

SPECIAL PROJECTS AT THE MONASTERY

Emergency Kitchen Remodel

The kitchen at our Monastery provides cafeteria-style, healthy meals each day to our Sisters as well as visitors who are utilizing our space for workshops, retreats, and spiritual growth. In 2014, we hired a new Dietary Manager who made a strategic shift from a kitchen that heated pre-made, processed foods to a dietary program that makes all meals from scratch. We have also begun receiving five “shares” of food from a local farm Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) program, which supplies us with nutritious farm-fresh food weekly during the growing season. These shifts have reduced the sodium that was in the pre-made meals, and increased the quality and nutrition of the food that is served to over 50 people each day. For our Sisters, many of whom are over the age of fifty and rely upon our kitchen for most meals, this is an important shift to improve their health and support healthy aging so they can continue to support community needs.

While the shift to cooking all meals from scratch has been very positive, it does mean that the kitchen is used much more extensively than it had been used previously, creating more wear and tear on our equipment. Additionally, the flooring in our kitchen has begun to deteriorate and become unsafe. We had been planning to replace some of the kitchen equipment in 2018, however the rapid deterioration of the flooring over the past few months has created an urgency to begin work this fall. Our Dietary Manager and administrative staff have been working to determine next steps for our kitchen so that we can safely and efficiently address the issues.

Project Timing

It was decided that because of possible cost increase, urgent need and being able to have a functioning kitchen for the 10th Anniversary of “Christmas at the Monastery” the project will begin on Monday, October 16, 2017 and hope it is complete by Thursday, October 26, 2017.

Project Budget

- Installation of **new flooring** to replace our existing linoleum. The seams of the linoleum are separating, causing urgent safety issues, as well as concerns about bacteria and mold. Since we would need to move the heavy kitchen equipment to replace the flooring, it would be more efficient for us to replace some equipment as part of the same project, so we do not have to pay to have the old equipment twice.
- **Replacement of two existing ovens.** One oven no longer works at all, and another convection oven is at the end of its expected “lifespan”. We plan to replace both ovens with one Combitherm Oven that would allow us to steam, roast and bake food all in one

piece of equipment. We will also be able to use it when we are canning fruit applesauce in the fall.

- Purchase a new **cooktop stove**. Our current stove has only two working burners and needs to be replaced. We will obtain a high-capacity industrial stove with four working burners.
- Additional small **improvements to the physical space** of the kitchen may be needed, including widening our current narrow doorways so the new equipment can be installed.

These renovations are needed for safety reasons, and will also allow us to provide healthy food to our Sisters and community members for many years to come. We expect to begin work in the fall of 2017. By replacing aging equipment with new appliances that are more energy-efficient, we will also support a goal of reducing our energy consumption. Ever-conscious of our financial budget, we feel that this project is efficient and effective - meeting the needs of our Sisters and the community, and reducing our long-term impact on the environment.

Fundraising Plan

We have sent grant request to 3 Foundations so that we do not strain the current 2017-2018 budget. The Sisters will contribute 25% of the cost out of their current Capitol budget.

New epoxy flooring	\$	10,500.00
Equipment and materials - moving and removal fees	\$	11,725.00
Combi Therm Oven	\$	15,000.00
Vulcan High-Capacity Cooktop	\$	5,000.00
Electrical work	\$	1,000.00
Floor drain repair	\$	2,900.00
Remove and replace existing door	\$	4,700.00
Construction materials	\$	700.00
Meal purchase costs for 50 people during 2 week renovation period	\$	15,000.00