St. Scholastica Monastery
1315 S. Albert Pike
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903 **We Live, Pray, and Grow Together; We are Simply Benedictine**

October 2026

Dear Friends,

Cooler days, quickly turning calendar pages, and festive displays in stores – all signs of the approaching holidays. A thread running through the holiday season is the theme of gratitude. Thanksgiving sets the tone by reminding us of the many blessings in our lives, blessings that are often overlooked in our hectic, day-to-day activities. During Advent, we focus our gratitude on the events and people preparing for the birth of Jesus. Then, after the waiting of Advent, our hearts fill with joy and gratitude for the coming of Jesus into our world to be one with us.



One of the trees planted recently by our groundskeepers

With the coming of this season of gratitude, our hearts turn to you, our Oblates, Alumnae, benefactors, families, and friends. We are humbled by your faithful love and support. As we make this appeal to your generosity again this year, we recall the ways you have blessed us in answer to our appeals the last few years. Thanks to your help, Armando Gonzalez and Lisa Johnson, our faithful groundskeepers, have planted about twenty trees on our grounds. The various kinds include pin oak, maple, and redbud. They have nursed them through this summer's drought. A new air conditioner has been installed in the Guest House, adding to the comfort of our guests.



Using our new chairs during our election process.

Recently, we purchased new chairs for our meeting room. We loved the looks and comfort of the old purple ones, but they were too difficult to move when used at a table. Finally, after much searching, we found some we like. They are also purple but are lighter in weight and roll safely on the carpet. We used them for the first time during our discernment days for our Prioress election in early October. They served us well. Thank you for your help in helping us with these needs.



Our bells

This year we are asking your help for a project dear to our hearts – landscaping for the site of the former monastery building. After several meetings, a task force, with the help of a local landscape architect, is gradually developing a plan. The plan includes a display of the three large bells formerly on the tower section of the old monastery building, signs featuring Benedictine values and historical information to be placed along paths winding through the area, and easier access to the grottos. We will share more information as the plan evolves in the coming year.

Another project that I have been working on with Nini Quimbo, a physical therapist who has worked with many of our Sisters, is the purchase of a piece of exercise equipment to add to our Exercise Room. Nini feels that this equipment will be of great help in keeping our elderly Sisters active and independent.



Our grotto

Recently, another need has come to our attention. Some of the windows in the Guest House were nailed shut when we bought the house. Our maintenance workers have sourced some windows to replace them.

We thank you for helping us with these needs and for contributing to the care of our sick and elderly Sisters. We remember you in our prayers and ask you to remember us in yours. We pray that your lives will be blessed during the coming holiday season. May your hearts be filled with peace and hope in the awareness of God's great love for us.

With our love and prayers,

Sister Kimberly Prohaska and the Sisters