



ST. SCHOLASTICA MONASTERY

Benedictine Sisters

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Dear Friends,

There isn't anything we can say about our lives in 2020 that hasn't already been said. It has been a year of change, pain, and disruption. We have experienced the heartache of losing several Sisters, yet have also experienced the joy of welcoming a new Novice. So while our summary of 2020 is often reduced to our shared pain, let us reflect on the joy that we also share.

We are not the same people we were when this year began. At the beginning of 2020 our community had finally settled into our new building after our monumental 2019 move; we were looking forward to the election and installation of a prioress, a Jubilee celebration for Sisters Pierre Vorster and Regina Schroeder, a celebration of Sister Marcella Schmalz' 100th birthday, and the reception of Postulant Maria Elena Fisk as a novice. While these joys still swell in our hearts, the way we celebrated them was impacted by the pandemic in the outside world.

It is true, we live in a small community of vowed women. Even so, the news is a click away. We are a part of the events taking place outside these walls. We lament the heartache felt by so many people all around the globe who have been touched, in one way or another, by this year's burdens.



Sister Adrian Wewers greeting Sister Kimberly Prohaska at her installation service.

As the year progressed and our lockdown took hold of the world inside these walls, it wasn't long before the stories of Covid grew closer. Pretty soon, it wasn't just some virus on the other side of the planet, it was something a friend, or a friend of a friend, had contracted. The pain grew closer, highlighting our interconnection with all peoples. We need one another. We rely on one another. We are one people, one planet, sharing in this one experience together.

Here at the monastery, our community prayer is the essential link in this bond of interconnectedness. We pray with hope for our future, for unity and peace among all peoples.

We humbly ask for your support as we venture into 2021 and continue our mission to further the Kingdom of Christ.

Our community is small and open to growth. The Vocations Department, led by the newly appointed Vocations Director, Sister Judith Timmerman, rejoices for the women expressing interest in our community. We are in need of travel aid for these women to make the trip to our community to further their discernment process. These funds will help with transportation expenses, when the monastery is again open to visitors.

Many of our friends are familiar with our annual Bake Sale. This December event, which will be different this year because of Covid-19 restrictions, has become a yearly staple of our community and one that we look forward to with zeal. All through the year some homemade foods are available in our Gift Shop. To continue this tradition, our community is in need of cooking equipment to go in our new Ministries Building.

The grounds around St. Scholastica are a point of enjoyment for our community as much as they are for our friends, neighbors, and onlookers. To help our Sisters who love gardening, the hothouse needs some repairs.

St. Scholastica's Guest House needs window and siding repairs, and landscaping in the backyard. In the absence of guests since March, our chaplain, Father Les Farley, has kept the home in good shape. We kindly ask that you support our efforts to make this space a comfortable and safe space for our visitors.

Lastly, we ask that you help us purchase flowers for our Chapel year round to add to the beauty of our liturgical space.

Thank you for being part of our community and joining us in praying for our world. We appreciate any gift you are able to offer to our community and its ministries.

With our love and prayers,

Sister Kimberly Rose Prohaska
Prioress