



ST. SCHOLASTICA MONASTERY

Benedictine Sisters

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Dear Friends,

This is my first appeal letter to you, our faithful friends and benefactors. Since becoming prioress in May, among all the things to learn and duties to juggle, one of the most enjoyable parts of this office has been experiencing your generosity and support. Most of you have some connection to us. You may be an Oblate, a Scho Girl, a volunteer, a retreatant, or a relative, friend, or former student of one of our Sisters. Whatever your ties to us, we value and appreciate you as part of our extended community. We depend on your help to spread the vision and values of St. Benedict.



Sr. Maria DeAngeli
Prioress

1. Building repairs



A. New Roof

Watching the progress of the re-roofing of our church and monastery this summer has been fascinating: first the removal of the old tiles; then the careful preparation for the laying of the new tiles; finally the painstaking fitting of the new tiles and finishing touches. We admired the roofers' agility as they moved about confidently on a slanted surface five stories above the ground and their stamina in working long hours on very hot days. We also watched the progress with gratitude that insurance was covering most of the cost and with hope that the leaking in chapel and many rooms would cease. With each rain this past year, the chapel and many other rooms had to be watched carefully so that furniture could be moved and pans put out to catch the leaks. On Easter Sunday morning, colorful plastic pans blended in with the Easter flowers around the altar as we strove to keep Father David and the altar dry during a heavy spring rain. Even with insurance coverage because of wind and hail storms over the past two years, we will still have "out of pocket" expenses of the **\$10,000 deductible**. **Any assistance you could give us in covering this expense would be appreciated.**

B. Repair of Interior Damage

After the roof is completed, water damage to the chapel and many of the rooms of the monastery will need to be repaired. The north wall of chapel will need a lot of work. Plaster is falling and ceilings are damaged in many rooms. Insurance adjustors have begun assessing the damage, but thus far we do not know how much will be covered. **Even though we do not yet know the precise amount of this expense, we know it will be beyond the amount budgeted for repair and maintenance. Any assistance you can give us in covering these expenses inside the church and in the individual sisters' rooms would be appreciated.**



2. Generators for Emergencies

In the last few years, we have had power outages because of wind or ice storms several times, sometimes lasting for days. Thus far we have always toughed it out, but now that more Sisters are in the Infirmary and have more difficulty getting around, prolonged loss of power along with darkness in such a large building presents a bigger challenge. We worry about Sisters on canes and walkers moving about in the dark. Another consideration is that some Sisters in the Infirmary are on oxygen, and heat and air conditioning are a necessity for many. The stamina and spunkiness of our older Sisters amaze us, but it troubles us to see them suffer considerable hardship when electrical power is out. Keeping the freezers running to prevent food spoilage is also important. **The most recent estimate for installing generators to provide at least a minimum of power to the Infirmary, some hallways, and the freezers is about \$90,000.**

3. Education of Sisters

We are excited that as we work on solving these maintenance problems, we are also involved in several educational ventures. Sister Therese Moreno just received her degree in theology from St. Gregory University in Shawnee, Oklahoma, through the Little Rock Theology Institute. Sister Cecelia Brickell, one of our Sisters in temporary profession, is currently on campus at St. Gregory's getting her degree in theology, and Sister Dolores Vincent Bauer is taking classes on monastic studies at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, to prepare for her new appointment as formation director. Here at the monastery, Haymée Giuliani, one of our Oblates, is teaching Spanish to a group of Sisters and friends, and Kaye Bernard, another Oblate, is leading a course in Servant Leadership for another group. It's exciting to see all the interest in learning new things and expanding horizons. **The cost for the two Sisters away for studies this one semester is about \$20,000. Your help in covering this expense would help us greatly.**



Sister Cecelia at
St. Gregory University
Photo by Bro. George Hubl

4. Support for Our Elderly Sisters



Because of the decline in our investment income, we are cutting expenses where we can. Our Infirmary is one of our biggest expenses, but we hesitate to decrease our expenses in that area, because care for our wise and holy senior sisters is one of our biggest joys. They have laid a good foundation for us, and for some of you, and continue to support us through their powerful prayer. Even though they demand very little, we want to let them know we appreciate their many years of service to this community

and to the church. **Any help you give us enables us to continue this joyful ministry of love.**

Your generosity to us last year in the midst of the economic crisis was received with immense gratitude. We know that many of you are also suffering from the effects of the economy and assure you of our prayers for your welfare. As we gather for prayer each day, you are remembered with grateful hearts. We ask God's blessings of love and peace for our world and for each of you and your families.

With love and gratitude from all the Sisters,

Sister Maria DeAngeli, OSB

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