

Benedictine Sisters of Boerne St. Scholastica Monastery



Annual Giving Campaign - September 2021

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." Ecclesiastes 3:1

Dear Friends,

The Sisters and I extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who has journeyed with us this past year in heart, spirit, and generous support. We know many of you and your families have been affected by the difficult seasons of COVID, natural disasters, illnesses, loneliness, political and global unrest, and divisiveness in our nation and in our world. We continue to lift you in our prayers, and trust God to see us through these times.

For us, 2021 has brought many challenges. Our prioress, Sister Frances Briseño, suffered a significant stroke at the beginning of March. She continues to receive the nurturing care she needs. God called Sister Mary Rose Goertz home later that month. COVID has affected some of our staff and their families. They and several Sisters have been quarantined to ensure the health and well-being of the community. I am grateful to report all are well. **Care for our Sisters remains a top priority and unfortunately costs for their care are always increasing.**

Climate change is having an affect around the world, and we have had our share of weather-related hardships. During the unprecedented "Big Freeze" in February, pipes in our Omega Retreat Center burst causing leaks and water to spill out onto Highland Dr. and freeze. Spring storms caused **hail damage to six of our cars, and 20 of our roofs. These unexpected repairs, some still in progress, are expected to exceed \$100,000 in deductible costs!**

This summer, our community began a prayerful season facilitated by an established election committee to elect our next prioress in November. And recently, two of our three nonagenarians celebrated milestone Jubilees, 75 and 76 years of Religious Life. These remarkable women are God's champions and remind the rest of the community to "keep on keeping on", to go forward, especially as we all face new seasons in our future.

We invite you to consider a gift to this year's **Annual Giving Campaign**. As someone once said, "Religious women don't retire; they just wake up in heaven." We are committed to our mission of "Ora et Labora" (pray and work) for as long as God allows each of us. We will continue moving onward in our daily prayer, our communal walk, and in our ministries. Our long-term planning promises care of our Sisters throughout their lives. **Your tax-deductible gift of any amount will help us "keep on keeping on" to provide care for our Sisters, to carry on our work with God's people, and to meet the coming season with hope as we prepare for new leadership this fall.**

We thank you for your faithful support and your prayers. May God bless you and your loved ones ~

With gratitude and hope,

Sister Sylvia Ahr, OSB

Sister Sylvia Ahr, OSB

Administrator

Please use the enclosed envelope or make your gift online at www.boernebenedictines.org - Thank you!