



## Benedictine Cross

The emblem shown above is the cross at the entrance to Holy Name Monastery.

The sturdy cross through the center is the symbol of **salvation** and is representative of the Benedictine vow of **obedience**. The straightness of the cross-bars brings to mind the vow of **stability** in the community.

As the arms move toward each other they converge to encircle the center - a likeness to the vow of **celibate love**. The ends of the cross resemble stylized open hands up-raised in **prayer and submission to God's will**. They reach out in all directions to respond to the needs of God's people. The four arms of the cross serve as a symbol of the Benedictine charism:

- +To Seek God
- +In Cenobitic Life
- +To Respond in Prayer
- +And Ministry



Saints Benedict and Scholastica

## A History of Serving

- ◆ Diocesan Commissions and Boards
- ◆ Teachers and School Principals in Texas, Louisiana and throughout Florida
- ◆ Town Mayors and Commissioners
- ◆ Saint Leo University: Administrators, Instructional Staff, Board Members, Campus Ministers, Residential Life Directors, Library Archivist, Food Service Managers and Student Housing
- ◆ Parish Ministries locally, RCIA and throughout Florida
- ◆ Board Members and Volunteers for other charities including Habitat for Humanity, Sunrise Domestic Violence Shelter and Florida Early Childhood Coalition.
- ◆ Diocesan Summer Religion Instruction
- ◆ Weekly Religion (CCD) Classes at the schools where they taught and in 15 other city schools including the Girls' Detention School in Ocala.

For More Information Contact:

## Benedictine Sisters of Florida

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## Benedictine Sisters of Florida

Holy Name Monastery  
Founded 1889



1889 - 1960



1960 - 2014



2014 - Present

## OUR HISTORY

*Touching lives through Prayer and Service*

## A Legacy for the Ages

The Benedictine Sisters of Florida were founded in 1889 when five brave Sisters from Allegheny County, PA came to East Pasco County.

Mother Dolorosa Scanlan, Sister Josephine Feldung, Sister Agatha Geisler, Sister Boniface Feldmann and Sister Agnes Behe came at the request of the pastor and people to staff their schools in the rolling hills of Central Florida.

The annals record: "On March 1st the great work (of education) began." These committed women created a legacy staffing St. Anthony and St. Joseph schools and opened Holy Name Academy, a boarding school for girls. From 1920 until 1959, the Sisters operated St. Benedict's Prep School for young boys. In 1964, they closed the boarding school and directed their energies and resources to providing services for Saint Leo College.



The Benedictine Sisters broadened their educational legacy with the 1970 opening of a Montessori school. They served as teachers and school principals in public, private and parochial schools throughout the state of Florida, in Texas and Louisiana.

While education is still part of the Sisters' work, their influence on others' lives is in a variety of ministries.

## Prayerfully Doing God's Work

In the Benedictine tradition of their monastic life, the Sisters are dedicated to a balance of prayer and service. Active ministry on behalf of others incorporates values found in the **Rule**—Community, Prayer, Hospitality, Stewardship, Good Works, Peace and Justice.

In addition to holding jobs outside the Monastery, individual Sisters are volunteers and serve on boards of the local abuse shelter, chamber of commerce, town commission, Pasco Early Childhood Coalition, Catholic Charities, Saint Leo University and DayStar Hope Food Pantry. A ministry in Aquaponics farming helps the Sisters in their efforts to be self-sustaining. Some of the Sisters minister within the monastery in administration, recruitment and formation of new members, hospitality, music, art and retreat services.

*"The Sisters have been engaged in a variety of diverse ministries. We may no longer wear veils, but we certainly wear many hats."*

Sister Roberta Bailey, OSB, Prioress

While their ministries have changed through the decades, one constant has remained - **Prayer**. This solemn responsibility of the Benedictine Sisters is to pray daily for individual special intentions and for the world at large. They strive as well to:

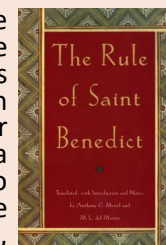
- **be** a resource for those in need
- **provide** spiritual guidance
- **share** their monastery home as a center for retreatants who seek peace from a stressful world
- **help** the elderly, the hungry, children, those with special needs and the abused

## Holy Name Monastery

The three photos on the cover represent current and previous homes for the Benedictine Sisters of Florida. The first was a three-story wood-frame hotel moved on logs in 1911 from its original location in San Antonio. Situated on the shores of Lake Jovita, it housed at times 65 Sisters and 60 academy boarders. After 71 years, that building was condemned and replaced with a solid concrete building that served the Sisters and the community well during Florida's wicked hurricanes. It was sold to Saint Leo University and named "Benedictine Hall."

Today, home for the Sisters is a simple and flexible-use, environmentally sensitive, one story structure. Built in 2014, the monastery continues a way of life that had its birth in the 6th century when our co-founders twin Saints Benedict and Scholastica fled the decadence of the Roman Empire to lead a life of prayer.

Benedict then wrote the **Rule**. Based on the teachings of Jesus, it sets forth simple principles on how to live together under God's love. It is a code of life with down-to-earth guidelines that are the means to a balanced, peaceful life not only for monastics, but for the entire world.



The Benedictine Sisters of Florida have continued this time-honored tradition in St. Leo, Florida since their very beginnings. Guided by their Prioress and Council Members, the Sisters extend a welcoming hand, kind heart and listening ear to those seeking to live their lives in harmony with others.