



Benedictine Bits

Saint Benedict's: A Historic Look



Beginning their journey in 1852, Benedictine Sisters, led by foundress Mother Benedicta Riepp, immigrated from Germany to Pennsylvania to Minnesota, establishing the Benedictine Sisters in America. After taking permanent residence in St. Joseph in 1863, the sisters established the first Motherhouse in the Midwest. This group of sisters continued to grow and by 1947 became the largest monastic community in the world, peaking at 1,278 members. The pioneer women of Saint Benedict's Monastery lived out the Benedictine practices of stability and stewardship as a completely autonomous community. From working on the farm to teaching in the classroom, these Benedictine women persevered, eventually founding the women's college we know today back in 1913, a novel undertaking.