
UT DENUO REPLEAT GLORIA DOMINI DOMUM ISTAM

THAT THIS HOUSE MAY BE FILLED ANEW WITH THE GLORY OF THE LORD

✦ AN UPDATE ON THE APPEAL FROM THE MONASTÈRE SAINT-BENOÎT ✦



The Medieval Commanderie of Saint-Christophe, near Brignoles, in Provence.

EARLY IN THE ELEVENTH CENTURY this chapel, the original apse of which is pictured above, was erected by the Benedictine monks of the Abbey of Saint-Victor in Marseille and dedicated, according to an extant deed dated 1025, to Saint Christopher, the patron saint of travellers and pilgrims—for whose convenience the chapel was undoubtedly built, it being on a major pilgrim route to both the Holy Land and Compostela.

The Order of Knights Templar, in its origins dedicated to protecting pilgrims and securing their transit to the Holy Land, sought to acquire this strategically located chapel in the twelfth century. The monks were well-disposed to the Knights and made way for their takeover of Saint-Christophe in Brignoles. In due course Knights added the conventual buildings (some of which, most notably the refectory, remain today) in order to establish a *Commandery*, that is a place of conventual life and liturgical worship with a pilgrim hostel. In due course farming of the adjacent lands was also undertaken.

With the suppression of the Knights Templar in the early fourteenth century, the Commandery passed into the hands of the Knights Hospitaller (later known as the Knights of Malta) in whose faithful hands it rested until their dissolution in France by the Revolutionary Government in 1793. It was then sold

into private hands and has been variously owned since—at one point it was used as a farm with the mediaeval chapel being sectioned off into mezzanines for use as dormitories for the workers.

In recent decades the current (private) owner has begun the restoration of the property, beginning with the chapel and refectory, which have been completed, and continuing with structural elements of other areas. His efforts render the property basically habitable and needing relatively straightforward works to establish a basic, functioning monastic environment. There is more to be done in due course. His wish to pass the property on to new owners who will continue his work corresponds with our need for a suitable property with appropriate buildings and land for monastic prayer, work and hospitality.

We have the singular blessing of the encouragement and support of our diocesan bishop, Mgr Dominique Rey. We have good and solid vocations in place—and more in prospect, particularly once we acquire this property—with which to live conventual life within its walls and steadily to advance its restoration. We have the encouragement of both the present owner and of the French historical building authorities. What we currently lack are the material means to ‘get over the line’ and make the purchase so as to be able to get on with the job.

Since last Lent we have been singularly blessed by contributions from more than 500 individuals, families and monasteries and have raised approximately €300,000 to date. With a price of €795,000 we need to at least to double that to negotiate the purchase.

So as to restore this chapel to the worship of Almighty God for which it was built, and its buildings to the conventual life their medieval founders intended, I humbly and sincerely ask you to help us in two ways.

First, please make a contribution to our appeal, no matter how modestly, particularly as part of your Lenten almsgiving. Nothing is too small (or too large) in moving the appeal forward. We have established tax efficient ways of contributing in France, the UK and the USA (see below). Our Facebook page has a convenient fundraiser. The names of all benefactors and of any



deceased persons in whose honour donations are made will be placed into the altar so as to participate in the Masses and prayers offered upon it.

Second, please make this appeal known to others who can help. We can send brochures and information and are happy to be in contact with possible benefactors.

The year 2025 will mark 1,000 years since the chapel's foundation. What a great sign of hope, what a witness to the vitality of the Catholic Faith in our troubled world, if its millennium can be celebrated with the praise and glory of Almighty God for which it was built! We are ready to do just that, but we

beg your help in giving us the necessary means so to do. God bless and reward you for anything you can do.

Dom Alcuin, *Prior*
Ash Wednesday, 2020

TO MAKE A DONATION

IN FRANCE, EUROPE & OTHER COUNTRIES:

Association Monastère Saint-Benoît

2, Rue de la Croix, 83680 La Garde-Freinet, France

IBAN: FR76 1910 6000 1843 6638 8771 986 ~

BIC/SWIFT: AGRIFRPP891

A fiscal receipt is available upon request.

IN THE UNITED KINGDOM:

Friends of the Monastère Saint-Benoît

(UK Registered Charity 1182277)

110 Fairfield Drive, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1JJ

Transfers can be made to the bank account:

Sort code: 40 52 40; Account no. 00032475

If your donation is eligible for Gift Aid please complete and return the enclosed form or contact us:

amici.msb@gmail.com

JustGiving

JustGiving: Friends of the Monastère Saint-Benoît

Please remember us in your will.

IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Monastère Saint-Benoît Foundation

USA, Inc (a 501 c 3 non-profit)

9540 Garland Road, Suite 381-272,

Dallas, Tx. 75218, USA

Tax receipts are issued for donations received.

Wire transfers are possible. Contact:

msbfoundationusa@gmail.com



PayPal donations may be made through the support page of our website or sent to either monasteresaintbenoit@gmail.com or in the USA to msbfoundationusa@gmail.com *Because of the commission charged we recommend using other methods of donating where possible.*

RETRIBUERE DIGNARE DOMINE, OMNIBUS NOBIS BONA FACIENTIBUS
PROPTER NOMEN TUUM, VITAM AETERNAM. AMEN.

Reward, O Lord, with eternal life all those who do good to us for the sake of your name. Amen.

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