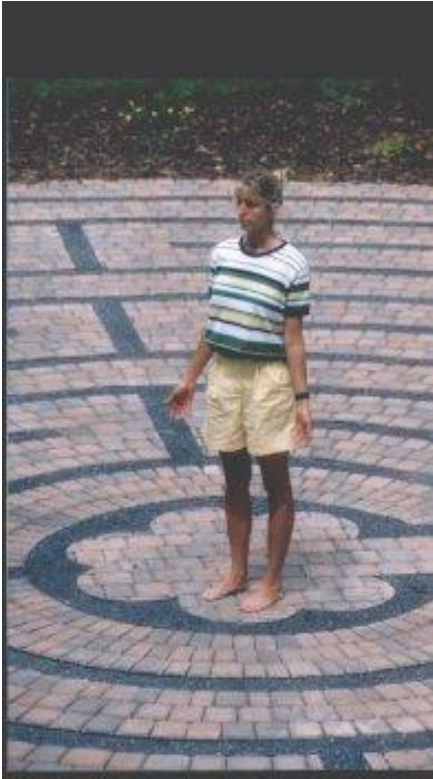


The following are excerpts reprinted from the Dedication program for the labyrinth that Town Creek built at the Bon Secours Spritual Center, Marriottsville, Md.



THE BON SECOURS LABYRINTH

The labyrinth at Bon Secours was a dream long before it became a reality. For some years, retreatant evaluations indicated a desire for a labyrinth on the grounds of the Center. Some suggestions were very clear - build one! Others were less specific - something to nourish the spirit. As the idea took hold, many discussions followed among the retreat team, guests, staff and others. How could we do it?

With 1999 marking the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Congregation of Bon Secours, the Center was busy planning how best to celebrate this momentous event; the construction of a labyrinth in a designated "sacred space" as a permanent commemoration of the 175th Jubilee of the Sisters of Bon Secours seemed appropriate.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BON SECOURS LABYRINTH

Construction of the Bon Secours Labyrinth began during the last week of January, 1999 under the competent supervision of Mr. Bob Haney, President of Town Creek, Inc. Mr. Steve Eustler, Master Stonemason. Working from early morning each day, they began by leveling the ground and laying a sub-base before laying out the pattern for the eleven-circuit labyrinth in mixed Appian pavers of a salmon/charcoal blend. The center or rosette was placed last. Once the stones were in place, an edging restraint made of PVC was placed along the path to hold the stones firmly in place. Finally, blue stone dust was poured in the 6-inch areas between the paths. The Spiritual Center is grateful to Steve Eustler and his crew for the fine craftsmanship and respect which they brought to this project.

LABYRINTH HISTORY

Predating Christianity and found in nearly all religions, a labyrinth's circular, spiral design is symbolic of unity and eternity. According to Rev. Lauren Artess, labyrinths are constructed in what's often called sacred geometry, "combing ratio and proportion in ways that bring harmony and rest to the human mind and spirit."

Unlike a maze which is designed to confuse and trick, a labyrinth is a circular, intricate pattern on which one walks for contemplation and meditation. It features an unbroken path with only one way in and one way out. More and more people are walking labyrinths today in search of inner peace and healing. The construction of the Bon Secours Labyrinth is an example of a growing trend.



THE EXPERIENCE

The Bon Secours Labyrinth, surrounded by tall shade trees, plants, flowers and meditation benches, seems to beckon people from all walks of life - young and old, women and men, children, many races and creeds. It welcomes everyone. Since its completion in February, well over 1,000 individuals have walked this sacred path. Spiritual seekers find the labyrinth experience a deep sense of peace and connection with the Divine. It offers what the soul needs for the life journey. As a metaphor of life, the labyrinth opens the mind and heart to the mystery of the journey.

There are three stages of the Labyrinth walk, first, as one enters, Purgation, a releasing of the cares and concerns that cause stress and distraction; second, Illumination, as one reaches the center, a place for clarity and insight; and third Union, as one begins the path outward, a joining with God with renewed vision.

The Sisters of Bon Secours encourage you to take a spiritual walk through their new Labyrinth. Come as often as you like...as often as you need to.