

Benedictine Sisters of St. Joseph Urgent Fundraiser - Please Help us Build a Permanent Home



THE SISTERS VISIT THE RELICS IN FRONT OF THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE.

“WITHOUT MONASTERIES, WITHOUT RELIGIOUS SOULS CONSECRATED TO PRAYER AND THE SERVICE OF GOD, THE CHURCH WILL NEVER RECOVER FROM THE PRESENT CRISIS.”

- ARCHBISHOP MARCEL LEFEBVRE

“A CONTEMPLATIVE MONASTERY IS UNITED TO THE CHURCH AS THE ANCHOR TO A SHIP TO KEEP IT SAFE AMID WAVES AND STORMS.”

- ANCIENT RULE FOR HERMITS

“YOU (CONTEMPLATIVE NUNS) ARE THE COLLABORATORS WITH GOD HIMSELF AND THE SUPPORT OF THE WEAK AND WAVERING MEMBERS OF HIS INEFFABLE BODY.”

- ST. CLARE OF ASSISI

DEAR FRIENDS AND BENEFACTORS:

AFTER HAVING SPENT FOUR MONTHS IN SOLITUDE IN THE MOUNTAINS OF COLOMBIA FOCUSED ON A MONASTIC FORMATION, THE AMERICAN SISTERS RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES TO FURTHER REFLECT AND DISCERN THEIR PATH WITHIN THE CRISIS IN THE CHURCH. WITH SO LITTLE FAITH LEFT IN THE WORLD AND SO FEW RESOURCES, IT HAS

BEEN A DAUNTING UNDERTAKING. HOWEVER, THOSE WHO LOVE DO NOT COUNT THE COST OR THE SACRIFICES INVOLVED. GIVING UP HAS NEVER BEEN A CONSIDERATION FOR US DESPITE THE OBSTACLES AND PERSECUTIONS, ESPECIALLY WHEN WE CONSIDER WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR THE CHURCH AND FOR THE WORLD. TIME IS SHORT, ETERNITY APPROACHES, AND THERE ARE COUNTLESS SOULS BEING LOST AT EVERY MOMENT BECAUSE THERE ARE SO FEW RELIGIOUS TO PRAY AND SACRIFICE FOR THEM.

THE SISTERS HAVE BEEN UNITED IN A VERY STRONG BOND OF SUPERNATURAL CHARITY WITH A COMMITMENT AND A DESIRE TO FOLLOW THE MONASTIC IDEAL WITH ITS DISCIPLINE, ACCORDING TO THE RULE OF ST. BENEDICT. WE DESIRE TO GIVE, “ALL OR NOTHING.” IT WAS WITH THE INTENTION TO TEST VOCATIONS THAT WE BEGAN THIS PROJECT IN COLOMBIA. DIVINE PROVIDENCE HAS CONTINUED TO BLESS OUR HUMBLE BEGINNINGS AND, IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE VOCATIONS GOD WISHES TO SEND US, THE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO MOVE AHEAD COURAGEOUSLY WITH A PERMANENT FOUNDATION IN OUR HOME COUNTRY, THE UNITED STATES. BECAUSE OF VISA RESTRICTIONS, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR FOREIGN VOCATIONS TO JOIN US HERE, JUST AS IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO REMAIN PERMANENTLY IN COLOMBIA. THEREFORE, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO MAKE TWO FOUNDATIONS: ONE IN THE UNITED STATES FOR AMERICAN VOCATIONS, AND A SECOND FOUNDATION IN COLOMBIA FOR FOREIGN VOCATIONS. WE WILL ALL BE CLOSELY UNITED AS ONE BENEDICTINE FAMILY UNDER THE GUIDANCE AND PROTECTION OF THE BENEDICTINES OF SAN JOSE, WITH FR. RAFAEL ARIZAGA AS OUR SPIRITUAL FATHER AND GENERAL SUPERIOR.

OUR LIFE, FOLLOWING THE RULE OF ST. BENEDICT, IS ONE DEVOTED TO MAKING REPARATION TO THE HEARTS OF JESUS

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AND MARY, WITH A SPECIFIC DEVOTION TO THE CONVERSION, PERSEVERANCE, AND SANCTIFICATION OF PRIESTS AND

BISHOPS. PARTICULAR TO OUR DUAL COMMUNITIES IS A DEVOTION TO OUR LADY OF SOLITUDE WITH A PERPETUAL NOVENA IN HER HONOR. AFTER THE DEATH OF OUR LORD, WHEN THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD WAS EXTINGUISHED, OUR LADY ALONE KEPT THE FAITH. IT WAS SHE WHO FOLLOWED OUR LORD THROUGH HIS PASSION AND DEATH, IT WAS SHE WHO MOTHERED THE INFANT CHURCH, AND IT IS SHE WHO ONCE AGAIN WITNESSES THE PASSION AND DEATH OF OUR LORD BEING RENEWED IN HIS MYSTICAL BODY. IT IS OUR BURNING DESIRE, LIKE ST. JOHN AND THE HOLY WOMEN, TO REMAIN CLOSE TO OUR LADY IN HER SOLITUDE, CONSOLING HER AND MAKING REPARATION TO HER IMMACULATE HEART AND THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS. WITH THIS INTENTION IN MIND, OUR CONVENTS WILL CARRY HER NAME: CONVENT OF OUR LADY OF SOLITUDE IN THE UNITED STATES, AND



OUR LADY OF SOLITUDE

CONVENTO DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA SOLEDAD.

ST. BENEDICT, THROUGH HIS RULE, SPREAD THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

THROUGHOUT PAGAN EUROPE NOT WITH PREACHING, BUT WITH THE PRESENCE OF MONASTERIES AND CONVENTS WHICH CONSTITUTED A LIVING AND SILENT PREACHING OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH. IN THE YEAR 1206, ST. DOMINIC BROUGHT TOGETHER A SMALL GROUP OF WOMEN IN PROUILLE, FRANCE, TO FORM THE FIRST CONVENT OF CONTEMPLATIVE DOMINICAN NUNS. FROM THE VERY BEGINNING OF HIS ORDER, ST. DOMINIC ASSOCIATED HIS NUNS WITH THE PREACHING OF THE PRIESTS/PREACHERS THROUGH THEIR LIVES OF CONTEMPLATION, LITURGICAL PRAYER, WORK AND SACRIFICE. HE FOUNDED THIS COMMUNITY OF ENCLOSED NUNS 10 YEARS BEFORE HE FOUNDED THE FRIARS (PRIESTS AND BROTHERS), KNOWING THAT THE SUCCESS OF HIS ORDER OF PREACHERS WOULD BE DEPENDENT UPON AND INTIMATELY CONNECTED WITH THE INTERCESSION OF HIS NUNS. ARCHBISHOP LEFEBVRE, IN THIS SAME SPIRIT, INITIATED THE FOUNDING OF CONVENTS IN ORDER TO LAY THE FOUNDATION AND FRUCTIFY THE WORK OF HIS SOCIETY.

FROM THE BEGINNING OF TIME, MONASTICISM APPEARED AS A MOST POWERFUL METHOD OF REFORM FOR THE CHURCH, THANKS TO ITS PURITY AND DETACHMENT FROM THE WORLD. THE MONASTIC LIFE TESTIFIES TO MANKIND THAT GOD EXISTS AND THAT HIS KINGDOM, THOUGH BEGINNING IN THIS WORLD, IS NOT OF THIS WORLD. WHILE MARTYRS TESTIFY TO THEIR FAITH THROUGH DEATH, THE NUNS DO IT THROUGH THE EXAMPLE OF THEIR HIDDEN LIFE WITH CHRIST. THEY WITNESS THAT GOD EXISTS AND THAT THERE IS A SUPERNATURAL ORDER OF THINGS FOR WHICH THEY LIVE AND FOR WHICH THEY ARE FULLY CONSUMED IN A HIDDEN LIFE THAT THE WORLD DESPISES. AND YET, AFTER ALL,

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THE WORLD UNDERSTANDS THE PRECIOUSNESS OF THIS LIFE, BECAUSE WHEN IT WANTS TO PERSECUTE THE CHURCH, IT STARTS WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF CONVENTS AND MONASTERIES. THIS WAS SEEN IN EVERY PERSECUTION: THE ENGLISH REFORMATION, THE FRENCH REVOLUTION,

THE PERSECUTIONS IN MEXICO, THE VATICAN II REVOLUTION, ETC.

DURING THE PROTESTANT REVOLUTION, ST. TERESA OF AVILA WROTE: "I RECEIVED NEWS OF THE DAMAGE AND SLAUGHTER THAT THE LUTHERANS HAD DONE IN FRANCE AND HOW MUCH THIS UNFORTUNATE SECT WAS INCREASING. I FELT GREAT PAIN AND BEGGED OUR LORD TO REMEDY SO MUCH EVIL. IT SEEMED TO ME THAT I WOULD GIVE MY LIFE A THOUSAND TIMES TO SAVE ONE OF THE MANY SOULS LOST THERE... I DECIDED TO DO WHAT LITTLE DEPENDED UPON ME. I THOUGHT THAT WE (NUNS), ALL DEDICATED TO PRAYER FOR THE DEFENDERS OF THE CHURCH (PRIESTS), FOR THE PREACHERS AND THEOLOGIAN WHO SUPPORT HER, WE WOULD HELP AS BEST WE COULD OUR LORD, SO PERSECUTED BY THESE WHO HAVE BENEFITED SO MUCH; BY THESE TRAITORS APPEARING TO WANT TO CRUCIFY HIM AGAIN SO THAT HE HAS NO PLACE TO REST HIS HEAD."

DEAR FRIENDS, HISTORY CONTINUES TO REPEAT ITSELF. UNFORTUNATELY, THE BISHOPS OF THE SSPX AND FALSE RESISTANCE HAVE ABANDONED THEIR MISSION. WITH THE VERY SMALL HANDFUL OF PRIESTS WHO HAVE REMAINED FAITHFUL, WE REPEAT THE WORDS OF ARCHBISHOP LEFEBVRE: "I REFUSE TO COOPERATE WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF THE CHURCH." WHETHER WE ARE 2 OR 20 IN NUMBER, OUR HEARTS BURN TOO MUCH WITH LOVE FOR OUR HOLY FAITH AND THE INTERESTS OF JESUS CHRIST TO DO NOTHING. IT WAS REVEALED THAT ST.



THE SISTERS KNEELING BEFORE OUR LORD IN THE TABERNACLE.

TERESA OF AVILA, THROUGH HER PRAYERS, CONVERTED 50,000 SOULS FROM LUTHERANISM.

IN THE SPIRIT OF THE CONTEMPLATIVE SAINTS AND FOUNDERS WHO WENT BEFORE US FOR THE SAME CAUSE, WE APPEAL TO YOUR GENEROSITY TO HELP US IN THIS FOUNDATION DEDICATED ENTIRELY TO REPARATION FOR THE SINS OF THE WORLD, FOR SOULS, AND ESPECIALLY FOR PRIESTS. WITHOUT YOUR HELP, THIS WORK WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE. EVEN NOW, WE ARE FACED WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF CLOSING OUR DOORS IN THE UNITED STATES AS WE DO NOT YET HAVE THE MEANS OF PURCHASING A PROPERTY. WE HUMBL Y BEG ANY WHO ARE ABLE

TO CONSIDER HELPING US TO BUILD THIS OASIS OF PRAYER AND REPARATION WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE A LIGHT TO ALL IN THIS WORLD THAT IS RAPIDLY BE-

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ING ENGULFED IN DARKNESS. WE ASSURE YOU THAT WE NEVER FORGET ANYONE IN OUR PRAYERS, AND WE ASK OUR LORD, WHOM ALONE WE WISH TO BELONG TO, TO BLESS YOU ABUNDANTLY IN THIS LIFE AND IN ETERNITY ON OUR BEHALF.

WE ARE A 501c3 TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATION, SO ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX EXEMPT. WE ASSURE YOU OF OUR UNCEASING PRAYERS FOR YOU AND FOR YOUR INTENTIONS. GOD BLESS YOU!

YOUR BENEDICTINE SISTERS

WAYS TO DONATE:

1. BY CHECK PAYABLE TO:

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH

MAILING ADDRESS:

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH
CONVENT OF OUR LADY OF
SOLITUDE
955 N. LAKE DR.
WEATHERFORD, TEXAS 76085

2. BY PAYPAL:

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=WKWH74DPD78KA

3. DIRECT WIRE TRANSFER IS AVAILABLE
BY REQUEST

NB: PLEASE SPECIFY ON YOUR DONATION WHETHER IT IS INTENDED FOR THE AMERICAN CONVENT OR THE COLOMBIAN CONVENT. MAY GOD BLESS YOU!