



BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION

Benedictine Monastery

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News Release

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Benedictine Sisters' Tucson monastic friends assist with ABC show

TUCSON, Ariz. - The ABC television series "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" has traveled the country assisting many families in need of decent housing with the help of generous people in the construction-related trades who are willing to come forward and provide major assistance.

Those with private homes aren't the only beneficiaries of such kindness.

"The same is true for monasteries," said Sister Joan Ridley, OSB, a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Tucson, Ariz. "Our monastery is more than 70 years old. It's a local landmark and historic treasure but in need of repair."

Fortunately, they are aided by a wonderful group of seven professionals who have formed a building committee as part of the Sisters' Friends of the Monastery advisory board.

They are architects, engineers and contractors who have worked to identify a number of issues, including a leaking roof, aging heating and air conditioning equipment and safety issues. It's not as dramatic as an extreme home makeover, Sister Joan admits, but their hard work is definitely creating results the Sisters are thrilled with.

"They consider what is in our best interests and advise us on the next steps to take, often securing free or discounted assistance of other professionals they know," Sister Joan said.

Because of their hard work and dedication, the Benedictine Sisters were not surprised to learn that many of these individuals are also part of the crew that worked with "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" as it filmed an episode in February in Tucson.

"John Wesley Miller, the chairman of our building committee, was the main contractor and coordinated the 'Extreme Makeover' project here, which involved over 500 professionals who donated their time," Sister Joan said. Along with Miller, other committee members who assisted with the project included architect Hank Krzysik and homebuilder Al LeCocq.



This beautiful wrought-iron gate at the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration's Tucson monastery was the result of a generous gift of the surrounding community. It replaced an old gate and chain link fence and is an example of the monastery makeover projects spearheaded by the Benedictine Sisters' voluntary building committee.

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Many of the new home's features echo the green, environmentally friendly projects the committee strives for when planning projects for the Benedictine Sisters' monastery. The episode featuring the Tucson residence of the Bell family is scheduled to air in March.

An example of the building committee's most recent efforts is the result of a joint project with the Miramonte Neighborhood Association, of which the Sisters' are members. The association offered to donate \$1,000 toward the cost of a new wrought-iron gate.

"We knew it would cost more than that to replace our old one, so Mr. Miller located a blacksmith who completed the project and donated his materials and labor," Sister Joan Ridley said.

Eric Myrmo of Myrmo & Son built the gate, and Miller's construction company provided the contracting work to take out the old gate and prepare the land. To thank the community for their generosity, the Sisters held an Open House in January.

"We are so blessed to have friends such as these, who reach out to help others in their community," Sister Joan said. "They don't do it for glory or for recognition. Rather it's an extension of the kindness in their hearts and their generosity of spirit as they share their gifts with all of us."

For more information about the Tucson project, please visit. <http://www.extrememakeovertucson.com/>. For more information regarding the committee's assistance with the Sisters, please contact Sister Joan at (520) 325-6401 or e-mail joan@bspa.us.

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