

# **Annunciation Monastery**

## **Ministry of Sponsorship: A New Understanding**

### **Defining Sponsorship**

Sponsorship is a ministry of the Church. As an institute of consecrated life within the church, the Benedictine Sisters of the Annunciation, B.M.V. (Blessed Mary, Virgin) (Annunciation Monastery) have the authority to perform apostolic works in accord with its monastic charism. Annunciation Monastery currently sponsors two major institutions dedicated to education and healing. This sponsorship, which is a corporate work and a formal relationship, includes St. Alexius Medical Center and the University of Mary. This ministry of sponsorship is so important for Catholic institutions and the furtherance of ministry in the Church, that it is protected by civil and canon law.

### **Experiencing Sponsorship**

Sponsorship sustains, promotes, and symbolizes a unique relationship between institutions and the Church. For Annunciation Monastery this relationship happens through accepting responsibility as corporate members, governing board members, administration and staff within our existing sponsored ministries. As sponsors, we provide a stable presence and influence in these institutions' communities. Through our ongoing sponsorship and collaboration with others, we support the study, integration, and implementation of our Benedictine heritage and values. By virtue of our active role as corporate and board members, we uphold and safeguard the principles of the Catholic Church.

### **Envisioning Sponsorship**

At this time in history, we commit ourselves, as members of Annunciation Monastery, to embrace the ministry of sponsorship more intentionally. We seek to impart our heritage and values as Benedictines. We are refocusing our commitment of sponsorship in ways that invite those who work with us to bear witness to Gospel values through deeds of love and service. We challenge ourselves and our co-workers to respond to the needs of the time by providing quality institutions that reflect our Catholic, Christian, Benedictine values. We will provide education, formation, and resources necessary to strengthen and sustain the leadership and governance among and between Annunciation Monastery and its corporate ministries. We, the Benedictine Sisters of Annunciation Monastery, hold this vision as our hope to maintain and strengthen our sponsorship of these institutions into the future.

### **Beginnings of Sponsorship**

Since 1947 the Benedictine Sisters of Annunciation Monastery began their sponsorship of St. Alexius Medical Center which was founded in 1885 by the Benedictine Sisters of St. Benedict's Convent, St. Joseph, MN. They furthered their sponsorship when they founded the University of Mary in 1959. Both of these endeavors reflect the sisters' deep commitment to the people within the Diocese of Bismarck and beyond. Fundamental to the early sponsorship, as well as today, is the imparting of values central to the Gospel and the Rule of St. Benedict. Also critical to the early sponsorship was the call to respond to the challenges of the time, to collaborate with our co-workers, and to steep ourselves in the mission of Jesus by prayer and service. We believe our commitment to this way of sponsorship has sustained our corporate ministries of education and health care for over 100 years.