Dear Friends and Family,

2013 is a Year of Celebration for the Benedictine Sisters of St. Paul’s Monastery. Sixty-five years ago on June 22, 1948, 178 Sisters started a new priory in St. Paul and our community began. I myself joined the community in 1957 and made my first vows on July 11, 1959. Two things stand out in my mind when I look back over these years. The first is awe for the many ministries and missions that the Sisters have served during these 65 years. From schools and parishes to hospitals and the Children’s Home; from the Benedictine Center and Ministry of Mothers Sharing to Maple Tree Childcare Center, God has given us abundant opportunities to serve His people. I stand in awe for all that we have been able to accomplish in the Twin Cities with God’s blessings. Thanks to Sister Joan’s development of Nutri-Bits, we have even been able to go beyond God’s people and serve God’s animals.

The second is trust. Mother Benedicta Riepp took a leap of faith when she came to America to found the first convent of Benedictine Sisters in the North America. God blessed her abundantly and convents and monasteries grew all across the United States and even in Taiwan, Japan, the Bahamas and Puerto Rico tracing their roots back to Mother Benedicta. Our God is a God of abundance. Our God gives in abundance. We ask for and strive to live out our Faith as did Mother Benedicta Riepp. May we take a leap of faith and build God’s kingdom trusting in His promises just as Mother Benedicta did in Pennsylvania and as our Sisters do every day here in Saint Paul.

May God bless you abundantly!

Save the Date

July 11, 7pm: Feast of St. Benedict
Benedictine Center Keynote Speaker Event: Sister Meg Funk – A Practiced Christianity

July 14, 3pm: 65th Anniversary Outdoor Mass

July 19, 7pm: Ministry of Mothers Sharing Keynote Event: Ruth Bachman – Growing through the Narrow Spots: Intentional Transformation

October 25-26 Benedictine Center Keynote Event: Wisdom, Prophets and the Saint John’s Bible

November 15: Give to the Max Day

December 7, 4pm: Christmas at the Monastery 2013

For more information visit our website www.stpaulsmonastery.org, email us at development@stpaulsmonastery.org or call us at 651-777-8181.

St. Paul’s Monastery today looks different from St. Paul’s Priory on Summit Avenue and different from St. Walburg Abbey in Germany, the Motherhouse from which the first Benedictine Sisters left to come to America.

St. Paul’s Monastery’s history goes back to Mother Benedicta Riepp, who left St. Walburg Abbey in Eichstät, Germany in 1852 to educate the children of German immigrants in America. Father Boniface Wimmer had founded the first Benedictine congregation in America, St. Vincent’s Abbey in Pennsylvania. A few years later, he wrote to Mother Edwarda Schnitzer in Eichstät and asked her to send some Sisters to help in his parish and build a school. In June 1852 Mother Benedicta Riepp, Sister Walburga Dietrich and Sister Maura Flieger left St.Walburg Abbey and traveled to Bremen and then to New York.

The Sisters made their way to Latrobe, Pennsylvania, and St. Vincent’s Abbey. When they arrived on July 8, they found Father Boniface surprised, even flabbergasted. He had not expected them so quickly. He had chosen St. Mary’s in Western Pennsylvania for them to start their school. While the Redemptorist Fathers and the School Sisters of Notre Dame had left St. Mary’s, Father Boniface believed that Benedictines would do well there despite the harsh conditions. Mother Benedicta her Sisters moved into the empty plain log house and did what they had come to do: they started teaching the local children.

Living in that simple log house was the first step towards a different Benedictine way of living, a contemplative, monastic community without high walls or strict monastic enclosure. While Father Boniface expected the Sisters to follow the traditional way of praying the Divine Office seven times a day, spending time in personal reflection and observing monastic enclosure, Mother Benedicta soon realized that strict monastic enclosure was impossible in a log house with just two small rooms, no chapel, and without any fencing around the house.
The Sisters accomplished many great things at St. Mary’s. Soon they were in demand in other dioceses. In 1857, the prior of the Benedictine Monastery in Minnesota asked Father Boniface to send Sisters to St. Cloud to teach in the local school. Mother Benedicta sent six Sisters to St. Cloud. They travelled by various means and eventually took a boat, the Nordstern from St. Paul to St. Cloud. A few miles from their destination, the Nordstern got stuck. The Sisters had to get into a small boat to get to land. They passed a small Benedictine Monastery, were invited for a meal and then taken the rest of the way to St. Cloud.

The place where they were to live was even worse than St. Mary’s: one large room in which there was neither chair nor bench, nor table nor anything else but four unplastered walls. The Prior quickly rented a different house for them and the Sisters started teaching English, German, needle work and music and earned a little money. It is hard to imagine, but the Sisters were so poor that Mother Willibalda Scherbauer was afraid a policeman would show up at their doorstep and evict them from their house because they were not able to pay their debts.

Despite these harsh conditions, the parishioners and students loved the Sisters and many wanted to become part of their monastery. In 1863, the Sisters moved to Saint Joseph and built St. Benedict’s Convent. By the 1940s Saint Benedict’s Convent had more than 1,200 sisters. It was so big that the time seemed right to found new priories. Saint Paul was chosen to be one of the places for a new priory and that is how this community was started.

The former home of the Truman Gardner family at 301 Summit Avenue was chosen for the temporary Motherhouse of St. Paul’s Priory. The house had big gardens, a spacious entrance foyer with a wide staircase and a carriage house in the back. There was the same excitement as when Mother Benedicta started in St. Mary’s. These Sisters were so well liked and adored by their students, so that pretty soon a number of young women wanted to join their community. In September 1948, nine young women arrived to learn about the Benedictine Sisters and discern their own vocation. Among those were Sister Benita, Sister Louise and Sister Rosemary who still reside at St. Paul’s Monastery.

On April 6, 1949, six novices arrived from St. Benedict’s Convent. They had started their Novitiate at St. Ben’s and then transferred to St. Paul’s Priory where they completed their Novitiate and made their first vows. Four of them are still at St. Paul’s Monastery today: Sister Andriette and Sister Andrine Schommer, the twins; Sister Anne Boeckers and Sister Eleanor Wartman.
Soon the community had 248 Sisters. Space was even tighter than before and the Sisters lived at 301 Summit, 295 Summit, 378 Summit, 44 N. Farrington, the carriage houses, and wherever else they could fit in one more cot. Benedictine Sisters were visible all over the Twin Cities. They staffed fourteen grade schools, two catechetical schools and St. Joseph’s Home for Children. They were housekeepers and cooks for the Archbishops, the Jesuit Retreat House in Lake Demontreville, and various parish rectories such as the rectory of St. Boniface Church in Hastings.

St. Bernard’s School was one of the biggest missions of St. Paul’s Priory. When the parish decided to expand the school by adding a high school in 1958, St. Paul’s Priory was invited to teach not only in the grade school, but also the high school. At times 30-35 Sisters were stationed at St. Bernard’s.

Archbishop Brady asked the Sisters to build a high school for girls in the northeast suburbs of St. Paul. After some discernment, the Sisters agreed. Ground was broken on June 23, 1957. The cornerstone was laid on May 10, 1958, and the school opened its doors to 200 freshman girls on September 8, 1958 with a Mass. The dedication of the school by Archbishop Brady followed on November 23rd. Despite a snowfall, many people attended the dedication, blessing, tea and program.

While education has been, is and will be the foremost ministry of the Benedictines, some Sisters were called to a different ministry and the Sisters discerned the possible extension into other fields. After prayer and discussion the chapter decided in 1956 to staff St. Mary’s Hospital and Home in Winsted. Those sisters who were drawn to nursing now had a way to pursue this career. In 1965 the Sisters recognized the need for a care facility in New Hope for the elderly and those recovering from surgery. They quickly agreed to staff such a facility, and St. Therese Home was born.

During that time, the Sisters longed to build a monastery where all, or at least most of the Sisters could live together. Some of the Sisters working at Archbishop Murray Memorial High School had rooms in the counseling area of the school, some in the laundry facility; space on Summit Avenue was as tight as ever.
After many fundraising events and very frugal living, excavations for a new monastery started in the fall of 1962. On May 17, 1964, the cornerstone of the new Monastery was laid with Bishop Gerald O’Keefe officiating. January 2, 1965, was the big moving day.

Since the 1970s many sisters have served as pastoral or liturgical ministers in parishes such as the Church of the Epiphany in Coon Rapids, St. Peter in North Saint Paul, St. Thomas the Apostle in Saint Paul and St. Bridget’s in Minneapolis. They have directed faith formation programs in parishes such as St. John’s Church in Little Canada, Japanese Martyrs in Sleepy Eye and St. Mary’s in Tracy. Moreover, they provided administrative leadership at St. Mary’s Hospital in Minneapolis, St. Philip’s School in Litchfield and the Cathedral of Saint Paul.

The most impressive character trait of St. Paul’s Monastery is the Sisters’ willingness to look forward to the future with hope and vision. They listen to God and one another to discern what might be needed in the future so that they can play an active role in shaping it.

In the 1980s Sister Veronica Novotny engaged them in conversations about future needs of society. Their mission to nurture contemplative presence in service of church and society led to the creation of the Benedictine Center, a place for spiritual direction, personal retreats and faith-filled programs.

In the fall of 1986 Sister Paula Hagen was working at St. Timothy’s parish in Mesa, Arizona and recognized a need for young mothers to come together for spiritual strengthening and fellowship. She created a 4-week program which turned into the Ministry of Mothers Sharing and by 1992 was a nationwide initiative.

In the early 1990s the Sisters studied the needs of the community in the Maplewood area and learned that there was a lack of infant and toddler child care. After discerning their response to this need, they rolled up their sleeves and turned part of their old laundry facility into the Maple Tree Childcare Center.

The Sisters’ commitment is to all of God’s creation. Sister Joan Schneider baked all-natural dog treats in her kitchen in Duluth. Eventually there were so many orders that demand outgrew the monastery.
kitchen and they were being made by Northern Ingredients for national distribution.

When the Sisters recognized that the monastery on Larpenteur had more space than they needed, they discerned the best use of their resources not just for them, but also the broader community. Eventually they decided to build a new, smaller monastery and allow Tubman to turn the old monastery into a shelter for women and children. They also invited CommonBond to build affordable housing on the corner. They let go of their portion of Hill-Murray School so that the school could become an independent organization and chart its own future.

In the new Monastery, God gave the Sisters the opportunity to realize the one dream that never came true on Larpenteur Avenue: to have a dedicated chapel at the center of their Monastery, extending a silent invitation to prayer to all who live there, work there, are on retreat there or visit there.

Looking at St. Paul’s Monastery today, the life of the Sisters looks different from the life in Eichstätt, Germany to which they trace their roots. The cloistered life that Benedictine Sisters still enjoy in Eichstätt was adjusted in the mission field of America. Today, there are Sisters whose ministry takes them to public schools, prisons or independent non-profit organizations. There are Sisters who counsel individuals as social worker or life coach. But the Sisters have kept the essentials: they are a community of devout women who live their lives according to the Gospel values as expressed in the Rule of St. Benedict. They still engage in Ora et Labora, they pray and they work. Prayer is the core of Benedictine being and in their work they glorify God.

**Bibliography**

Monastery Updates

Sister Louise Inhofer celebrates First Profession
Sister Louise Inhofer’s life has come full circle in recent years. On July 11, 2012, Sister Louise was welcomed as a member of St. Paul’s Monastery as she pronounced first vows. It would be more accurate to say as a “returning” member. Sister Louise had become a member of St. Paul’s Monastery (Priory then) in 1950 and for many years served as a teacher. In 1980 she felt a call to life as a single lay person. She attended Brown Institute to learn computer programming, worked at Munsingwear, and did data processing at the University of Minnesota. She was also able to help with the care of her aging parents.

Make that Call
If you are discerning what God calls you to be, visit the Monastery Website at www.stpaulsmonastery.org and click on Vocations or contact Sister Karen Sames’ at 651-777-8181.

After her retirement, she discerned what God wanted her to do next. She volunteered in many places and felt drawn once more to the Benedictine Sisters. She says, “I left the community but the community did not leave me.” In 2010 she became an Oblate of St. Paul’s Monastery. Sister Louise has adjusted easily to her life as a committed Benedictine Sister. She has become the community librarian, and serves on the Justice and Peace Committee as well as the Christmas at the Monastery Committee. She shares her craft talents assisting the Sisters in Health Care in making greeting cards. Sister Mary Claire Inhofer, her biological sister, is delighted to have Sister Louise living among us once again – as are all of the Sisters.

2013 Jubilarians Celebrate 75 Years as Benedictine Sister
Sister Richardine Schackmann was born in St. Nicholas, MN on April 10, 1919, as the sixth of seven children, to Peter and Catherine Schackmann. The family had four boys and three girls. Sister Richardine joined the Benedictines directly after her eighth-grade graduation from Luxemburg township school. Her ministry primarily consisted of serving as homemaker and cook in different convents, residences, the Children’s Home and hospitals. Since her retirement in 1998 to the present times, she serves in the prayer ministry, assists the Treasurer, and schedules Mass intentions.

70 Years as Benedictine Sisters
Sister Duane Moes was born on December 27, 1921, to John J. and Margaret Gergen Moes and grew up on a farm near New Trier, Minnesota. She
entered the novitiate in 1942. She was 21 when she made her first vows in 1943. Throughout her career she taught Gregorian chant, math and art at St. Bernard’s and Maternity of Mary Schools in St. Paul, and St. Mary’s in Breckenridge. She also served as principal at Most Holy Redeemer School in Montgomery, Minnesota, as well as Maternity of Mary School in St. Paul, and as Prioress of St. Paul’s Monastery.

Sister Jeron Osterfeld was born to Henry and Elizabeth Osterfeld in Minneapolis on May 3, 1922. Sister Jeron is an educator through and through and is highly revered by her students. She taught upper elementary, junior high and high school students throughout the Twin Cities including St. Bernard’s School and Maternity of Mary School in St. Paul, and Visitation School in Minneapolis. She served as Principal at St. Victoria School in Victoria, Minnesota and was a Liturgist at St. Peter’s Church in North St. Paul. Presently she teaches Oblate Candidates as well as in the Monastery health care facility. In addition, she serves as President of the Maple Tree Childcare Center Board of Directors.

60 years as Benedictine Sister
Sister Mary Joanne Lusk was born in New Prague, Minnesota to Joseph and Ann Lusk. Her one brother, John, died at birth. Mary Joanne attended St. Raphael’s Grade School in Montgomery where she was taught by the Benedictine Sisters from St. Joseph, Minnesota. After graduating from Montgomery High School, she entered St. Paul’s Priory. Her education continued and she graduated from St. Catherine’s College with degrees in Elementary Education and Sociology. While teaching, she assisted the college by supervising nine of its student teachers in her classrooms.

Sister Mary Joanne taught for 56 years at several schools – St. Bernard’s and Immaculate Heart of Mary in St. Paul, St. Anne’s in Minneapolis and St. Boniface in St. Bonifacius. In 1994 she established a Learning Center at Most Holy Redeemer School in her hometown of Montgomery. She continued teaching there for 15 years. Presently she enjoys being a volunteer in the school. She also is engaged with the elderly in three facilities.

Opening of the CSPB Art Studio
After nearly two years of repairing and painting the house at 2580 Larpenteur Avenue, CSPB Arts is ready for classes. Sister Sarah Voss is offering an art program that appeals to lay people as well as Oblates and members of Religious Communities. The program is designed primarily for individuals with limited art training but will also appeal to those who want to deepen their artistic endeavors. Sister Sarah holds a BFA from the University of Minnesota as well as BA from the College of St. Catherine and advanced degrees in institutional and business administration. As an artist she has won numerous awards and prizes for her paintings, sculptures, fabric designs and lithographs. Sister Sarah is a member of the Artists co-op of the High Point Center for Print Making in Minneapolis.

Classes are available in acrylic, oil and water color painting as well as mixed media; ceramics (bas relief and pottery wheel); drawing, and last, but not least preparatory steps to developing a painting and stretching a canvas. Scholarships are available for members of religious communities. For further information, please contact Sister Sarah directly at 651-207-8366.
Introducing the New Librarian

A year ago, on February 1, Sister Louise began her duties as monastic librarian here at St. Paul’s Monastery. This brought back memories of long ago when Sister Jeroma was the first librarian at the Priory on Summit Avenue. Sister Louise helped her with some routine tasks and learned to love books – handling new books and getting them ready for circulation as well as sometimes being the first to read them. She still sees some of the books from those days in the library at the new monastery and is filled with nostalgia. The old card catalog brings back fond memories as well.

While some things have changed, the importance of the Monastic Library has not. It is still the place where Sisters, Oblates and guests are able to follow Benedict’s insistence that the monastic spends time reading. The library is a zero-growth library which means that the collection should number only 5,000 books. The community tries to keep abreast of the latest titles as well as many of the time honored authors.

Being a monastic library, most of the collection is concentrated on religious books – books of prayers, meditations, religious communities, lives of the Saints, etc. But sometimes it’s fun to read fiction, and the library has a selection of fiction books.

For those who like English history, Sister Louise recommends books of the English author Philippa Gregory. She writes well researched fiction books that take place in 14th and 15th century England. Most of her main characters are women such as Mary Boleyn in “The Other Boleyn Girl” and Anne Neville in “The Kingmaker’s Daughter.” Both books are filled with spies, intrigue, danger, romance and lots of actual English history. Just the kind of book that is hard to put down. Once you start reading her books, you may get addicted.

Sister Louise says: “It’s such a joy to help the sisters and guests find just the book they are looking for, and to see them in the library reading or browsing. I am truly honored to be the one taking care of the library and its patrons.”

Called and Gifted to Serve

After co-founding and then successfully co-leading Ministry of Mothers Sharing for many years, Sister Paula Hagen now turns her attention and gifts to writing and publishing. Read on for her reflection on the early years of Ministry of Mothers Sharing and her new assignment:

The first chapter of the call to Ministry of Mothers Sharing dates back to September 1, 1983. Sister Duane Moes, who served as Prioress at St. Paul’s Monastery at the time, assigned me to St. Timothy Parish in Mesa, AZ. The pastor Fr. Ron Simon, a graduate of St. John’s University in Minnesota, requested a Benedictine Sister who was committed to the theology of Vatican II to work with the families in his parish. This simple call became the story of how the Holy Spirit inspired, empowered and nurtured hundreds of women to become leaders. As leader they helped other women to reflect on the grace and spirituality of the vocation of motherhood in a whole new way – as a call to Ministry to families.
A team of us created a spiritual support group for women. We were inspired and transformed by experiencing “up close and personal” the incredible grace, strength, commitment and spirituality of these women. One of the parishioners, Vickie LoPiccolo Jennett, a mother and professional writer created MOMS: A Personal Journal based on the themes and prayer rituals used in the weekly sessions. Then, Patricia Hoyt, Vickie LoPiccolo Jennett and I wrote MOMS Facilitator Guide and Patricia Hoyt and I wrote a manual called Developing the Ministry. For Patricia Hoyt, this became the Thesis for her Master’s degree in Family Ministry at Regis University in Denver, Colorado.

As a result of our reputation, we were recruited by Father Ray Bucher, Director of the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, AZ to create and facilitate retreats for mothers. In fact, Ministry of Mothers Sharing became part of their outreach to parishes during the Year of the Family. Five years later Ministry of Mothers Sharing was initiated in 45 parishes throughout the Southwest.

The publication of this series of books: the MOMS Journal, the Facilitator Guide and the parish Development Manual in 1993, allowed leaders all over the country to initiate this ministry in their parish. Young trained leaders moved to other parts of the country and talked to the pastors and friends about initiating the ministry in that area. During these years Ministry of Mothers Sharing grew like “Topsy.” With that growth, the Chapter of St. Paul’s Monastery established Ministry of Mothers Sharing as one of the outreach ministries of the Sisters of St. Benedict of St. Paul’s Monastery.

Twenty years later, on January 8, 2012, we initiated a series of Celebration events to rejoice in twenty years of God’s blessings and to raise funds for future publications. As I presented speeches at five of these events, I met professional friends and leaders and was once again inspired and motivated to write up more retreats. I felt called and gifted to publish my materials from the Spirit-Filled Retreat series so that other professional friends and retreat leaders could use what we had created over the last thirty years of retreat ministry around the United States.

After careful discernment and with support from Sister Lucia, the current Prioress of St. Paul’s Monastery, and professional staff, I resigned my staff position of National Retreat Director. My resigning from that position has given me the time to research, write and explore the best way to publish our work. I ask for your continued prayers and would love to guide a retreat in your area. Contact me directly at 651-777-8181 or at srpaula@stpaulsmonastery.org.
Brief News

Sister Bertha Karels’ Advice: “Keep Breathing”
On April 18, Sister Bertha Karels turned 100 years young. She has been a Sister of St. Benedict for 69 years. During that time she taught at St. Bernard’s School in St. Paul, Assumption School in Richfield, St. Philip’s in Litchfield and other schools. Sister Bertha is still very active in the Prayer Ministry of the Monastery. Congratulations, Sister Bertha.

Sister Linda Soler Takes on a new Role as Certified Life Coach
Sister Linda Soler successfully completed all requirements to become a Certified Life Coach through the Workplace Coach Institute. She wanted to expand her past experience working with youth and in pastoral ministry. A Life Coach works with individuals who are in transitions, discerning, or experiencing any life changes who would like a mentor to be with them on the journey. To find out how a Certified Life Coach can help you reach your dreams, contact Sister Linda directly at 651-209-9029.

Sister Pat Collins Receives Hill Murray Distinguished Alumni Award
Sister Pat Collins, long-time educator and counselor at Hill Murray School in Maplewood, MN, will receive the Hill Murray School 2013 Benedictine Award, a Distinguished Alumni Award. The award will be presented at the Senior Class Mass on May 17th. The award honors Sister Pat’s embodiment of Benedictine charisms through her commitment to Catholic education and to the students of Archbishop Murray, Hill and Hill-Murray Schools. She was one of the five Benedictine Sisters who welcomed the very first 210 freshman women to Archbishop Murray Memorial High School in September 1958, taught there for many years and is treasured by her former students, who still speak fondly of her.

Ministry Updates

Benedictine Center turns 30
The Benedictine Center is celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year. It was Sister Veronica Novotny, OSB who had the dream of creating a place that would connect the monastic community with the wider world, a place where lay people could draw on the spiritual roots, faith, and insights of the Sisters. The Benedictine Center is this dream come true. Over the past 30 years the Benedictine Center has welcomed thousands of guests for retreats and programs, hosted hundreds of inspiring, faith-filled programs as well as listened and guided people through questions about life, faith and death in spiritual direction sessions. The Benedictine Center has introduced countless seekers to St. Paul’s Monastery and has provided...
innumerable opportunities for those women and men to experience and explore ways to follow Benedictine spirituality in daily life.

To celebrate the occasion, the Center has invited the public to attend a Keynote Lecture Series “Benedict in Changing Times.” On January 25, Sister Mary Forman, OSB spoke about “What Monasticism Teaches the World.” On March 21, Esther de Waal reflected on the intersection between Art and Scripture. The event took place at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis. Following a reception and surrounded by illuminations from *The Saint John’s Bible*, Esther de Waal examined the relationship between art and Scripture. The event closed with Compline in the Basilica Church. Over 200 people attended the event.

The Benedictine Center’s 30th Anniversary Keynote Series continues on July 11, with Sister Meg Funk, OSB addressing “A Practiced Christianity.” On October 25 and 26, there will be a weekend filled with “Wisdom, Prophets, and The Saint John’s Bible.” For more information contact Sam Rahberg, the Director of the Benedictine Center, at 651-777-8181 Ext. 149.

**Challenge Grant: An Opportunity to Advance the Benedictine Center’s Mission**

The Benedictine Center has received a Challenge grant from an anonymous donor of the Monastery. To celebrate its 30 years, this donor has offered to match every contribution to the Benedictine Center that is received before the end of June dollar for dollar up to a grand total of $30,000.

Funds received in honor of the 30th Anniversary will provide needed resources to advance the School of Discernment, an annual Keynote Speaker event, and fund scholarships for individuals to attend the programs of the Benedictine Center.

We are almost there. Make your gift now and help us meet the challenge. Call the Development Office for more information about the Challenge Grant at 651-777-8181 Ext. 158.

**New Staff Member**

**Kelly Czajka** is the new Benedictine Center assistant. Kelly has experience with parish youth ministry, faith formation and college campus ministry, as well as immersion trips and social justice initiatives. She holds a master’s degree in theology from the Institute for Pastoral Theology at Ave Maria University.

**Development Team**

**New Faces in the Office**

When you call or email the Development Office, you will notice some changes. We have restructured to serve the Sisters and you better. Jim Fennell continues to serve as the Director of Development leading the development team and overseeing its operations. Moreover, he focuses on Major Gifts, Grants, New Initiatives, Planned Giving and Event Sponsorship. Thekla Rura-Polley was appointed Associate Director of...
Development in September 2012. Her main responsibilities are to work with volunteers on organizing special events and to coordinate direct mailings. She also has taken on the publication of *Passages*.

Sue Narog serves as the Development Assistant. She is responsible for managing the donor database and acknowledging donations as well as assisting with special projects. She also helps donors with end-of-year tax receipts. We have a great team that supports the Sisters and their ministries; and we are looking forward to getting to know you better.

**Christmas at the Monastery**

Christmas at the Monastery 2012 drew more than 400 people to St. Paul’s Monastery and raised $70,000. From prayerful moments to fabulous silent auction items to amazing hors d’ouvres, awesome bakery items and wonderful carols – Christmas at the Monastery had it all.

Hats Off to outgoing Committee Chairs Paul and Marilyn Piazza, Silent Auction Chairs Sue and Joe Buelow and committee members Brad and Colleen Wood for their many years of service. They did a wonderful job.

We are always looking for unique auction items such as vacation trips, TV or radio show tickets, dinners, romantic escapes, and one-of-a-kind experiences. Call Thekla Rura-Polley at 651-777-6850 to donate unique items or join our planning committee to share your ideas.

**Sponsors of Christmas at the Monastery 2012**

Thank you also to our sponsors who made Christmas at the Monastery 2012 possible: Mr. Bruce Richard, McGough, Reinhart FoodService, Coordinated Business Systems, Ltd. of Minnesota, Premier Banks, US. Foods, and Lake Elmo Bank as well as the following parishes: Church of Christ the King in Minneapolis, St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Brooklyn Park, Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary in St. Paul, Maternity of Mary Church in St. Paul, and St. John’s Church of Little Canada.

**Become Involved**

Do you enjoy special events? Are you called to serve the Sisters? Join the planning committee for Christmas at the Monastery 2013. Simply call Thekla Rura-Polley at 651-777-6850.

**Renew Your Sponsorship**

To renew your sponsorship or become a new sponsor for Christmas at the Monastery 2013, contact Jim Fennell at 651-209-9022.
Stewardship Report Correction
It has come to our attention that some donations made in memory of Sister Cleo Schoenbauer appeared to have been made in memory of Sister Catherine McGinnis in the last Stewardship Report. We sincerely regret this error.

Legacy Society Annual Gathering
The Annual Legacy Society Gathering was held on March 10. Members of the Legacy Society include St. Paul’s Monastery in their estate plan or will. Members get together once a year for a special program. This year, we celebrated Mass together followed by brunch. Afterwards, we reflected on the icon “Mother of Compassion” painted by Sister Mary Charles McGough, OSB, and listened to Sister Paula Hagen, OSB, outline the steps towards a Compassionate Society. It was an inspirational afternoon.

If you would like to find out more about the Legacy Society and how to become a member, please call Jim Fennell at 651-209-9022.

Prioress Dinner
About 100 friends of the Monastery attended the annual Prioress Dinner on April 25. They enjoyed a wonderful meal catered by Lake Elmo Inn and the warm fellowship of the Sisters. A special treat was the visit of Saint Scholastica, played by local actress and Cretin-Derham Hall theatre teacher Ann Frances Gerstner who brought the history of the Benedictine Sisters to life.

Abbot John Klassen from St. John’s Abbey and University congratulated the Sisters for their 65 years of service to the Archdiocese of St. Paul and beyond.

Jim and Donna Oricchio served as the Honorary Chair Couple for the evening. Elizabeth Fucini, Terry Johnson and Pat Plunkett received an Illustrated Copy of the Rule of Sister Lucia with Honorary Chair Couple Donna and Jim Oricchio.
Sisters of St. Benedict of St. Paul’s Monastery + www.stpaulsmonastery.org + 651-777-8181 + Celebrating 65 Years of Service

Saint Benedict for their many years of friendship and support of the Monastery. Vineeta Sawkar did a fantastic job emceeing the evening.

Ministry of Mothers Sharing – Enriching Lives Every Day
The year 2012 brought ample opportunity for reflection and sharing as Ministry of Mothers Sharing acknowledged its 20 year history of enriching lives and empowering women of all ages and life experiences. In addition to the National Conference which was featured in the Fall 2012 Passages, there were five Celebration Benefits across the country where guests gathered to reconnect, honor the Ministry’s rich history, and share a vision for the future. Going forward Mary Boespflug continues to serve as National Director, Jean Glaraton has been promoted to Assistant Director and Yvonne Eggert continues in her position as Ministry Assistant.

Thank you, God, for plenty of money to use prudently, share generously and spend fearlessly.  Amen.

Evening Prayer of an 84 year-old Irish Immigrant

Oblates
Becoming an Oblate – A Journey of Faith
Oblates of St. Benedict are Christian women and men who associate themselves with a Benedictine monastery. They pledge themselves to be more fully who they are through their baptism and confirmation and follow the Rule of Benedict as their guide. Oblates do not profess vows and do not ordinarily live in community. They extend the spirit of the monastic community into their families, their places of work, and in their civic and social activities. They strive to live a balanced life of prayer, work, and
leisure. They value and support one another and bring Christ to those with whom they live and work.

Admission to the Oblates begins with a desire for greater spiritual growth according to the Christian ideals and values set forth in the Rule of Benedict. The process of becoming an Oblate begins with a year of study and reflection. During that time candidates explore the values and traditions of Benedictine life and the application of the Rule to contemporary living. Through study and practice, the candidates discern if this way of life is for them. After a year, a candidate makes a promise through which the Oblate enters a new relationship with St. Paul’s Monastery. The Oblate is encouraged to join in the prayer and work of the community. The monastic community provides a foundation of prayerful support for the Oblates, even as the community of Oblates provides an equally prayerful support for the Sisters.

If you would like additional information, please contact Oblate Director, Sister Mary Lou Dummer, OSB at 651-777-8181 or e-mail: oblates@stpaulsmonastery.org.

Justice and Peace Committee
East Side Co-op is awarded $10,000 Grant
The Justice and Peace Committee of St. Paul’s Monastery donated to a lifetime membership in a newly planned co-op initiative, Gateway Food Initiative, a proposed natural food cooperative for St. Paul’s East Side. Co-ops are for-profit organizations owned by their members. Co-ops thrive when member-owners and committed volunteers work together. The founding members, Beth Butterfield and Sarah Geving, began organizing this new co-op initiative in August, 2011. They were aware that people wanted better food, they wanted local food, and they wanted to know that profits go back into the local community. The co-op will feature items from local youth farmers. As Beth Butterfield says “It is not just about food. It’s about bringing people together. That really is our grander goal in this.” Therefore, the plans also include a café and meeting space. Beth Butterfield commented on how co-ops naturally bring neighbors together, “People tend to congregate there. It creates community.” Sarah Geving sees the need to reinvigorate the area and believes everyone wants to see “a light for the East Side.”

In September 2012 the Gateway Food Initiative received a $10,000 grant from Food Co-op Initiative, a national nonprofit that helps community co-ops. The Gateway Food Initiative was one of 10 new co-ops across the U.S. to receive such a grant. Food Co-op Initiative is the umbrella organization for for-profit coops.

There is not yet an opening date since it can take years before co-ops begin operating. They need at least 300 members to move forward to start a feasibility study. Beth says “For every dollar we spend of the Seed Grant money, we are expected to spend a dollar of our own money.” To raise money and create publicity for the initiative, Craig Schulz, a bricklayer, has been baking bread to sell on Sunday nights using the outdoor oven he built in his yard.
last winter. Located at 1172 E. Ivy Ave., the Phalen Ovenworks held a wood-fired pizza party to benefit the co-op in October. Schulz’s wife, Adrienne, serves on the steering committee and assists with the bread-making and selling. A patron says the bread “is sooo good. The crust is ‘crusty’ and the inside has a great taste – and some substance.”

Sister Joan’s Nutri-Bits Keep on Treating Dogs

The Spirit of Sister Joan Schneider’s love of dogs continues as the business of marketing and distributing Nutri-Bits enters a new phase of operations. Sister Joan originally made Nutri-Bits in her own kitchen and sold them at local dog shows. Later, relatives assisted her in manufacturing the treats commercially and distributing them nationally. When Sister Joan passed away in December 2011, the Monastic Community asked the extended community of friends and Oblates for help in overseeing the ongoing business. Mary and William Falk answered the call and

Sister Joan’s dog treats enterprise is once again an active and ongoing operation under the new name Sister Joan’s Inc. The product is being distributed to retail outlets, direct mail companies, distributors and directly to consumer channels throughout the entire United States. Future plans involve developing new retail relationships, creating new packaging and new labeling designs. A portion of the proceeds will be contributed to the Monastery for the retirement fund of the Sisters.

The new contact information for Sister Joan’s Inc. is:

Sister Joan’s Inc.
910 1st Street South #4206
Hopkins, MN 55343
Phone: 952-938-2066
Fax: 952-938-1455
Toll Free: 1-800-855-6234
e-mail: info@sisterjoansinc.com

Thank you to our Platinum and Gold Sponsors of Christmas at the Monastery 2012

Mr. Bruce Richard

Mr. Bruce Richard is a long-time supporter of the Sisters of St. Benedict of St. Paul’s Monastery and their ministries. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota where he obtained a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering, a Bachelor of Science in Economics and a Graduate Degree in Business Administration from the Minnesota Executive program. He worked for Northern States Power Company for many decades, eventually becoming President and Chief Operating Officer. Since his “retirement” in 1986 he has founded a management consulting firm Richard, Crisman and Opitz and has been an Electric Utility Systems Consultant. In 1993, he joined Spell Capital Partners, LLC as a General Partner. Mr. Richard has received numerous awards from being named an “Outstanding Director of the Year” by Twin Cities Business Monthly and “Distinguished Community Builder” by the Northern Star Council of the Boy Scouts of America to “Outstanding Achievement Award” by the University of Minnesota. He serves on the Board and Committees of a number of community organizations such as the Regents of St. John’s University, Courage Center, the Indianhead Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and the White Bear Area Chamber of Commerce. He is the Chairman of the Investment Committee of St. Paul’s Monastery and an adjunct Professor at the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota.
The McGough tradition of excellence can be traced back to mid-19th century County Monaghan, Ireland, where the first generation of McGoughs earned their reputation as craftsman builders. Today, the fifth generation of McGoughs continues and extends the family tradition, a five-decade-plus history of excellence in planning, development, construction and facilities management. Projects include new construction and renovation in all sectors of the construction industry, including corporate, industrial, health care, institutional, housing, education, performing arts, retail and worship space. Whether the project involves affordable housing units or major downtown office towers, the McGough approach is to develop and nourish successful partnering relationships with every client. Because their clients’ needs have changed over the last decade, McGough has evolved into a full-service real estate and construction services firm. For more information please visit www.mcgough.com.

At close to the half century mark, Reinhart Foodservice has grown from its first 8,000 square foot distribution center in La Crosse, Wisconsin to become the 5th largest foodservice distributor in the country. Reinhart FoodService has expanded rapidly because the quality of its products and commitment of the employees inspires the loyalty of customers. As Reinhart FoodService prepares to enter its fifth decade, it is learning and growing every day. Its most important business priority is understanding customers’ needs to help them succeed - and anticipating their future needs so that Reinhart FoodService can be the best partner possible. Reinhart FoodService is proud of its growth and what it has achieved - but is even more excited about the next 50 years. The best is yet to come! For more information please visit www.rfsdelivers.com.

If you are able, we invite you to honor the Sisters and their 65 Years of Service to the Twin Cities with a gift. A special envelope is enclosed.
The Prayer Schedule has changed. Please visit the Monastery Website at www.stpaulsmonastery.org and click on Pray with Us for current information. Eucharist is celebrated on the second Friday of each month for our relatives, friends, Oblates, and benefactors.