, 2027.** If you prefer our Zelle QR code is attached. Note on Zelle 2026 Annual Campaign.

Zelle

We pray for you daily and ask for your prayers during this transition. Thank you for being such an integral part of our monastic community. As we approach Thanksgiving, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Christmas, BE ASSURED THAT YOU ARE IN OUR HEARTS AS WE PRAY FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY'S INTENTIONS. ONWARD TO HEAVEN!

Prayerfully with joyful hope,

Sister Nancy Bourbeau, OSB

Prioress, Benedictines of the Good Shepherd