

# ST. PAUL'S MONASTERY NEWSLETTER

*June 2022*



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# WELCOME LETTER

*Sister Jacqueline Leiter, OSB*

In June we observe Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit. After his Resurrection, Jesus appeared to his followers in the Upper Room where they were hiding and afraid. Jesus breathed on them. He had two messages for them:

Peace be with you.

Receive the Holy Spirit.

These messages are for us today also. We received in baptism the same Holy Spirit that Jesus breathes and gives to the disciples in the Upper Room. This Spirit is living in us and gives us life in God, enabling us also today to be faithful disciples. It is up to us to be open to listening to the voice of the Spirit and responsive to the Spirit's promptings. We can turn to the Spirit as a faithful friend and guide to help us in our daily walk and on the journey.

One way in which we can be faithful disciples is to expand our hearts to all the world. Pentecost especially reminds us that God's message and love embraces all the world. According to Acts 2, on that Pentecost day, there were visitors from "every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem." The Spirit came upon Jesus' followers in the Upper Room, enabling them to speak in every language represented by the crowd. The visitors in Jerusalem heard them proclaiming the mighty acts of God in their own languages.

We know that many nations in our world do not have peace, and many peoples are hiding and afraid like the disciples in the Upper Room. Let us remember our brothers and sisters throughout the world and pray for peace. Let us, individually and as community, choose to live as people of faith, as people open and responsive to the Holy Spirit. Let us be ready to receive peace, live peace, and be peace for our world.



*"Pentecost" by Jen Norton*





# SISTERS' WORDS OF WISDOM

*Sister Mary Lou Dummer, OSB*

In the Benedictine contemplative tradition, we are called to learn to balance prayer and work, *Ora et Labora*, balancing our being and our doing. For those who lean toward “doing”, this balancing act can be a bit of a challenge. This was the case for Sister Mary Lou Dummer, OSB, at least until the Spirit invited her into a space of “being” as a result of the COVID pandemic and its impact on the community of St. Paul’s Monastery.

Like many of the Sisters, Sister Mary Lou has been very active throughout her life, and has served many functions within the monastery and in ministries in the broader community. “There’s a lot of Martha in me yet, which I’m glad for because I wouldn’t want just to ‘Be’, sitting in a corner forever,” she said with a laugh. “I’ve got to get out there and do [Jesus] work. That’s who I am.”

From a variety of roles, including elementary school teacher and principal, parish liturgy, sub-prioress, Oblate director, Sister Mary Lou has worn many different hats. Her doing started early in life. Growing up on the Dummer farm she had the opportunity to work the tractor and mow the lawn. Another early role was learning to be a Christian Clown. “I took a class. This was when I was down in Marshall. Then when we were up here, I brought the clown ministry here. The big thing of being a Christian clown is doing service to elderly, going to nursing homes. I was a hobo, Zorba.”



*Pictured here is Sister Mary Lou mowing the lawn at her parents’ farm in 2004.*

By contrast, her role as sub-prioress was considerably more demanding. She had responsibility for leadership and governance of the monastic community and serving as ex-officio member of the Leadership Team/Monastic Council/Board of Directors. She supervised the liturgy and dietary departments and served on the Benedictine Center Advisory Committee. As Oblate Director, she is responsible for initial formation and on-going formation of the Oblates.

[Read the rest of Sister Mary Lou’s Words of Wisdom here.](#)



# MAPLE TREE CHILDCARE CENTER

*Jennie Schlauch, Maple Tree Childcare Center*



Pictured on the west side of the Monastery, the Maple Tree Childcare Center preschoolers are greatly enjoying extended time on the playground this month. With the warmer weather, they get to spend more time outdoors and enjoy swinging on the tire swing and other physical activities. We look forward to a fun-filled summer!

[Visit the Mapletree Childcare Center at  
www.mapletreechildcare.com.](http://www.mapletreechildcare.com)

## OBLATE NEWS: FEAST OF PENTECOST



At Evening Prayer on the Feast of Pentecost, Sunday, June 5 the Monastic Community of St. Paul's Monastery will celebrate the Final Oblation of eight women who are formally committing to journey with the Monastic Community as Oblates. These new Oblates promise to integrate into their lives, to the best of their ability, the ideals of the Gospel as embodied in the spirituality of St. Benedict.

These women have taken part in a monthly yearlong formation program which has invited them to enrich their lives by Being Benedictine in the 21st Century in an intentional way, continuing their relationship with God which is rooted in their Baptism, by participating in on-going formation events, spiritual practice groups, retreats. They commit to pray the Liturgy of the Hours on behalf of the whole Church. They are invited to discern how their gifts may be used in the service of God's people through this Monastic Community.

As Oblates, they mirror Benedictine values wherever they live and work, thereby fostering the Benedictine charism beyond the walls of this Monastery. We pray with and give witness to the commitment these Oblates are making. We receive their promises in the presence of God, the Monastic community, and guests.

We rejoice and welcome into our Benedictine community: Ann Bechtell, Karen Dickson, Teresa Knutson, Kathleen Matter, Diem Pham, Tory Pingel, Julie Taylor, and Ann Schommer.

# THE BENEDICTINE CENTER: THE SCHOOL OF DISCERNMENT



School of  
*Discernment*

NOVEMBER 11 - 13, 2022

BENEDICTINECENTER.ORG/  
SCHOOLOFDISCERNMENT

**The School of Discernment** is an opportunity to discern the voice of the Holy Spirit under the guidance of skilled teachers and listeners and with the benefit of wisdom from the monastic tradition—now offered in hybrid format, both in-person and online simultaneously. The framework includes a daily rhythm of prayer with the monastic community, sessions on the practice of discernment, reflection questions for quiet time, and one-on-one meetings. No one will be obligated to share publicly about the particulars of their own stories, but each will have the opportunity to do so as they choose. Spiritual directors will be available to assist with the process of discernment and any questions and insights as they arise.

**DATE:** Friday, November 11 – Sunday, November 13

[Learn more about this event here.](#)

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. PAUL'S MONASTERY

*Sister Lucia Schwickerath, OSB*



For the Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery, prayer is a deep calling from within the soul. The center of community lies in an ongoing liturgical prayer life. Ministries take the Sisters in many directions as they work to serve the needs of the community. But what holds them together is what is found in a shared prayer life. In the upcoming 75th anniversary book due out later this year, you will read many stories of Sisters who visibly live their prayer life in a way others can see and feel. Their stories welcome you into this sacred space as they work to respond to the needs and challenges of church and society. Watch for more information about the 75th anniversary book in the months ahead.





# OF THE EARTH

ST. PAUL'S MONASTERY ART GALLERY

St. Paul's Monastery Art Gallery has new art!  
Come to the Monastery to enjoy this new collection "Of the Earth"  
from **May 29 - August 24.**

The root of the words humus and humility is the same. Hum comes from Latin, meaning "ground" or "coming from the ground." Literally, the earth beneath our feet. To have humility is to know our (human) place in the world, not at the center or peak, but of the earth, on the earth, in relation to all of creation. As Robin Wall Kimmerer says, "Other beings are known to be especially gifted, with attributes that humans lack. Other beings can fly, see at night, rip open trees with their claws, make maple syrup. What can humans do?" What will humans do?

This exhibit is dedicated to Toby and all the Younger Ones that they may find strength in remembering the power of humility, gratitude and thanksgiving as we fight climate change with increasing urgency.

With Fierce Love,  
The Older Ones

*"Humus means earth, soil, partially decomposed organic matter.  
Humility is realizing in a visceral way that we are not separate from anything else.  
It allows us to sink down into the rich soil, all the way to the bottom."*

- Tim Burkett



# MISSION ADVANCEMENT NEWS & UPDATES



Sister Joan Chittister, in her commentary on the Rule, writes “The Rule of Benedict, too, is a wisdom literature that sounds life’s themes. It deals with answers to the great questions of the human condition: the presence of God, the foundation of relationships, the nature of self-development, the place of purpose. To the wise, it seems, life is not a series of events to be controlled. Life is a way of walking through the universe whole and holy.”

Whole and holy! This gift of being Benedictine is found daily in the presence and prayers of our community of Sisters, it is seen profoundly in the lives of our Oblates and Associates, and is beautifully present in the support of the benefactors of St. Paul’s Monastery and the Benedictine Center.

How can you walk with the Monastery this summer? First and foremost, by supporting our [Benedictine Festival](#) on Saturday, July 9 from 12:00–3:00pm.

**Volunteers!** Volunteers have always been an anchor of our life here at St. Paul’s Monastery. There are several ways you can gift your time at the Benedictine Festival from set up, to hospitality, to games, and to sales. There is an opportunity for all age groups and all abilities. [Click here to volunteer.](#)

**Sponsors!** All events find their success in the generosity of sponsors. We have created several giving levels, including a “*There in spirit*” **sponsorship** understanding that summer travel sometimes keeps us from all the events we wish to join—so if you are unable to be with us please be with us in spirit by sponsoring the festival. All sponsorship information is found by [clicking here.](#)

**Pray!** First, please pray for good weather on July 9! The opportunity for us to gather safely outside and see our beloved Sisters again is too important for us to be rained out. Your prayers are always warmly received for our Sisters, Associates, and Oblates. Please let us pray for you as well. You are always welcome to call the desk at 651-777-8181 to make a prayer request. You can also let the Sisters know of a prayer need by completing the form on our website by [clicking here.](#)

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, July 9 so that we can truly walk together whole and holy.





# BENEDICTINE FESTIVAL

## ST. PAUL'S MONASTERY

SATURDAY, JULY 9 | 12:00PM - 3:00PM

### SISTERS OF ST. BENEDICT

Come learn about the history of the Monastery, the Benedictine Center, our Oblates and Benedictine Associates, talk with our Benedictine Sisters, and see their life of prayer/work/study.

### COMMEMORATIVE PAVERS

To bring meaning to life, we celebrate those that give meaning to our community—the Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery. We will be hosting our annual pavers blessing ceremony on July 9.

### FAMILY FUN

This family-friendly event features live music, a cake walk, games, food, and so much more! This year attendees can enjoy a photoshoot with our Saint Benedict mascot, and a petting zoo! Additional games and food vendors will also be present. Enjoy free admission to this outdoor event that's perfect for the whole family!



It's our 2nd annual Benedictine Festival 2022! Come learn about the history of the Monastery, the Benedictine Center, our Oblates and Benedictine Associates, talk with our Benedictine Sisters, and see their life of prayer/work/study. While you're there, you can partake in delicious snacks and refreshing drinks, listen to some live music, mingle with your St. Paul's Monastery family and enjoy the beautiful grounds. Enjoy free admission to this outdoor event that's perfect for the whole family!

[STPAULSMONASTERY.ORG/BENFEST2022](http://STPAULSMONASTERY.ORG/BENFEST2022)



### SPONSOR THE BENEDICTINE FESTIVAL

Sponsorships are essential to extending a warm and wide hospitality to all festival guests. Sponsorship gifts provide seating and tents for shaded conversation areas, providing family-friendly games and activities, as well as food--and most importantly, advancing the mission and ministries of the Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery.

#### SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

- ★ Business/Organization Sponsor (\$2,000)
- ★ Individual Sponsor (\$500-\$1000)
- ★ Sponsorships in Honor or in Memoriam (\$250-\$500)
- ★ "There in Spirit" Sponsor (gifts up to \$250)

[STPAULSMONASTERY.SALSALABS.ORG/BENFEST2022/INDEX.HTML](http://STPAULSMONASTERY.SALSALABS.ORG/BENFEST2022/INDEX.HTML)

### GUESTS FROM 2021

5.0 ★★★★★

Seeing all the community enjoying each other's company was the best part of the festival!

5.0 ★★★★★

The opportunity to meet family, friends and other guests face to face after the pandemic was the most important thing about the festival. The fundraiser options was an important piece of the event too! Nice food options!

5.0 ★★★★★

I loved seeing the Monastery grounds so full of people!



# LISTEN BEFORE YOU LEAP

*Sister Jacqueline Leiter, OSB*



On May 9, Mother and Father Goose's patient, watchful waiting was rewarded. After nearly a month on the monastery rooftop nest, with parents enduring snow and rain, the eggs hatched. Mother and Father Goose were blessed with five beautiful goslings, and the proud parents lovingly paraded their little ones on a tour of the green roof. The goslings looked like small puffs of yellowish brown fluff. They dutifully followed along, exploring the strange flat landscape of sedum plants and rocks on the green roof.

By the next day, Mother and Father Goose decided it was time to move on. A roof may be a good place for a nest, but it is not a good place to raise a family. Little did the goslings know that their life was about to change forever.

Mother and Father Goose left their babies alone on the roof and flew down to the monastery courtyard and started honking for them to come down. Until now, the goslings had never in their short lives been



without their parents. From their vantage point, it must have looked like a very long way down, yet one by one, five goslings responded to the call, trusted, and leaped. After bouncing on the soft soil of the courtyard garden, they got up and followed their parents, eventually moving on to a nearby pond. A whole new world opened for the goslings, much wider and more beautiful than the roof or anything they could imagine.

In the Prologue, Benedict asks us, "What is more delightful than the voice of the the Lord calling out to us? See how God in his love shows us the way of life" (Prol. 19-20). We are invited to listen and follow God's voice calling out to us. Benedict was probably not thinking about geese honking and goslings leaping. Yet the goslings' trusting response to their parents call can teach us about trusting and following our God.



Be open to listening for God's call in your life  
Be trusting and ready to follow.  
Be ready to let go of whatever you have known.  
Be ready to bounce.  
Be open to a wider and more beautiful world than you have ever known.



# June Birthdays



SISTER JACQUELINE  
LEITER

June 9



SISTER KAREN  
SAMES

June 12



JEFF DOLS

Chair of the Benedictine  
Center Advisory Board

June 12



SISTER PAULA  
HAGEN

June 20



SISTER CAROL  
RENNIE

June 27



SISTER LOUISE  
INHOFFER

June 30

# Employee Spotlight

**ROBERTA GLYNN**

*Practical Nurse*



This month's Employee Spotlight article features Roberta Glynn, a Licensed Practical Nurse for the St. Paul's Monastery's Healthcare Unit where she aids in facilitating health care for the Sisters' nursing care needs. She started in a casual position in June of 2021 working evening shifts and was promoted to a full-time position in January 2022. When describing her experience thus far working for the Monastery, she states, "The first time I entered the Monastery I experienced *this is home*. The calm, peaceful environment was overwhelming. The best aspects [of] working here are having very little stress and respect from employees and the Sisters. The presence of God is here too." Before working for St. Paul's Monastery, Roberta worked the area of sleep disorder medicine for 20 years. She also obtained a college degree in Psychology.

Roberta has had a long journey with her Catholic faith. She grew up in the parish of St. Jerome's, and then as an adult at St. Patrick's, St. Casmir, Transfiguration, and now St. Mary's of the Lake in White Bear Lake. Her father was enlisted in the Navy and fought in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam and continued a life in the military (Air Force). Her mother was a graduate of St. Joseph's Academy and attended St. Catherine College. Her parents started a family in 1952 and she is the second oldest with four brothers. During her childhood, she grew up on the East Side of St. Paul with very large Catholic families, where the neighborhood enjoyed spending their spare time in the outdoors. She often went exploring in the nearby forest, sledding down hills, skating on ponds, and loved to greet new babies every spring at a nearby farm.

Roberta started nursing school in 1974 and graduated in 1975. In 1976, she married her husband and had her son, Matthew, in 1978, her daughter, Jennifer, in 1980, and my youngest son, Joseph, in 1982. She also has 12 grandchildren, of which the oldest just got married and she hopes to be a great-grandmother soon.

After living on the East Side of St. Paul, Roberta recently moved to White Bear Lake. Her hobbies and interests outside of work include going up to the lake where she can fish, go four-wheeling, and relax and enjoy nature. Gardening is her favorite activity, and she loves spring when she can be outside, plant, and watch things grow. She also enjoys yoga, traveling, seasonal and holiday arts and crafts, spending time and playing with her grandchildren, and taking care of her two dogs, Maggie (a Yellow Lab mix) and Micki (a Staffordshier terrier and German Shepherd mix).

Thank you, Roberta, for your hard work since beginning your journey here at St. Paul's Monastery. You have earned the admiration and respect of your colleagues with your sincerity and commitment towards work. Thank you for being the perfect role model!

We will end this article with Roberta's favorite quote, "I believe in the Power of Prayer."





# AROUND THE MONASTERY

From left to right: Sisters Mary White, OSB, Paula Hagen, OSB, Lucia Schwickerath, OSB, and Karen Sames, OSB playing a game of Rumikub; A snapshot of the plants ordered as a part of our 2022 Spring Plant Sale; Hill-Murray High School's Art Show hosted at St. Paul's Monastery on May 4; Sister Linda returned home from serving as Election Facilitator for St. Martin Monastery in Nassau, Bahamas and is seen here with the Federation President, Sister Kerry O'Reilly; The Sisters hosted an Easter egg hunt on April 18 led by the Mission Advancement team for the kids at Maple Tree Childcare Center; Chairs from the Monastery grounds on a sunny day.





## Commemorative

*Honoring Those Who Light Our Way*

**PAVERS BLESSING WILL BE HELD  
AT A FUTURE DATE FOR THE  
75TH ANNIVERSARY IN JUNE 2023**

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



**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!

<b>4x8 Paver</b>	<b>8x8 Paver</b>
<b>Three lines of text, \$130</b>	<b>Six lines of text, \$260</b>



# 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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Community ministries, visit us at  
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[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)