



SISTERS OF ST. BENEDICT

FERDINAND, INDIANA

Discover God in the everyday. With us.

Fact Sheet: Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, Indiana

Mission Statement

We, the Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, Indiana, are monastic women seeking God through the Benedictine tradition of community life, prayer, hospitality, and service to others. By our life and work, we commit ourselves to be a presence of peace as we join our sisters and brothers in the common search for God.

Demographics

- The religious community numbers 173 women, 110 of whom currently live in Ferdinand at Monastery Immaculate Conception.
 - The Ferdinand Benedictines are one of the largest Benedictine communities of women in the United States.
 - The community includes seven women in initial formation, the first stages of membership (two novices and five temporary professed sisters).
- At a time when many religious communities have not had new members in years, the Ferdinand Benedictine community has welcomed 41 new members over the last 16 years.
 - The community's success in gaining new members has been featured in print and broadcast media internationally, including a Wall Street Journal article and an episode of ABC's "Nightline."

Where and How Ferdinand Benedictine Sisters Serve

- Currently, about 80 sisters serve in full-time positions outside the monastery. In addition, about 20 sisters serve in part-time positions outside the monastery.
- Ferdinand Benedictines are serving in Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Maryland, Italy, and Peru.
- The sisters serve in the areas of education, parish work, health care, counseling, retreat and spirituality work, social services, and mission work.
 - A sampling of positions held by Ferdinand Benedictine Sisters include: parish pastoral associate, director of religious education, liturgist, youth director, superintendent of schools, school principal, school director, teacher (at all levels, from pre-school through college), psychologist, planning coordinator for a homeless coalition, librarian, hospital chaplain, nurse, physical therapist, veterinarian, comptroller, spiritual director, administrator.
- The Ferdinand Benedictines' multi-faceted spirituality ministry offers retreats, personal enrichment programs, parish missions, religious music, spiritual direction, counseling, and facilitation services.
- The sisters operate For Heaven's Sake, the monastery gift shop, and Kordes Center, a guest facility, both on the monastery grounds.

History

- The Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand were founded on August 20, 1867, by four young Benedictine sisters who came from Covington, Kentucky, to teach Ferdinand's German settlers.
- Since their arrival, more than 1,000 women have entered the Ferdinand Benedictine community. Their faith, spirit, and energy have led to the establishment of six independent monasteries—in Arkansas, North Dakota, California, Louisiana, Indiana, and Kentucky—and missions in Peru and Guatemala.

Contact Person: Karen Katafiasz, Director of Communications
karenkat@thedome.org • 812-367-1411 ext. 2635