

## **Friends and Volunteers of the Monastery of Our Lady and Saint Laurence**

We welcome all our friends to join with us in supporting monastic life at the St Laurence campus and in building up the various ministries carried out by the Benedictine Fellowship.

The monastics work to “earn our keep,” chiefly through providing hospitality on behalf of the Benedictine Fellowship and handling the organization of its retreat ministry. However, the monastic community is not able to be self-sustaining, especially in the face of larger expenses. We are deeply grateful for the prayers and assistance of the friends and benefactors who are our partners in the great challenge of building a Western-rite, Antiochian Orthodox monastic presence in North America.

We sponsor several annual opportunities to join with other people through volunteer work in areas such as wood-cutting, preparing for winter or spring on the grounds, and various other forms of manual labor. These “work retreats” include participation in the daily round of monastic worship, meals, and times of fellowship and recreation.

Individuals are welcome to come help with specific projects. We can arrange either indoor or outdoor projects, manual or intellectual work suitable to an individual’s skills and preferences. We provide accommodations and meals to our volunteers, along with opportunities for silence and prayer.

Donations can be made using the PayPal button on the Monastery page of the web site, or by sending checks to the Monastery’s mailing address, given on the About Us page. All donations are tax deductible.

Below are three examples of larger projects that are beyond our ability to afford on our own, for which we will need the generous assistance of benefactors:

- We hope to install a high-quality, digital bell system, that can be programmed to signal the times of the daily services and meals, and to add to the ecclesiastical atmosphere of the campus. This will cost upwards of \$5,000 to accomplish.
- We anticipate the need for new vehicles within a year or so; our used vehicles are requiring more and more frequent upkeep, which is a major challenge to our budget.
- We would like to expand our advertising for the retreat center and the monastery, but do not have the funds for placing adds in Orthodox and retreat-oriented publications.

God bless you for your friendship, support, and prayers!