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The United States Secretariat of the Alliance for International Monasticism

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Monastery to Monastery 2015

Monastery	City, State
Christ in the Desert Monastery	Abiquiu, NM
Mount St. Scholastica	Atchison, KS
Mount St. Scholastica Oblates	Atchison, KS
Marmion Abbey	Aurora, IL
St. Benedict Monastery	Bakerstown, PA
Belmont Abbey	Belmont, NC
St. Benedict's Abbey	Benet Lake, WI
Camaldolese Hermits	Big Sur, CA
St. Scholastica Monastery	Boerne, TX
St. Benedict Monastery	Canyon, TX
Our Lady of Guadalupe Abbey	Carlton, OR
St. Andrew Abbey	Cleveland, OH
Perpetual Adoration Cong.	Clyde, MO
Benet Hill Monastery	Colorado Springs, CO
St. John's Abbey	Collegeville, MN
Conception Abbey	Conception, MO
Monastery of the Holy Spirit	Conyers, GA
Monastery of St. Gertrude	Cottonwood, ID
St. Walburg Monastery	Covington, KY
Mount St. Benedict Monastery	Crookston, MN
Our Lady of the Angels Monastery	Crozet, VA
Sacred Heart Monastery	Cullman, AL
St. Scholastica Monastery	Duluth, MA
St. Walburga Monastery	Elizabeth, NJ
Mt. Michael Abbey	Elkhorn, NB
Mount St. Benedict Monastery	Erie, PA
Monastery Immaculate Conception	Ferdinand, IN
St. Scholastica Monastery	Fort Smith, AR
St. Lucy's Priory	Glendora, CA
Glastonbury Abbey	Hingham, MA
Our Lady of the Annunciation	Hulbert, OK
Our Lady of Dallas	Irving, TX
St. Martin's Abbey	Lacey, WA
St. Vincent Arch Abbey	Latrobe, PA
Sacred Heart Monastery	Lisle, IL
Emmanuel Monastery	Lutherville, MD
St. Anselm Abbey	Manchester, NH
Dwelling Place Monastery	Martin, KY
Holy Wisdom Monastery	Middleton, WI
Mepkin Abbey	Moncks Corner, SC
Queen of Angels Monastery	Mount Angel, OR
House of Bread	Nanaimo, BC
St. Paul's Abbey	Newton, NJ
Immaculata Monastery	Norfolk, NE
New Melleray Abbey	Peosta, IA
St. Bede Abbey	Peru, IL
Abbey of the Genesee	Piffard, NY
Mount Saviour Monastery	Pine City, NY
Woodside Priory	Portola Valley, CA
St. Martin Monastery	Rapid City, SD

Monastery	City, State
Assumption Abbey	Richardton, ND
Sacred Heart Monastery	Richardton, ND
Mary Mother of the Church Abbey	Richmond, VA
St. Gertrude Monastery	Ridgely, MD
St. Mary Monastery	Rock Island, IL
Christ the King Priory	Schuyler, NB
Benedictine Monastery	Sonoita, AZ
Santa Rita Abbey	Sonoita, AZ
St. Joseph's Abbey	Spencer, MA
St. Joseph Abbey	St. Benedict, LA
Holy Trinity Monastery	St. David, AZ
St. Benedict's Monastery	St. Joseph, MN
Holy Name Monastery Oblates	St. Leo, FL
Holy Name Monastery	St. Leo, FL
St. Louis Abbey	St. Louis, MO
St. Meinrad Archabbey	St. Meinrad, IN
Subiaco Abbey	Subiaco, AR
Abbey of Gethsemani	Trappist, KY
St. Joseph Monastery	Tulsa, OK
Our Lady of New Clairvaux Abbey	Vina, CA
Abbey of St. Walburga	Virginia Dale, VA
Mother of God Monastery	Watertown, SD
Weston Priory	Weston, VT
Redwoods Monastery	Whitethorn, CA
Mt. St. Mary's Abbey	Wrentham, MA
Sacred Heart Monastery	Yankton, SD

APRIL 2015 GRANTS

AFRICA

Benedictine Communities of Southern Africa

- funding for a formation-workshop for temporary professed monastics

Benedictine Sisters in Tanzania

- funding for a host baking machine that makes both small and large hosts with minimal electricity consumption

ASIA

Benedictine Monastery in India

- grant for a monk to attend a seminar and write a thesis in Rome.
- funding for a monk to participate at the MRP course at Sant' Anselmo

Benedictine-Cistercian Conference in the Philippines

- grant for the meeting of MFP past participants

SOUTH AMERICA

CIMBRA in Brasil

- funding for monastics to attend a seminar on the Rule of Benedict

Cistercian Sisters in Nicaragua

- grant to buy machine for labeling jam bottles

On the first Christmas God gave all creation the gift of Jesus who has shown us the way to eternal life. The shepherds gave Jesus gifts of their love, honor, and recognition. The Magi gave Jesus gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh. As we continue their spirit of gift giving, may we gift all of creation with care, respect, and reverence. And may we be especially grateful for the gift of life so well depicted in poetry by Brother Columba Coyne, OSB, Weston Priory, VT, who passed to eternal life April 30, 2015.

"Is Not Life a Gift?"

Is not life a gift?

Rain gently falls,
refreshing our earth,
running from brook to sea.

Wild flowers grow,
patiently waiting for
the new day's sun.

The evening pond
flawlessly mirrors sky and trees,
in silent praise of swallows—
cliff, barn, tree—
racing with lilting song,
poetry on wings!

Is not life a gift,
a mystery?

So may we with hearts
of peace,
love, compassion
serve our brothers and sisters
with amazement, with gratitude.

For all life is a gift.

Brother Columba Coyne, OSB
Poetry by the Monks of Weston Priory
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Weston, VT Used with permission

Marmion Abbey Aurora, Illinois, United States



Marmion Abbey, located in Aurora, Illinois, was founded by the monks of St. Meinrad Abbey in 1933. The abbey is located on 300 acres on the northeastern outskirts of the city of Aurora 35 miles west of the city of Chicago. The monastery was made a simple priory in 1943 and raised to the status of an abbey on March 21, 1947.

From the beginning, the monastery has been linked to the work of education. In 1933

Bishop Edward Hoban of the Diocese of Rockford, Illinois, petitioned Abbot Ignatius Esser of St. Meinrad to consider making a Benedictine monastic foundation in Aurora with a double goal: to found a Benedictine community of men and to undertake the administration of Fox Valley High School, a Catholic school for boys which had been

school with over 500 students serving the needs of the Aurora and Fox River Valley area.

The monks are also active in providing pastoral assistance to local parishes on both weekends and weekdays. The nearby Annunciation Parish has been staffed by the monks of Marmion Abbey on a full-time basis since 1933. In addition the monks have been historically involved in giving retreats, spiritual direction and serving in the United States military as chaplains.

The monastery likewise has a tree farm, first established in the 1950's in order to generate needed income for the abbey. Today, "Abbey Farms" continues the tradition of raising and selling Christmas trees. It also hosts an annual "Pumpkin Daze" festival in October. A recent addition to "Abbey Farms" is the Nagel Emporium, which serves as both a seasonal autumn and Christmas store and as a banquet facility during the rest of the year.

In June of 1965, Marmion Abbey established the mission of Priorato San José located in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. It was first located in the Diocese of Sololá, Guatemala. In 1991 it moved to the Diocese of Quetzaltenango. Its principal



Monks praying the Divine Office

previously founded in 1927 by the Augustinian Order of the Province of St. Thomas. Due to financial problems during the Great Depression, the Augustinian Order had decided to close the school. On April 25, 1933 the monastic chapter of St. Meinrad voted in favor of accepting Bishop Hoban's request. The monastery and school were named after Abbot Columba Marmion, a well-known Benedictine spiritual author and Abbot of the Abbey of Maredsous in Belgium in the early twentieth century.

Catholic education of high school young men remains the primary apostolic work of the monks of Marmion Abbey. Today, Marmion Academy is a Catholic, college preparatory



Father Joel Rippinger with Marmion Academy students

apostolic work is the administration of its secondary school for young men, Colegio Seminario San José. Although originally founded as a minor seminary, the school is now open to all qualified young men who are seeking a Catholic secondary education. The monks are also active in pastoral assistance work in local parishes. Over the years, AIM USA as well as AIM International has generously helped to fund the mission. The priory remains dependent upon Marmion Abbey.

Through their daily monastic witness of prayer and work, the monks of Marmion Abbey and of Priorato San José continue to witness to God's Kingdom.

Grace and Compassion Priory Tiruvannamalai, India

The Benedictine Sisters of Our Lady of Grace and Compassion made their first foundation in 1974 in Tiruvannamalai where the late Fr. Capiaghi, a Salesian Missionary, had already made significant strides in establishing a mission in this historical town famous for its Hindu Shivite temple. It is also the location of the Ramana Maharishi Ashram founded by a Hindu mystic saint many decades ago. Since this is a Hindu pilgrimage place, establishing Catholic, particularly monastic presence, is challenging and calls for courage, perseverance, and endurance. The Christian monastic presence scarcely felt in this country would naturally take



Sisters doing Lectio Divina

years to root in this part of the world so much influenced by materialism and capitalism -- the offshoots of globalization.

From a small community of 4 Sisters, the community has grown in numbers and been raised to the status of a Priory with 4 other houses under its jurisdiction across three southern states. The community consists of 21 finally professed sisters, 4 junior professed sisters, and 5 candidates. The Indian Priory has also extended its presence in 4 places by serving in different dioceses in Tamil Nadu in response to the specific needs of the respective bishops.

The sisters live a monastic life with sung Divine Office, Lectio Divina, and time for personal prayer without losing focus on their assigned mission or responsibility. Hospitality forms the central core of their service -- be it caring for the old, the sick, or the poor. The community is located opposite the parish church which provides natural access for the community members to assist



Serving the Sick at Grace Hospital

in pastoral duties of the parish such as conducting catechism classes, taking communion to the sick and involvement in various other activities.

Being an economically poor District, there is ample need in Tiruvannamalai for care of the sick and the needy. This has opened ways for the Priory to run a home for the elderly, a hospital and a crèche for poor children. The Priory has another community at Adaiyur, three kilometers from Tiruvannamalai where it runs a school of nursing in a non-profit mode. Health care is the need of this area; therefore the community earns its living by services provided for the sick which is challenging since health care is becoming commercial and competitive in the town we live in. Services for the elderly are provided free with very meager assistance from the Social Welfare department.

Christianity is a minority religion in this country and therefore governmental support is not something we can expect. However, our prayer life, especially the Divine Office and our work are appreciated by people around the locality and from time to time, they support us with alms to run the home for the aged.

At present buildings which were erected nearly four decades ago desperately need renovation or replacement and this situation has demanded that we renovate the convent and build a new home for the elderly that is safe and user-friendly. The next major project is to re-build the hospital. We need to modernize it in order to meet



Ministry at Grace Home for the Elderly

current healthcare standards. This mega project is a very great challenge in order for us to maintain our communities and at the same time offer much needed medical care.

2015 Missionary Cooperative Plan

The Alliance for International Monasticism is furthered each year by speakers who present mission appeals.

AIM USA greatly appreciates the dioceses and speakers who made the appeals possible in 2015. Their sharing of time and talent touches the lives of many in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

To them AIM USA says:

Thank you and bless you.

BEAUMONT

Fr. Peter Funk, OSB, Holy Cross Monastery,
Beaumont, TX

CAMDEN

Sr. Tina Geiger, RSM, Catholic Rural Ministry,
Oil City, PA
Sr. Therese Glass, OSB, Mt. St. Benedict Monastery,
Erie, PA
Sr. Marian Wehler, OSB, Mt. St. Benedict Monastery,
Erie, PA

CLEVELAND

Br. Peter Ancell, OSB, St. Andrew Abbey,
Cleveland, OH

CINCINNATI

Sr. Kimberly Porter, OSB, St. Walburg Monastery,
Covington, KY
Sr. Mary Tewes, OSB, St. Walburg Monastery,
Covington, KY

ERIE

Sr. Therese Glass, OSB, Mt. St. Benedict Monastery,
Erie, PA
Sr. Theresa Zoky, OSB, Mt. St. Benedict Monastery,
Erie, PA

FORT WAYNE/SOUTH BEND

Sr. Benita Coffey, OSB, St. Scholastica Monastery,
Chicago, IL

KANSAS CITY/ST. JOSEPH

Fr. Daniel Petschi, OSB, Conception Abbey,
Conception, MO

MANCHESTER

Benet Phillips, OSB, St. Anselm's Abby,
Manchester, NH

SAN ANTONIO

Sr. Antoinette Van Galen, OSB, St. Scholastica Monastery,
Boerne, TX

SAN FRANCISCO

John Berger, Member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish,
Sacramento, CA

SEATTLE

Fr. Killian Malvey, OSB, St. Martin Abbey,
Lacey, WA

ST. LOUIS

Fr. Dominic Lenk, OSB, St. Louis Abbey,
St. Louis, MO

SYRACUSE

Sr. Donald Corcoran, OSB, Transfiguration Monastery,
Windsor, NY
Sr. Sheila Long, OSB, Transfiguration Monastery,
Windsor, NY

TRENTON

Sr. Philomena Fleck, OSB, St. Walburga Monastery,
Elizabeth, NJ
Br. Demetrius Thomas, OSB, St. Mary's Abbey,
Morristown, NJ

WILMINGTON

Sr. Catherine Higley, OSB, St. Gertrude Monastery,
Ridgely, MD

**Your monetary gift to AIM USA will give hope
in the New Year to Benedictine and Cistercian
Monasteries around the world. We are most
grateful for you help.**

Please send checks to:

**AIM USA
345 E. 9th St.
Erie, PA 16503**

Thank You!

Cover drawing by Sujong Trappistine Monastery,
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Thank You Notes — Worth Noting...Worth Quoting

To the most blessed AIM USA

First and foremost, we would like to forward our heartfelt greetings.

Thank you for your generous concern to assist us in various ways; especially for providing us with very edifying spiritual books.



We should inform you in due time that we received the books sent to us by you, unfortunately, we didn't do so; yet it was not for negligence. Your help is all the time

appreciated and welcomed by all those who get in touch with you; so we do all the same.

It would be a good occasion to let you know that we always keep you in our daily prayers.

Yours in Christ,
Abba Yacob Marcos, O.Cist.
Ethiopia

PAX!

We have just received today (May 4th) two bundles of books from AIM USA. They were sent 30 March 2015. Thank you very much!

Those books are very good and very interesting! We will read them carefully. They have a deep spirituality.

Thank you once again! Thank you to all AIM USA Staff! We always pray for you all!

Yours in Christ,
Sr. Roberta Peluso
Brasil

We are writing to express our immense gratitude to you for the books you sent us. In fact, we are really very grateful for they are very good books and they will contribute greatly to our growth. May the good Lord continue to bless you as you carry on this wonderful work to the glory of his name.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
M. Margaret Mary Ngobidi, OSB
Nigeria

Greetings of peace and joy.

Thank you so much for the box of books you sent us. Some of the books you sent us are useful to our school community. We have put them in our school library. We hope you can send us some more books next time.

Sister Maureen Cariaga
Tanzania



Sisters gathered together in Kerala, India

Greetings from Punalur Community
PEACE

We are very grateful for your gift which we received from you. It will be enriching for our spiritual life. It is very good for our library. It is suitable for our community. Thank you very much. I am sending the Questionnaire, updated information, and photos. Please send our greetings and thanks to the beloved donors, Benedictine Cistercian Communities and lay friends in the United States and Canada. We shall pray for them. May God bless them. With gratitude and prayers.

Sister Angela Yeaudasan, OSB
Kerala, South India



Sisters preparing liturgical items in Ecuador

We just got the parcel of books you were kind enough to send us. It is a bit long, but the Post Office told me they had already sent us three notices of arrival we never got! Still, thank you ever so much and to the AIM USA staff.

The books are useful though the number of brothers able to read English is rather limited. There is also a book in French. Sure, Mass stipends are certainly more useful to us, but I know so many monasteries ask for them. Nevertheless, thanks again and be sure that we keep you in our prayers.

Fr. Christophe Vuillaume, OSB
Madagascar

The Staff of AIM USA also thanks each and every person who donated the books that we were able to send to these monasteries. It is apparent that these books are needed and greatly appreciated.



United States Secretariat—Alliance for International Monasticism

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Benedict saw the entire world in a single ray of light. (Dialogues)

“Life is truly a gift, a mystery,” Brother Columba writes in his poem on page 3. And so it is! He writes of the gifts of creation which surround us with beauty and mystery, rain, wild flowers, the pond, and birds of every kind. May we be gift to our earth by consciously caring for all creation.

“Life is a precious gift, but we realize this only when we give it to others,” Pope Francis reminds us. And so we heed his words, we give of our time, our talents, our resources, our very selves. May we be gift to all people by our respectful presence in their lives.

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you,...the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God,” we read in Luke 1:35. And so we rejoice that the greatest of gifts has come to us, Jesus the Christ.

*"So may we with hearts,
of peace,
love, compassion
serve our brothers and sisters
with amazement, with gratitude."*

Brother Columba

May our world come to know the peace of Christ born to us this day and may each of us be that peace for our troubled world today and everyday.

Prayerfully,

Theresa Zoky, OSB

Sister Theresa Zoky, O.S.B.
Executive Director, AIM USA
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