



Benediktinerkloster
Mariastein

Englisch – english



«Forward into the open»

«Mariastein 2025»

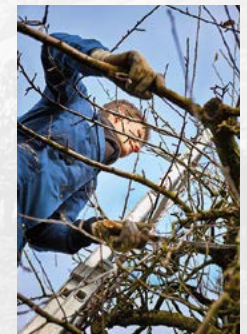
– is the name of the project that the Benedictine Abbey of Mariastein has been implementing since 2015. It is related to the biblical promise, which speaks of going «forward into the open» (Psalm 18,20), and it is oriented towards the future of Mariastein across the following aspects:

- *The holiness of the Mother of God and the pilgrimage.*
- *The convent and its monastic community.*
- *The continuity of the religious orientation and the deepening of the faith*
- *The proposals in the areas of religious and spiritual formation and culture, health and leisure, and also gastronomy.*
- *The use and development of the buildings belonging to the monastery.*
- *The new layout of the monastery square (Klosterplatz) and the management of the parking lot at the entrance to the village.*

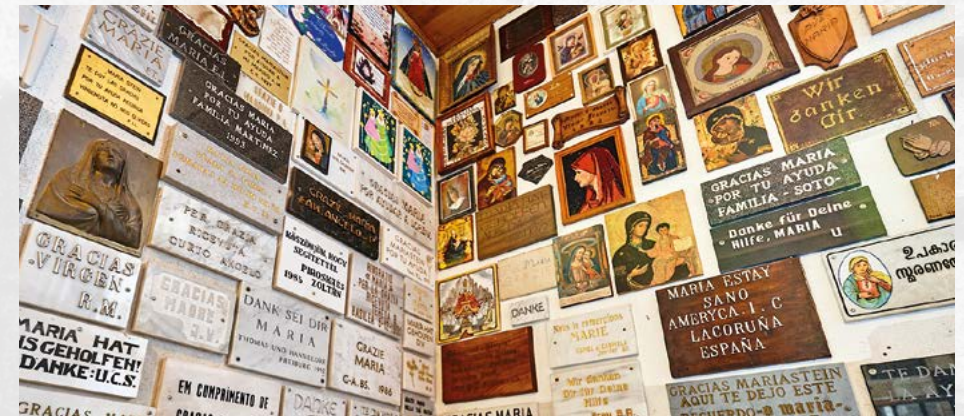


Today, the entire responsibility for the monastery and the pilgrimage lies with the 16 Benedictine monks. More than half of them are over 80 years old. About 25 employees (15 full-time positions) work inside the monastery, in the guest-house and in the monastic store. The farm, the hotel «Kreuz» and the restaurant «Post», which belong in the precinct of the monastery, are currently rented out.

The monks are committed to the monastic rule of St. Benedict. They meet five or six times a day for prayer and mass. In addition, they manage the pilgrimage and provide spiritual guidance to the pilgrims; they are responsible for the organization of church services, the Mariastein monastery magazine, the maintenance of the archives and other cultural assets, and are involved in educational activities as well as in several church circles.



Mariastein has been a place of pilgrimage since the late Middle Ages. The heart of the shrine beats in the Chapel of Grace, a cave at the foot of the rock on top of which the church has been built, where Mary is venerated and invoked to intercede with her Son. Around 1640, the Benedictines from Beinwil (SO) came to Mariastein. They built the monastery and the pilgrimage church and have been serving the pilgrims ever since.



250'000 people come to Mariastein every year. Many visit the cave and the church to experience peace and quiet, to find silence and consolation, to pray and implore, to give thanks and praise to God.

Others are interested in art and culture; still others want to enjoy the beauty of nature and the vastness of the landscape. Many people spend a few days here to relax and recharge their batteries, body and soul, heart and mind.



Mariastein should remain a place where people can find strength and security, where they are welcome and where many encounters are possible.

This is why the future of Mariastein is so important to us. Who will take care of the development of the pilgrimage in the future? Who will pass on the religious and cultural heritage of Mariastein to the next generations? Who will be responsible for the optimal use and maintenance of the buildings?

The monastic community will be able to do this for a few more years. And what would happen after that? Will private parties step in? Will other church institutions take over? Can public intervention fill the gap?

«Mariastein 2025» seeks answers to these questions. It is a comprehensive project that aims at strengthening the pillars of the site:

- *The monastic community – increase in sponsorship .*
- *The pilgrimage: further development and reorientation .*
- *The cooperation: in the areas of religion and migration, ecological and sustainable use of resources (agriculture, tourism, establishment of new companies and enterprises).*
- *The infrastructure: the management and conversion of the monastery's real estate, the redevelopment of the monastery square and the parking lot at the entrance to the village.*

For some time now, in various working groups, external experts have been working with the monks to come up with solutions to help the monastic community make decisions.

«Mariastein 2025» is a project that will take several years to complete. The monastic community therefore depends on strong support. A large patronage committee, consisting of 34 people from all sectors of public life, supports the project in an advisory capacity, as does the association «Friends of the Monastery of Mariastein», which has about

2'500 members. In addition, there are the pilgrims, men and women, who are close to the place at heart, and all those who love and appreciate Mariastein and its surroundings as a recreational area.

To implement this project, we expect to invest 25 million Swiss francs (as of January 2021). This money is needed for all the aspects that have to be addressed to achieve our goals, including: development of new activities, setup of new business circuits, conversion of buildings, design of public spaces and areas, organization and communication.

We are very grateful for any kind of support.

Donations to PostFinance account:
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«We, the Benedictines of Mariastein, can no longer take on these immense and fascinating tasks alone. This can only be done with the help of many benefactors and a large public.»

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