

"You would not seek, unless you had first been sought."

These beautiful words of St. Bernard describe not only the Christian way of life in general but also the monastic way of life in particular. God seeks us, invites us to union with Him; and thus we can, and must, seek Him. The monastic vocation is an intense seeking of God, but it is not just for us, for those called to this specific way of loving Him ... it is for all of His children. The life we lead is our small contribution to the health of His Mystical Body, in all times and all places.

And now, at this precise time and in this precise place in the history of salvation, we have a particular privilege and responsibility: To build a new and lasting Cistercian monastery, here in the United States. We remain the only nuns of our Order in the English-speaking world; it is important to us, and, we believe, also important to the Church in America and in the world, that we sink our roots more deeply into this soil and recommit ourselves to the tradition of our way of life here and now.

If we are to do this for God's glory, however, we need the help of our fellow members of the Mystical Body – we need you. We understand that everyone is very busy, has many commitments, and receives lots of mail and requests for help, particularly financial support. We really do understand! But our need is not diminishing but rather continues to increase, and so we turn to you, humbly asking you to consider how you might be able to participate with us. We need your prayers; we need your assistance in spreading the word; and, we need your financial support. All gifts are welcome; God blesses all generosity, and even the smallest gift can make a difference.

Some of you have already accompanied and supported us for many years on our path from our temporary monastery (now over 60 years old) to our new monastery. Thank you for your faithful and generous friendship and your continuing commitment to us. We are deeply grateful for our communion with you in Christ. Some of you are new to this adventure. We hope to provide a little background and information that will bring all our friends, both new and old, up to date, as we continue together to seek God.

NEWS

OUR NEW BISHOP

On September 5th, Bishop Hying, the new bishop of our Diocese of Madison, joined us for night prayer and a reception in support of our new monastery project. We are grateful to the Bishop and to all who joined us for a fruitful and enjoyable evening of prayer and conversation about the new monastery.



PROPERTY OUTINGS

We continue to invite those interested to visit our new property. There is nothing like being amid the lush greenery or standing on the site and relishing the refreshing silence for encouraging everyone to continue with good zeal towards the finish line.



NEWS

(CONTINUED)

PROJECT UPDATE

We have a master plan for a new monastery, designed to be built in two phases to expedite our move. After consulting with our advisors, we aligned the stages of design and fundraising according to benchmarks. To date, we've reached nearly 50% of our Phase 1 goal of \$12 million. We need to raise about \$1.8 million more in pledges before we continue with schematic design. The potential is encouraging, but we need your help to fulfill this goal.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Pray with and for us every day.
- Spread the word about our vocation and project.
- Share with us 5 - 10 names we may add to our newsletter mailing list. Please be assured that we do not share our mailing list with others; the information is secure.
- Speak with your pastor about ways your parish could help: By publishing bulletin articles (which we have written and can share with you), by taking up a collection for our project, by distributing our materials, etc.
- Talk to a few friends and bring them for a visit to our current monastery or our new property.
- Help us connect with good Catholic media outlets (newspapers, online publications, radio stations).
- Make a pledge (perhaps as a lasting honor to someone you love, as a Christmas gift to them).
- Ask your company to match your pledge.
- If you have any other ideas, you are welcome to contact us to discuss them.

OUR WEBSITE

build.valleyoffourlady.org

On our website, you will find:

- History and background
- News updates
- Architectural renderings and floor plans
- More about our community, including a video
- Ways to participate with us in this once-in-a-lifetime task of building a new monastery

We hope to send more regular newsletters and updates specifically about the project, but we want to make them as interesting and helpful for you as possible. If you have questions for us or have always wanted to learn more about a particular aspect of our life or monastery, please let us know. We would love to hear from you.

If you would like to receive more frequent reflections and updates by email, please send us your email address.

nmfund@valleyoffourlady.org

608-643-3520, ext. 7

You are also welcome and encouraged to contact our consultant, Paul Merline. His work on our behalf is helping us maintain our cloistered, contemplative life in the midst of the campaign. You can reach him directly by phone at 608-516-3237 or by email at pmerline@mcdonaldschaefers.com.