



ST. SCHOLASTICA MONASTERY

Benedictine Sisters

1315 South Albert Pike

Post Office Box 3489

Fort Smith, AR 72913-3489

Telephone 479-783-4147

Immediately upon Saint Scholastica Monastery's announcement that our former home would be demolished, public opinion came pouring in. All have expressed sadness about the decision, which we expected and understand. We feel that sadness, too, we greatly appreciate those who also included support, understanding, and respect for our heart-wrenching decision.

After considering the suggestions made by people outside our monastic community to save the Former Monastery Building, we sisters feel that none of them offer a viable use for the building that satisfies the spiritual and economic constraints pertinent to our Benedictine community. We feel we have made the best decision we could as good stewards of our land and building, and we stand by that decision. The demolition, including preparation thereof, will take two to three months. We ask people to respect the safety perimeters set up for demolition. The public will be notified of milestones during the demolition, including the use of a wrecking ball. Implosion will not be used for this demolition.

We ask you to remember that our monastery is not a building, but a community of Benedictine women who have served the people of Arkansas for 143 years. We sisters continue to live with you here in Fort Smith and pray for unity and healing during this difficult time. We also ask for you to pray for us.

Sincerely,

Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery