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## **Benedictine Sisters Stay in Hot Water; Helped By The Solar Store and John Wesley Miller**

**Tucson, Ariz. – September 9, 2008** – John Wesley Miller heads up the energy efficiency team for the Friends of the Monastery Board at the Benedictine Monastery on North Country Club Road. As such, he has helped the sisters with various energy-saving projects such as better windows, light bulbs and more energy-efficient systems for the building.

The Sisters had been cautious stewards of their resources and even had been using ‘gray’ water (water that had been used for laundry and dishes) to irrigate non-edible garden plants, said Sister Sophia, who is in charge of maintenance of building and grounds. However, the cost for utilities used to heat that water was becoming higher and the power of the sun was going unused.

Miller called on his daughter, Katharine Kent, CEO and president of The Solar Store who designed a solar hot water system to fit the unique Monastery needs. The Solar Store arranged to remove the old gas heater, and installed two 4’ by 10’ solar panels on the 3rd floor roof deck, just outside the monastery laundry room. This active solar closed-loop system includes a 120-gallon storage tank and a tankless backup unit that will boost water temperature if necessary. Most of the time, however, the sun should heat the water to a temperature between 140 and 160 degrees. All parts were provided below cost and installation was at no cost to the Monastery.

### **About The Solar Store**

The Solar Store, located at 2833 N. Country Club, continues to offer a growing array of services, in part fueled by the new Federal tax cuts on solar energy. For more information about The Solar Store, please call 520-322-5180 or visit the website at <http://www.solarstore.com>.

### **About John Wesley Miller Companies**

Tucson green home builder and solar pioneer John Wesley Miller is a national leader in energy conservation and green building practices. He has received numerous industry honors and awards for energy conservation and building quality in his over 50 years as a builder. John Wesley Miller has consulted with Pima County to promote a program for energy efficient homes and the use of solar energy, and with the University of Arizona's Environmental Research Laboratory in developing new energy saving products and technologies. For more information, please call (520) 325-3313 or visit the website at [www.johnwesleymillercompanies.com](http://www.johnwesleymillercompanies.com)

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