

# SEEKPRAYSHARE

SISTERS OF ST. BENEDICT OF FERDINAND, INDIANA

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 1 | SUMMER 2026



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In one way or another, this issue of *Seek Pray Share* is all about celebration. And there is much to celebrate!

In these pages, you'll read about a lovely visit with our Sisters from Peru as we celebrated the installation of a new Superior for our dependent monastery there.

You'll learn about a delightful new children's book that celebrates our Sisters — and one in particular — and about an amazing group of quilters who are helping us help others.

You'll also catch up with the joyful ministry of Sister Betty Drewes, and the Jubilees of a number of our Sisters who celebrate major milestones this year.

We also celebrate the lives and work of two of our beloved Sisters who passed away earlier this year.

In difficult times, it is so important that we continue to celebrate with one another. When we do, we express gratitude and joy for the goodness God has brought into our lives. I pray your life is filled with reasons to celebrate this summer, and in every season. May God bless you.

*Sister Anita Louise Lowe, OSB*

Sister Anita Louise Lowe, OSB  
Prioress

# Peru Sisters Come to Ferdinand

In January, the Sisters of St. Benedict in Ferdinand were overjoyed to host our Sisters from Monasterio Paz de la Cruz, our dependent monastery in Morropón, Peru, which we established there in 1983.

Visiting us were Sister Magna Lucia Castillo, Sister Felícita “Feli” Rentería Navarro, Sister Nolberta “Nolbi” Ramírez Jiménez, Sister María Montalbán Chávez, Sister Marilu Cordova, and Sister María Jesús Lopez Berrú, who made her final profession last year.

Part of the purpose for their visit was the appointment by our prioress, Sister Anita Louise Lowe, of a new superior for the monastery in Peru. After much prayer and discernment, Sister Felícita Rentería Navarro — or “Feli” as she is known to her Sisters — was chosen to serve as superior for the next four years.

Sister Feli has previously served three times as superior. A teacher by profession, she has served as the Director of Colegio Santa Rita (Saint Rita School) for many, many years, and also taught Communication classes for the school. Her dedication, expertise and enthusiasm have made Santa Rita highly regarded, with over 1,000 students currently enrolled in elementary and secondary classes.

While they were here, the Peru Sisters spent time with our community, praying, sharing and getting to know one another better. They had a chance to visit with members of the Women of the Rule, our women’s philanthropy circle, and even got to experience some snow and winter weather!

We hope you will be warmed by the knowledge that it is your support, your generosity and your prayers which make our work here and in distant places like Peru possible. In this, you magnify God’s light in the world.



*You can watch a video of the “Ritual for Confirmation of the Superior” from Sunday, January 11 by scanning this QR code with your phone.*



# Flipping for One of Our Sisters.

Sr. Mary Philip Berger's niece tells stories about her.

Here's some fun news! A new children's book called *Sister Mary Flip's First Day*, written by the niece of our very own Sister Mary Philip Berger, is now available.

Erica Futa (pen name: E. Berger), a first-time children's book author, has created a warm and lighthearted story about a kind, clumsy young nun who may fall often — but always gets back up with grace, humor, and heart.



Inspired by the Sisters of St. Benedict, Erica hopes “to reflect the spirit, joy and perseverance so deeply rooted in this community.”

“As a child, I grew up visiting the monastery to spend time with my aunt, Sister Mary Philip Berger,” she recalls, “and enjoyed the beautiful buildings and grounds of Monastery Immaculate Conception.”

We invite you to share this delightful book with family, friends, or anyone with young readers in their life, and recommend it to your local school, parish or gift shop. You can also follow Sister Mary Flip on Instagram @sistermaryflip.

The real Sister Mary Philip Berger is a native of South Bend, Indiana who entered Monastery Immaculate Conception nearly 65 years ago, in September of 1961, and made her Perpetual Profession on June 13, 1968.

After studying at St. Benedict College, Mount St. Scholastica and Notre Dame, she taught at St. Mary's in Washington, Indiana; St. Ferdinand High School; Academy Immaculate Conception / Marian Heights Academy here in Ferdinand (for 33 years); and Brescia University — followed by a number of years providing ESL, serving as Volunteer Assistant and making phone calls for Mission Advancement. Sister Mary Philip currently serves in Prayer Ministry.



Erica plans a series of books about Sister Mary Flip and her many adventures, which she hopes will bring more attention to the Sisters, who receive a portion of the proceeds from book sales.

You can purchase copies of *Sister Mary Flip's First Day* for all the young readers in your life at the Monastery Gift Shop in Ferdinand or online (<https://www.monasterygiftshop.org/shop>)

**ABOVE**  
Sister Mary Philip Berger, who served as inspiration for the delightful miadventures of Sister Mary Flip

# Women Helping Women Helping Women.

Quilting group helps the Sisters help women overcoming substance abuse.

In late 2025, Sheri Meier, a longarm quilter and member of Raintree Quilters Guild, Inc., was gifted 12 quilt tops from a friend who had purchased them at an estate sale.

Her initial response was to find the right “home” for them, since many people are comforted by quilts in a time of need. She began quilting them and asked friends to help her by binding them. The project grew.

While at a Quilting Retreat at Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, Sheri told Sister Rose Mary Rexing about the quilts, and asked if the Sisters were connected to a particular charity where the quilts would be useful and appreciated.



Sister Rose Mary shared that the Sisters worked with Dove Recovery House for Women in Jasper, and would be happy to share the quilts with those in need.

Word spread among Sheri’s friends, as more and more quilters got energized about the project and wanted to donate additional tops. Soon, Sheri had so many offers to provide a quilt top or to bind quilts once she finished the quilting that she had trouble keeping track of how many quilts were in production.

In early 2026, knowing that the Guild’s retreat at the Monastery was coming up in March, Sheri began to brainstorm ideas for how to present the quilts.

Perri Kentner, the Guild’s Chairman for the Retreat, asked Sister Jackie Kissel to help them share the quilts with as many of the Sisters as possible, since so many of the Sisters enjoy their work in the community and drop in on the retreat to see what the quilters are making.



On March 19, after dinner, the retreat attendees gathered with the Sisters in the monastery dining room as Sister Jackie shared the story of the project with all those in attendance.

The retreat attendees conducted a Quilt Parade, walking around the dining room showing the quilts to the Sisters at each table. There were lots of “ooh”s and “aah”s at the 38 gorgeous quilts.

The quilts were delivered to Dove Recovery House, and the Sisters were touched and very grateful for the support of their mission in the community. The quilters who participated in making the quilts were happy to share their talents with those in need.

Dove Recovery House for Women is the largest recovery residence for women in Marion and Dubois counties. Since 2000, thousands of women have made Dove House their home as they seek recovery from substance use disorder. Nearly 80% of these residents have successfully completed the program or are on track to successful completion.



# Living with Joy

Sister Betty brings a smile with her everywhere.



Spend even a few minutes with Sister Betty Drewes and one thing becomes immediately clear. Joy isn't just something she talks about. It's something she lives.

It shows up in her laughter, in her stories, in the way she listens, and in the quiet, steady way she accompanies others on their spiritual journeys. It's no surprise that when people describe her, the same word comes up again and again: joyful.

But that joy didn't appear overnight. It has been shaped, deepened and refined over a lifetime of faith, service and saying "yes"—sometimes eagerly, sometimes reluctantly — to where God was calling her next.

Sister Betty's story begins in Brookville, Indiana, at St. Michael's Parish, a place that would form the foundation of her faith and her future.

"I've been a member of St. Michael's since birth," she says. "My family, parish, and school...they influenced my life greatly."

Faith wasn't something separate from daily life; it was woven into everything. Family prayer, the Angelus ringing from nearby church bells, the Rosary, Mass on weekends...these rhythms created a sense of closeness to God that felt natural and sustaining.

And by sixth grade, something deeper had already begun to stir.

"When my brother was preparing for ordination," she recalls, "I thought, well, if there's going to be a priest in the family, there's going to be a sister too."

It may have started as a simple thought, but it stayed. And grew. "There was never a time I didn't feel called to religious life," she says. "The question was never if. It was where."

That question of "where" eventually led her to Ferdinand. And fittingly, it began with a small, joyful act of hospitality.

Her first encounter with a Benedictine, Sister Victoria Pohl, wasn't dramatic or formal. But it was memorable.

"She had something under her scapular," Sister Betty laughs. "And I said 'hello,' and she asked, 'Would you like some popcorn?'"



That was it. "That hospitality — that openness — stayed with me," she says. "It sounds like such a small thing. But it wasn't."

In that moment, she glimpsed something essentially Benedictine: a spirit of welcome, warmth and joy that felt like home.

In 1965, she entered the monastery in Ferdinand. She's been here ever since.

Like many religious vocations, Sister Betty's has not followed a straight line. Instead, it's unfolded through a series of invitations — some expected, others surprising.

After entering, she completed her education and was quickly sent into ministry, teaching in Catholic schools in Evansville. Though she loved teaching, especially fourth graders, her path soon shifted.

**LEFT**

Sister Victoria Pohl, who made Sister Betty feel at home.

“I didn’t always get to stay where I wanted,” she admits with a smile. But one of her least favorite assignments — teaching junior high — offered an early lesson in obedience.

“I did not like junior high at all,” she admits candidly. “But I stayed.” That willingness to stay, to serve where needed, would be a defining thread in her life.

From there, her ministry expanded in unexpected ways: traveling across multiple states recruiting students for Marian Heights Academy, serving as a counselor and dean of students, and eventually stepping into leadership roles.

Each time, the pattern was the same: listen, discern and respond. Even when the answer wasn’t easy.

One of the most powerful aspects of Sister Betty’s story is how she understands obedience, not as obligation, but as listening.

“I think it’s the grace of God,” she says. “Knowing where you need to be at the time.”

That grace was especially evident when she was asked to leave a ministry she loved to serve in leadership back in Ferdinand.

“I didn’t feel it in my heart,” she notes. “But the writing was on the wall.” And then came a question that stayed with her: “Can you let God write it on your heart?”

She did. For ten years, she served in leadership, discovering not only new responsibilities but deeper relationships within the community.

“It wasn’t always easy,” she says. “But it was pure grace.”

That phrase — pure grace — comes up often in her reflections. It’s how she describes both the challenges and the blessings.

Along the way, Sister Betty pursued extensive education, earning degrees in education, pastoral ministry, and counseling. But learning was never just academic — it was always tied to service.

One of the most transformative experiences of her life came when she spent a semester in the Holy Land with her brother.

“To walk where Jesus walked...to celebrate where Jesus celebrated,” she says, her voice softening, “was a pure gift.”

It deepened not only her understanding of Scripture, but her sense of connection to Christ, to her vocation, and to the people she would later accompany.

After decades in education and leadership, a new chapter opened when Marian Heights Academy closed in 2000. For the first time, she had to look for a new role.

“I had never had to find a job in my life,” she laughs. “The community always had one for me.” That search led her to spiritual direction — a ministry that would become the heart of her work today.

“I love it,” she declares. “It’s a pure gift.”

As a spiritual director, Sister Betty helps people from their 20s to their 80s deepen their relationship with God.



**RIGHT**  
Sister Betty when she made her initial profession as Sister Mary Arnold in 1964

“The ideal person,” she says, “is someone who wants to grow closer to God. That’s the bottom line.”

And the need is growing. In a world filled with noise, distraction, and constant busyness, more and more people are seeking stillness, meaning and connection.

“It’s very hard today,” she says, “to be quiet. To be still. You have to do it intentionally.” That’s where spiritual direction becomes so important.

Though she’s guided countless individuals over the years, Sister Betty is quick to point out that the relationship is never one-sided.

“I receive more than they receive,” she says, watching people grow over time and seeing their faith deepen, their awareness expand, and their lives change.

“It’s beautiful,” she says. “To see where they were, and where they are now.” In many ways, her ministry reflects the very essence of Benedictine life: listening, presence and accompaniment.

At the center of everything for Sister Betty — her vocation, her ministry and her relationships — is joy. Not a superficial happiness, but something deeper. Something rooted.

“I think it started in my family,” she reflects. “There was always a joyful spirit.” Her mother, especially, left a lasting impression. “She always said, ‘Never walk out of your bedroom without a smile.’”

It’s a simple piece of advice — but one that has shaped a lifetime.

That joy, she explains, is closely tied to something else: gratitude. “You don’t have one without the other,” she says.

Rather than focusing on what is missing, she chooses to embrace what is present. “I have enough for right now,” she says. “And that’s all that’s necessary.”

It’s a perspective that feels both timeless and urgently needed.

Sister Betty’s story is, at its core, a story of invitation. To listen more deeply. To trust more fully. To say “yes” even when the path isn’t clear.

Perhaps most of all, it’s an invitation to live with joy. Not because life is always easy, but because God is always present.

“Living each day fully with joy,” she says, “that’s my motto.” It’s a simple phrase. But in her life, it has become something much more — a witness to what is possible when faith, gratitude and generosity come together.

For the many people she has taught, led and accompanied over the years — and the donors and supporters who make those ministries possible — it’s a reminder of why this work matters.

Because through lives like Sister Betty’s, the mission of the Sisters of St. Benedict continues: to serve, to guide, and to bring the quiet, powerful presence of God into a world that deeply needs it.



**LEFT**  
Sister Betty as a Postulant.



**BELOW**  
Once a month, Sister Betty drives more than 200 miles to Paducah, KY to provide spiritual direction for members of all five parishes in the Paducah Deanery.



# Celebrating Milestones

This year, we're celebrating Jubilees for a special group of Sisters.

In 2026, the Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand are joyfully celebrating the Jubilees of Religious Life of twelve remarkable women. Their milestones, ranging from 25 to 70 years of vowed Benedictine life, represent a combined 775 years of faithful service, prayer and love for God's people. Each Sister's journey is a living witness to the Gospel and to the enduring spirit of St. Benedict. And regardless of age, every one of them continues to work in one ministry or another — or several — today!

A Jubilee is more than a number of years. It is a measure of faithful perseverance, of daily prayer, and of loving service given freely over a lifetime. Each of these Sisters have devoted themselves to our Benedictine community, to the thousands of people we have served, and to the guiding wisdom of the Rule of St. Benedict. Above all, they have lived their lives rooted in divine love — a love that continues to shape hearts, heal wounds, and inspire hope. We begin by honoring two of our Jubilarians who passed away earlier this year.

**Sister Mary Carmel Spayd**, who passed away in January at the age of 100, would have celebrated her 80-year jubilee in 2026, a tribute to a beautiful life of teaching and supporting her religious community.

*(See page 11.)*

**Sister Diane Fischer** who passed away in March, served 70 years as a gentle guide — to children in classrooms, to parishioners, to women discerning religious life and to those seeking a deeper walk with God.

*(See page 12.)*

## 70 YEARS

### **Sister Joella Kidwell**

Sister Joella has spent her life sharing God's love with humility and compassion through education, pastoral care, and quiet presence with those in need.

### **Sister Madonna Helmer**

Sister Madonna's long life of prayer and service has manifested in the lovely music she plays and in the music she creates in the lives of others.

### **Sister Doris Market**

In a life devoted to education and service, Sister Doris has also immeasurably enriched those around her through the expression of her artistic gifts.

### **Sister Jacqueline Shively \***

Sister Jacqueline has touched countless lives, whether as a teacher or serving in so many ways that keep the business of the monastery healthy and vibrant.

### **Sister Helen Jean Kormelink**

Sister Helen Jean has a true heart for education, whether serving as a classroom teacher for more than thirty years, in administration and as superintendent.

### **Sister Leona Schlachter**

Known for her lifelong dedication to education and outreach, Sister Leona continues to share joy and gratitude with all who support the Sisters' mission.

## 60 YEARS

### **Sister Joyce Marie Newton**

Sister Joyce Marie spent 43 years in classrooms across southern Indiana before devoting herself to serving her Sisters here at the monastery.

### **Sister Jennifer Miller**

With a true heart for service, Sister Jennifer has spent six decades supporting others through pastoral, educational and community-centered work.

### **Sister Marilyn Schroering**

Sister Marilyn's ministry reflects her lifelong commitment to faith, learning, and compassionate service to God's people.

## 50 YEARS

### **Sister Karen Sue Durliat**

For five decades, Sister Karen Sue has shared her gifts and God's love through teaching, mission work and pastoral care, especially for Hispanic parishioners.

## 25 YEARS

### **Sister Rebecca Ann Mathauer**

Sister Rebecca Ann has devoted her 25 years of religious life in service to young people, whether as a classroom teacher, youth minister, or in a host of other positions.

*\* As this issue went to press, Sister Jacqueline passed away. Her full obituary will appear in the next issue.*

## Sr. Anita to Chair Conference of Benedictine Prioresses

Earlier this year in Baltimore, prioresses, administrators, and presidents of monastic congregations from across the United States and Canada selected Sister Anita Louise Lowe of the Sisters of St. Benedict in Ferdinand to chair the Conference of Benedictine Prioresses.

A Louisville native, Sister Anita Louise holds a Bachelor's degree from Brescia College, and a Master's degree from the University of Notre Dame.

Prior to serving as prioress at Monastery Immaculate Conception, Sister Anita Louise has served as an English and French teacher, Assistant Director of Communications, Public Relations Manager, Assistant Director of Vocations, Director of Vocations and Liturgist.



# In Memoriam

God's promise has been fulfilled for our dear Sisters.

**Sister Mary Carmel Spayd** died at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, January 9, 2026, at Scenic Hills at the Monastery in Ferdinand, just months after celebrating her 100th birthday.

Sister Mary Carmel was born Luella Cyrilla Spayd on August 16, 1925, in Mariah Hill, Indiana, one of five children of William and Theresa (Brenner) Spayd. She entered the Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand in 1944 with her twin sister, Sister Mary Carmen Spayd, from Mary Help of Christians Parish in Mariah Hill, and made her monastic vows in 1946.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her twin sister Sister Mary Carmen; her brother Alfred Spayd and sister-in-law Margaret (Altman) Spayd; her sister Geneva (Spayd) Weyer and brother-in-law Sylvester "Johnny" Weyer; and her brother Ralph Spayd and sister-in-law Pearl (Rasche) Spayd. She is survived by her nieces and nephews and her religious family.



Sister Mary Carmel earned a Bachelor's degree from St. Benedict (Normal) College, and a Master of Business Administration from Notre Dame. She served for decades as a teacher in Indiana: at Christ the King Elementary School in Indianapolis; at Academy Immaculate Conception / Marian Heights Academy in Ferdinand; and at Mater Dei High School in Evansville, where she also served as a respected principal from 1967 to 1981.

Beyond her long career in education, Sister Mary Carmel also served the Sisters of St. Benedict as Administrative Assistant; as Director of Development; as Administrative Assistant in the Development Office; and in Supportive Services for both Monastery Immaculate Conception and Marian Heights Academy.

Sisters Mary Carmel and Mary Carmen were known for their shared devotion to God — and their love of swing dancing, which nearly delayed their vocations. "It was the hardest thing to give up," Sister Mary Carmel recalled.

Looking back over her life and work, she remembered, "The Benedictine community fosters personal growth. I never felt stifled in any way. The community offered me opportunities I would not have had otherwise." Those opportunities included pouring concrete for monastery walkways, climbing scaffolding to the top of the church dome — in her late 70s — and living a life of service grounded in prayer and joy.

**Sister Diane Fischer** died at 7:34 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at the Monastery in Ferdinand.

Sister Diane Fischer was born Martha Sue Fischer on October 20, 1936, in French Lick, Indiana, the youngest of three children of William H. Fischer and Edna (Painter) Fischer. She entered the Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand in 1954 from Our Lady of the Springs in French Lick, and made her monastic vows in 1956.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her sister Ann (Fischer) Mings. She is survived by her sister Rose Marie (Fischer) Teti, her brother-in-law Pierino Teti, and her religious family.

Sister Diane earned a Bachelor's degree in Education, a Master's degree in Education with an endorsement in English, and a Master's degree in Applied Theology.



She served for decades as a teacher in Indiana: at Christ the King Elementary School and Holy Redeemer Elementary School, both in Evansville; Dubois Elementary School in Dubois; Saint Thomas Elementary School in Vincennes; Saint Anthony Elementary School in Saint Anthony; and at Pine Ridge Elementary School in Birdseye. She was also a Teacher Aide and office worker at Sacred Heart Model School in Louisville, Kentucky.

Beyond her career in education, Sister Diane served as a part-time Pastoral Associate at Holy Angels Parish in New Harmony; Saint Matthew Parish in Mount Vernon; Saint Celestine in Celestine; and Saint Raphael in Dubois. She was also a Pastoral Life Coordinator for Holy Name Parish in Bloomfield, Indiana.

Sister Diane served in many positions with the Sisters of St. Benedict in Ferdinand, Indiana: as a Vocation Director; Administrative Assistant; Hospitality Assistant; in the Dining Room; by caring for our senior Sisters; in Mission Advancement; and in Supportive Services for both Kordes Enrichment Center and Monastery Immaculate Conception.

Sister Diane spoke of her vocation with a smile and a sense of humor, always remembering both her youthful dreams and the surprising moment God called her to something more. With quiet determination well beyond her years, she followed that call despite uncertainty and even resistance from others, trusting deeply in where it would lead. In time, her joyful commitment and gentle spirit not only shaped her own life, but became a source of pride and inspiration for those who loved her most.

# Make a Retreat.

Come refresh body, mind, soul and spirit.

## Pause & Pray Days

Each date is a reflection on a woman Doctor of the Church, with a goal of incorporating their spirituality into your own life.

- **August 6, 2026:** St. Catherine of Siena leads us to grow in love and truth.
- **November 6, 2026:** St. Hildegard of Bingen on a passionate and creative life.

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST  
\$40 each (includes lunch)



## Rest & Refresh Overnight for Caregivers

Take time away from the expectations and responsibilities of caregiving. Informal discussion and creative activity are available.

- **August 25 – 26, 2026**

*Begin at 11:00 a.m. EST and end the following day at 1:00 p.m. EST.  
\$125 per person (includes meals and overnight accommodations)*

## Silent Directed Retreats

Reflect and listen to God's call with a spiritual director to guide you for about 50 minutes every day. Pray, rest, meditate, and nurture your spiritual life. We open and close with a prayer service, with meals in silence with meditative music.

- **September 11 – 18, 2026**
- **October 9 – 16, 2026**

*\$800 per retreat (includes meals, overnight accommodations and spiritual direction)*

## Guided Weekends

### Advent Wisdom: Prepare the Way

Reflect on ways to grow in faith, hope, love, and peace this Advent. Step away from the rush of holiday preparation and experience the true meaning of Christmas more deeply.

- **December 4 – 6, 2026**

*All Guided Weekends begin at 7:00 p.m. EST Friday and end at 1:00 p.m. EST Sunday.  
\$250 per person Single Occupancy  
\$200 per person Double Occupancy*

## Come to the Quiet Retreat

Renew and revitalize body, mind and spirit with rest and prayer in a peaceful atmosphere. The Quiet Retreat will open and close with a prayer service, but the rest of the time is for you to spend as you see fit. Meals will be in a quiet atmosphere with reflective music. Spiritual Direction available if requested for an additional charge of \$50 per session.

- **August 14 – 21, 2026**

*\$575 (includes meals and overnight accommodations)*

## Individual Private Retreat

Create your own retreat, preferably Monday – Friday, seeking where the Spirit leads you. During your stay, your schedule will be your own. Spiritual Direction may be available if the schedule allows at an additional charge (\$50 for one hour session during the retreat). Join the Sisters for daily Liturgy of the Hours. Renew your energy and purpose as you experience God's love.



## Meet the Sisters' Executive Advisory Council

The Executive Advisory Council serves in an advisory capacity to the Prioress and Monastic Council of the Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, Indiana, Inc., advising the Prioress in matters pertaining to the direction, strategic initiatives, programs and resources in light of the needs of the Church, society and the membership.

**Left to Right:** John and Kelly Clauss, Greg Oster, Sr. Rose Mary Rexing, Max and Jen Verkamp, Kevin Smith, Sue Ellsperman and Jim Mehling, Prioress Sr. Anita Louise Lowe, Carl Cook, Steve Witting, Pat Koch, Gary and Cindy Weinzapfel, Sr. Celeste Boda, Sr. Roxanne Higgins, Sr. Louise Laroche, Sr. Patty Lasher, Sr. Kathleen Cash.

**Not pictured:** Sr. Jane Becker, Dean and Karen Bosler, Dave and Brenda Buehler\*, Bill Bussing\*, Marcy Cook, Julie Davis, Doug and Cheryl Gettelfinger, Nancy Habig, Alisa Hendrix, Alan and Dana Hoffman, Tom, McKenna\*, Judy Palmer\*, Kyle and Becca Resetarits, Mike and Pam Schwenk\*, Ken Sicard, Lindsey Smith, Gene and Mary Tempel\*, Sr. Paula Wolff and facilitator Jessica Terry Bergman.

*\* Emeritus members*

## Give Smart in Any Economy

### Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

If you're 70½ or older, you can give directly from your IRA, tax-free, up to \$111,000 per individual in 2026. It even counts toward your required minimum distribution.

### Charitable Gift Annuities

Give a gift today and receive a fixed income payment for the rest of your life. It's a gift that gives back and includes a partial tax deduction. Contact us for a free, no-obligation proposal tailored to you.

### Gifts of Appreciated Stock

Donate stock that has grown in value and avoid capital gains tax entirely, while receiving a deduction for the full fair-market value.

### Planned & Bequest Gifts

A gift through your will or trust costs you nothing today but creates a lasting legacy. You can also name us as a beneficiary on a retirement account, bank account, or transfer-on-death (TOD) designation. (If you have already done so, we invite you to let the Sisters know.)

### Become a Monastery Angel

Join our community of monthly donors whose steady gifts add up to something truly significant. Every amount matters and your support is felt all year long.

### 2026 Tax News

For the first time since 2021, even taxpayers who take the standard deduction can claim a charitable deduction on their 2026 return, up to \$1,000 for individuals and \$2,000 for married couples filing jointly.

To learn more, call Lydia Bolton at 812-367-1411, ext. 2678, email [lbolton@thedome.org](mailto:lbolton@thedome.org), or visit [www.thedome.org](http://www.thedome.org).

*Charitable gift annuities are not available in all states. The above information is not intended as specific legal advice. Consult your attorney when considering any legal matter. State laws which govern wills and contracts vary and are subject to change. The Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, Indiana is an exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, EIN 35-0953517.*

