

From the Director



You recently received a letter from the Alumnae Office notifying you that you will be asked for your support for the “Heritage of Hope” Capital Campaign of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie. This capital campaign, the first in more than 40 years, addresses three major areas:

- Major renovations needed for the living facilities of the Sisters and their visitors
- Improvements in the chapel and gathering space to meet the physical/spiritual needs of the Sisters and their guests
- Creating a support fund for future and current ministries

Many SBA graduates have remained in Erie and know all the work that the Sisters have done since the academy closed in 1988. Others of our 3,400 members are living outside Erie and may not be aware of all the events that have taken place since they graduated from SBA.

The following update is for all who will be asked for their support.

– Ann Comstock, '64
Alumnae Director

Did you know?

Saint Benedict Education Center: A Model Job Placement Program for Pennsylvania is located in the former Saint Benedict Academy. SBEC offers intensive case management, academic remediation, job-readiness preparation, job development and job-placement assistance for some 800 people yearly.

Saint Benedict Community Center: After purchasing the former St. Mary’s Auditorium from the Erie Diocese, the Sisters did extensive renovations. The center provides recreational opportunities for neighborhood children and those who have special needs and face mental or physical challenges.

The Inner-City Neighborhood Art House: The former Good Year Tire store on E. 10th St. was purchased by the Sisters and turned into a center which provides classes in the visual, performing and literary arts to at-risk children in Erie in a safe, nourishing and caring environment.

Emmaus Ministries, Inc.: In keeping with the monastic practice of providing bread and soup to the poor, the Benedictine Sisters of Erie have operated Emmaus Ministries for more than 30 years. The Soup Kitchen serves 1,000 hot meals weekly and its food pantry distributes 30,000 food bags per year. Sister Gus’ Kids Café, in the basement of the former St. Mary’s School, provides a home-cooked meal and recreational opportunities to 70-plus children a day.

Saint Benedict Child Development Center: Housed in the former Benedictine Motherhouse on E. 9th St., the Center provides over 120 economically disadvantaged children, ages 3 to 5, with a daycare program, Head Start for migrant children, and infant care.

Benetwood Apartments: Located on property adjacent to the monastery, the low-rise 75-apartment building is a government-subsidized, nonprofit facility administered by the Benedictine Sisters. It provides comfortable, safe retirement living for elders of low income and those with disabilities.

The “SBA Block” is still alive and well!



Seated, from left: Sister Paula Burke, OSB; Helen Czulewicz, Sister Mary Grace Hanes, OSB; Ann Czulewicz Vaughan (Helen's daughter).

Standing, from left: Janet Romanowicz Hammond, Pat Benecki Straub, Kathleen Kutz, Sister Mary Louis Eichenlaub, OSB; Mary Rita Roach Groucutt and Sister Rosanne Loneck, OSB.



A special birthday celebration was held on Wed., Oct. 18, 2006 at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery. A group of SBA alumnae and Sisters gathered to honor Helen Czulewicz. Helen worked more than 20 years at the academy in the food service department and was known and loved by all the girls. She will celebrate her 92nd birthday this month. Helen was presented with a framed sketch of the two academy buildings. It was an evening filled with stories, laughter and catching up with old and dear friends.

The Annual Christmas Party Dec. 5 at the Avalon was a great success in support of the Inner-City Neighborhood Art House. It was a wonderful way to begin celebration of the Christmas season. Thanks to all who attended! Check ErieBenedictines.org for party photos of the fun!

Let us pray...

For our sister alumnae who passed into eternity—

Marjorie Eichenlaub Londregan '41
Frances D. Wroblewski Gress '70

Visit ErieBenedictines.org for event updates and to download sign-up forms, or send your e-mail address to Alumnae Director Ann Comstock at sbaalum@mtstbenedict.org to receive electronic reminders and sign-ups. If you don't use e-mail, write to Ann at Mount Saint Benedict Monastery, 6101 E. Lake Rd., Erie, PA, 16511. And whenever you see or hear about SBA alumnae being honored or highlighted for their achievements, let us know. Clip an article, jot it down, or call us, so we can share the news with all our members.