



ST. PAUL'S
MONASTERY

Passages

Volume 26/Issue 2 Fall 2015



The Call of Baptism: *Faith, Hope, Love, and Joy*



Greetings From the Prioress: *Faith, Hope, Love, and Joy*

“Claim the word courageous, Let us sing to God this new day, see the world in a different way. Let us wake the world, wake the world:

With abiding words of faith,
 With uplifting words of hope
 With prophetic words of love
 With unending words of joy”

Wake the World with Dawning Joy, song inspired by Pope Francis

These powerful words, put to music by Steven Warner, have been like a theme song this summer. During community gatherings we reflect on being living words of faith, hope, love, and joy. It is the Joy of the Gospel that inspires us to share these living words wherever we are.

Sister Cecelia Dwyer from St. Benedict's Monastery in Virginia affirmed us in this call to Wake up the World at our Community retreat. She reminded us that God has given us abiding faith, uplifting hope and prophetic love at baptism.

Moreover, our founder St. Benedict passionately lived the Gospel and gave us a way of life to share faith, hope, love and joy. When we choose consecrated life, we dedicate ourselves to this way of life.

Sister Karen Sames has been faithful to our way of life for 25 years. We celebrated her Silver Jubilee in June. Sister Louise Inhofer professed her perpetual vows in July. Faith, hope, love and joy were powerfully present when I was privileged to put the Benedictine ring on her finger.

Through your baptismal call, you, too are invited to wake up the world with faith, hope and love. All of us are called at baptism to seek and serve God. All of us are called to bring hope and share joy.

We are here to support you in your call. Please join us for prayer, take time for a retreat, work with one of our spiritual directors, visit the art exhibits, and experience our Monastery.

In this Year of Consecrated Life, we are waking up ourselves and the world to the grace of our Baptismal Call, to the beauty and the joy of our Benedictine way of life and to the joy of sharing the Gospel. We pray that you make time to celebrate what your Baptismal Call means to you.

Thank you for being a part of our life, our prayer and our celebration of the Good News.

Your friend in Christ,

Sister Paula Hagen

Sister Paula Hagen, OSB
 Prioress, St. Paul's Monastery



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Cover art: *St. Benedict* by Sadao Watanabe
 Guests can view the original in the Monastery foyer

Cover and page 2 photos: John Doman

The Rule of Benedict: *Guide and Inspiration for the Baptized Life*

by Sister Carol Rennie

As a spiritual director, it is a sacred privilege to accompany men and women from all walks of life as they progress upon this journey. Formed in Benedictine spirituality, I strive to stay always attentive to the power of baptismal identity. We are able to speak boldly about God's deepest desires for each of us because we are rightly called children of God.

We are reminded of our baptism in many ways. Some are as simple as making the sign of the Cross, tracing on our bodies the sign of Trinitarian life in our own. Other reminders are more demanding like the professions of faith we make when we gather for worship. How does the Rule invite us to reflect on our discipleship in light of our baptismal promises?

In the Prologue, Benedict writes with the conviction that Christ accepts us as we are with all our strengths, weaknesses, confusions, and complexities. "Listen!" the Rule exhorts, for it is in listening deeply to the Word of God that we remember God's unconditional love making all things possible. In that love we discover the call to live our lives with gratitude and to open ourselves to receive God's invitation to fullness of life. Our response to this love, promised to us in baptism, unfolds over a lifetime.

As the Rule underscores, the baptismal life is a lifelong conversion. We undertake the journey for the sake of greater freedom and deeper life. As we journey with that intention, we become caught up over and over in the mystery and presence of God in the midst of our everyday experiences.

These are not simple times. The wisdom of Benedict invites us to enter and remain in this complexity with blessed assurance of God's active presence. That is part of why the Benedictine vision for Christian discipleship appeals to so many people. But its appeal also lies in its message that we go to God not in isolation but together. This is the essence of community.

What a treasure it is for me to connect with men and women in spiritual direction and to witness their experience of God's love and their longing to respond wholeheartedly to the Holy One. This is a journey we share just as we share in one baptism and its unwavering promise of God's loving desire for each of us.



Sister Carol Rennie



Spiritual Direction

Benedictine Center of St. Paul's Monastery

Attentive companions. Spiritual directors create a non-judgmental environment for honest sharing about spiritual matters. They help others notice how God is working in everyday life, pray, discern, and choose resources. If this seems of interest to you, the Spirit is already at work.

Call 651.777.7251,
email benedictinecenter@stpaulsmonastery.org,
or visit www.stpaulsmonastery.org to explore your options.

A team member will be glad to help you connect with a spiritual director for a *free initial consultation*.

www.stpaulsmonastery.org
Follow the Benedictine Center link.

Timeless Wisdom: *St. Benedict's Rule for Authentic Leadership*

by Jacquelyn Bush, OBlSB

Adhering to the Rule of St. Benedict, Benedictines have transformed the world. For more than 1,500 years Benedictine monasteries have been vibrant centers of spiritual insights, empowering education, radical hospitality, transformative healing, and social justice.

The Abbess of St. Walburg Abbey, Mother Edwarda Schnitzer recognized Sister Benedicta Riepp's faith and strength when she chose the 23-year old to sail to America and teach immigrant children. Mother Benedicta Riepp

became the founder of numerous monasteries. Her leadership and vision transformed the education of German immigrant children and inspired the founding of many schools all over the United States.

We know that quality leadership is essential for vibrant and functional organizations. Current research findings indicate that the most

effective leaders have strong transactional and process capabilities; i.e., the ability to influence a group on a journey of discovery, built on relationships grounded in trust, that lead to organizational transformation.

These leadership models are familiar to Benedictines.

The Rule of Benedict (RB) sets forth a vision of effective leadership by formulating essential qualities of a leader and setting standards for them. The wisdom contained in the Rule – on both the “what” and the “how” of effective and humane leadership – has much to offer today's leaders.

- Benedict says in chapter 2 of the Rule (RB 2:1-2) that “it is the place of Christ that the superior holds in the monastery.” So, like Christ, Benedict's leader does not lead by brute force but is a *catalyst for the spiritual and psychological growth* of individual monastics. Benedict's leader believes the best of and gives others the opportunity to make the mistakes that lead to growth.
- In RB 27, Benedict refers to the Good Shepherd as an

example of how leaders ought to relate to those who follow: They know their sheep, keep them in view, and are ready to guide when needed.

- Recognizing that the monastery is not a club for saints, Benedict expects monastic leaders to have compassion for all, especially the weak. In this sense, the leader is a *healer and doctor* who leads by understanding; who helps followers discover who God created them to be, ways to grow in their strengths, and live with their weaknesses.
- Benedict's leaders are *stewards*, albeit for a finite period of time. Even though leaders are primarily accountable to God for the souls in their care, Benedict instructs them to identify others in the monastery with and to whom they can delegate and share the responsibilities of leadership.
- Benedict's leaders are *teachers*. Benedict says that “prioresses . . . are to lead the community by a two-fold teaching: they must point out . . . all that is good and holy more by example than by words . . .” (RB 2:11). Leaders in Benedict's communities are to mirror its values with their lives and model the ideals they proclaim. They lead by example and have no right to require of others that which they themselves do not try to live. Benedictine leaders are to “walk the talk.”
- Benedict's leaders are *servants*, guided by passion and compassion and genuinely interested in empowering others in their relationship with God. They are not self-important or power-hungry, but clearly meant to be “one among many” in the community by attending to the needs of others.

Effective leadership is rooted in **authenticity**. Authentic leaders are grounded in self-awareness and know what they believe and value. Moreover, they are passionate about what they believe and act consistently and predictably on the basis of those beliefs. In today's parlance, they are transparent.

According to Benedict, **humility** and **accountability** are crucial to authentic leadership: “let the prioress and abbot always remember that at the judgment of God, not only their teaching but also the community's obedience will come under scrutiny” (RB 2:6). While tending to those souls in their care, authentic monastic leaders are aware of their own weaknesses and shortcomings, as well as talents and strengths. They tend to their own development and seek “the amendment of their own faults.” (RB 2:39).

Continued on next page

Timeless Wisdom

continued from page 4

Effective Benedictine leaders **have a vision** of where the community needs to go. Communicating this vision clearly, leaders tap the community's energy and emotions to help inspire the community to live into the vision of what they can become together; they create an environment of possibility.

Effective leaders create and maintain an **environment of trust**. They put a premium on honest and direct communication as they work to enhance relationships. The effective Benedictine leader **takes counsel of the**

community in a common search for truth. "As often as anything important is to be done in the monastery, the prioress . . . shall call the whole community together . . . and after hearing the advice of the members, (will) ponder it and follow what (is judged) the wiser course . . ." (RB 3:2). The wise leader invites each community member to speak his or her truth and listens carefully to everyone, not just to those who would tell her what she would like to hear.

The Rule of Benedict leadership principles have stood the test of time. The participative style that Benedict described centuries ago correlates well with today's "Best Practices" of organizational leadership.

My Initiation into the Work for Justice

by Mary Lou Kozmik, Benedictine Associate

Imagine my surprise when Sister Paula Hagen asked if I would be interested in attending *Imagining Justice: Catching God's Dream*, a Leadership Conference for Women Religious (LCWR) in Los Gatos, California. As a new member of the Justice and Peace Committee of St. Paul's Monastery, I wondered – whom would I meet and what would I learn about social justice at such an event?

The conference was attended by 36 women and 3 men from around the United States. They represented elected leadership, justice promoters and communicators from LCWR communities and congregations. Former LCWR President, Kathleen Pruitt, CSJP, was the facilitator. The heart of her message came from her experience of living her life as a contemplative in action, a committed peacemaker and a Zen teacher.

Sister Kathleen led the group of 39 in reflection and exploration of the deep grounding of the work for justice. Together we reflected on what it could mean to truly believe that contemplation is action for justice and action for justice is contemplation.

While aware of the essential interrelatedness of these activities, we explored the call to be contemplative critics, prophetic risk takers, and radical reconcilers.

Sister called us to stretch our minds, to look at the world with "Easter Eyes," to practice outrageous hope, and to remember that the world is already saved and that "the work for justice is God's Dream and we are the Dream Catchers"! A true contemplative has a heart that is open to receive and put into action God's direction

and grace; however small the action and in whatever situation. For me, this was the key concept to nurture going forward.

Exhilarated by these fresh and insightful views on the work for justice, I felt even more gladdened to have met so many like-minded and enthusiastic brothers and sisters, whose passion for justice sustains them in ministries that delve into some of the most difficult issues of our time, such as human trafficking, immigration reform, and climate change.

Learning to "Let go, let be, and let in" is a practice from Sister Kathleen's toolbox that I adopted as a model for discernment. Pause to let new thoughts settle into a stilled mind . . . and then decide a necessary action. Thank you, Sister Paula and all the Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery, for giving me this inspiring opportunity to broaden my horizon on this never-ending journey.



Sister Kathleen called us to remember that the world is already saved and that "the work for justice is God's Dream."

A New Call to Service

by Sister Linda Soler

As my appointment as subprioress was ending in 2014, I sought guidance for a new phase in my life. When Hill-Murray School offered me the position of Campus Ministry Student Service Coordinator, it was a joyful affirmation of prayer. In this new call to service, I facilitate student retreats, prayer services, service projects, invite honest dialogue, and listen with the ear of my heart.

The students are enthusiastic about serving others and making a difference in the world. When we serve together, we find opportunities to open ourselves to the mystery of God.

A highlight this year was a week-long mission trip to the White Earth Nation. Twenty-eight students and ten adults traveled to Mahnomon, Minnesota. We were accompanied by the mission benefactors: Dr. Ronald and Marilyn Mitsch.



We delivered the school supplies

students had collected during the year. We painted houses and planted flowers. We spent time with children and youth. We attended a Pow-Wow. We shared meals and prayed together each morning and evening. We learned about a new region and culture and built community.

"I learned so much about the Ojibwe culture and about myself on this trip. A big lesson is that helping others develops my spiritual life," said Hill-Murray sophomore Delilah Schuster.

Hill-Murray senior Brittney Myers reflected that, "It was a very humbling experience and helped me grow in my faith by enabling me to see God in the people that we helped."

The students' generosity, teamwork and enthusiasm has filled me with renewed passion for ministering at Hill-Murray School and hope for the future of Benedictines. That in all things God may be glorified!



above: Sister Linda and student volunteer

Gratitude, Passion, Hope

by Sister Jacqueline Leiter

Pope Francis calls us to look to the past with gratitude, live in the present with passion, and embrace the future with hope. As a teacher in an urban school, I daily have the privilege and opportunity to follow Pope Francis's request.

I am reminded of the many teachers and others who supported me and taught me, without whom I could not be here today. I cannot remember learning to read, yet I know that there were kind and caring teachers who guided me, and that my father read stories aloud to me. There are many people I remember with gratitude.

Each day my students teach me something new and remind me to look at the world with open eyes, ready to wonder and ask questions. They remind me to slow down, live in the moment and be truly present. They help me to live with passion.



Each day I look at my students in gratitude and awe at the amazing people they are. They are so small in stature, but have such a drive to learn and take in all that life has to offer. I see children who are incredibly compassionate and tolerant of each other as they learn and play together. It is as if they are bigger people on the inside than they are on the outside. Seeing this in the next generation fills me with hope for our world.



above: Katy (at right) with Sister Louise

The Blessing of Louise

by Kathleen (Katy) Oswald

Life is full of twists and turns. Some we fully anticipate, and others may catch us so off guard that we hold on for dear life... until we settle into the new normal. It is these unexpected chapters in life that often bring the greatest blessings.

Motherhood presented unusually difficult chapters from which my lessons of growth and change continue. In the midst of barely holding on, the small act of my young son's request to put money into a musician's tip jar changed the course of my life. I married that musician two years later and embraced an amazing new family support system that included Louise Inhofer. I lost my mother to cancer many years ago, and so I welcomed the

unexpected gift of this strong and vibrant woman into my life.

Louise lived in an apartment with a stubborn cat. Her home was a bit of magic, filled to the brim with organized craft paraphernalia, a unique collection of reading materials that included the complete Harry Potter series, an awesome display of family photos and, in her kitchen, the fixings for a good root beer float. She introduced me to breakfast at Psycho Suzi's and friends at the NE Minneapolis Art Crawl.

At the time, my father's dementia required that we take away his car and move him across the country. In stark contrast, though the same age as my father, Louise was driving all over town, taking Sister Mary Claire Inhofer on mystery, out-of-state bus tours, organizing extended Inhofer family gatherings, and flying independently to visit family. I was in awe of her energy, her genuine interest and opinions on many varied topics, and her ability to navigate so much in life.

Yet to sit with Louise, these things in her life became only interesting observations, secondary to where her heart dwelled: The true light of Louise, which had taken an unexpected twist of leaving St. Paul's Benedictine Monastery in April of 1980, was ready to take another turn.

In 2011, Louise shared the news of her possible return to monastic life. I remember the holy moments of deep reflection, the exploration of innermost thoughts and hopes, and the tears when this became a reality. "This time, I know exactly what I am getting into, and I know the meaningful depth of every step of this journey." And the tears are still often there, signs of an overflowing heart.

Oh Louise, I admire that you listened deeply and followed what was right for you. May we all find what's uniquely right for each of us, and then have deep courage to act with thoughtful intention. I'm sure there were times you had to hold on for dear life through the emotional ups and downs of exploring this unexpected turn, but here you are with a new normal surrounding you. Bravo.

My new normal includes a weekly lunch at the Monastery with my two Inhofer sisters-in-law, and a new friend that Sister Louise introduced me to, who shares a similar health journey with me. I love the exposure to smart and heart-centered female role models, who have navigated their own twists and turns in life, who ultimately have come to share a Community. Ah, yes... I am thankful for the many blessings I have received from knowing and loving Sister Louise.

At her Monastic Rite of Perpetual Profession in July, **Sister Louise Inhofer** was surrounded by the prayerful support and love of her guests and Sisters. When I asked, "Is it your wish to intensify the consecration of your baptism through this bond of a permanent religious commitment to this community of St. Paul's Monastery?", her joyful, heartfelt reply was "Yes, it is!" We shared tears of joy and laughter when she proclaimed, "I wish to make perpetual profession in this Benedictine monastic community to be formed in my search for God by the Gospel and the Rule of St. Benedict."

—Sister Paula Hagen



Jubilee Sisters

by Linda Anderson, Benedictine Associate

But as we progress in this way of life and in faith, we shall run on the path of God's commandments, our hearts overflowing with the inexpressible delight of love. – The Rule of St. Benedict, Prologue

Along with Sister Karen Sames, five other Benedictine Sisters celebrated their jubilees this summer rejoicing in 245 years in The School of the Lord's Service.

Said **Sister Sarah Voss**, a professed Sister for 55 years, "I don't know why I was called, but I am grateful for it and the gift of Faith. Mother Marcelline Jung and Sister Luanne Meagher were an inspiration and support in my early journey as a Benedictine." Sister Sarah continues her work in healthcare administration, education, and as a trained artist. Sister Sarah believes in balance – a life that provides prayer, study and use of the gifts that are part of "your DNA." She sees "a strength in the now smaller community that fosters spiritual growth from within and offers a place of hope."

Sister Mary Claire Inhofer became aware of her vocation through the Benedictine Sisters who taught at St. Anne's School in Minneapolis; especially her first-grade teacher, Sister Othmar. Visiting St. Benedict's College at age 10, she heard the Sisters chanting the Divine Office.



From Family Spirit to Benedictine Spirit

by Sister Paula Hagen

This year, **Sister Karen Sames** celebrated her Silver Jubilee as a vowed Sister. Sister Karen grew up in a close-knit family that was truly committed to spirituality, and in which she learned the basis of the Benedictine values she has enthusiastically lived.

As a young widow, Sister Karen's mother raised six children with the help of her parents, Grandma and Grandpa Beckius. Sister Karen learned very early to share life with her twin brother Kevin. She started to contribute to the family income by a series of jobs that paid for her education and family fun activities.

Sister Karen completed her Bachelor's in Nursing at the College of St. Catherine. Sister Karen loves to serve those in need. In our Benedictine Community, she has earned a reputation for being there to help any Sister in need. Her favorite hobby is spending time with family and friends near and far. She rarely misses Community prayer, meals or recreation.

Her Jubilee Celebration was a great event of sharing and storytelling with family and friends. A theme you heard over and over about the Sames family was how "they were always there for each other," through the good or hard times. Sister's guests stayed all afternoon to celebrate being with each other and their love and appreciation of her.

Sister Karen's hope for the future is that our Benedictine Family will continue to grow and reach out to share the richness of our Benedictine prayer and community life.



This way of praying is the heart of her call. Sister Mary Claire joined St. Paul's Monastery right out of high school and has absolutely loved her 60 years as a Sister. She opens each day as a gift and embraces Benedictine life with its focus on the balance of prayer, work and recreation. "I am deeply grateful for the privilege of serving God and God's people."

Sister Lois Hauwiler admired the Benedictine Sister educators at St. Victoria School and decided to join their community after her high school graduation. Sister Lois celebrated her 60th Jubilee this year, and her passion today is her personal and communal prayer life. She is most grateful for the monastic way of life, as lived by the community of St. Paul's Monastery. Her hope is that "God's call to live a life of service and prayer as a Benedictine may reach the ears and hearts of new members. All God's people have a calling, but we also have to continue to invite others to join us."

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As **Sister Marie Rademacher** celebrates her 70th year as a Benedictine Sister, she noted that the “roots of my call were with my family and rural community. Religion and community life were central to us.” Influence from an aunt and older sister led her to attend St. Benedict’s High School. A former teacher and pastoral minister, Sister Marie’s current calling is to “join the daily Community prayer schedule.” She continues to “look for what needs to be done that I can do – dust, provide music, lead rosary, share treats, and bless the house; whatever makes it nice to live here and make the Monastery like home to all.” She loves being a Sister and welcoming all as Christ.

These Sisters express the passion and joy for life and hope for the future of their Benedictine way of life. Their lives celebrate the Joy of the Gospel.



Jubilee Sisters (l-r) Marie, Karen, Mary Claire, Rosemary, Lois (foreground), and Sarah

Community Prayer for the Year of Consecrated Life

by Sister Marie Fujan

*Gracious God,
author of all creation,
instill in the hearts
of all your people
the desire
to be drawn
and guided
by the Holy Spirit.
Grant to all
the courage and strength
to accept
the Gospel’s invitation to
Wake up the World
with love.
We ask for these blessings
in Jesus’s name.
Amen.*



Sister Rosemary

by Sister Catherine Schoenecker

Sister Rosemary Rader has served as a Benedictine Sister for 65 years, and her hope for the future of St. Paul’s Monastery is that we live for and follow the Rule of St. Benedict. Sister Rosemary has a great love of nature, prays God’s blessing upon us, and loves all whom she meets. Originally from St. Leo, Minnesota, Sister Rosemary joined the Benedictine Sisters in St. Paul as a Postulate in 1948 and Novice (photo: upper left) in 1949; she served as St. Paul’s Monastery Prioress from 1984-92 (photo: lower left). When asked, “How do you spend your day now?” Sister responded, “I try to follow the Rule of St. Benedict, and I seek to live in a great love of God.” Sister Rosemary says that her greatest blessing as a Benedictine Sister is the friendship of all her Sisters.



Sister Rosemary (at left) and Sister Catherine



Sister Meg Funk

Honoring a Fine Spiritual Collaboration

by Samuel Rahberg, ObISB and Benedictine Center Director

With the summer 2015 *School of Lectio Divina*, St. Paul's Monastery is saying goodbye to Sister Meg Funk, OSB, as a regular presenter through the Benedictine Center. Sister Meg has come to a place in her own journey where she feels the Spirit's call to pass on leadership to others and to remain closer to her home community.


Sister Meg is past prioress of Our Lady of Grace in Beech Grove, Indiana, and past executive director of the Monastic Interreligious Dialogue. She has written extensively on the monastic desert tradition and its renewed application for modern discipleship, especially through the practice of lectio divina and discernment.

Over the years, Sister Meg has frequently visited St. Paul's Monastery, building and deepening many friendships along the way. She was instrumental in conceiving and adapting to this community's unique rhythm both the *School of Lectio Divina* and the *School of Discernment*.

Those of us who work most closely with Sister Meg, or who have journeyed with her through retreats and presentations, know her to be a woman steadfast in her own spiritual journey. We respect the breadth of her research and the way she models faithfulness to the wisdom and calling within her. We will remember her authenticity and honesty and continue to appreciate her as a fine spiritual companion.

Without doubt, Sister Meg's immediate personal presence will be missed, but her fingerprints upon the Sisters' Benedictine Center ministries – and upon our lives of prayer – remain unmistakable. She has well-prepared many of us to carry the torch, including Dr. Kathleen Cahalan who will lead the two upcoming Schools.

Visit the Benedictine Center at www.stpaulsmonastery.org for opportunities in keeping with Sister Meg's teachings on monastic wisdom for contemporary discipleship.

School of Discernment

Benedictine Center of St. Paul's Monastery

Fri., Oct. 30, 1p thru Sun., Nov. 1, 1p
Dr. Kathleen Cahalan and staff
\$250 (includes lodging and meals)

- Learn to discern the voice of the Holy Spirit as an ongoing practice.
- Become familiar with the anatomy of distracting thoughts and their antidotes.
- Identify personal experiences which are the raw material for discernment.
- Practice sorting thoughts.

Register at www.stpaulsmonastery.org
Follow the Benedictine Center link.

Letter from the Development Director: *Making Each Day Count*

Working with and for the Sisters has been a blessing. Their prayers permeate the space and God's presence is palpable. Daily I am in contact with good, generous, grace-filled people – *YOU*. Thank you for your support of the Sisters and their ministries. The Sisters have been a presence for good in the Twin Cities and beyond for 67 years. They live the Rule of St. Benedict in a world that today more than ever needs his gentle reminders:

- to make each day count,
- to live a balanced life,
- to trust in God to bring our work to perfection, and
- to welcome all as Christ.

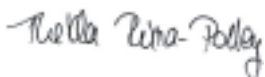
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Making Each Day Count

continued from page 10

Each of us has a baptismal call to serve God in our family, our community, and in our work. Through the offerings of the Benedictine Center, the Oblate program, the Benedictine Associates Program, Maple Tree Monastery Childcare Center and other ministries, the Sisters support us. They pray for us unceasingly, welcome us as Christ, and teach us by word and example. With your help, greater things are yet to come. When you support them financially, you partner with them to make a difference in our world. The Sisters bless us daily, let us share our blessings with them.

Yours in Christ,



Thekla Rura-Polley

Partnering with the Sisters takes many forms

Your gift of time: volunteering at events or in the healthcare center

Your gift of treasure: financial contribution now or a planned legacy gift

Your gift of talent: participating in a committee



Within this Community

by Linda Anderson,
Benedictine Associate and
Communications Director

As the new Communications Director for St. Paul's Monastery, I am blessed

to have the opportunity to work within this Community and to spread the message of peace and love through the rich traditions of Benedictine life – a way for all who are seeking God.

My life journey has been touched and formed by this Community: first as a student in grades 2-8, then as an Oblate and Benedictine Associate, and now as a Monastery lay employee.

At my elementary school, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (then St. Boniface) in Hastings, six of my teachers were Sisters from St. Paul's Priory, and Sister Lucia was my piano

teacher. Each Sister helped plant the Benedictine seed in my heart.

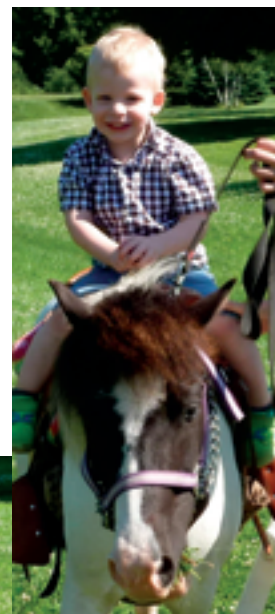
Years later, when a call to deepen my spiritual journey and relationships reemerged, I looked at other spiritual practices and found that the Benedictine life spoke to my heart. The Rule of Benedict values and practices is my way to be with God and others.

The Monastery Leadership and I seek to strengthen those already journeying the Benedictine way, widen the invitation for others to join us, and share messages of vision that also speak to the legacy of the Sisters of St. Benedict of St. Paul's Monastery.

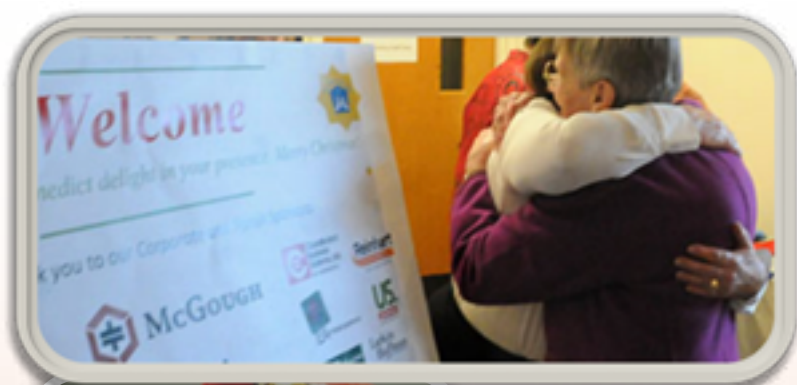
With gratitude, I look forward to the journey ahead and ask for your prayers and support.

Maple Tree Monastery Childcare Center

Last June, the Maple Tree children enjoyed spending a morning with "Pony Pals." They fed carrots to the ponies and rode around the Monastery grounds.



For further information about Maple Tree Childcare Center, please call Jennie at 651-770-0766.



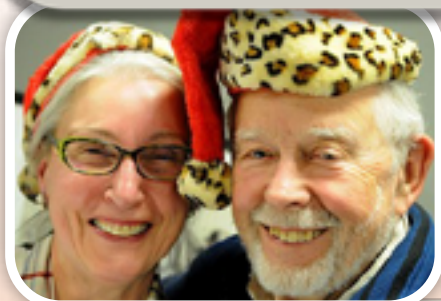
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up to date. If your
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or is incorrect, please
call **651-777-8181** to
inform us.
Thank you!

Celebrate with the Sisters!

Christmas at the Monastery

Saturday, December 12, 2015

4:00-7:00 p.m.



For sponsorship or auction donations,
call Thekla at 651-777-6850

Upcoming Dates of Note:

Oct. 16: Soul Collage: An Exercise in
Religious Imagination

Oct. 18: With the Gospel as Our Guide:
The Prologue to the Rule of St. Benedict

Nov. 12: Give to the Max Day

Nov. 19: Thomas Merton: Christianity
and the True Self

Dec. 12: Christmas at the Monastery

April 7 (2016): Prioress Dinner

**For additional prayer times and events,
visit www.stpaulsmonastery.org**