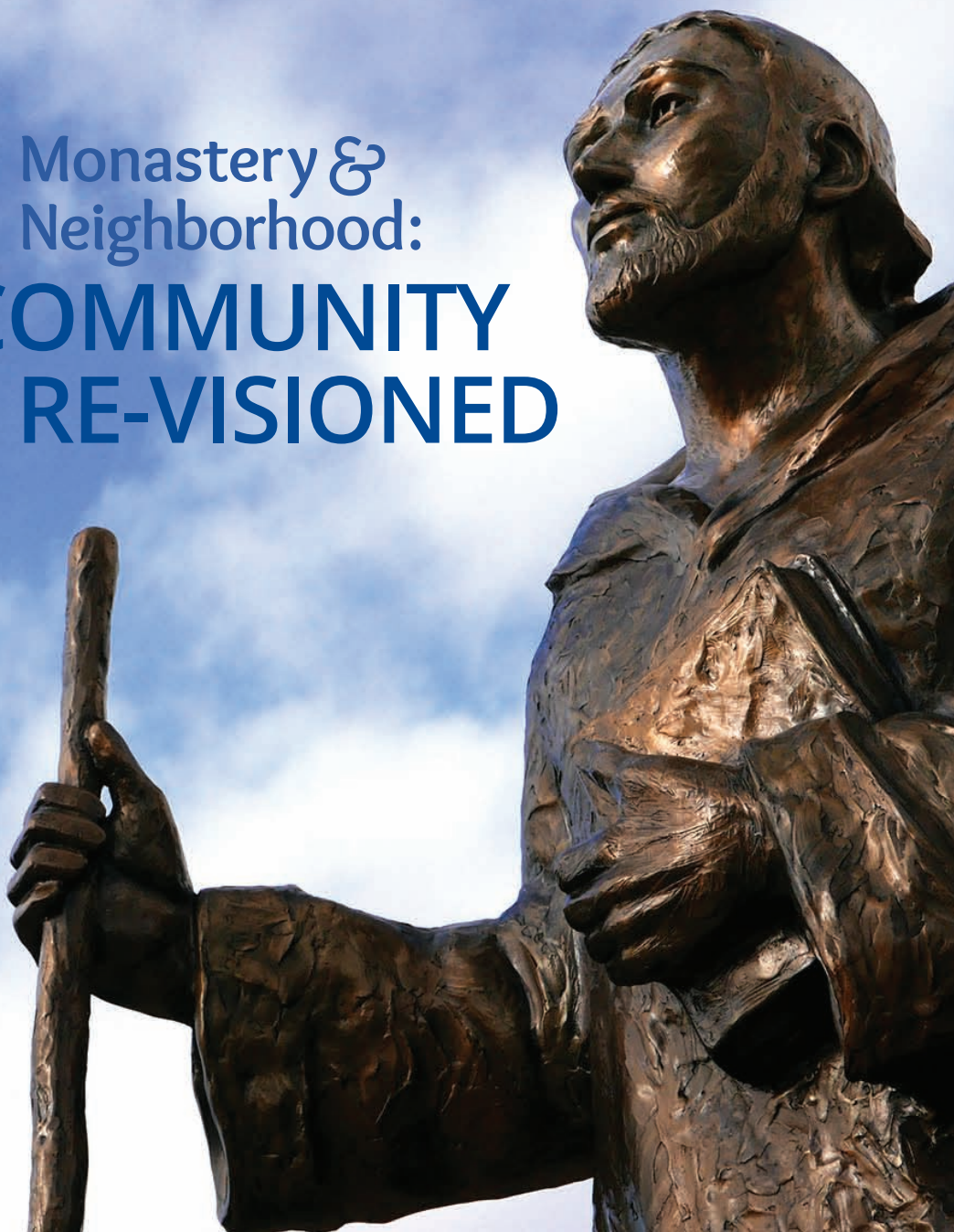




Monastery &  
Neighborhood:  
**COMMUNITY  
RE-VISIONED**



We, the Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery,  
are a community who live Gospel values  
as expressed in the *Rule of St. Benedict*.  
Through our monastic life  
and wise stewardship,  
we nurture contemplative presence in  
service of church and society  
based on our core values:

*Community*

*Hospitality*

*Prayer*

*Silence*

*Stewardship*

*Generativity*

*Social Responsibility*

# *Welcome.*

This campus guide introduces you to St. Paul's Monastery as a place inspired by vision, committed to mission. The monastery building and its grounds tell a story of how that vision finds concrete expression just as how the larger neighborhood of which we are a part reflects our call to mission.

This guide is written as a pilgrimage. As you use it to learn more about us, you will from time to time find a prayer. This is an invitation to pause for a moment, to let the prayer deepen your awareness about how space creates an environment for living more purposefully, and to join your prayers to our own.

Thank you for setting out on this pilgrimage. Be at home, be at peace.



## THE MONASTERY

- 1 Gathering Hall
- 2 Chapel
- 3 Library
- 4 Dining Room

## THE MONASTERY GROUNDS

- 5 Courtyard
- 6 St. Benedict Statue
- 7 Labyrinth
- 8 Cemetery

## THE NEIGHBORHOOD

- 9 Maple Tree Monastery Childcare Center
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# Entering the Monastery

As you enter the doors of St. Paul's Monastery, you step into a tradition centuries old. We are home to a religious community of Benedictine Sisters and a place for women and men to gather who seek to understand the wisdom the *Rule of St. Benedict* has for their lives.

Pause for a moment as you cross the threshold. Attend to what you hear and see. Silence, beauty, spaciousness and light embody who we are and how we sustain a way of life in community.



## 1 GATHERING SPACE AND THE BENEDICTINE CENTER

As you cross the threshold, you are in the central gathering space where we welcome all our guests. The walls around you comprise our main monastic gallery where we host six exhibits a year. As you pass through the current exhibit, you will come to a permanent collection honoring the artistic work of our Benedictine sisters as they interpret God's presence in images of beauty.

The Benedictine Center is to your left past the reception desk. Its vibrant retreat ministry reflects the Sisters' commitment to a lifetime of learning about Christian discipleship. Because of the Center, the riches of the monastic tradition become a living resource for those seeking to grow in faith, understanding, and their sense of mission in the world.

There are spaces throughout this area for small groups to talk about life's joys and challenges, for spiritual directors to meet with seekers, and for individuals to come away for quiet and prayer.



## 2 THE CHAPEL

Central to this monastery's daily life is the chapel. All paths lead to it—from the flowing waters of the baptismal font to the hand-crafted altar, from the crown of daylight around the undulating wood ceiling to the soft serenity of the Eucharistic chapel. Each aspect of the chapel calls the heart to prayer. Here, throughout the day, the community gathers for worship in the conviction that everything finds its purpose and meaning only in the presence of God.

*Lord God, throughout history people sought out  
sacred space where your word and worship might  
form them to live more generously in the world  
around them. May we find in Word and Sacrament  
celebrated in this chapel a renewed sense of our call  
to live daily the vocation of baptism in the life, death,  
and resurrection of Jesus.*



### 3 LIBRARY

Because every Benedictine monastery believes in the importance of ongoing learning, our library offers a fine collection of spiritual classics and contemporary resources for study and reflection. It is just beyond the reception desk to your left, available for guests and others seeking a place for pursuing a question that stirs their curiosity.

### 4 DINING ROOM

The dining room that is just beyond the Gathering Space is where guests, in true Benedictine tradition, rediscover the power of a shared meal. Wholesome food, intimate conversation and windows that look out on God's good creation deepen the sense of connectedness. The larger-than-life icon of the Holy Trinity on the far wall of the dining room expresses the sort of relationships we seek in our conversations with all who cross our threshold.





# *The Monastery Grounds*

As you stand at the threshold and look straight across the Gathering Space, a doorway invites you to step into the courtyard. Its gardens and walkways provide a place for Sisters and guests to catch their breath and open their hearts.



## 5 COURTYARD

Sheltered in the arms of the building and opening to the grounds beyond, the gardens are a perfect setting for quiet meditation. At the center of the courtyard is a sculpture of Mary the Mother of Jesus designed by our own S. Irene Uptegrove. It has been with us since our first arrival in the Twin Cities in 1948.

*O God, you made the Earth and blessed it. Open our eyes to the beauty and simplicity of wisdom. Let it be a text to discover your great artistry in all of creation, to understand humbly our place in the cycle of life and death, and to find in settings like these a renewal of spirit, mind, and heart.*

## 6 SAINT BENEDICT

As you leave the courtyard, you will discover a sculpture of St. Benedict designed by Linda Dabeau in 2015. Benedict is the father of Western monasticism whose rule of daily life continues to inspire and guide our life as a community and our development as Christian disciples fifteen centuries later. People around the world, Catholic and Protestant alike, find *the Rule* rich in its teaching.





## 7 LABYRINTH

The path from the statue of St. Benedict, brings you to a labyrinth. It is a maze-like structure for an ancient form of meditation that invites the seeker to slow her or his pace, to set aside the clamor of daily life, and to follow prayerfully and with great concentration the path it traces. Past the labyrinth, you will find the grotto honoring our Lady of Fatima.

## 8 CEMETERY

Continuing along the walkway, you will come to the monastic cemetery. It is close by, in part, as a reflection of Benedict's admonition to "keep death before you always." His wise counsel is that we think, choose, and act differently when we are aware that life is short. But the proximity of the cemetery to the monastery is also testimony that our commitment to one another in community never ends.

***God of Comfort, your wisdom keeps us connected to our loved ones. Help us to rejoice that death does not simply mark the end our lives, but also the beginning of a larger more abundant life with you. Let us remember that life is short so may we be quick to love and be kind with those who travel with us. Amen.***



# The Neighborhood

As you stand outside the main entrance and face south you have a panoramic view of what makes up our immediate neighborhood here at the intersection of Century Avenue and Benet Road.

*Almighty and Holy One, bless all those who dwell, work, and study here. May they find shelter, a place to be family, an environment of peace, and a source of learning. May they also discover the power of community to expand and deepen what it means to belong to one another. Breathe your Spirit into us that we may love more truly as brothers and sisters of one another. Amen.*







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## MAPLE TREE MONASTERY CHILDCARE CENTER

To your right, at the end of the street is a building with a play ground. This is the Maple Tree Monastery Childcare Center we created in 1991 as a response to the needs for affordable daycare in this part of the city. It is now an independent organization with Sisters still serving on its board. Maple Tree's mission reflects our fondest hope for all children: **"A special place where children are sheltered and nourished with love and learning."**

## 10 HILL-MURRAY SCHOOL

In 1956, at the request of the archbishop, the community built Archbishop Murray Memorial High School for girls which has evolved to become Hill-Murray School, now serving middle school through high school aged girls and boys. You can see it by looking to your right. Sisters staffed the school for many years and take pride in its continuing vision of itself as "a Catholic Benedictine learning community committed to academic distinction, fostering and celebrating the growth of the talents of each individual and preparing all students to be ethical servant leaders for our world."



## 11 HARRIET TUBMAN CENTER EAST

When we decided to build a new monastery scaled to our current needs, we knew that the disposition of what we no longer required must serve the common good. As a result, we sold the monastery building to the Harriet Tubman Center which you see directly across from the main entrance. With its vision of “thriving people, healthy relationships, peaceful communities,” the Tubman Center works in extraordinary ways to fulfill its mission to “advance opportunities for change so that every person can find safety, hope and healing.” The monastic community takes great pride in seeing its former home put to such profound human service. Some Sisters volunteer at the Center, and we pray always for the needs of those who rediscover hope because of the Harriet Tubman Center.





## 12 13 COMMONBOND COMMUNITIES

As we considered how best to steward the large acreage we owned, we had the good fortune to connect with CommonBond Communities. It is an exceptional nonprofit organization whose mission is to build stable homes, strong futures, and vibrant communities.

- 12 **Century Trails Senior Housing** is the three story residence on your left and facing Century Avenue. This facility provides affordable apartments for senior citizens and services that enable residents to live happy, safe, and fulfilling lives.
- 13 **The Trail's Edge Townhomes** offer affordable housing for families who otherwise have few options. As part of the Common-Bond family, residents in the townhomes have access to a wide range of services including youth and adult education, advancement, and career counseling.





#### 14 PRIORY NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVE

Across the road from the neighborhood along Larpenteur Avenue is a park created from land we sold to the city of Maplewood twenty years ago as a place where the wild beauty of creation might serve generations to come. The Preserve is a place where people hike and children seek adventure that will always provide a deep connection to the power of nature to shape hearts and minds for the common good.

*Creator God, help us remember that though the earth and all that is in it is ours to use, it still belongs to you. Make us mindful of the ways we might better care for your creation and hold its resources in common. May we all be even more responsible stewards and friends to one another. Amen.*





## ST. PAUL'S MONASTERY: *Gratitude For God's Blessings*

As you look across this large neighborhood doing such good work, we as a monastic community are grateful for the wisdom to let go of what we "owned" for work that serves the common good in exceptional ways. We are grateful for being part of this neighborhood and the opportunities for us to be neighbor in ways we had not imagined. We are grateful for all those generous benefactors whose support over the years made it possible for us to make wise choices in the use of what we have been given. And we are grateful for all those who see the Monastery as a center of prayer and learning as each one lives out their call to discipleship.

*God of All, inspire our courage to keep this a place of extravagant hospitality – to one another with whom we share this monastery, to our guests, and to all our neighbors. Deepen our compassion for each other's needs and aspirations. Encourage us every day to trust one another as friends for we are icons of your grace. Amen.*

Let all guests who arrive be received like Christ,  
for He is going to say, "I came as a guest, and  
you received Me" (Matt. 25:35). And to all let due  
honor be shown, especially to the domestics of  
the faith and to pilgrims.

*Rule of St. Benedict*  
*Chapter 53: On the Reception of Guests*



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