

*Thank you
one and all.*

*Merry Christmas
and a
Blessed New Year
to you!*

Villa St. Benedict Transitional Prayer Service

December 19, 2023

**Villa Center Dining Room
1:00 p.m.**



Lighting of a candle in recognition of Sister Judith Ann Heble
.....Sister Helen Jilek

Update from Legal Counsel.....Ben Voit and Brien Nagle

Additional Sharing.....All

Prayer Recognizing the Transfer of Sponsorship and Membership.....Sister Mary Bratrsovsky

Good and gracious God, although the Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery had always understood that our vows included entering, ministering, aging and dying would always be in this stunning, prayer-filled chapel, building and grounds, it was not until declining numbers and aging sisters dictated that we would need help in coming to completion or fulfillment.

So, on August 18, 2018 at a Co-sponsorship meeting with our Monastic Council Members: Sisters Mary Bratrsovsky, Sharon Marie Stola, Judith Ann Heble, Helen Jilek and Carolyn Sieg and Benedictines' CEO, Jerry Carley and CFO, Kevin Rymanowski, we formally apprised Benedictine of our desire to be folded into the health care of VSB. They readily and lovingly accepted this invite.

We then became very busy finding advisors, canonical legal and civil lawyers, researching and getting permissions from all authorities. The prayer prayed before each Council planning Meeting was the prayer we used regularly:

Compassionate God, in imitation of Saints Benedict and Scholastica, who gathered to talk about holy things, so do we gather for this time together. May our ears hear you. May our eyes behold you. May our tongues proclaim you. May this conversation help us on our journey as we continue to seek your help in determining our preferred future. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Now this goal is officially complete. With the signing of the Transition of Membership Agreement we have released our co-sponsorship and alienated our building and property, to Benedictine, having been assured that the Duluth Benedictine Ministries will take responsibility for Villa St Benedict maintaining our Catholic and Benedictine Identity.

Prayer of ThanksJerry Carley

God of Love,
You are with us in every transition and change.
As we enter into this new era with excitement and even some anxiety, we **recall** your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love.

We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us.
We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment.
We thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our own work.
Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another.
We ask this in your Holy Name.

Closing Prayer of Blessing for the Successful Future of the Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery and Benedictine.....Sister Sharon Marie Stola

Provident God, for our discernment process for the election of a Prioress in 2010, we set a goal to determine our preferred future. We thank Sister Judith Ann for directing our thought to this goal and for her steady, capable leadership in bringing this to fruition. Today marks a great milestone and as has been said, we are happy and grateful residents of Villa St. Benedict whose lives have been enfolded into their care plan. Continue to steady our footsteps and those of Benedictine along the path of your love and your friendship. We ask all this in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



BSSH & Villa St. Benedict - Benedictine Core Values