



ST. SCHOLASTICA MONASTERY

Benedictine Sisters

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October 2023

Dear Friends of St. Scholastica,

The buds and blossoms of spring at the monastery faded into lush green trees to make way for summer. We are grateful to God for the unlikely rain in June and July, even though we felt that infamous Southern heat. And now, as the season changes to fall with the approach of winter, the monastery grounds will soon go from varied greens to gold and orange—harvest colors.



During each season, we turn our attention to the beauty of nature and our surrounding grounds. Benedictine monasteries consider year-round care for their grounds an important responsibility. Beauty and a quiet atmosphere are needed to provide space for reflection for both the Sisters and visitors and those who visit us. The monastery, in many ways, is a sanctuary. We often hear from the people in town that the green, tree-filled grounds give a peaceful feeling to those driving past on the busy streets surrounding the monastery. The grounds of the monastery are a living tribute left to us thanks to the hard work of Sisters Alexis Fritz, Mary John Wiederkehr, Frances Teresa Adams, Sister Pierre Vorster, and many other Sisters who found pleasure in beautifying our grounds.



Sister Pierre in her “younger” years tending to her pepper plants.

This was Sister Pierre’s passion the last twenty-five years of her life. In her memory, we are focusing on the grounds this year.

In 1941, William Bauhaus, one of the maintenance men for the monastery, built the “Come Apart and Rest Awhile” gazebo beside the path to the cemetery. This little white gazebo has sheltered many Sisters, retreatants, and guests as they spent quiet time with God and nature or shared time in fellowship. The years of wind, rain, sun, snow, and heat have weathered this beloved gazebo. This year the Sisters are repairing and restoring this 82-year-old part of our history.



The gazebo with its new roof and some repairs made.

The serene grounds of the monastery also serve as a place of eternal rest for the Sisters who have passed on in Christ. The cemetery of St. Scholastica is nearly eight-five years old. This, too, needs improvements. A columbarium is in the planning stages. More information about the columbarium will be shared later.

Weaving among the trees, shrubs, grottoes, labyrinth, gazebos, and the cemetery are roads and sidewalks. Some of these pathways are aging and need attention so those who walk them may do so easily and safely. Lightning and wind storms have damaged trees that need removal. In the empty places where trees once stood, new ones need to be planted.

As the Sisters continue to live, pray, and work on the grounds of the monastery, the beauty and functionality of this sanctuary must be nurtured and maintained. We continue to seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit as we discern how to properly honor the past and wisely consider the future of the grounds where the former monastery stood. The Sisters are currently forming a committee to develop plans for this space. We pray that this new endeavor, however the Holy Spirit guides us, will continue the mission and charism of the Benedictine Sisters.

We thank you for honoring Sister Pierre's memory through your support as we continue her work of caring for our grounds and the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery.

With our love and prayers,

Sister Kimberly Prohaska

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