



BENEDICTINE TOUCHSTONE



Spring 2021

Benedictine Nuns • St. Emma Monastery • 1001 Harvey Avenue • Greensburg, PA 15601

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A VOYAGE OF FAITH AND OBEDIENCE CELEBRATING 90 YEARS IN PENNSYLVANIA



On February 18, 1931, Mother Leonarda Fritz OSB and 9 Sisters set sail for St. Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, PA. Mother Leonarda herself filled out the form and her room number 646.

Names of Sisters boarding Bremen: Bottom left to right Sr. Radegundis, Sr. Felicitas, Mother Leonarda, Sr. Philomena; Row 2 Sr. Benigna, Sr. Pia; Row 3 Sr. Monica, Sr. Teresia; Row 4 Sr. Leodegaria, Sr. Josephine

Prioress' Reflection

By Mother Mary Anne Noll OSB



Creator,
as I prepare to go into the world,
help me to see the sacrament
in the wearing of this cloth –
let it be “an outward sign
of an inward grace” –
a tangible and visible way
of living love for my neighbors,
as I love myself.



Christ,
since my lips will be covered,
uncover my heart,
that people would see my smile
in the crinkles around my eyes.
Since my voice may be muffled,
help me to speak clearly,
not only with my words,
but with my actions.



Holy Spirit,
as the elastic touches my ears,
remind me to listen carefully –
and full of care –
to all those I meet.
May this simple piece of cloth
be shield and banner,
and each breath that it holds,
be filled with your love.
In your Name
and in that love,
I pray.
May it be so.
May it be so.



(written by Rt. Rev. Richard Bott)

We are nearing the first anniversary of THE MASK!
In retrospect, it seems rather fitting that our whole life changed
during Lent last year.

Jesus invites us every year during Lent to change our
viewpoints, thoughts,
and habits to become
more like His. In fact,
we Benedictines take a
vow of
Conversion morum, to
change our lives so that
they become more like
Christ's.

What we had really taken for granted was our decision to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion whenever we wanted: on Sundays, weekdays or maybe on Christmas and Easter!

The Lenten “penances or practices” that COVID imposed upon us and the world last spring remain with us. We are no longer free to eat out, visit relatives and friends, go on trips and vacations, celebrate weddings or even funerals in the manners to which we had become accustomed.

What we had really taken for granted was our decision to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion whenever we wanted: on Sundays, weekdays or maybe on Christmas and Easter!

The live-streaming of Masses and services are definitely not the same as personally being there but we are grateful, O God, for this gift of modern technology.

We also thank you, O God, for this modern technology that allows us to take classes, do “time-shares”, or to visit by ZOOM.

THE MASK symbolizes visually the reality of COVID. We wear a mask because we want to protect others as well as ourselves.

What a beautiful prayer “For putting on a mask”! Is this not what we were taught in our “Morning Offering” to offer up every thought, word and deed of our coming day?

Lord, let me see this mask as a tangible way of loving my neighbors as I love myself.

Lord, let my smile shine through my mask and above my mask that others might experience your love within me.

Often my speech is muffled by my mask; Lord, help me to project my voice consisting of words that enhance another person's value and worth.

Lord, help me to listen carefully to another with my heart as well as my ears and to receive with reverence the concerns of another.

And, finally, O Lord, use my mask as a filter to remove any expressions of selfishness, entitlement, bullying, disdain, ridicule or hatred.

P.S. Lord, please help me to live that others can see that I am your disciple.

**Blessed Lent!
Joyful celebration
of Easter, the Lord
of Life in charge!**

Mother Mary Anne
Noll OSB

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Communicating Via Zoom

Invite Us to Talk to Your CCD Class, Students, Meetings



Yes, they have submitted some questions wrote Ms. Jess Lyons, Theology teacher at Ursuline Academy, Redham, MA. Here is a sampling:

– *What made you want to join the Benedictine order, over any other ones?*

– **Does it get tiring to have the same routine every day and start each day so early?**

– **What kind of work does this community do?**

– *What is your favorite part of the day?*

– *Has anything changed with how The Benedictine nuns dress or customs over the years?*

– **Do you ever regret joining the religious life? And do you miss anything from your former lifestyle?**

– *How do you know if you have a vocation?*

Searching for a God-centered, spiritual community? St. Benedict's words, written in the 6th century, are alive at St. Emma's Monastery and strike home to women who truly seek God in a spirit of simple living and want to fulfill the reality of their baptism in the way they live. St. Benedict's Rule is relevant today, is rooted in Scripture, and appeals to many who want a deeper relationship with Christ.



Find out more about the Benedictine Nuns at St. Emma's Monastery with a visit. Pray with the community during *Liturgy of the Hours*, follow the daily rhythm of the monastery, experience a meal with the nuns in the refectory (dining room), interact with the nuns, and listen to God.

COVID-safe suggested weekends include:
Palm Sunday weekend, March 26-28, 2021;
Holy Week, March 29 - April 4, 2021.

**Contact Sr. Maria Johanna, Vocation Director,
at 724-610-7595.**

So began our introduction to our first digital vocation meeting with high school students via ZOOM on January 21. We had a second ZOOM meeting that same afternoon with another class at the same high school. We appreciated the students' attention, their interaction, and their questions.

You may have heard this quote: "When God closes a window, He opens a door." This experience helps answer the question of Vocation outreach in this time of COVID. ZOOM to the rescue one more time! On January 21, we had the joy of meeting two classes of the Senior girls in the Ursuline Academy, Redham, MA via ZOOM.

Now we have the opportunity to visit **your** CCD class or to give a talk at your meeting outside the monastery; invitations that in the past, we had to turn down because it took us away from our daily routine of prayer, work, and community living.

Are you looking for Benedictine nuns to speak with your students about religious life in order for your students to hear our experiences to the opening questions? If so, email our vocation director Sr. Maria Johanna OSB at vocations@stemma.org.

Triduum - Easter Schedule

**We invite you to join us Benedictine Nuns
for the most sacred days of the year.**

Please wear a mask and social distance.

Holy Thursday

5:45 a.m. Tenebrae (Vigils and Lauds together)
9:00 a.m. Terce
11:45 a.m. Sext/None (Midday Prayer)
7:00 p.m. **Mass of the Lord's Supper**
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
(until 10:00 p.m.)

Good Friday

5:45 a.m. Tenebrae (Vigils and Lauds together)
9:00 a.m. Terce
11:45 a.m. Sext/None (Midday Prayer)
3:00 p.m. **Celebration of the Lord's Passion**
7:00 p.m. Compline

Holy Saturday

5:45 a.m. Tenebrae (Vigils
and Lauds together)
8:30 a.m. Terce
11:45 a.m. Sext/None (Midday
Prayer)
8:30 p.m. **Easter Vigil**

Easter Sunday

6:25 a.m. Lauds
7:45 a.m. Terce
8:00 a.m. **Mass**
11:45 a.m. Sext/None (Midday
Prayer)
5:00 p.m. Vespers
7:00 p.m. Compline



1931—2021

90th ANNIVERSARY of Sisters Arriving in Pennsylvania

Ninety years ago on the feast of St. Walburga, February 25, 1931, Mother Leonarda Fritz OSB and nine other Sisters arrived at St. Vincent Archabbey and College, Latrobe, PA to begin their 56 years of ministry of cooking and serving in the various dining rooms. Several times I heard the late Archabbot Egbert Donovan OSB describe how as a high school student he found out when the Sisters were coming and watched them first step foot onto St. Vincent's. Every year he remembered this anniversary.

Born in 1880, Mother Leonarda Fritz OSB entered the Abtei Sankt Walburg, Eichstaett, Bavaria, and made vows in 1902. Since she had been very sickly, the Community knew that she would not live long enough to justify a new cuculla (choir robe). She died 63 years later!

For the first 30 years of her life, she taught in the very cloistered, elementary Abtei Sankt Walburg School. What a preparation to be named Prioress for the new dependent foundations at St. Vincent's in 1931!



How about a sip of soup? asks Sr. Elizabeth. Cooking for many hungry people requires a large kettle and ladle.

The oldest at 50, Mother Leonarda, lead a group of basically young Sisters; several had made first vows just months before they set sail. Many Sisters made their Final Vows in St. Vincent's without any family or friends to rejoice with them. In one of her final talks to our founding Sisters, the Abbess of Abtei Sankt Walburg, Mother Benedicta von Spiegel von Bechtelsheim, reminded the Sisters of their purpose: to earn money to support the mother-house and she knew that they would not disappoint her. A letter from Archabbot Aurelius Stehle OSB at St. Vincent indicated that they would not just take the first ten but at least another ten Sisters. Within just eight years, the Sisters numbered 40 by 1939! Because vocations were flourishing in the mother Abtei and inflation was rampant, the Abtei in Germany did need financial aid. Our Sisters purchased the property for the foundation from Eichstaett in Boulder, Colorado, and helped pay for the foundation in Minster, England.

The Sisters were young and abounded in energy and enthusiasm. I often heard them reminisce about how they took walks in the afternoon in their free time between the noon dishes and the afternoon prep for the evening. They put on plays for Mother Leonarda for her feast day; even after they came to St. Emma's, they would join in the various celebrations and activities that we did here for feast days and for fun.

The Sisters designed and sewed vestments; they embroidered

liturgical designs on purificator sets and tatted around the edges to make them really special for Mass. They made dolls, aprons, rosary cases and other handcrafts for extra money to help with building up St. Emma's.

The Sisters were homesick. They had never seen fireflies; thunderstorms were stronger here in Pennsylvania than they

had been in Germany. They spoke no English: when a Sister called down for "pepper" to the kitchen, whatever came up was pepper! From 1939 until 1945, no letter came from families nor any correspondence passed between Abtei Sankt Walburg and our Sisters here. In 1945, Sr. Corona's mother approached an American soldier and "asked" him if he knew her daughter who lived in Colorado! This soldier mailed a letter through the Red Cross to Sr. Corona—the first correspondence in six years!

Following a letter of Mother Abbess Benedicta "to look out for yourselves" immediately before World War II broke out, the Sisters looked at various properties in this region. In 1943 the Sisters purchased the John Robertshaw House and 10 acres near Greensburg; the following year, they purchased the adjacent 90-acre Robertshaw dairy farm.

This "retirement" property God developed into Saint Emma Monastery and Retreat House. Already in 1943, the Greensburg Knights of Columbus and the Sodality girls from St. Bruno Parish, Greensburg asked to hold days of recollection here. Thus began St. Emma's retreat history.

Greensburg became a diocese in March 1951 with Bishop Hugh L. Lamb, Philadelphia, as the first bishop. Due to the sudden death of Cardinal Dougherty in May 1951, Bishop Lamb remained as administrator of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia until a replacement for Cardinal Dougherty was named. On January 16, 1952, Bishop Lamb was installed as our first bishop.

When planning for his arrival, the diocesan committee asked Mother Leonarda if Bishop Lamb could stay here for three weeks until he could buy his own residence. Bishop Lamb lived here for seven years—until he died on December 8, 1959! Many of the first chancery meetings were held here as well as ordinations to the diaconate and other diocesan functions.

Our first Sisters began to live here at that time to offer hospitality to the Bishop. A talented seamstress who made vestments, Sister Agnes came to St. Emma's for the "three-week assignment" in 1952 and died here in 1995!

With Bishop Lamb's encouragement, the Sisters built the re-



Sr. Liberata and Mother Leonarda peeling hardboiled eggs.

treat house dedicated in 1954. Mother Leonarda saw the retreat house as the source of income for the Sisters when they would no longer be at St. Vincent's—33 years later.

The Knights of Columbus from Greensburg held the first weekend retreat in 1955. Since that time over 200,000 people have met God in a deeper way through the retreats held here. In other *Touchstones*, we have recorded the building of the various monastery buildings, shrines, and other additions and the years in which they were built.

When she came to America in 1931, Mother Leonarda was 50 years old. At age 70, she built the Fatima Chapel with the dining room beneath in 1950; at age 74, she built the 50 private room retreat house.

In 1960 at age 80, she built the first monastery wing for novices, other Sisters, and the Sacred Heart Chapel. What a woman of faith and foresight! I always thought it was a good thing that she had no board of directors to ask, "What are you doing? No American woman has even asked to enter!" Indeed, the very next year the first American women entered and the Sisters began to pray the *Liturgy of the Hours* in English. I was blessed to enter in 1962.

In 1964, Mother Leonarda finished the second monastery building "for the Sisters when they would retire from St. Vincent's"—which would be 23 years later! That fall Mother Leonarda insisted that the cemetery be laid out here at St. Emma's; on May 11, 1965, Mother Leonarda died and was the first to be buried in that cemetery. Our first five Sisters who died young are still buried in St. Vincent Cemetery, Latrobe.

When she was dying, the Greensburg seminarian, William Charnocki, (later Mgr.) visited her in her room at St. Vincent's and officially brought the other seminarians' prayers, gratitude, and well wishes. At the end of this visit, Father Charnocki asked her what her secret of success was: he expected her to say something such as faith, always trust in God, or prayer. Instead, Mother Leonarda said, "German stubbornness!"

Only in 1961 did our Sisters begin to visit their families again in Germany! Twenty five or thirty years had passed since they had last seen their families or the beloved Abtei of fellow Sisters or their homeland. The ones who had a parent living went home first. Sr. Maria Hausler wondered why "a particular lady" came along with her blood sister to pick her up on her first visit home; this "particular lady" was another sibling who was now 40 and had been 10 the last time they had seen each other.

What have I inherited from our founding Sisters that I try to live and instill in our new members and in our volunteers? I hope it is the same fidelity to God, to prayer, to one another, to our guests as our founding Sisters lived. Fidelity to the Rule of Saint Benedict that directs us "to prefer nothing whatever to Christ, to welcome guests as Christ, to treat the tools of the monastery as sacred vessels, and to share by patience in the sufferings of Christ."

We are indeed blessed to be following in the footsteps of Mother Leonarda who died in 1965, to Mother Emmanuel who died in 1973, to Mother Agnes who died in 1995 and to each of our founding Sisters. *Vielen Dank! Vergelt's Gott.*

Trunk Symbolizes Faith

Trunk: a large, strong container that is used for storing clothes and personal possessions, often when traveling or going to live in a new place. – *Cambridge Academic Content Dictionary*

A trunk or a treasure chest.

For decades it sat under a long Formica covered table designed for drying large linen altar cloths. It had several "friends" and they were also used for storage. Last year upon close examination of this large wooden trunk featured on the cover, we discovered Mother Leonarda Fritz's name and room number 646 in her handwriting! She had used it as "a large, strong container for storing cloths and personal possessions when traveling or going to live in a new place," per the dictionary definition.

On February 18, 1931, Mother Leonarda sailed on the Bremen in charge of the other nine Sisters with her. "Going to live in a new place": what an understatement! She left the very cloistered Abbey where she had lived a very structured monastic life as it had been lived uninterruptedly for 896 years to the "new world" of Pennsylvania. From being a teacher in their elementary school for 30 years, she was now the superior, one responsible for everything: for the spiritual and temporal well-being of those first Sisters in a totally different setting, in a convent to be built when they arrived.

The Sisters cooked for and served the collegians and seminarians. Several years later they added the same services for the monks. Dining rooms and halls took on the look of having been cleaned by German Benedictine Sisters!

During the first months Mother Leonarda accepted gracious advice along with practical American recipes from the Mercy Sisters who lived across the fields at St. Xavier Academy, Latrobe.

Items that filled the trunks of Mother Leonarda and the other Sisters included not only their habits and personal clothing but feather beds, sheets, cutlery, and aprons. The Sisters embroidered their initials or a number on all their clothing for identification, including woolen habits (the monastery was basically unheated in Germany). Mother Abbess Benedicta von Spiegel von Bechtelsheim had given each Sister a packet that contained prayer books, spiritual reading books, rosaries and a message



A painting of the Bremen, the ship the Sisters sailed on.

Continued on page 7

Welcoming Guests Like Christ By Barbara Mayer, Development Director

“And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you” Matthew 6: 18

- “I’ve known them longer than anyone else, and let me tell you, they work miracles.”
- “There are a lot of good people here – a lot of love for the sisters.”
- “Now you take care of those sisters, they’re very special to me.”
- “You’re really helping the sisters and they need you!”

– Mrs. Henry, circa 2014 – 2019

Whenever I visit St. Emma’s to work with Mother Mary Anne I stay at the Monastic Guest House. Mr. and Mrs. Henry were the caretakers of the guest house until 2019. I knew them for about five years and they were two of the dearest people I’ve ever met. Each month they would invite me into their tiny apartment for breakfast or an early evening chat. Mrs. Henry who loved chocolate, but didn’t dare eat it, always had a sweet treat for me. Mr. Henry’s eyes would just twinkle when she told me how she didn’t eat sweets. At the end of each visit she would hand me a baggie full of granola bars or cookies because she wanted me to “keep up my energy” during my travel back

We Are Grateful...

We thank the following who remembered us in their wills. We are honored. May they rest in peace.

A friend of St. Emma’s from the early 60’s, **Kathy Lawrence**, Pittsburgh, PA died on March 3, 2018.

A retreatant for decades, and a longtime friend and volunteer for years, **Genevieve Johnson**, Greensburg, PA, died April 7, 2020.

to North Carolina. They gave me a home whenever I visited.

As an Oblate, Mrs. Henry embraced the Benedictine charism “Receive each guest as Christ.” She fussed over guests, cleaned and organized, and kept Mother Mary Anne apprised of any problems at the guest house. They treated me like I was the most important person to ever stay at the MGH. If possible, Mrs. H would set aside my favorite room a week before my arrival to make sure no other guest chose it. She took the time to talk to each guest and make them feel comfortable. She loved the sisters and wanted each guest to feel the same way.

While Mrs. and Mr. Henry are no longer at the MGH, their spirits still reside. I can hear their voices encouraging me, making me feel like I was doing the most important job in the world. And in their hearts I was because they wanted everyone to know about the unending love to be found at St. Emma’s. They made it clear how St. Emma’s is filled with love for the sisters and it can be seen each day through the perpetual work done by its volunteers. The Henrys expressed to me their unending gratitude for the many friends who work to make St. Emma’s a light for the world; a place where anyone seeking God can feel welcome; a special place for peace; an opportunity for enlightenment; a chance to have meaningful purpose in life; a community that never forgets you and appreciates you because you’re a child of God.

The Henrys didn’t require overt gratitude for their work, just your love for the sisters and to be like Christ. Their impact on St. Emma’s was felt by many. Rest in Peace Mr. and Mrs. Henry, we miss you and won’t let you down.

Christmas Season 2020 - Christ Is More Powerful than COVID

Advent wreath

When Advent neared, a volunteer built an Advent wreath adjacent to the highway. It consisted of PVC pipes painted purple and pink with solar-powered mini-lights (purple and pink) to light the candles. For many people, the Advent wreath reminded them both of the season of Advent and of past Advent wreaths.

For those unfamiliar with the Advent wreath, we hope the wreath triggered a question.



Outdoor Nativities

Since we could not invite people to our monastery to see our 400+ Nativities and our Bethlehem Express train layout, we decided to “think outside the Monastery” (as the local newspaper described it!) and bought a 10-foot lighted Nativity, two 8-foot lighted angels, and several other nativities for outside. A man in a “cherry picker” fixed the 25 Moravian stars in their galaxies on the trees behind the nativity.



We wanted to give people a visual experience that Christ is more powerful than COVID, to offer people hope and joy in the 90 seconds as they drove by St. Emma’s. Of course the 6-foot lighted star hung on the church tower—as it and its successors have done for 50 years!

What are Nativity Scenes without Christmas carols? *Alabaster Performing Arts*, Greensburg, provided music and a Christmas show via QR codes! We called this a “Drive-in Concert” and mapped the route to the retreat parking lot. From that spot, people could sit in their cars, open the QR codes for a Christmas musical performance while enjoying beautiful Christmas decorations.

Trunk Symbolizes Faith – Cont. from page 5

for each day as they journeyed to Latrobe.

They left Germany where there was great inflation, unemployment and poverty to a country where there was great poverty and unemployment. St. Vincent's was very close to a self-sustaining monastery that had huge farms and raised all kinds of fruits and vegetables.

The Sisters quickly learned to can fruits and vegetables in gallon jars, to make the quark, the cottage cheese, and ice cream. The brick oven held 70 pies that the Sisters strategically placed 3 at a time on a long handed, wooden paddle and maneuvered them to the proper spots from the back to the front of the oven; this feat had to be repeated, of course, to remove what had been baked. They learned to cook turtle soup and oxtail soup.

In the following years, Sisters arrived at St. Vincent nearly every year. By 1939 they numbered 40 and then the war broke out; they could no longer send money to the motherhouse in Germany; they were told to look out for themselves. In the early 1940's, most of the Sisters became American citizens.

Their prayer life undergirded all of their work and service. The Sisters rose at 4:15, prayed together, had meditation, Mass and had breakfast ready in the various dining rooms for 7 am. The Sisters went "home" after lunch: "home was the convent" connected to the building that contained the music suites and the gymnasium. After more prayer and personal time, the Sisters returned to the kitchen and dining rooms to prepare the evening meal. Their night prayer completed their days. The Sisters had a different kind of enclosure than in Germany: a distance created from respect and by language.

What did our Sisters do? They practiced fidelity, fidelity to their Benedictine vows that directed their whole minds, hearts, souls and hands to God and to the service of others. They were the first feminine presence on campus; they provided a "mothering" presence to generations of young high school students and to older college students. They promised to pray for the monks and seminarians who asked for special prayers for tests and for problems in their families. Our Sisters treated the tools of the "monastery as sacred vessels" and were very zealous to waste or break nothing for there was nothing to waste. The number of pieces of meat, of cake, and of pies were carefully doled out.

Fidelity comes in so many shapes and forms: parents raising children, people working to support their families, spouses often caring for sick children and aged parents as well. Our Sisters showed their fidelity to the daily round of prayer in their own name and in the name of the church, prayer in which they communed with their God in a special way, prayer as they fin-

gered their beads while walking back and forth to the convent or while waiting to serve lunch.



Sr. Felicitas carefully removing three pies at a time from an oven which held 70 pies.

They practiced fidelity by having the meals ready on time, by making feast days and holy days, Ordination Days and Vow Days special for the monks and for their families. They welcomed all at St. Vincent and to St. Vincent as Christ from 1931 to 1987 when the last 13 Sisters joined us at St. Emma's. As the Sisters aged and had health concerns, they came to St. Emma's—decreasing numbers there and increasing our numbers here.

And what did they do at St. Emma's? Similar rounds of prayer and work as at St. Vincent. Having served in the monks' refectory for 53 years, Sr.

Gaudentia shepherded our retreat dining room for 10 years, followed by another 10 years of serving volunteers and caring for our refectory. At St. Vincent's, Sr. Ancilla worked in the college dining room, drove Sisters to doctors' appointments and kept the rose gardens at St. Emma's beautiful; at St. Emma's, she worked in the retreat kitchen and outside until at age 85, she suffered a major stroke.

We at St. Emma's are the grateful heirs of these Sisters' fidelity to the monastic life. Inspired by such founding members, we endeavor to continue their lives of prayer, of living with and for each other, of welcoming guests as Christ. With the advent of computers, cell phones, and other electronic media, we touch people's lives and concerns in broader paths than did our founding Sisters who basically had only personal contact or snail mail. We interact with people in 46 states, we read their prayer intentions, we pray for them and they pray for us. We rely on your prayers as well and ask God to bless you richly. *Ad multos annos!*

BENEDICTINE SISTERS CATHOLIC GIFT AND BOOKSTORE

MASK REQUIRED!

Monday - Saturday • 10 am – 4 pm

Do you wear sports insignia on your shirt or jacket advertising your favorite team? Do you wear a crucifix or a medal, do you adorn your home or front yard with an expression of your Catholic faith? Would this not be a great Lenten resolution to express your faith more visibly?



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Food Fair a Delicious Idea

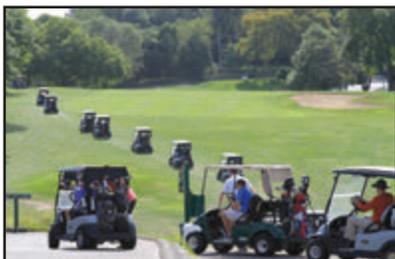


On the most perfect weekend in November weather-wise, we held our first Food Fair; from inspiration to holding the Food Fair, it was a three-week sprint. People—all masked--thanked us for the opportunity to come again to St. Emma's, to re-connect, to ask for special prayer requests, to buy delicious homemade soups, sauces, cookies, pizza etc., and to try their luck on baskets and Mystery Boxes. What a wonderful event! We thank our volunteers who joined us in this "sprint" to cook, bake and lay out everything in just 21 days! We thank all of you who patronized our Food Fair.

**The next Food Fair is set for Spring.
Watch our social media for the date!**

Tee Time for a Nun

Mark your calendar for August 30, 2021 for this year's Tee Time for a Nun. Golf at adjacent Hannastown Golf Course; afterwards enjoy tailgating dinner at St. Emma Monastery.



FUNDraising fee \$100

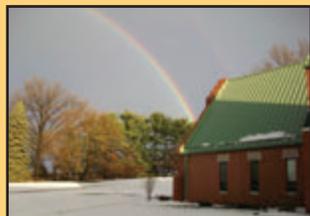
FUNDraising fee \$90

Last year's event was sold out!

Make your reservations early at

<https://19948.sites.ecatholic.com/events/tee-time-for-a-nun>

Please remember us when revising or making your will.



Our legal name is:
*The Sisters of Saint Benedict of
Westmoreland County*
Our Federal ID # is 25-1017575

Advent meditations posted; Lenten to follow

Beginning in Advent, we offered Advent meditation videos based upon a hymn or an antiphon from *The Liturgy of the Hours* that offers us such a rich palette of spiritual food. You can join us via our website www.stemma.org. You can also access our Facebook page and our You-tubes from our home page. We will offer similar Lenten meditations; please join us on our Lenten journey to the celebration of Easter and the Resurrection.



*Please use the enclosed envelope
to send us your prayer requests.*

Calendar of Retreats • 2021

**A letter will be sent to each retreatant
with COVID precautions and requirements**

- March 5-7** **SILENT** men/women Msg. Roger Statnick
\$185
- July 16-22** **Six Day Silent Retreat** retreat master TBA
Full time \$420, Weekend \$185, Fri-Mon \$230
- July 16-23** **Encounter with Silence**
Rev John-Mary Tompkins OSB limited to 15
Monastic Guest House \$550, Retreat House \$475
- Sept. 24-26** Retreat Rev. Thomas More Sikora OSB

Longing for Prayer and Meditation?

Cannot make a weekend retreat this year? We invite you to experience peace and prayer as you walk our Stations of the Cross or make a pilgrimage following the Mysteries of the Rosary—the Gospel on a string! Meditate by the Shrine of Padre Pio, pray in the Walburga Shrine, and recall our Lady's requests at the Fatima Shrine.



On Good Friday, we invite you to walk the Stations of the Cross.

Rest in Peace

We thank the families of the following deceased who suggested that donations in memory of their loved one might be directed to St. Emma's.

Within two weeks, two of our long term friends and volunteers died.

December 12, 2020, Thomas D Bonner, Stafford, VA (formerly of Pittsburgh) died. St. Emma's knew Mr. Bonner who served as baby-sitter for their large family and chauffeur for his wife (and accompanying children) who came to retreat every year. In the mid-1970's, Mrs. Bonner began to volunteer. When they moved to Virginia, Mr. Bonner became one of our BOGO couples.

Already a volunteer in the early 1990's, Mary Elizabeth (Mrs. Henry to us, "Mickie" to her friends) Henry, formerly of Greensburg, and a resident of Stafford Heights, Ohio, for the last 18 months died on December 28. She and husband Emmett lived at our Monastic Guest House and welcomed guests to St. Emma's, and also kept the place spiffy clean. Emmett was killed in a tragic accident in May 2019, and Mrs. Henry moved to Ohio to be near her nephew.

Dominic Meffe, Avon, OH formerly of Greensburg, PA, died on January 1, 2021. We are touched that St. Emma's had touched his life, and that we were mentioned in his obituary.