WCCM Bonnevaux

Benedict's Well Endowment

Good News for WCCM and Bonnevaux (ABP)

WCCM wants to ensure that our beloved community will thrive so we can continue offering our members and guests access to a place for meditation and spiritual growth. We offer this both by virtual methods and in person with retreats, seminars and volunteer opportunities held at our Bonnevaux Centre for Peace (ABP) in France. To sustain Bonnevaux – The Abbeye, the Retreat Centre and the beautiful grounds as well as the people who help make up the community, one dear anonymous donor and WCCM member provided the initial seed funding to establish an endowment dedicated to the needs of Bonnevaux. This endowment is known as Benedict's Well Endowment (BWE), and it will support Bonnevaux as a long-term charitable investment for many years to come.

What is an Endowment?

An endowment is a permanent investment fund established to provide long-term financial stability for a charity. Unlike donations made to support current programs and activities, gifts made to Benedict's Well Endowment will be invested for the future. The original gifts provided by donors are preserved as the capital, while the investment income (the annual interest) will be used each year to support Bonnevaux. Think of donating baskets of apples to feed a group verses donating apple trees to set an orchard – the basket of apples needs to be consumed shortly after being received, whereas the trees will produce a fresh crop of apples each year. WCCM needs both types of donations – annual gifts and contributions for the endowment, for Bonnevaux to be sustainable.

The purpose of Benedict's Well Endowment is to help provide a sustainable source of income for the operation and care of Bonnevaux. By generating a dependable annual income that is applied toward operating costs, this endowment helps ensure that all activities done in Bonnevaux can continue to serve future generations while reducing reliance on annual fundraising dedicated to this project.

Most of our members and donors will continue to support our annual appeals and ongoing ministry, and these gifts remain essential to our work. **Benedict's Well Endowment** is designed to complement—not replace—these vital sources of support. It exists to strengthen WCCMs' long-term financial resilience and to safeguard the future of the Bonnevaux Centre for Peace.

The donor who initiated Benedict's Well Endowment hopes there are other WCCM members who also cherish Bonnevaux and want this community to last for decades, and are willing to contribute generously to the endowment. These additional endowment donations will grow the amount under investment, which will increase the annual interest generated.



One of the Bonnevaux's wells







For Bonnevaux to be sustained we need to grow this endowment. The WCCM team will seek to find more donors who will provide donations as matching funds for Benedict's Well.

Why Benedict's Well?

The endowment has been named Benedict's Well Endowment as a loving tribute to the miracle performed by St. Benedict approximately 1,500 years ago. One of the monasteries he founded was built on a barren rocky terrace and did not have easy access to water, which the monks required daily. Benedict climbed up the rocky heights and prayed at a spot. After praying, he set 3 stones down and returned to the monastery. He instructed the monks that where the stones where God has set water to flow forth. The monks did see the water once they dug down a bit into the soil and were grateful for this miracle. Our new endowment will be like the stream, providing a financial flow for years to come. This will directly benefit our beloved Bonnevaux community, sustaining it for WCCM members and others. The donor who answered Fr. Laurence's call to support in this way said: "I wanted to ensure that Bonnevaux will be here in 50 years to serve others"



How the Endowment Will Be Managed

The endowment will be managed with careful stewardship and in accordance with WCCM's investment and financial policies, adhering to applicable legal and regulatory requirements. The Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the fund is invested prudently and that it is used only for its intended purpose.

We Welcome Support for Benedict's Well Endowment

By establishing this endowment, WCCM and ABP Trustees have developed a long-term strategy — creating a lasting source of support that will help sustain Bonnevaux and its ministry over the decades. We look to the WCCM members and donors who love Bonnevaux to consider contributing to Benedict's Well Endowment to help sustain our Centre for Peace. For those interested in becoming endowment donors, please reach out to **Marianne McQuillan**, WCCM's fundraiser for more information: marianne.mcquillan@wccm.org

