



from the Northside

## Our Future Home is Taking Shape!

by S. Brenda Lisenby

It was exactly two years ago that we first shared our future housing plans in our newsletter—the winter of 2019. Now here it is the winter of 2021! Your faithful prayers and generous support have brought us to this exciting time as the very shape of our future home has emerged this past month—literally! When the framing crew arrived mid-January, the walls and roof were lifted into place and we could finally see what our “one house, one monastery” would really look like. It was no longer just plans on paper.

There are so many details to be worked out. Thankfully, as with each step of the way, there are always those with expertise and passion to companion us. Now that we actually see a house before us, we are all the more diligently working on downsizing and consolidating the two houses that have been our home for many years—furniture, dishes, sacristy, liturgical art—we and our companions

are working hard to bring order to this process!

Yet even as we do our work, we are ever mindful of the workers building our future home. The contracting company Ironmark has welcomed us to visit the site whenever we wish, and we “wish” a lot! S. Katherine daily goes to the site to take photos. S. Mary Frances provides baked goodies for the crews each week, who are joking about the “Visitation 15 pounds!” S. Karen also checks in regularly with the site superintendent Ryan Nielsen. The rest of us take care of a myriad of behind the scenes work needed to keep the project running smoothly—finances, updates, construction decisions.



Our future home takes shape!

Visit the youtube video links below to see the project unfold before your eyes. The actual groundbreaking happened in mid-November and by Christmas I was able to create the first video slideshow update. I created a second one when the walls went up in mid-January. Enjoy! And rejoice with us!

<http://bit.do/VisitationDecemberConstruction>  
<http://bit.do/VisitationJanuaryConstruction>



Sister Karen with Site Superintendent Ryan Nielsen




Groundbreaking November 23, 2020




www.visitationmonasteryminneapolis.org

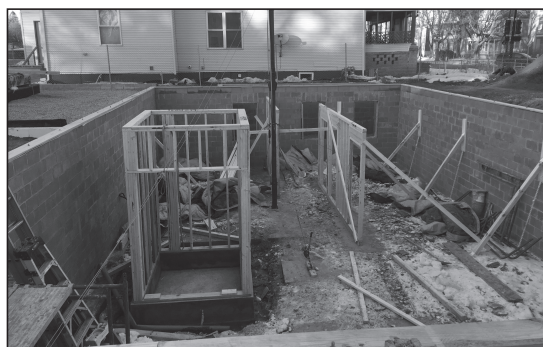
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We are an urban monastic community. Please contact us for more information about our way of life.

 Visitation Monastery North Minneapolis

 Visitation Monastery

This newsletter is available on our website. If you prefer the online format, please contact the Sisters at [vmonastery@aol.com](mailto:vmonastery@aol.com).



Basement frame out



Our future prayer space — Chapel footings



S. Mary Paula holds the *Book of the Convent of the Sisters of the Visitation of Minneapolis* in which each Sister writes her renewal of vows each year.

## Sisters' Update

When the Visitation Monastery of Mendota Heights closed two years ago, S. Mary Paula McCarthy asked to become a member of the Minneapolis Visitation community. In our Order, the process for such a transfer includes two years of living with the new community while everyone prayerfully discerns this request.

We are happy to announce that on January 16, 2021, we incorporated S. Mary Paula into the Visitation Monastery of Minneapolis! We now have seven vowed members in our community, and we hope and pray that other women join us in “Living Jesus” here in north Minneapolis.

by S. Karen Mohan



## Pandemic Update

by S. Suzanne Homeyer

Our life here at the monastery during the Pandemic probably looks a lot like yours...same 4 walls...seeing only people in our own 'bubble'...a daily routine that includes our regular schedule of prayer, work, door ministry and community time. Our anchor as a contemplative religious community is our individual and communal prayer. Together for the Liturgy of the Hours four times a day we continue to pray the psalms, offer prayer for our world, and share personal insights. The Pandemic has allowed us more time for reflection, reading, and study; faith sharing at our community prayer has been enriched. We are able to attend live streamed Mass from Ascension when we are unable to be there in person. Outdoor Bilingual Mass in the summer enabled us to meet new people and share culture with our Spanish speaking parishioners. Bilingual Mass continues as an option enriching all of us.

Although the learning curve has been steep for those of us over 70, modern technology has made it possible for us to join in many Zoom classes, webinars, gatherings with the Archbishop and other religious in the Archdiocese, and mini-reunions with family members and school classmates from years ago. Memorial services and birthdays have also been shared electronically!

Door ministry continues with masks, disposable gloves, and hand sanitizer at the ready. Through the generosity of many we have been able to continue helping our neighbors with food and transportation needs. Special donations have allowed us to support local food banks, youth outreach, and rebuilding the neighborhood.

Zoom allows us to give and receive spiritual direction on a one to one basis and continue to host our Second Monday Salesian Nights, a ministry for those who want to learn more about our spirituality and community. We hosted a half-day Advent Retreat entitled "Mary, the Light of Advent in Troubled and Troubling Times" led by our friend and Oblate Brother, Mickey McGrath. Being together in new and creative ways has made these days of Pandemic very enriching for our community and friends.

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## Catholic Youth Camp SOS!

By S. Mary Frances Reis



We've been stuck at home too long!

Thanks to many campership sponsors, we have been sending children to CYC for 25 years. We continue to prioritize this week long, often life-changing experience in the great outdoors. When camp 'alums' come back to visit us Sisters, they often speak of CYC as one of their fondest memories.

Unfortunately, at the last minute, the 2020 season was canceled because of Covid19. We gave our sponsors the option of having us save their campership for next year, applying money for camp improvements, or donating to pandemic relief in our struggling community of north Minneapolis. It pretty well turned out to be 1/3 of each. (No one asked for their money back, which was a 4th option!)

This year we have a small roll-over fund for the 2021 Season. Yes!!!

We are hoping and praying! If you are willing to venture forth in hope with us please see the announcement on the back of this newsletter. Thank you.

**Visitation Monastery of Minneapolis**

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*"Do not lose your inner peace for anything at all, even if your whole world seems upset."*

— St Francis de Sales



**Catholic Youth Camp (CYC)**



We are profoundly grateful for your generosity in providing camperships for "our kids!"

They are already dreaming of 2021! Please consider providing this life-changing experience through sponsoring a child (or 2 or 3!) for \$400. Your gift will enable him/her to have a week at CYC.

We send grateful prayer on behalf of our youth,  
The Visitation Sisters



Call Sister Mary Frances at  
**612-529-8215** or send your tax  
deductible donation to Visitation  
Monastery by May 1, 2021.

Great food and fun projects!