The sunny, unseasonably warm day encouraged such reflection, but the sisters are aware that in a few months they will be living with the noise and bustle of new construction. Even positive change requires some uncomfortable accommodations, but they are confident that their firm foundation of prayer, discernment, and deep listening to one another will help them move Forward in Faith together.

Blessing the Site of their New Monastery,
Sisters Prepare for a Spring Groundbreaking

Looking forward to a spring groundbreaking, the Sisters blessed the land southwest of their current monastery which is being repurposed as the site of their new home. Sister Pierre Vorster and the grounds crew are lovingly transplanting trees to the western edge of their property to preserve the peaceful, pastoral setting they have always enjoyed. Other trees, wrapped in red ribbon, will be cut down to make room for the monastery.

The sunny, unseasonably warm day encouraged such reflection, but the sisters are aware that in a few months they will be living with the noise and bustle of new construction. Even positive change requires some uncomfortable accommodations, but they are confident that their firm foundation of prayer, discernment, and deep listening to one another will help them move Forward in Faith together.

During their February Day of Recollection, Sister Maria DeAngeli led the sisters in prayer as they extended their hands in blessing over the land on which their new monastery will be built, praying that the land would be a place of deep peace for all who seek God together in the monastic way of life.

Walking along the tree lined paths, they saw, in the boundaries of the red-ringed trees, the shape of their new home and were better able to visualize what they had only seen in drawings and diagrams.
Greetings,

I am sure we are all wondering where the first month of the New Year has gone. We know much has happened in this first month after a long and weary campaign for new leadership for our country. I tell myself President Trump is our leader/president and I will respect his office and pray for Holy Wisdom to guide him to make well-thought out decisions. I believe leadership is a learning position with innumerable responsibilities beyond one’s imagination. Persons place their trust in another person in hopes that that person will take time to listen. Benedict knew listening was so important that he began the Prologue to the Rule with the word “listen.” Does America truly know how to listen to the heartbeat of its people?

True listening takes time, silence, solitude, discernment, and an open mind and heart to reap the benefits of the time of reflection. I ask myself time and again how I, as an individual, can make a difference in our nation that seems to have lost the wonderment of God’s gift to us in creation. In Ink and Honey, Sibyl Dana Reynolds relates a story about a teacher teaching his student the wonders of creation. In her amazement the student exclaimed “Creation is a woman!” “Yes,” the teacher replied, “The generative power of life, birth, and rebirth are expressions of the feminine nature of all things. Holy Wisdom is she!” How do we protect this gift of God from further destruction? St. Benedict tells us to treat all things with respect and reverence because they are God’s gifts to us. Our example will be the flame that will ignite and bring the change we hope for today.

Again we thank all of you for your constant support. Yes, we are moving forward on our new home and that makes our hearts happy.

Sister Maria DelAngeli

Gracias to Our Guatemalan Scholarship Program “Partners”

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Clarine Terwey
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Gloria Trinidad
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Brian & Brandy Verkamp
Dc. Mark & Tracy Verkamp
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HONOR ROLL OF BENEFACTORS FOR 2016

The Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery thank each of you, our benefactors and volunteers, for your generous support. You are remembered in our love and prayers. The first Tuesday of each month, a Mass is offered for you and your intentions.

Benefactors listed here supported the Monastery during the year 2016.

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Sam Forst
Oblate Kathy Jarvis and Sr. Rosalie Ruesewald celebrate with some graduates at Colegio San Benito and the Franciscan sisters.
Retreat center volunteers enjoy a thank you lunch on Valentine's Day.
David & Debbie Vaughn
Leon & Mary Lou Veitenheimer
Mark & Kristi Veitenheimer
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Debra Vorster

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Sarah Hartz

Jack Helfrich
Rita Helfrich

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Leona Hoeling
Glenn Ramaekers

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Bill & Emily Soller

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Paul & Connie Gibson

Sr. Jerome Jacobs
Barbara Wilson

Edwin Kammerich
Joan Kammerich

Margie Keeton
Jon & Patricia Adams

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Knights of Columbus, Clarksville

Nancy Kollenburn
Anonymous

Sr. Clara Marie Komp
Patty Logan

Sr. Bernice Kraus
George & Shirley Johnson
Charmaine Haunert (front) and the St. Boniface Choir entertained the sisters at Christmas time.

Mary Maestri
James & Angela Malik
Joan McCoy
Peter & Anna Mullen
Cheryl Nesbitt
Jeanne Nolte
Fran Perkins
Kay Pope
Matt & Betty Post
Lee Potts & Rebecca Wiederkehr
Dick & Joyce Ratcliff
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W. J. & Mary Lou Willmann
Earl & Fran Wooton
Judy Wright

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Charles Weisenfels

Volunteer Maria Cabrera and kindergarten graduate Rosita in Esquipulas last October.
Sr. Annene Siebenmorgen  
Paul & Magdalen Cesare

Sr. Brendan Siebenmorgen  
Ben & Amber Pinter  
Michael & Robbie Pinter  
Tim & Tina Pinter  
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Donna Burch

Larry Wewers  
Jo Ann Barr  
Phyllis Dalmut

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Florence Wiederkehr  
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Carol Williamson

Sr. Maurus Witt  
Patty Logan  
Dave & Diana Tetreault

Srs. Callista & Florence Yutterman  
David & Margaret Crawford

Helen Zeiler  
Helen Wren

Sr. Francisca Ziegel  
Dwight & Suzanne Cramer

Golden Living volunteers visited the sisters in the infirmary on United Way’s Day of Caring.

Mary Adams  
Br. Joel Marc Rousseau, FFSC

Sr. Rose Ashour  
Anonymous  
Paul & Doris Ashour Family  
Jim & Laurie Bernskoetter  
John & Mary Burns  
Mary Cheavens  
Gerard & Mary Devaney  
Carol Griesemer

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Antoinette Beland  
Dorothy Hosford

Bernice Bergup  
David & Gilda Macksam

Keith Birkenfeld  
Neil & Judith Harmon

Sr. Rose Maria Birkenfeld  
Anonymous (2)  
Jerry Warren

Sr. Barbara Bock  
Dale Johnson & Julie Beard  
Thelma Kraus  
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Marie Chapman

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Frank, Theresa, & Scott Blair  
Norbert Clifton  
David & Wanda Fugett  
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Kathleen Horan  
Jeannie Horan

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Terry & Scotta Schroeder

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Barbara Michael

Sisters of St. Scholastica
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Antoinette Beland
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Anonymous
Dr. David & Joan Busby
Kara Bushkuhl
Bill Howell

Sr. Macrina Wiederkehr
Bonnie Fowler
Antony Jose
Barbara Titone

**ANNUAL REPORT**
September 1, 2015 - August 31, 2016

**REVENUES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Ministries</td>
<td>$362,445</td>
<td>13.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations and Gifts</td>
<td>$731,674</td>
<td>26.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>$1,173,132</td>
<td>43.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support</strong></td>
<td>$2,724,346</td>
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**EXPENSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institutional</td>
<td>$397,356</td>
<td>18.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lay Employees</td>
<td>$982,600</td>
<td>45.49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>$336,413</td>
<td>15.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sisters Contributed Benefits</td>
<td>$404,349</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auxiliary Income</td>
<td>$52,746</td>
<td>1.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Fees</td>
<td>$24,738</td>
<td>1.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses and Losses</strong></td>
<td>$2,155,332</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Net Change in Assets**

$569,014

Using $720,000 from our Continuing Care Fund, the monastery was able to meet its operating expenses, thanks to the generosity of our benefactors.

Initial income and expenses related to the capital campaign for the new monastery are included in the revenues and expenses in the chart above.

In addition to the Donations & Gifts, $39,332 was received for the Guatemalan Scholarship program and has been, or will be, dispersed to Colegio San Benito in Esquipulas, Guatemala.
BENEFACTORS FOR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN IN 2016

We are grateful to all who have given to our capital campaign to help us build a new smaller monastery. Those listed below made a gift or pledge in 2016. Memorials and Honorariums are not indicated on this list, but will be acknowledged later. Donors who have contributed in 2017 will be included on the list for 2017.

Anyone who wants to join us as we move Forward in Faith, please contact Sister Elise Forst at 479-783-4147 or elise@stscho.org.

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Tyson & Stormi Arnold
Omalene Artho
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Mary Ashworth
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Randy & Michele Lowrance
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In all the lists in this publication we have tried to include all benefactors in 2016. If your name was overlooked or improperly printed, please accept our apologies and contact us to correct the error:

Development Office  St. Scholastica Monastery  P.O. Box 3489, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72913

Telephone: (479) 783-4147  E-mail: elise@stscho.org
**NEWS BRIEFS**

Sister Maria DeAngeli attended the Conference of Benedictine Prioresses from January 30-February 5 in Tucson, AZ.

In October, Sister Rosalie Ruesewald and Oblate Kathy Jarvis traveled to Guatemala to attend the graduation of our scholarship students from high school, junior high school, elementary school, and kindergarten.

Sister Hilary Decker will be presenting a course on the psalms for Oblates and Sisters every Tuesday during Lent at 10 a.m., beginning on February 28.

Upcoming retreats at the center include:
- March 9-12
  - **Centering Prayer: The Journey Continues**
    - April 13-16
    - **Triduum**
    - May 5-7
  - **Walking on Water: Healing the Peter Within Us** presented by Matt Linn, SJ
    - May 11
  - **A Mother’s Day of Recollection**
    - June 2-4
  - **Lord, When Did We See You?**
    - presented by Alice Nahas

For more information, call the Center at (479)783-1135 or visit www.stscho.org.

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**Vocations Corner**

During Catholic Schools Week, January 30-February 4, the sisters visited four area schools and gave a tour to Myndi Keyton’s class from Christ the King School. Sister Barbara Bock joined Father Patrick Boland to visit with Christ the King students. Sister Ethel Marie Sonnier gave the tour to Myndi Keyton’s class. Sisters Regina and Barbara Schroeder went to St. John’s School in Russellville with Brother Francis Kirchner, and Sister Barbara Bock joined Brother Basil Taylor to make a presentation at Trinity Junior High School.

Are you interested in learning more about religious life at St. Scholastica? Join Sister Kimberly in a Zoom live video chat each Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Visit the vocation website at www.stscho.org/vocation/chat.html for more information.