



DIOCESE OF CROOKSTON
1200 Memorial Drive Crookston, MN 56721
218-281-4533 // www.crookston.org



MOUNT SAINT BENEDICT MONASTERY
620 E. Summit Avenue Crookston, MN 56721
218-281-3441 // www.msb.net

The Diocese of Crookston and Sisters of Saint Benedict announce strategic partnership; Diocese launches capital campaign

CROOKSTON, MINNESOTA, July 29, 2021 – The Diocese of Crookston and the Sisters of Saint Benedict announce the Diocese of Crookston’s intent to purchase the Mount Saint Benedict Campus. The property will become a pastoral center and retreat facility for the Diocese of Crookston. The proceeds of the sale of the monastery will be allocated to the retirement support of the Benedictine Sisters who have served the diocese for over 100 years. The arrangement provides a private section of the current monastery for the sisters to live out their monastic lives.

“As religious communities across the United States have become smaller, they have been searching for ways to regroup in smaller residences while putting their larger buildings to alternate good uses. Some religious communities are being left with empty, unusable structures. We are among the fortunate communities whose buildings are relatively new, still in excellent shape, and there is someone standing by, ready to use the building for a worthy, ministry-related purpose,” said Mount Saint Benedict Administrator, Sister Jane Becker, OSB.

Ministries in the Diocese of Crookston will continue in a modern, accessible location that offers training rooms, offices, retreat facilities and private grounds within walking distance from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

“The timing of this project is providential for the Diocese of Crookston, as well as the Benedictine Sisters. It will offer tremendous support to diocesan ministries. It is simply the perfect fit for all parties concerned,” said the Most Reverend Richard E. Pates, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Crookston.

The Diocese of Crookston announces the launch of “The Perfect Fit” Capital Campaign to raise \$15 million; \$12 million for the purchase of Mount Saint Benedict and a \$3 million endowment for the property’s maintenance. To date, \$6.67 million in funds have been generously pledged so the Diocese of Crookston and Sisters of Saint Benedict can carry on their shared mission to grow and sustain the call to missionary discipleship in northwest Minnesota. All Diocese of Crookston faithful will have an opportunity to support this endeavor financially and prayerfully in coming months.

###

ABOUT THE DIOCESE OF CROOKSTON. The Diocese of Crookston was established in 1909 and comprises 14 counties over 17,210 square miles in northwest Minnesota. It has a Catholic population of 34,649. There are 51 priests (including active, retired and those serving outside the diocesan area), 23 permanent deacons, 66 parishes and eight Catholic schools in the diocese. *Learn more at www.crookston.org.*

ABOUT THE SISTERS OF SAINT BENEDICT. The Sisters of Saint Benedict established an independent monastery in Crookston in 1919. They are monastic women committed to living the Gospel and the Rule of Benedict. *Learn more at www.msb.net.*

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Janelle C. Gergen
Director of Communications | Diocese of Crookston
218-281-4533 ext. 428 // jgergen@crookston.org
www.crookston.org/perfectfit

Heidi Whiting
Mount Saint Benedict Monastery | Foundation Director
218-275-4117 // heidi.whiting@benedictineliving.org