



Adorers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Montmartre OSB

St. Benedict's Priory, The Mount, Cobh, Co Cork

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Dear Friends,

First of all I want to begin by thanking you for your kind and generous response to my last e-mail. Many were very generous either being able to donate themselves or, very importantly, forwarding the e-mail on to others. We received donations from new and old friends in various parts of the world and so far have raised €12,000 from our appeal. We also received many words of support and goodwill and promises of prayers which we appreciate very much. Meanwhile with the help of volunteers and the people of Cobh our tearoom is becoming busier and raising funds each day. Following our very successful Christmas Fayre and Grand Draw, we have a coffee morning planned for Wednesday 27th March, and a History Talk on St. Catherine Drexel and her association with Cobh by local historians Tim and Ann McSweeney on 11th April, which will also be a fundraiser due to their generosity. Local groups who have become aware of our need have been using our tearoom and Oliver Plunkett Centre for their meetings in exchange for a donation. One donor booked candles to be burned in our Sanctuary for all her friends and donated to us what she would have spent in more material birthday presents!

Our handyman is currently doing some badly needed painting of the retreat house in readiness for guests this year. Donations which come to us through the retreat house help us with our daily living expenses and maintenance costs. Some very faithful friends kindly held a stall for us and handed out our literature at the recent Divine Mercy Conference in Dublin and we have already had some enquiries from prospective visitors.

All our benefactors are included in the daily prayer of our community and your generosity and good will surely rises up to God along with our Liturgical Worship throughout the day and into the night.



We have been extremely grateful that recently a preservation engineer has come on board to advise us on our building and monitor the quotations and work undertaken. This is an enormous blessing. Another very promising development has been that we have reached the second stage of a grant application process which could lead to very substantial help with our heating and energy upgrade. We hope this may be the much awaited Divine Intervention that we need and will let you know if it should turn out to be so!

The good news is that we emerge from the winter months without any debt to East Cork Oil, meaning that we can go forward with our fundraising efforts and gradually increase our Grand Total during the coming year.

On the other hand, new challenges have emerged: Our enclosure lift reached the limit of its lifespan just before Christmas and has broken down beyond repair. Although it seemed a disaster at first, perhaps it will spur us on to finally install a lift accessible to our guests as well, so that elderly visitors may not be kept away by the stairs. This project has now had to take first place in our list of priorities since our Mother Matthias is in need of it. She is currently managing the stairs, which doesn't get easier as the months pass. The quotes are due to come in this week but are not likely to be lower than €50,000. Our old lift is too small to be replaced by anything suitable under current regulations.

Finally, in the course of decorating we have found that the plaster on many of the interior walls has also reached its best before end date, and since this is a traditionally built, preservation building it needs to be reapplied with skilful lime mortar work, rather than by a quick-fix that will harm the structure in decades to come. We are looking for people who care about the future of this beautiful historic building and can help us in this area.



Yes, we have a long way to go, but the journey is made very pleasant by the love, support and appreciation shown to us in so many ways. We know too that by joining us on the journey, others have been and will be blessed by the Lord.

Please help us to spread this appeal far and wide! Thank you.

Mother M Catherine OSB and all the Sisters

or by cheque made payable to **St Benedict's Priory** and sent to the above address
or by Bank Transfer to:

St. Benedict's Priory Account Number 12884-131, Sort Code: 93-40-62 IBAN: IE61 AIBK 9340 6212
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Online Donations: <http://www.tyburnconvent.org.uk/stbenedictsprioryrenovation>

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