



In Touch

Embracing our Future with Hope



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Just as in many families, we are facing unused space in aging buildings, underutilized property, along with the accompanying problems of needed repairs, necessary upgrades, and ongoing financial constraints at Mount St. Macrina.

To deal with these issues, we recently

applied for and received a grant from NRRO (National Religious Retirement Office) to do an evaluation of our property and buildings. The purpose of the evaluation is to determine the best use for the existing buildings and property on the Mount.

The goal of the study,

which is being conducted with the help of Hoffman Planning, Design & Construction, Inc. from Appleton, Wisconsin, is to define the existing needs of our civic community and county. The Hoffman firm has served more than 49 religious congregations in 23 states. They have

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CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED, HE IS RISEN!

EASTER BLESSINGS FROM THE SISTERS OF ST. BASIL

A Message from Sister Ruth

SPRING 2017



CHRIST IS RISEN!

Dear Friends,

The chill of winter is slowly giving way to the gentle warmth of spring. Every day brings a new surprise – daffodils and hyacinths in bloom, tree buds ready to burst forth, and a chorus of birds chirping away.

All these transformations of nature help us to reflect upon our own gradual transformation which, hopefully, has been aided by our journey through the Great Fast. Perhaps we have had our own personal awakenings leading us to realize the many ways Our Lord has blessed us – sometimes through moments of great joy, and sometimes through painful moments which brought us to a greater sense of dependence on Jesus, and an interior strength which we never knew we had.

The joyous season of the Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior serves to bring it all together – gratitude, joy, hope, strength, and a deep sense of the unconditional love of Jesus – enhanced with each singing of “Christ is Risen.”

The Sisters of St. Basil at Mount St. Macrina are on a special journey, too – the journey to our future. We, too, must reflect upon where Jesus is leading us as we make some decisions – not without difficulty, but with great trust. You may read more of this journey in this issue of In Touch.

You will also read of the progress of the Manor renovation as it nears completion, and our need to resurface roads following two years of heavy trucks and construction vehicles leaving their damaging impressions!!!

We share all of this news with you because you have been an important part of our journey through these many years (It will be 100 years in 2021!). As in every family, change becomes necessary due to time and aging.

Be assured of our daily prayers during this glorious Resurrection season. Take time to truly reflect on this time of blessings, and whisper a prayer for us, too!

With our prayers and gratitude,

Sister Ruth Plante, OSBM

Sister Ruth Plante, OSBM
Provincial



In Touch

A biannual publication of the
Sisters of St. Basil

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Mary Over

Spring 2017

Volume 28, No. I



Annual Appeal

This year's Annual Appeal will help to defray the costs of resurfacing the roads around Mount Saint Macrina and help with our landscaping costs. With so much construction going on at the Manor, there has been much damage to our roads from heavy trucks and equipment. Your gift will help us as we prepare for our thousands of Pilgrims in September. Thank you in advance for your continued support and assistance.



Sisters to Celebrate 83rd Annual Pilgrimage

The 83rd Annual Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help will be held at Mount St. Macrina, September 2 & 3, 2017. This year's theme is Mary: Life-Giving Spring.

Preparations for this year's Pilgrimage have already started and will continue throughout the year.

As in previous years, the Sisters will welcome all those Pilgrims who come from all over the country and beyond. They will continue to welcome those who come early and camp on the race track or stay on the Mount. Light fare will be available at the Lunch

Stand starting on Friday evening. Liturgical prayers will be held at the Shrine Altar on Friday evening for those arriving early and Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Monday morning, September 4 for those who stay on Sunday evening.

“Our guest this year is Bishop Peter Libasci, an American prelate of the Roman Catholic Church who serves as the tenth and current Bishop of the Diocese of Manchester, New Hampshire, Bishop Libasci is bi-ritual and celebrates the Divine Liturgy in the Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic



The Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci

Church,” said Sr. Ruth Plante, Provincial.

The Festal Icon Walk that was popular last year, will be repeated at the Pilgrimage this year.

Other plans for the weekend include many opportunities for participation in the Divine Liturgy of the Byzantine Catholic Church. Also

scheduled are Matins, Vespers, sacrament of reconciliation, activities for teens and children, and other services in honor of the Mother of God.

The Pilgrimage holds the distinction of being the oldest and the largest Byzantine Catholic Pilgrimage in the country.



Sisters of St. Basil Invite Volunteers to Prepare for Pilgrimage



participate, here are a few notes:

The group will meet in the Trinity Center for coffee and donuts at 9:30 a.m. A brief prayer service will follow, and work will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Bring lawn tools (including brooms, rakes, weed whackers, etc.) for outside work. Bring brooms, mops, dust pans, etc., for any indoor cleaning.

Lunch will be served.

To register or for additional information, please call Sr. Joanne at 724-439-4940 or GCU at 1-800-722-4428.

On Sat., Aug. 19, there will be another organized preparation day. (The rain date will be Sat., Aug. 26). Volunteers are asked to meet at the Trinity Center at 9:30 a.m. Please bring brooms, weed whackers, blowers, weeding tools, rakes and clippers. Lunch will be provided.

For further information, please call Sister Joanne at 724-439-4940.

If you are interested in volunteering to help the Sisters prepare for Pilgrimage, there are two opportunities coming up.

The first opportunity is Helping Hands Day, which is sponsored by the Greek Catholic Union of the U.S.A. Helping Hands Day efforts will take place at Mount St. Macrina this year on Sat., June 3.

The annual observance combines the strengths of young people and adults to produce meaningful

results for the preparation of the 83rd Annual Pilgrimage which will be held, Sept. 2 & 3.

On this day, at Mount Saint Macrina, the youth and faithful of the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, the GCU (a fraternal benefit society serving Byzantine Catholics since 1892), and the many friends of the Sisters of Saint Basil join together for a common cause—to prepare the grounds for

the Annual Pilgrimage. Volunteers will clear floral gardens, shrines, urns and other planting areas throughout the grounds, and then plant annuals. Other work centers will be the pavilions, which will be cleared of a winter's worth of leaves and other debris.

The GCU is pleased to partner with the Sisters of St. Basil the Great and interested youth and adults for Helping Hands Day. If you are able to

Pilgrimage 2017: Participation? People?

By Sr. Elaine Kisinko, OSBM

I love our Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at our monastery in Uniontown. I appreciate the ways in which Jesus is glorified and His Mother is honored. I am very grateful for the prominence and renown it provides for our Byzantine Catholic Church. And maybe most of all, I am taken by the fact that we are all there together.

We Sisters are privileged to welcome our bishops and guests, priests, deacons, seminarians, other religious, families, groups, individuals and everyone who comes. We are all there united in purpose: to pray, to receive the healing and life-giving mysteries of the Church, to enjoy the beauty of Mt. St. Macrina, to meet friends old and new, and to be a part of this unique event which in itself is a phenomenon of God's grace.

We live in a time where "virtual reality" seems in many ways to have become the norm. Even small children can text



Mary: Life-Giving Spring

83rd Annual Pilgrimage in Honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

messages. Games are played electronically. Play dates are arranged rather than youngsters spontaneously meeting for outdoor games. Watching television can replace conversation and communication.

So as we become a part of the crowd that is mak-

ing the Pilgrimage journey this year, let us recognize and be thankful that for these short days our reality is holy, shared, and alive. We may jostle with someone while walking on a pathway. Grumbling might be heard in a too long line at medovniki, light lunch or the gift shop. The fa-

vorite spot for your lawn chairs could be occupied. But we are there.

We are praying either individually or as one at the impressive liturgical services. We are inspired by the uplifting of our souls as we beautifully raise our voices in hymns. We are healed by the power of the reception of the mysteries of Reconciliation and Eucharist. We are heartened by the presence of so many young families, children, youth and of the not so young who have been faithful pilgrims for countless years. And as we see our bishops, priests, deacons, seminarians, sisters, our fellow parishioners, family members and friends all around us, we know that it is very good to be here and to be a part of this Pilgrimage and to belong to our Byzantine Catholic Church.

Every person who journeys to become a pilgrim brings a blessing to be shared. And as always one who gives receives much more in return. Please plan to be at Pilgrimage 2017.

Spring Flowers



*Last night after sunset I put my flower children to bed,
Covered their cheery pink faces with blankets, towels and
sheets,
Said, "Goodnight, stay warm, don't let the frost-bugs bite,"
hoping, when I arose next day,
that the long cold night had not nipped their spring noses
and frightened them to death.
How carefully I care for the small flower garden,
Protecting all I can from harm.
Yet, when the green shoots of my own inner growth
push their way out,
I seem to leave all to chance and little to care.
I wonder why.*

- Joyce Rupp

Taken from The Circle of Life

2005 by Joyce Rupp Macrina Wiederkehr.

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Stanley Zebro Remembered

Stanley Zebro who was featured in our Fall edition of *InTouch* has died.

The former resident of Mount St. Macrina Manor died on November 29 at the age of 83.

He attended every Pilgrimage since 1933. In fact, in 1933, Stanley attended as his mother carried him in her womb. He was born over two months later on November 19.

Stanley remembers Pilgrimage being an annual family affair with his sister, parents and grandparents. His



grandparents were immigrants from Krakow, Poland who came to America in the late 1800s. The couple settled in Philadelphia where Stanley's father and aunt were born.

Rest in peace Stanley.

Greeting Cards for Every Occasion



Our card department offers greeting cards for all occasions. For our most current selection, please view our 2017 photo album featuring our new selection of cards at www.sistersofstbasil.org.

Call 724.438.8644, extension 122 for further information.

Embracing our Future with Hope *(Continued from page 1)*

been involved in this work for the past 20 years on issues concerning stewardship of physical and financial resources and helping to sustain their missions. Through continued reflection and dialog, we will decide which options best fit our mission and ministries, and search out appropriate partners and developers to bring these ideas into meaningful reality.

We have embraced this process recognizing that decisions will be filled with emotional impact as well as physical changes. We move forward trusting fully that Our Lord will be present



Planning for the future of Mount St. Macrina are: Catherine Cruickshank, Sr. Project Planner/Designer, Hoffman; Sr. Sylvia Burnett; Patrick Del Ponte, Religious Market Leader/V.P of Planning, Hoffman; Sr. Ruth Plante, Provincial; Andrew French, Fayette County Redevelopment Authority; and Sr. Joanne Lickvar.

throughout this journey leading to new – though different—life.

While this evaluation continues, several anticipated projects (including the

renovation of the Light Lunch food service area) are being placed on hold. It is more prudent to have a set overall plan in place before making changes.

It is our full intent to continue the Pilgrimage ministry, which has become a focal point of our Byzantine Catholic Church, and an important part of our ongoing legacy.

We ask for continued prayers for us and for this important process. These prayers and your faithful support have been essential throughout our 96-year history of service to the Byzantine Catholic Church. We look forward to their continuance as we continue this process and prepare to celebrate our 100th anniversary in a few short years.

Corporate Reflection Days



The Sisters gathered at the Monastery in April for Corporate Reflection Days. The weekend included meetings related to their life and future and some time to socialize and have fun.

Pictured on the left are (left to right): Sr. Christopher, Sr. Bernarda, Sr. Janet, Sr. Margaret, Sr. Ruth (standing), Sr. Petronilla and Sr. Theodosia.

House of Prayer Tours



Sunday, May 21, 1 - 3 p.m.

Offering: Adults \$12; Children \$6

Come tour the former mansion of J. V. Thompson led by period costumed guides. Learn the history of one of the leading and wealthiest coal barons of his day.

The House of Prayer is located at Mount St. Macrina on 510 W. Main St., Uniontown. Individual directed retreats, personal retreats and days of prayer for groups are available October - July. Please call 724.438.7149 for further information.

Young Adult Retreat

*An Invitation to Happiness—
Finding the Courage to Be the Best Version of Yourself*

SPONSORED BY THE SISTERS OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT



Male & Female, Ages 18-35
Single or Married, All Christians Welcome

June 23-25, 2017

7:00 pm Friday—11:00 am Sunday

Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer

Offering: \$105

Registration Due: June 16

Each participant will receive the book
Resisting Happiness by Matthew Kelly



Mount St. Macrina
500 W. Main Street
Uniontown, PA 15401
724-438-7149
hpmsm@verizon.net
www.sistersofstbasil.org



Registration Form

Young Adult Retreat

Please print

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email _____
 Telephone _____
 Parish _____

July 17-21
Community Days

July 18
Jubilees of Sisters

75 Years
Sr. Maria Petruska

Looking Ahead...

Upcoming Events in Our Community

70 Years
Sr. Rita Keschock
Sr. Paula Dzurisin
Sr. Bernarda Sevachko

60 Years
Sr. Regina Adams
Sr. Seraphim Olsafsky
Sr. Melita Marie Penchalk
Sr. Mary Grace Skuban

40 Years
Sr. Susan Sisko

July 24-28
Retreat
Director: Fr. Daniel
Grigassy, OFM

Mount Macrina Manor Renovations - Phase Six

Mount Macrina Manor is heading into t

Phases Six and Seven were recently finished and have been approved by th



The Orchid resident hallway, located on the first floor was completed during Phase Six of the project. In addition to updated resident rooms, a new common area and new nursing care base were included in the plan. At this point in the project, every resident room has been updated.



Mount Macrina Manor Renovations - Phase Seven

the final phases of the renovation project.

the Pennsylvania Department of Health divisions of Nursing and Life Safety.



Phase Seven included the complete renovation of the Nutritional Services Department. A tremendous amount of planning went into preparing for this difficult transition. The number one priority through this phase was to ensure the continuity of nutritional services provided to the Manor residents.

The final portion of the eight phase project will include a relocated entrance with a portico, an updated lobby, and an expanded chapel. A multi-purpose room for resident activities will be added and the administrative offices will be updated. Phase Eight of the 26 month project is slated to end in July 2017.

In Touch

Sisters of St. Basil the Great
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P.O. Box 878
Uniontown, PA 15401
(724) 438-8644
www.sistersofstbasil.org

Religious Gift & Card Shop



Stop by and browse our selection of gifts and accessories for any occasion.

Hours: Tues., Wed., Fri. & Sat.: 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For further info, please call 724-439-6180.

Helping Hands Day

Sponsored by the Greek Catholic Union

Saturday, June 3

9:30 a.m. - Coffee & Doughnuts (Trinity Ctr.)

10:00 a.m. - Work begins

Bring lawn tools (including brooms, rakes, weed whackers, etc.) for outside work. Bring brooms, mops, dust pans, etc., for any indoor cleaning.

Lunch will be served.

To register or for additional information, please call Sister Joanne at 724-439-4940 or GCU at 1-800-722-4428.

