



# Benedictine Bits

## Sacred Heart Chapel



In the early 1900's, the crowded conditions at both the convent and the academy called for an expansion. With the establishment of a college on the horizon and the continued growth of the monastic community, the sisters determined a new college hall and chapel would be erected to see St. Benedict's into the future. On October 5, 1911, groundbreaking marked the new era with the construction of the Sacred Heart Chapel. This Roman renaissance style structure, reaching 135 feet, capitalizes on stewardship within the local community by utilizing materials like the polished granite that was quarried seven miles away in Rockville, Minnesota.

Fast forward seventy years, and continuing the tradition of forward thinking, the Benedictine Sisters decided to renovate the Sacred Heart Chapel to reflect a more inclusive spiritual space. This included the addition of the Gathering Place that would provide space for liturgical, social, and education events, an Oratory for praying the Divine Office, and a monastery archive. Benedictine hospitality is evident in the open design, light, and aesthetics of this new space; a place for all of us to be welcomed and received.