

# ST. PAUL'S MONASTERY NEWSLETTER

*April 2022*



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# WELCOME LETTER

*Sister Linda Soler, OSB*

As Christians celebrate the festival this spring in commemoration of Jesus' resurrection, the familiar sights of the Easter bunny and Easter eggs serve as a reminder of the holiday's very ancient origins outside of the Christian tradition. Remember the Easter baskets and/or Easter egg hunt we would have as children? I never wanted my Easter basket because I didn't like chocolate. In fact, I did not even want to look for it, yet I was practically led to the "hidden" basket by the hand of my mother as there would be a white pair of gloves to complement my new Easter hat and dress. The familiar custom of having new clothes for Easter probably began with early Christians wearing new white robes for baptism during Easter Vigil services. Later, the custom expanded to everyone wearing new clothes in celebration of his or her new life in Christ.



Then there were the colored eggs which startled me because the color would bleed on the egg at times, and how could I eat an egg that had been sitting out? As child that was my Easter living a whole different mystery than the Paschal Mystery. Many Ancient cultures viewed eggs as a symbol of life.

The name "Easter" is used in the English-speaking world, many more cultures refer to it by terms best translated as "Passover" (for instance, "Pascha" in Greek) – a reference, indeed, to the Jewish festival of Passover. I had my DNA done and I found I am part Jewish. That Jewish DNA has a greater appreciation in me for the Jewish Passover and traditions. Easter Joy is the high-spirited celebration, and it brings us the gift of new life. The promise of salvation on the cross. As we enter the Easter season, we focus on the sacrifice and resurrection of Christ with victory over death and the grave.

If you or someone you know need prayer, please never hesitate to make a request. We want to support you. We wish you Easter joy, so that in all things God may be gloried!

Alleluia, Alleluia.

# MAPLE TREE CHILDCARE CENTER

*Jennie Schlauch, Maple Tree Childcare Center*



At Maple Tree, we love doing activities that enhance learning and self-esteem. This picture shows Grant using alphabet letters to construct his name. We feel honored to be a part of the process that prepares children for kindergarten and future school success.

## MISSION ADVANCEMENT NEWS

Last summer, in the middle of the global pandemic, the Monastery held an outdoor festival event called **Benedictine Festival**. Friends of the Monastery safely came onto campus to celebrate again community spirit with the Sisters. Benedictine Festival returns this year on **Saturday, July 9, from 12:00-3:00pm** at the Monastery! Please mark your calendars to come home to the Monastery for the Feast of St. Benedict!

Our **Spring Plant Sale** ends on April 7 (with flower pick up on either April 30 or May 4). With your purchase, you enjoy quality plants from Gertens all summer long and the Monastery will receive 30% of the sale proceeds! [For more information, see page 10.](#)

[Commemorative Pavers \(page 17\)](#) are available all year round. We will hold a special blessing of pavers as part of the Benedictine Festival on July 9. New paver orders must be received by May 1 to be installed before our celebration at the Festival.





# BENEDICTINE ASSOCIATES FEAST OF ST. BENEDICT



On the Feast of St. Benedict, March 22, 2022, Associates Mary Lou Kozmik, Pat Swanke, and Rebekah Taylor renewed their commitment towards St. Paul's Monastery. Benedictine Associate Linda Anderson also renewed her vows on Sunday, March 27. These women shared how being a Benedictine Associate has affected their lives, why they have decided to renew their vows, and a special message for the Sisters of St. Benedict. Thank you, Mary Lou, Pat, Rebekah, and Linda, for being such an asset to this Community!

[Watch the Feast of St. Benedict on our YouTube page here.](#)

## DISCERNING MY OBLATE VOCATION & COMMITMENT

Gwen Odney, OblSB

Gwen Odney, OblSB, Oblate to St. Paul's Monastery writes a reflection on what it means to her to be an Oblate:

*I was given the gift of time when I retired 9 years ago in 2013. At this momentous occasion, after some 40 years as a classroom teacher, I treated myself to a couple of nights at the Benedictine Center of St. Paul's Monastery. I had quite regularly been doing personal retreats there—mostly to do some heavy duty teacher work. This time I took an empty journal, determined, still in working mode, to find ways to be accountable for this new expanse of time. What evolved was a framework for strands of my life. I called them the 6 “F’s”: faith, family/friends, “for others”, fitness, fun and foundations, (household tasks). I plotted these six strategies on pages by the week so I could write in each section what I had done to fulfill them. The idea was to keep these areas of life in balance.*

[Read the rest of Gwen's article here.](#)



# THE SPIRIT IS VERY MUCH ALIVE!

*Travis Salisbury, ObISB*

Last month witnessed the celebration of two Benedictine feast days: St. Frances of Rome, and the Transitus of St Benedict.

St. Frances of Rome is celebrated by the Church on March 9. She is the patron saint of oblates—in addition to being patron of widows and automobile drivers. St Paul's Monastery joyfully celebrated its oblates on March 9. Over 150 women and men from many Christian traditions made oblation at the altar of the monastery over the years promising—as much as their state of life allows—to embody and live Benedictine values in their lives. During the pandemic, our Oblates have met monthly on Zoom for ongoing formation and recently started several prayer practice groups to grow in faith together as Oblates. **The Spirit is very much alive in our Oblates.**

The Transitus of St. Benedict is celebrated on March 21 each year and is one of two feasts that honor St Benedict on the Church's calendar. It is a joyous feast honoring the death of our founder St Benedict. The voices of the Sisters, Associates, and guests filled the chapel with song during Evening Prayer as three of our four Benedictine Associates made their annual commitment at the altar. The Benedictine Associates are Catholic single women seeking God with the support of the monastic community while engaging in the ministries of St. Paul's Monastery. Associates embody the baptismal call to holiness. **The Spirit is very much alive in our Associates!**



We celebrate St. Benedict with the Church on July 11. St. Paul's Monastery will host the 2nd annual Benedictine Festival on Saturday, July 9 from 12:00-3:00pm on the Monastery grounds. This festival is a community event filled with food, fun, and community. The Sisters are excited to welcome you home to celebrate Benedict and to live deeply life in the Spirit with you at St. Paul's Monastery.

St. Benedict: *pray for us.*

St Scholastica: *pray for us.*

All you holy women and men: *pray for us.*





Catholic Sisters Week was a celebration of the lives and legacies of Catholic Sisters that occurs every year from March 8-14 as part of National Women's History Month. To celebrate this year, we have shared quotes from the Sisters of St. Benedict of St. Paul's Monastery about life as a religious woman – and the challenges and joys they have experienced in the past year.



"Thus the pure love of one another as of one family should be their ideal. As for God they should have a profound and loving reverence for him. They should love their abbot or abbess with sincere and unassuming affection. They should value nothing whatever above Christ himself and may he bring us all together to eternal life" (Rule of Benedict, Chapter 72).

## *Catholic Sisters Week Slideshow*

To honor our Benedictine Sisters, we have created a short slideshow featuring quotes and images of the Sisters of St. Benedict. Thank you, Sisters, for your love, devotion, and wisdom you give to the world!

[Watch this video on our YouTube page.](#)





# Spring Plant Sale

*"Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky. Yes, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps away" (Psalm 85:11-13, NRSVCE).*

## DETAILS

Welcome to St. Paul's Monastery Online Gertens Fundraiser! We hope you love to protect and nurture God's green spaces as much as we do. This plant and garden sale will help you get a good start on your spring planting.

Proceeds will go toward the supporting the mission and ministries of St. Paul's Monastery. We will receive 30% of all plant sales and 15% of all gift card sales.

We know you will enjoy these great planting ideas from Gertens Garden Center. Shop now and pick up at St. Paul's Monastery in April & May.

Order online now through April 7 using store code 251 on our fundraising page: [www.gertensfundraising.com](http://www.gertensfundraising.com).

## MAIN DATES

Order Deadline: April 7 at 10:00 p.m.  
Curbside Pickup: April 30 & May 4



*There are so many plants, flowers, vegetables, herbs, succulents, and hanging baskets available at Gertens Garden Center. These are just a few of the options available in the spring fundraiser at St. Paul's Monastery.*



# THE FOOL'S INVITATION

*Sister Jacqueline Leiter, OSB*



*For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts (Isaiah 55:9-11, NRSV).*

Who doesn't have childhood memories of April Fools' Day and launching harmless pranks on unsuspecting friends, family members, or teachers? We all laughed in the end. But for the other 364 days of the year, how many of us like being a fool or being seen as a fool? The word *fool* almost always has a negative connotation. Making a fool of ourselves means others think we are silly and not worthy of their respect. We all want to fit in and be accepted. We feel a powerful urge to conform to the norm in how we act, speak, and live our lives and avoid being seen as a fool.

During his life on Earth, Jesus was probably seen by many as a fool. He didn't make an effort to fit in to the norms of his culture. He associated with the wrong kind of people, the poor, the sick, foreigners, and sinners. He didn't settle down and work as a carpenter as would have been expected, but instead wandered around the countryside preaching. Who did he think he was, anyways? And the parables he told often annoyed the wealthy people and the powerful religious authorities. That was pretty foolish. Yet Jesus chose to live his life and proclaim the Gospel according to God's call in his life. Often that made him unpopular and he was scorned and derided and treated as a fool.

Jesus must have really appeared the fool to Pilate at his trial. Pilate knew that the chief priests were jealous of Jesus, and may have been trying to find a reason to release him when he asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Yet Jesus remained silent. If only Jesus had said, no, Pilate may have had an excuse to release him. If Pilate thought Jesus a fool, the soldiers held him in even greater disdain when they beat him and dressed him up in purple cloth and a crown of thorns. Unlike the humble

Magi who did homage to the infant Jesus as king, the soldiers pretended to do him homage as a king made fun of him, mocked him, and spat upon him. Yet in all of his suffering and being made into a fool, Jesus was steadfast. He followed his calling, even knowing that that call meant suffering and death.

## *The Fool's Invitation*

May we like Jesus, be ready to set aside our fears and our need to conform to the expectations of the world. May we have the courage to be true to God's call in our lives.



# 75TH ANNIVERSARY: BENEDICTINE SPIRITUALITY

*Sister Lucia Schwickerath, OSB*



Did you know St. Paul's Monastery offers Catholic single women the opportunity to become a Benedictine Associate, helping them seek God with the support of the monastic community while engaging in the ministries of St. Paul's Monastery?

This baptismal call to holiness offers:

- Engagement in discernment
- An orientation
- Initial and ongoing formation for the whole person

Associates find a balance of prayer, ministry and leisure while faithfully participating in liturgical prayer, meeting, meals, and recreation. Do you have an interest in learning more about Benedictine Associates? Read about how the program has grown during the past 25 years and its plans for the future in the upcoming 75th anniversary book out later this year. **Continue to watch this space for more exciting information!**

## MONASTERY ART GALLERY FINDING MIDDLE GROUND

St. Paul's Monastery Art Gallery has new art! Come to the Monastery to enjoy this new collection of *Finding Middle Ground* before the end of April 2022.

From vastly different materials, the work of these two seasoned artists meet in concert creating a *Middle Ground* on the spiritual path. Both hold a sculptural background, each well rounded in their art.



**James Quinten Young** works in found materials.

**Susan Hensel** works from a computer foundation to create her vision.

Together these different perspectives offer new light to our spiritual journey.



# April Birthdays



MARY  
ELIZABETH ILG  
Co-Director of the  
Benedictine Center  
April 2



SISTER SHARON  
SHILLER  
April 10



SISTER LINDA  
SOLER  
April 11



SISTER ROSEMARY  
RADER  
April 11



SISTER MARY  
CLAIRE INHOFER  
April 12



ROSE QUAST  
Account Manager  
April 17



PATRICE PEICK  
Accountant  
April 21

# Employee Spotlight

**LAURIE BERG**  
Nursing Manager



In this month's Employee Spotlight Article, we are featuring Laurie Berg, the Nurse Manager for the Health Care Center of St. Paul's Monastery. Laurie started with St. Paul's Monastery in September of 2019. She has multiple responsibilities at the Center, including assessing and assisting Sisters with their health and personal care needs, ordering medications, and assisting Doctors and Nurse Practitioners with their assessments and appointments.

Laurie has had a lifelong interest in nursing. She became a nursing assistant the day she turned 16-years-old and had been working in long-term care for 35 years. After she grew tired of paperwork taking away from what originally drew her to nursing, she applied for the Nursing Manager position. Since then, she has gained a sense of peacefulness, describing it as "a feeling of satisfaction knowing your best work has made a difference in someone's life, no matter how small." She goes on, stating, "I believe my most important task is ensuring that each Sister's life is filled with happiness, contentment, and the knowledge that they are loved and cared for."

Laurie was born in Brainerd, MN, then moved to Crosby, MN, at age 11. She attended Crosby-Ironton High School, and after receiving her diploma (and the award of *Best Sense of Humor Class* of 1979), she went onto St. Olaf College and the University of Minnesota for Pre-Med/Biology. She then graduated from St. Paul's TVI's Nursing program. After college, she moved to the Maplewood, MN, where she lives now.

Laurie married her husband, Ron, about three years ago. She has three children: Meghan, who lives in Stillwater, MN, and is a Marketing Director; Matthew, who lives in Oakdale, MN, and is a Computer Forensic Investigator; and Molly, who lives in Los Angeles, CA, and is a Fashion Designer for women's clothing. Raising her three children on her own and seeing them all graduate from private colleges with honors is one of her greatest life highlights! She also has two grandsons, Jacob (8) and Liam (6), who are her heart's delight. Not only did she help deliver them when they were born, she also cared for them each day until they were school-aged. She believes her life's meaning was to be a grandmother and hopes to teach them to grow up to be loving, caring, and responsible young men.

In addition to spending time with her husband and her family, Laurie enjoys jigsaw puzzles, cooking, and watching movies. Her favorite movie is *The Ghose and Mrs. Muir* and her favorite book is *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott. She loves traveling, whether that be camping at her RV site in Central Minnesota, or internationally across Europe with her sister, Christie. Laurie is also a baseball fan and enjoys watching the Minnesota Twins play ball. One of Laurie's favorite quotes is "Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching" (C.S. Lewis).

We thank you, Laurie, for your honesty, sincerity, and commitment to St. Paul's Monastery. You have earned the trust, respect, and admiration of St. Paul's Monastery's Benedictine Sisters and employees. We are proud to have you as our Nursing Manager!





## AROUND THE MONASTERY

From left to right: A wooden cross stands at the entrance of the Monastery's Chapel during Lent this season; The Monastery employees had a celebratory cake to honor the success of Mission Advancement's recent Christmas fundraising efforts; The Chapel displays vibrant flowers and the Saint Scholastica icon for the Feast of Saint Scholastica on February 10; Our Mission Advancement Director shares a snapshot of flowers and snow from his remote position in Seattle, WA; Sister Linda Soler, OSB, blesses the Hill-Murray boys' varsity hockey players before their game; The Mission Advancement Department underwent an office renovation project.

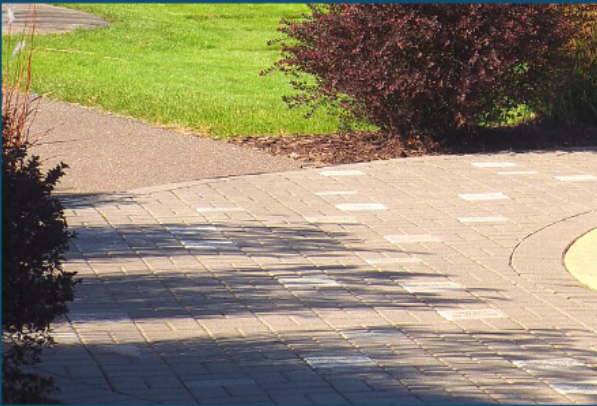


# Commemorative

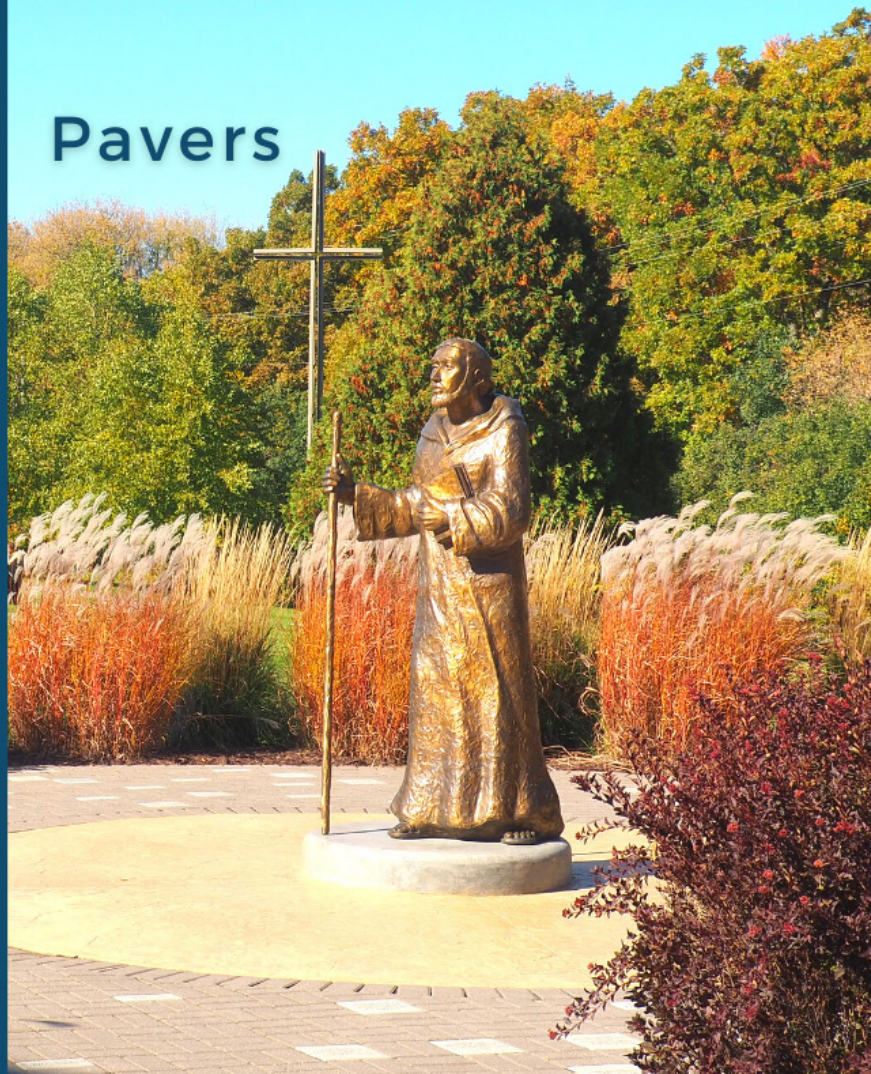
*Honoring Those Who Light Our Way*

**JULY 9 AT 11:30AM  
OUTDOOR CEREMONY &  
BENEDICTINE FESTIVAL**

Forever link yourself or a loved one to the tradition and future of St. Paul's Monastery by purchasing an engraved commemorative paver.



# Pavers



**[CLICK HERE TO PAY ONLINE  
OR PRINT ORDER FORM](#)**

Our Gathering Plaza is blessed with pavers engraved with messages from the Sisters, Oblates, relatives, and friends of St. Paul's Monastery.

**Click on the link above** to print the form and create your own paver message to commemorate a special occasion or honor a Sister, your parents, other family members, or friends. The Sisters and those who visit the plaza remember your loved ones in prayer. Thank you and God bless you!

**4x8 Paver**

**Three lines of text, \$130**

**8x8 Paver**

**Six lines of text, \$260**



# PRAYER SCHEDULE

When our doors are closed, we are grateful that you are praying with us in spirit!

*“Nothing is to be preferred to the Work of God.”*  
- Rule of Benedict, Chap. 43



## SUNDAY

MORNING PRAYER: 10:00AM

EUCCHARIST: 11:00AM

EVENING PRAYER: 5:00PM

## MONDAY-SATURDAY

MORNING PRAYER: 8:00AM

MIDDAY PRAYER: 11:30AM

EVENING PRAYER: 5:00PM

*For further information, call 651-777-8181  
or visit us at [www.stpaulsmonastery.org](http://www.stpaulsmonastery.org).*

## Community Prayer Ministry

*Here to Serve You in Prayer*

### We Would Love to Hear From You

*Let us, in fellowship, “lay (our) petitions before the Lord God with the utmost humility and sincere devotion” (Rule of Benedict, Chap. 20).*

If you would like to send an online prayer request, the Monastery website has two different ways to do so. You can use the “Prayer Requests” link at the top of our home page. Or you can go to the “Ministries” tab and select “Community Prayer Ministry.” Prayer requests go to all the Sisters who pray daily for these intentions at Evening Praise, during adoration, and during the Rosary. May God bless you and your loved ones.








# MISSION STATEMENT

*We, the Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery, are a community that live Gospel values as expressed in the Rule of St. Benedict. Through our Monastic life and wise stewardship, we nurture contemplative presence in service of Church and society.*



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[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)