



## Creating another Sacred Space

Throughout the history of [St. Paul's Monastery](#), the Sisters of St. Benedict have repeatedly created a sacred space in which to live, work and respond to the current needs and challenges of church and society. Our monastery has been the spiritual center for our ministries since we officially moved in on January 2, 1965.

In the true spirit of [Benedict](#), we want to continue to respond to current needs and challenges, and are excited about sharing the hospitality of our space with those who have the greatest need.

After three years of searching we have found two partners who can use our beautiful building and live with us on our land. They are [Tubman Family Alliance](#) and [Common Bond](#).

Tubman Family Alliance is a full-service family violence prevention agency. One of the services it provides is short-term safe housing for women and children. In addition to short-term housing, Tubman will use the current monastery building to provide offices for their Ramsey and Washington County Legal Program, a Jobs Education and Training Center, on-site space for a health and wellness center, a Community Education Center and Research Center.

CommonBond is the largest affordable housing developer in the Upper Midwest and currently owns/operates 71 housing communities in Minnesota and Wisconsin. CommonBond was established in 1971 by the social justice ministry of the Archdiocese. It is now a separate corporation but has maintained close ties to the Archdiocese which has representatives on its Board. CommonBond will build two housing communities on the east side of the Monastery property. One will be a 40 unit senior housing building with surface parking. The second will be a 50 unit rental town home development. Common Bond's communities combine top-quality affordable housing with an Advantage Service Center that fosters self-reliance and builds community.

The decision to move in this direction is a result of proactive, strategic planning over the last thirteen years. It was 58 years ago that 178 sisters left [St. Benedict's Convent](#) in St. Joseph, MN, to establish a new foundation in the archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis. As the membership grew to 250 sisters, plans were made to build a monastery at the corner of Century and Larpenteur in Maplewood, MN, but first the Archbishop asked that a high school for girls be built. Archbishop Murray Memorial High School was opened in 1958. The sisters were actively involved in teaching and in administration. In 1965 the sisters moved into their new monastery next door. In 1971 Hill School merged with our school and became [Hill-Murray school](#).

We are extremely proud of Hill-Murray and the role the perseverance of our sisters played in creating the school. We will be forever linked geographically and historically. Hill-Murray has become one of the premier Catholic schools in the Twin Cities. In addition to our previous work of building and establishing Hill-Murray, several other pieces of the plan are now falling into place regarding women, children and affordable housing.

We are now engaged in implementing our strategic plans that will establish a lasting legacy of our work here on earth. In envisioning the future, we reflected on God's invitation and here is our response:

- To continue to live on this sacred land with the sisters who have gone before us.
- To share our campus with women, children and the elderly.
- To share our human and natural resources with those in need.
- To be a contemplative presence on this land so that all who live and work here will feel God's healing energy.

The sisters are planning to build a new, smaller monastery on the north open parcel of the Monastery land. This new facility will renew our community and keep us active in ministry and prayer. Over the next two years we will be discerning our path to renew our current ministries and create new ministries as part of our Benedictine legacy.

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue our journey and renew our commitment to the tradition of creating sacred space here on the corner of [Century and Larpenteur](#).