



“The creation of the Endowment for Our Sacred Space will give the Sisters the ability to sustain this icon of faith, acceptance and peace...a retreat from the pressures of this world.”



ENDOWMENT FOR
OUR SACRED SPACE
Preserving Our Church for Tomorrow



SISTERS
OF ST. BENEDICT
FERDINAND, INDIANA
Seek. Pray. Share.

thedome.org • 812.367.1411
802 E. 10th Street
Ferdinand, IN 47532-9239

Dear Friends,

In 1867, four Sisters of St. Benedict traveled from Covington, Kentucky to Ferdinand, Indiana to teach the area's German settlers and their children. From that humble beginning, the Monastery Immaculate Conception was founded. Today, more than 110 Sisters live, work and serve from this monastery. And the heart and soul of the monastery is the church.

Throughout our history, each prioress has concerned herself with the care of this beloved church, not only for our community of Benedictine women, but for all of southern Indiana and beyond. It is both a treasured landmark and a spiritual beacon where "all are welcomed as Christ." Its very architecture is designed to draw us closer to God and lift us up to a place of reverence and stillness, joy and worship.

In 2000, the Sisters began a successful campaign to help refurbish and restore this sacred space. While that effort achieved success, the process of raising those funds was a lengthy one for the Sisters, many of whom assumed this responsibility in addition to their regular work and ministries. As prioress today, I feel it is vital to create an endowment so that the fruit of their efforts can be maintained in perpetuity.

The creation of the Endowment for Our Sacred Space will give the Sisters the ability to sustain this icon of faith, acceptance and peace, a retreat from the pressures of this world. It will help carry our Benedictine lifestyle into the future as we build a broader, more diverse community.

Your help in building an endowment for the preservation and care of this space is vital not only for the Sisters, but for our region and our world. We minister to thousands of people, including students, patients and healthcare providers, inmates, parish communities, immigrants on the path to citizenship, oblates and other spiritual seekers, visitors, the hungry and the homeless, families and individuals in need of counseling and social services, alumnae from Marian Heights Academy and Academy Immaculate Conception, families of Sisters, local dioceses, youth in Peru and so many more. The church is the spiritual center from which all of those ministries flow.

We pray that you will honor the generosity of those who contributed to the renovation of the church by helping to ensure that it never again falls into disrepair. The endowment for the care and preservation of our monastery church can only be fully funded if you help us, through either a gift today, a pledge or a planned gift for the future. Our deepest desire is that the Benedictine community, as it evolves and adapts to the growing needs of a changing world, always has a place to call home, a place to find peace, and a place to welcome those whose struggles are heavy. In this way, we honor the Sisters of the past, those who serve today and those yet to come. Please join us.

Blessings to you and yours,

Sister Anita Louise Lowe, OSB

Sister Anita Louise Lowe
Prioress





Stewardship

Monastery Immaculate Conception church has no congregation or parish for support.

It receives no regular financial assistance from the diocese or any other Catholic institution. Its upkeep is entirely dependent upon income earned by the Sisters and the generosity of our donors.

With this Endowment for Our Sacred Space, we can ensure the operation and preservation of our historic church, support the continual growth of our monastic life, increase public access, and offer a welcoming worship experience to every guest.



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Leave a Living Legacy

The goal for the Endowment for Our Sacred Space is \$6 million. This will provide sufficient annual income for preventative maintenance of the church, colonnade and adjacent areas in a manner that will prevent small problems from becoming big, expensive ones.

If you'd like to help the Sisters preserve this Sacred Space for future generations, here are three ways to give:

A GIFT TODAY

You can make an immediate gift of cash or assets today that will help us reach our goal and meet the most immediate needs of the church.

A PLEDGE GIFT

You can pledge a gift of cash or assets for a specific date or time in the future, which will help fund the endowment and equip us to meet upcoming or future needs.

A PLANNED GIFT

You can include an unrestricted gift for the Sisters in your will or estate plan that we can direct to Our Sacred Space, knowing that your legacy will be the lasting preservation of our Benedictine life and work.