

# MONASTERY OF OUR LADY OF THE DESERT

PO Box 1040 Abiquiu, NM 87510 USA  
www.ourladyofthedesert.org 801-545-8569

## Deed indeed a blessing!

On the feast of St. Benedict, July 11, 2007, we were blessed with the deed to 40 acres of property in Goberndor, New Mexico from Mr. and Mrs. Jose Florez. Our Prioress, Mother Mary Benedicta Serna commented on this very special occasion:

*On behalf of the nuns of the Monastery of Our lady of the Desert, thank you Mr. and Mrs. Jose Florez and all the Florez family, for this gift, for giving Our Lady of the Desert a home. I also thank you for your love for us and our Benedictine way of life. This deed represents the dream of Florence and Joe Florez. Joe and Forence knew in their hearts the sacredness of the land of Gobernador and strongly believed God had a plan for it. Today that dream has become a reality. Gobernador has become the future home of a Benedictine monastery, as St. Benedict says in his rule, 'A school for the Lord's service,' a school*



Luella Evans with her parents, Jose and Florence, signing the deed over to the Monastery of Our Lady of the Desert.

*where Benedictine nuns take on the yoke of Jesus by living the monastic life. The monastery is a place of silence and solitude set apart for the search of God and not just for monks and nuns, but for all! The Monastery of Our Lady of the Desert will be a place where all will be welcomed to join us in our Benedictine life of prayer and work. Thank you for making this possible for us and all those who come to join us as nuns and guests. We give thanks to God for this incredible moment in the history of our monastery. May St. Benedict be with us and guide us together as we pray and work to build the Monastery of Our Lady of the Desert.*

## Strategic Planning

On July 28, 2007, Marie Morgan and Berkely Merchant presented a session on strategic planning for our community. This was very insightful in the areas of business, fundraising, planning and assistance from people as we begin our move. The workshop lasted a little beyond our work period, but we fit into our schedule the Divine Office. During the session, each of the sisters participated with questions and ideas regarding our future needs. The workshop gave us the direction we need to begin this enormous project. Please pray for us as we start to implement our ideas.

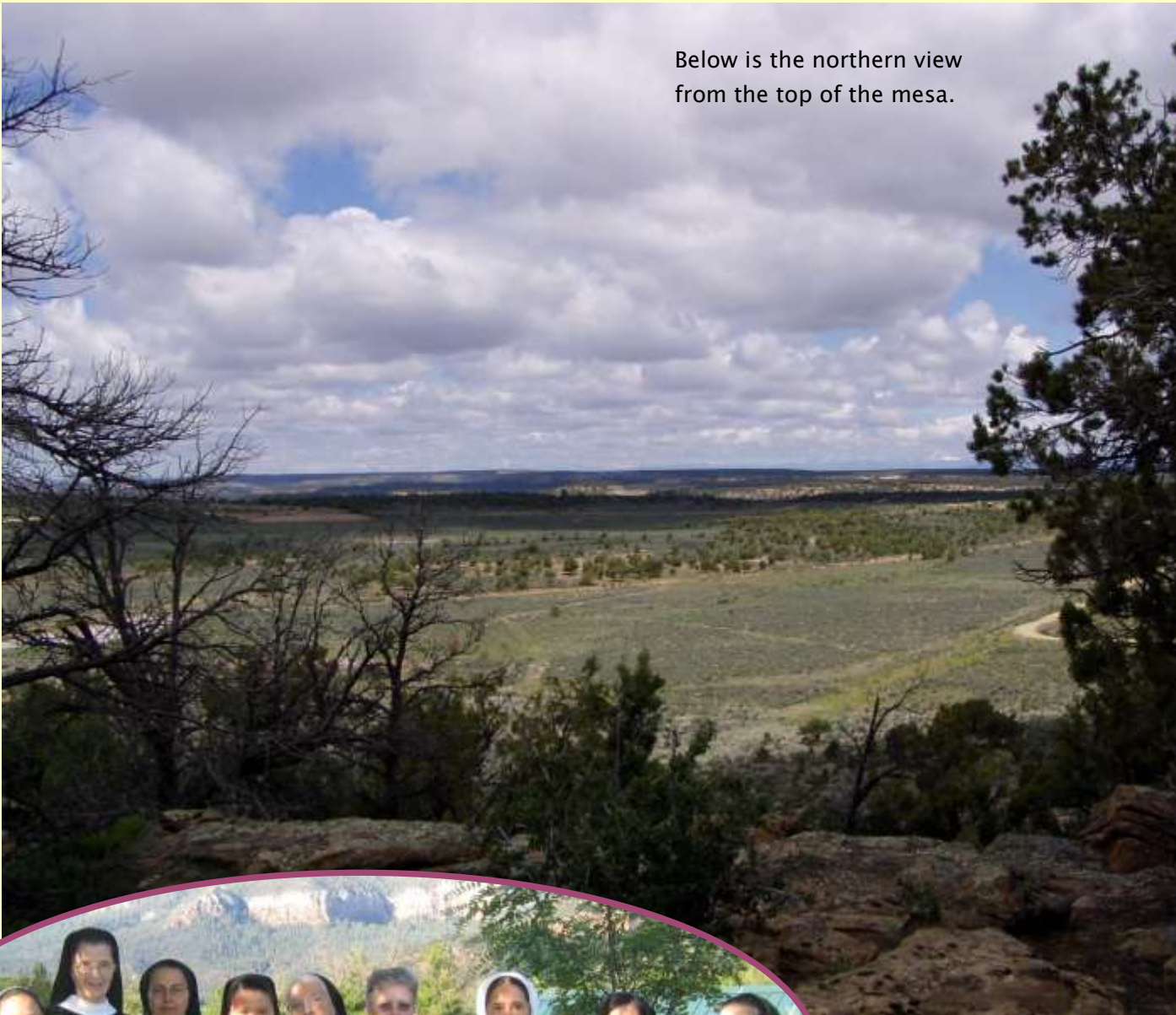
## Bishop Pelotte

Our new home will be in the diocese of Gallup. Please join us in prayer for our Bishop Donald E. Pellote, Bishop of the Diocese of Gallup, who fell down a flight of stairs on July 23rd. He is currently a patient at the John C. Lincoln Hospital in Phoenix, Arizona. Reverend James E. Walker, who serves as Vicar General and also as parish priest in Bloomfield, will take over the administrative duties for the diocese.

We pray for a speedy recovery!

## Monastery of Our Lady of the Desert

Below is the northern view  
from the top of the mesa.



### OUR VISION

The Monastery of Our Lady of the Desert, our present home in Abiquiu, was originally a goat barn the monks renovated and was comfortable for the four original sisters; however, we need a larger monastery, which seeks to serve the community in a Benedictine spirit of hospitality and we want you to be a part of our new vision.

## Monastery of Our Lady of the Desert

### MEETING OUR FUTURE NEIGHBORS IN BLANCO, NEW MEXICO

About 20 miles from Gobernador, Mother Mary Benedicta and Sister Mary Fisher went on Sunday, July 23, to the St. Rose of Lima Parish in Blanco for the 8:30 am Mass. Father James E. Walker, and all the parishioners made them feel very welcomed. After Mass the sisters gave an introduction to our community and a short slide show and passed out brochures, then went to the parish hall for a delicious breakfast where they had the opportunity to personally meet the parishioners! Thank you for all your gracious donations and gifts. Our next introduction will be at St. Mary's Parish in Bloomfield, New Mexico.



View of the Colorado Mountains in the background



Gobernador knob to the South

### *SANTO NINO REUNION, AUGUST 3, 4, and 5*

We were very happy to be part of the Santo Nino Reunion in Gobernador, NM, celebrating its rich history, traditions and customs of over 20 years. Father Bernard Craner, from the Monastery of Christ in the Desert and Mother Mary Benedicta and Sister Kateri arrived at the reunion on Friday afternoon in time for the Chicharron y Torilla night! Father Bernard was the celebrant for Mass midmorning on Saturday. He gave a special family blessing. It was followed by a home cooked meal. Our group left Saturday, but the festivities continued. We enjoyed meeting the ancestors of the original homesteaders of Gobernador. Thank you for your gracious hospitality and generosity to our community! Below are a few pictures taken at the reunion.



*Nos creamos aqui, como hermanos y hermanas, como una familia.*

*We were raised here, like brothers and sisters, like one family.*

# Monastery of Our Lady of the Desert

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Support our vision to continue to live a life of community and dedication to prayer.

- Pray for our community
- Offer to use your talents, time or resources in the service of our Lady of the Desert
- Spread the word about the need for prayer to restore peace
- Make a donation toward the building of our new monastery
- Order a craft from this newsletter (reverse side of this sheet)
- Contribute to our endowment fund
- Remember us in your will.

## WISH LIST

### MOVING NEED

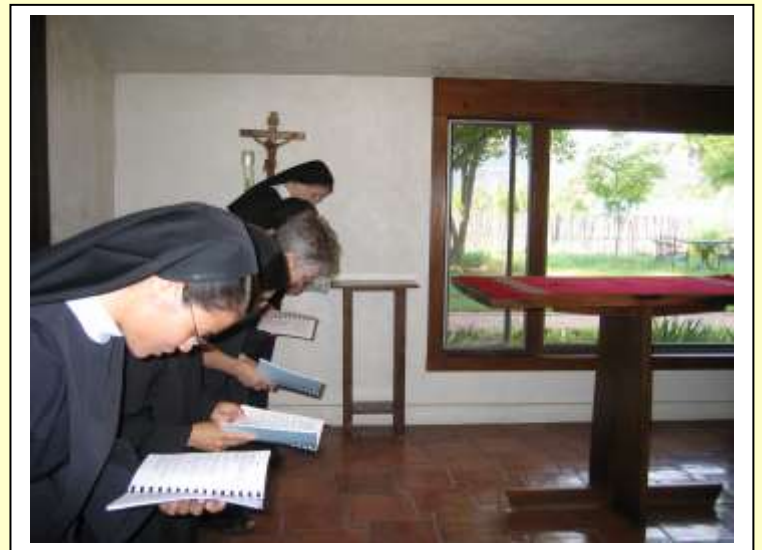
New tents to fit one or two persons, collapsible picnic Table and Chairs for property site, Office Depot packing boxes, packing tape

### KITCHEN NEEDS

Hot water jugs, bottled water, paper plate, plastic spoons and cups, TV trays

### OFFICE NEEDS

Photo Copier, phone cards, reams of copy paper for duplicating (standard 8 ½ x 11 and legal 8 ½ x 14), postage stamps, ink cartridges for the Xerox Phaser 8560, telephone answering machine with fax capability



**The Prophet says: *Seven times a day have I praised you (Psalm 118:164)***  
***Rule of St. Benedict 16:1***

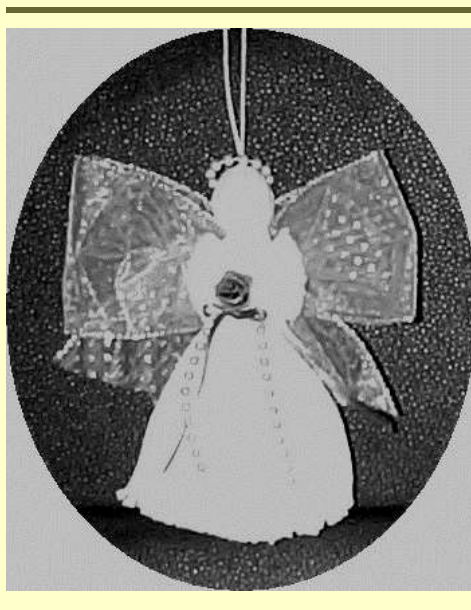
Sweet Dreams! Choose from 8 ½” x 10 ½ ” Lavender pillow Insert shown below for \$20 each



Set of two pillow sachets, 4” x 5” for \$10

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM	COST/EACH	QTY	TOTAL
<b>Pillow Inserts</b>	\$20.00		\$
<b>Pillow Sachets (2 per set)</b>	\$10.00		\$
<b>Angels</b>			\$
<b>Red Wings</b>	\$ 5.00		\$
<b>Gold</b>	\$ 5.00		\$
<b>Gold/Lavender deco</b>	\$ 5.00		\$
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			\$
<b>SHIPPING AND HANDLING</b>			<b>\$ 6.00</b>
<b>TOTAL COST OF ORDER</b>			<b>\$</b>



Ornamental Angel made with pearl cotton thread for \$5 each. Choose from 3 colors for wings.

**We must believe that  
God  
is always with us...  
Rule of St. Benedict 7:23**

Since our beginning 17 years ago, God has always been with us in our ups and downs, joys and pains, our successes and failures, our good times and our not so good times. Our Holy Father St. Benedict continuously reminds us of this throughout his Rule.



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