



BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION

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Benedictine Sisters recover from storm damage



A twisted trunk is most of what remains from a tree after a 100 mph straight-line wind mowed it down before slamming into the north wall of the Benedictine Sisters' Relic Chapel. The wind and hail took out all of the windows on that side, including several stained glass ones that dated to the early 20th century.

CLYDE, Mo. – Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration are joining clean up efforts like most around the Maryville, Mo., and Nodaway County areas who sustained heavy damage after last week's damaging storms brought 100 mph winds and hail.

The Benedictine Sisters reported no injuries but witnessed more than 40 windows destroyed throughout the monastery, including at the main house, office buildings, the guest house, the soap house, Our Lady of Rickenbach healthcare facility and business offices.

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Other casualties included dozens of damaged trees, the gazebo, the Bell Tower, landscaping, water-logged carpets and soaked personal items in bedrooms.

“We were very fortunate and blessed that no one was injured,” Clyde Prioress Sister Sean Douglas, OSB said. “After the storm, we witnessed a multitude of blessings and clear evidence of God’s work as many employees, neighbors and friends came to help board up windows and clean up debris.”

How everything will be replaced remains to be seen. The Benedictine Sisters have insurance, but it comes with a \$10,000 deductible and some of the destroyed items are not readily replaceable, including stained glass windows that predate World War I.

“The company that originally crafted the windows was based in Europe, and they’ve endured two World Wars since that time,” Sister Wilmarie Ehrhardt, OSB said. “Who knows if any records of the windows’ construction remain?”

The Sisters are currently renovating a portion of the monastery, which also incurred water damage from the storm. However, a new generator, which the Sisters just installed last spring, kicked in when power outages hit the area.

“We were lucky in so many ways,” Sister Sean said. “When we think of all our neighbors who lost crops and of the folks down in Joplin (Mo.) who lost everything, we are thankful for what we still have, not what we lost. It looks a little ragged out there right now, but after a time we’ll be stronger and better than ever.”

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Beautiful stained glass windows in the Sorrowful Mother Chapel were destroyed by hail. The chapel, which is adjacent to the main Adoration Chapel, was decorated with stained glass predating World War I.

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