



# Benet Hill Monastery

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The mosaic portrays history, or HERSTORY, and life of the Benedictine Sisters who founded Benet Hill Monastery, Colorado Springs. (This mosaic is located in the hallway of the monastery leading to the dining room.) Using symbols and brilliant colors in glass tesserae, artist Sister Katie Keeley and helper Sister Kateri Gonzales completed the work in May, 1967.

The central figure, the Benedictine Sister, wears the traditional habit common to all members until the late 1960's. Fourteen centuries of HERSTORY recognize her as lover of learning, scholar (inset) and teacher (standing central figure). Before all things she is a woman of prayer, daily offering her life to God (hands, center). Throughout the centuries Benedictine women cultivated and preserved the arts (hand with pen, left, and paints, lower right) copying and illuminating manuscripts.

Participating daily in the Liturgy of the Hours or "Divine Office", she heeds the call of the psalmist to join all creation in praising God. Stars, moon, raindrops, snowflakes and plants in the deep blue sky symbolize what the Rule calls the "word of God" (top). Music staff ribboning through the work suggests melodies from ancient to modern times which enhanced the Order's prayer and that of the entire Christian Church. Gregorian Chant, four lines and square 'punctum' notations (upper left) from the Kyrie of the Easter Mass begins the music line, which circles evolving into five line "grand staff" with modern notations (lower right to left).

6th century Italy saw the order's beginnings, with St. Benedict and twin sister Scholastica. The Book (lower right) with its central cross of gold and significant word "Listen" is the Rule of St. Benedict, the basis of Benedictine life. Two incidents in the lives of this sainted brother and sister are incorporated in the upper right area of the mosaic. They suggest the last visit of the twins: the storm (lightning) which came, according to the writings of Gregory the Great, in answer to Scholastica's trusting prayer, lengthening their happy visit, and finally, the vision in which Benedict saw the spirit of his twin in the form of a dove, going up to heaven.

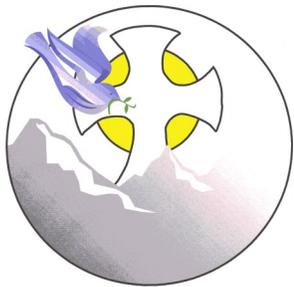
The Edelweiss, rare white blossom found high in the Alps, suggests the uniqueness of the Benedictine vocations—the gift of an Edelweiss is a token of great love—as is a Benedictine calling.

Note the background map of the United States with longitudinal lines. Southern California and Mexico are seen (lower left) and Florida (lower right). We trace the major developments in the HER-



STORY of the Benet Hill Sisters through buildings symbolizing the chapels of the convent in the “family tree”. Following the birth of the Order in 6th century Italy (lower right corner) monasteries and convents spread over Europe. One of these was the famous convent of St. Walburga in Eichstatt, Bavaria (far right center) depicted with the Bavarian Alps.

In 1852, The Benedictines from the Bavarian Convent crossed the Atlantic, missionaries to North America and established themselves at St. Mary’s, Pennsylvania (center, lower right). Five years later women from this new community set out for St. Cloud, Minnesota (lower, center right).



1863 witnessed several missionary women from the Minnesota community going to Atchison, Kansas (lower left) to begin Mount St. Scholastica Convent; and one hundred years later this Kansas community sent Sisters to Colorado Springs, to establish Benet Hill Priory. The original chapel, Marian Hall, is pictured (upper left).

Benet Hill became an independent community in June 1965, today known as Benet Hill Monastery.

**We, the Benedictine Sisters of Colorado Springs, Colorado, are impelled By the Word of God to listen and respond to the issues of our times. Reverencing all creation, we will be radical signs of God’s love and compassion and use our resources in service with all God’s people, especially the poor and oppressed.**

**Vision Statement**

In the shadow of Pikes Peak and the purple mist of the Rocky Mountains (upper center left), the Benedictine tradition of work and prayer goes on “That in all things God may be glorified.”

Beginning a new quarter century of prayer and service, adapting to the needs of the times, the women of Benet Hill Monastery stated the community’s vision on March, 1991.

