



ST. PAUL'S
MONASTERY

2675 Benet Road
St. Paul, MN 55109-4808

Passages

Volume 25/Issue 2 Fall 2014



A School for God's Service



A Message From the Prioress

"If today you hear God's voice, harden not your heart."

Dear Friend,

The joy of serving as Prioress has been hearing God's voice in so many spaces, places and people. I hear God's voice in the beauty of summer when I listen to the birds visiting the patio. I hear God's voice in the gentle music of the wind in the trees along the walkway to the Grotto and the cool summer breeze while I sit with Sister Rosemary under her favorite Linden tree. I hear God's voice in the tiny movements of the butterflies that come and visit our new butterfly garden.

God speaks clearly in our staff and volunteers that are so deeply committed to serving God's people in so many roles. God speaks clearly in the ancient Psalms that we chant every day. I love having the chapel doors wide open knowing that God's words are sent out to a world full of dear friends and at the same time a world hurting from racism, human trafficking, violence, and sexual abuse.

God speaks clearly in the organizations that are part of the campus that brings together the Sisters. As Prioress I love learning new aspects of life and facing new situations while knowing that I am supported by so many friends.

I hear God's voice when we live Benedictine hospitality: welcoming participants in our liturgies, new Oblates, seekers of spiritual renewal, relatives and friends of the Sisters spending time together, as well as visitors to our art exhibits. The new art exhibit is called Atmosphere: the Sumi-e Paintings by Karen Kurka Jensen. Know that we welcome you any time; please check in at our hospitality desk staffed by employees, Sisters and Oblates.

God's voice can be heard in many spaces, places and people. I try to open my heart and listen with the ear of my heart. Each day dear Sister Lois asks, "Paula, did you have a good day?" and I answer, "Yes, Lois, every day is a good day because God is expanding my heart in so many ways."

United in the art of listening for the God of all creation,



Sister Paula Hagen

Sister Paula Hagen, Prioress

PS. Be sure to mark your calendar for Christmas at the Monastery on December 6 for a taste of God's love in the Season's joy of prayer, music, food, and auction items.



Photo: John Doman

Reflections from Psalms 32 and 118, Isaiah 26 and Deuteronomy 28

by Sister Lois Hauwiller

God is kind and full of compassion.

God does not abandon His people.

Keep seeking; ask, seek, knock.

God does not sleep. But God may have a better answer.

Do not be afraid. God is ready to help everyone.

God does not have favorites.

God is faithful, God's love endures forever.

God is merciful, dependable, reliable, caring.

God is the eternal Rock, God is the Savior of the whole world.

God can be trusted, God is unfailing love, our protector.

Seek God and you will not lack a blessing.

For God, nothing is impossible.

God's Peace.

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Education Today: *Applying 1500 Years of Benedictine Wisdom*

Education is an integral mission of the Benedictine Order. For over 1500 years, Benedictine monasteries have been known as places of learning and scholarship. The founding of the Sisters of St. Benedict in America in 1852 was for the purpose of educating children.

In 2007 the Association of Benedictine Colleges and Universities issued a statement, "Education within the Benedictine Wisdom Tradition," that affirms the continued

importance of education in Benedictine life:

"Benedictine education sets its sights on the transformation of the human mind and heart. Benedictine education stresses the formation of the whole person rather than the intellect alone. At its best, it calls for

a lively interplay between rigorous thinking and the development of practices for right living."

We asked four of our Sisters, with over 100 years of combined experience, to discuss education then and now and how Benedictine philosophy has shaped their educational approach.

Sisters Rosella Schommer and LaVerne Hudalla both worked in primary education as teachers and principals: Sister LaVerne for 22 years in Minnesota; Sister Rosella for 42 years in Minnesota, Montana and Bogota, Colombia. A Minnesota educator for over 50 years, Sister Jeron Osterfeld taught all ages, developed curricula and courses, and was also a principal. Sister Jacqueline Leiter is currently an English as a Second Language teacher in a public school.

Hospitality and Education

The first thing that came to mind was hospitality. All of the Sisters emphasized that they welcome each child as Christ. Sister LaVerne started teaching in 1953 and recalled, "We played with the children during recess,

in full habit. At the school reunions, those are some of my students' most vivid memories. At one time, I must have accidentally kicked a ball on top of the Red Owl store roof. I don't remember that incident but they do." Playing games together during recess allowed the Sisters to form personal relationships with the children.

Sister Jacqueline said that this was still true today "The most important thing is developing a relationship with each student. I need my students to know that they matter to me, and that I believe in and expect them to learn. This helps them to do their best. Developing a

relationship with students helps me to understand their needs and interests, and makes it possible for me to challenge and support their learning. Seeing each child as Christ is a way of welcoming and creating a safe environment for all. Sometimes one little moment paying extra attention to

a child or one comment can make a big difference in building a student's self concept and value. It makes a big difference for learning."

Community Building

When Sister LaVerne reads or hears about reducing class sizes, she chuckles. She, Sister Rosella and Sister Jeron remember that forty-five or more children was a normal class size. "In those days, the children all knew one another from the neighborhood, parish events and Sunday Mass which I'm sure made it easier in the classroom," said Sister LaVerne. "Our classes were like a big family – everyone knew each other. We saw the reality and value of the saying 'It takes a village to raise a child'."

Class sizes are smaller today, and children come from all over the City to attend a particular school. Educators work hard to build a caring classroom community of learners. Children learn to work together on classroom projects and support one another in partner reading. They learn to listen to each other and build on each



Above (l-r): Sister Jacqueline Leiter, Sister Rosella Schommer, Sister LaVerne Hudalla, Sister Jeron Osterfeld.

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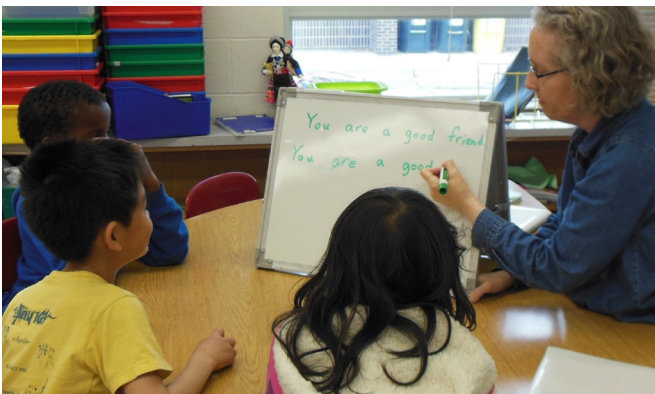
other's learning through discussion. And they have fun building teamwork in classroom games.

Whether teaching with other Benedictines at a Catholic school or the only Benedictine at a public school, the Sisters emphasized that support from fellow educators was essential for their vocation. The resulting esprit de corps that developed contributed tremendously to the quality of the Sisters' effectiveness, the overall quality of the school, and each student's learning.

Said Sister Jeron, "I was already in a religious community when I was a teacher. All of us shared our successes and challenges and gave one another constant spiritual and practical support. Our teachers' meetings were interactive and dynamic, and all the new teachers got an experienced mentor, which is still practiced in schools today."

Sister Jacqueline elaborated that "There's a focus on creating a community among my fellow educators. I'm assigned to a grade-level team, and we meet regularly throughout the summer and school year to share our ideas and to develop lesson plans that will support and challenge all our students."

There is one more key to an effective educational community. The Sisters said that parent involvement



and support is essential to the success of students. "I regularly sent notes home to the parents about what we were studying, and what we observed about their child's interests and abilities. This practice promoted and reinforced the importance of parents' involvement," said Sister Jeron.

Reading, Reading, Reading!

Benedictines dedicate significant time to sacred readings. They bring this love of reading into the classroom. All four Sisters said that a good book is the best tool in a teacher's kit. "Before dismissal, I'd read

out loud to my students for 15 minutes," said Sister LaVerne. "It calmed their end-of-class restlessness, and gave them something to think about on their way out the door."

"I feel my most important contribution to my students was to help them develop their communication skills, especially for those most challenged to do so," said Sister Jeron. "At the end of one school year, one of my shyest (high school-age) students came to me with tears in his eyes and said, 'I want to thank you, Sister, because you helped me read my first book.'"

"Reading exercises and develops all sorts of brain functions. One of my favorite things to do is listen to my students read out loud and then talk with them about it," said Sister Jacqueline. "This practice develops my students' critical thinking and language skills as they express and explain their thinking and, in turn, listen to and develop the ideas of their classmates."

Sacred Profession

Benedictines view teaching not just as a job. While they discussed their educational experiences and talked about the practical aspects of teaching, they also expressed the deeper spiritual meaning that teaching has for them. They view teaching as part of their vocation, their life as Benedictines, and their mission.

"When I was assigned to teach, it was a sacred responsibility to me, and my first commitment to it was to educate myself," said Sister Jeron. "Along with my formal schooling, there were always continuing education opportunities that I pursued throughout my career. Father Connole, the Superintendent of Catholic Schools, expected us to attend his Saturday seminars. They were as dry as toast, but they were also tremendously valuable."

The final word of advice came from Sister Rosella: "Pray for your students, their parents, your fellow educators. As we meet each person as Christ, it is our sacred privilege and honor to meet them where they are and to humbly and gratefully learn from each other."

If you are able to, we invite you to support the Sisters and their ministries with a donation. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Thank you and God bless you.

Heritage Day

Inspired by the Founders, Shaping the Future

by Sister Paula Hagen and Thekla Rura-Polley

On July 22, the Sisters celebrated the heritage they received from Benedicta Riepp who founded the first Benedictine Women's Monastery in the United States at St. Mary's in Pennsylvania in 1852, which later

moved to St. Benedict's Monastery in St. Cloud. The day celebrates the Benedictines' 162 years of service in the United States.

During Morning Praise they thanked God for calling Benedicta Riepp to leave the safety and

security of St. Walburg Abbey in Germany for the uncertainty of the American settlements. The Sisters spent time reflecting on contemporary issues facing them and looking ahead to their future as Benedictines.

They asked God to inspire and strengthen them to move forward into the future with faith, hope and love.

Next the Sisters divided into seven groups to discuss Sister Sandra M. Schneider's keynote address, "The Ongoing Challenge of Renewal in Contemporary

Religious Life" (available online at www.cori.ie/justice2/66-Executive_Board/798-sandra-schneiders-paper-delivered-at-cori-conference-25th-april-2014).

Each group reflected on a particular section of the address and talked about the wisdom contained in each. They then extracted a word or phrase of wisdom from their reflections and shared their insights with the whole Community. They summarized the wisdom of the day with the help of this illustration.



To learn more about Benedicta Riepp, Benedictines, and other Sisters, here are a few suggestions: *History of North American Benedictine Women* by Laura Swan, OSB; *Across God's Frontiers: Catholic Sisters in the American West, 1850-1920* by Anne M. Butler; and *The Role of the Nun in 19th Century America* by Mary Ewens, O.P., Ph.D.

Let Us Pray

St. Paul's Monastery 2014 Community Retreat

The theme of the June 8-13 Community Retreat was "Let Us Pray." It was a profound experience for those who were able to attend, and some of the attendees wished to share their inspiration and gratitude.

Oblate Jacquelyn Bush said "It was more than a refreshing week of time away from my daily routine (which it also was!). This year's Community Retreat provided me with practical ways to pray Psalms and Scripture "through Christ, in Christ, with Christ." Father Simeon Thole's repeated reminder that "we do not pray liturgy; we pray the mystery of Christ" helped me to enter more fully into the life of Christ and His offering to His Father. In praying "with" Jesus, I am shaped little by little to be more like Him. I experience all the emotions that He experienced – from the expectation of Advent to the trials and struggles of Lent, through the joy of the Easter season."

In gratitude, Sister Jeron Osterfeld said: "Thank you, Father Simeon. You have inspired us to realize that each of us has a spiritual depth that we need to continue to explore with Christ and the Holy Spirit."

Recap and Remembrance: Retreat 2014

by Sister Marie Fujan, OSB

Here we are – Let us pray!

Monk to Monk. Listen!

Sing: *We don't celebrate Liturgy! We celebrate the Mystery of Christ!*

Here we are! What are we waiting for?

We're waiting for the second coming of Christ.

Benedict wants to evangelize us!

We came to the Monastery to pray.

When we do so intentionally—

Benedict would be very proud.

So would Jesus Christ!

Here we are!

Do I pray when I'm at prayer?

Or am I middling along?

Can I put on the mind of Christ?

--be made part of the Incarnation?

We ought to be the face of God for the World.

Help me think of that in the morning, when I look in the mirror!

Sing: *We don't celebrate Liturgy! We celebrate the Mystery of Christ!*

St. Therese Care Communities

by Sister Marie Fujan, OSB

As young Sisters, many of us remember Mother Marcelline Jung as being a driving force to bring the dream of a Catholic nursing home in New Hope to reality in the late sixties.

A special wing was constructed to serve as the Convent residence for the Sisters. Over the years many of our Sisters served as staff and board members at St. Therese. Some Sisters who had spent years in the classroom, loved their time as prayer ministers among the residents. It became very clear that the simple, little way of St. Therese of the Child Jesus and St. Benedict's way of Gospel living were a great blend.

In the mid seventies my mother became a resident at St. Therese. My weekly visits and my daily observations of the ministry there, planted the seed of desire to be a part of it someday. When the expansion plans brought St. Therese to the potato fields of Brooklyn Park, I thought it was time to come in from the country. So when St. Therese at Oxbow Lake opened in September of 2006, I made trips from Marshall, Minnesota, every Friday and began dreaming of what pastoral care would look like.

In June 2007 Sister Annette Esboldt and I moved into Number 220 of St. Therese at Oxbow Lake. Sister Annette worked in pastoral care in the apartments at St.

Therese at New Hope. It has been great to be a part of this wonderful enterprise, to watch it grow, and to be a part of its growth.



As part of my ministry today, I'm responsible for preparing for daily Mass and sometimes preparing a Word/Communion Service. Making the Word of God and Communion available is such a privilege! And breaking open and sharing the Word is what each Community is called to do. Another delight is what I call Prayer Station which happens every other Wednesday in the Housing Memory Care Unit and the Long-Term Care Suites. Our faith has such richness. Touching the long lives of our residents and inviting them to share is a great joy.

Often residents think about "What is next?" They remember those first catechism questions... "Why did God make you? To know, love and serve God in this life and to be happy with God forever in the next!" It is a task filled with wonder! Preparing for death and New Life is part of what we do here. When God calls someone home, we have a ritual called *The Procession of Honor* that calls the staff together to honor and to say goodbye.

So what else do you do? This is how I summarize what pastoral care is: *Pastoral care is at the heart and center of life in our St. Therese communities since it is where staff, residents and volunteers respond to the invitation to follow Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.*

The Secret of Pilgrimage *Landscapes and Religious Tradition*

by Sam Rahberg, Obl. OSB

Late last spring fifteen pilgrims—staff, Sisters, Oblates, and friends of the Monastery—journeyed to England and Southern Wales to experience the spiritual riches of a unique region in the world.

The idea originated with internationally respected author Esther de Waal, who has long been a friend of St. Paul's Monastery and who visited St. Paul during the Benedictine Center's 2013 anniversary celebrations. She invited us to come and encounter the moving landscapes and rich monastic tradition on the borderlands between England and Wales. In saying "yes," we learned the secret of any pilgrimage.



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Landscapes

Environment does something to us. It draws us out of ourselves and calls our attention to the grandeur of God. This is especially true when we find ourselves outside our usual elements. As hardy pilgrims, at the end of a hard, lingering Minnesota winter, we landed in a place which surprised us with lush greens and the smell of old rains that kept gently falling throughout our visit. That unique biosphere enveloped us, full as it was of pheasants, sheep, and stags who roamed over the pastures and rolling hills.

Driving through hedges along narrow roads or hiking through the embrace of close hills, cliffs and sea, we felt the hand of the Creator close upon us. The imprint of humanity in the form of churches and homes and castles, showed signs of centuries-old struggles for power and livelihood, and yet the builders always seemed to nestle their structures alongside the features of the earth.

There is the grief of decay set clearly alongside the pride of belonging to an ancient past. What does this place do to a person over time? Read the poets and Esther de Waal to know. Ask the same question in any place, on any pilgrimage

Religious Tradition

Every notion of God is seated within a physical context. The greatest ethereal mysteries cannot be disconnected from the fact that they happen, that they become noticed in some particular place. When the created order yields its praise to God, these bird songs, these fauna and flora, these regional accents are employed to describe in their most bold and humble ways how people have encountered God here.

The religious imagination is infused with landscape and what is gathered over generations becomes part of the living tradition. The churches are built from local stones. The art and symbols and melodies emerge from the culture. The saints are mothers and fathers or brothers and sisters of these families and homes, models of faithfulness in this place.

The Christian tradition of Wales is beautifully woven from local threads which have always been, even if sometimes underappreciated, an indispensable part of the global tapestry. What do these people do to a person's sense of Church and faith? Look to the work of Donald Jackson, artistic director for The Saint John's Bible or the Rev. Chris Webb, author of *The Fire of the Word* and you recognize the Spirit of God moving powerfully. Ask the same question in any place, on any pilgrimage.

Be A Pilgrim

Wales helped our band of travelers stumble upon the secret of pilgrimage. God is present in every landscape and every unique and local dimension of one great religious tradition. We set out on a pilgrimage not to escape, but to return home changed.

We return better able to see our own landscapes with new eyes, to claim the freedom to express our same faith in fresh, neighborly ways. It is even possible that some pilgrims will come to Minneapolis-St. Paul to encounter God through the landscapes and traditions we might overlook through familiarity, but which appear anew each time we return. Now ask at home: What does this place do to me? How do these people shape my sense of Church and faith?

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More Reflections: Wales Pilgrimage

Monastery Librarian Sister Louise Inhofer and Finance Director Sandra Carlson were Wales pilgrimage participants. Said Sister Louise, "It was a privilege to be part of the Pilgrimage to Wales – a small country rich with natural beauty and ancient Cistercian (Benedictine) history. Visiting the Monasteries, some in ruins and some still in existence, was awe inspiring. I won't forget these days of prayer and wonder: I will relive the experience through the pictures in my scrapbook."

Sandra reflected, "This was an experience that far exceeded my expectations. Wonderful places to experience, great individuals to meet with and learn from, and upbeat and enthusiastic fellow pilgrims – everything about this pilgrimage was a delight, and I look forward to future Benedictine Center offerings."



To experience more about the Pilgrimage to Wales, join the travelers for a multi-sensory evening of stories and pictures on Wednesday evening, October 29. Register at www.stpaulsmonastery.org or 651-777-7251. Plan now to attend the June 5-6, 2015 Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of Bold Benedictine Women, exploring the history of St. Paul's Monastery.

Ministries' Corner

Benedictine Center

The Benedictine Center, in cooperation with CommonBond Communities, Tubman, and Maple Tree Childcare Center, was pleased to host the first one-night-only exhibit by young artists from the neighborhood. The theme was "Celebrating



Community Through Young Eyes" and invited submissions from grades K-12. Over sixty people joined the

Sisters for an informal reception and celebration. Mayor Nora Slawik was an honored guest. Beautiful colors, creative interpretations, and many rich personal connections made this event a moment to remember.

Maple Tree Monastery Childcare Center

The children who attend the Maple Tree Center have days filled with fun activities. During the summer, they take full advantage of the beautiful Monastery grounds. Bike Days are featured during the warm weather months.

In the photo at right, toddler Cal Carter is enjoying the Monastery grounds on his tricycle.

If you would like further information about Maple Tree



Monastery Childcare Center, please contact director Jennie Schlauch at 651-770-0766.

Oblates

During the Vigil of Pentecost on June 7, the Monastic Community of St. Paul's Monastery received the Final Oblation of (pictured below l-r) Tracy Hanson, Mary Miller, Terry Roessler, Lorraine Schwarzrock, Ann Siverling, David Hottinger, Joanne Paige, and Carl Ostling. In making the Act of Oblation, the new Oblates have become formally affiliated with St. Paul's Monastery and have promised to integrate into their lives, to the best of their ability, the ideals of the Gospel as embodied in the spirituality of St. Benedict.



As part of the commitment ceremony, the Sisters blessed and welcomed the Oblates into a relationship of mutual support and invited them to be strong voices calling for the transformation of the world. The Community expressed their affirmation with a prayer blessing. Following the ceremony, the Oblates and their families and friends joined the Sisters for a joyful celebration.

Some of the new Oblates shared what they seek and what they found along the way. Said new Oblate, Lorraine Schwarzrock, "I came to deepen my awareness of Spirit, to deepen my relationship with God. I was drawn to the Monastery by the incredible Love and Hospitality of the Sisters, by the Presence of God in this holy place. I learned to be still and listen with the ear of my heart."

"When I retired, I knew that my faith was a higher priority in my life than my life was reflecting," said Mary Miller. I am more at peace with my life and its choices, knowing that I have centered it where it should be. The Sisters' guidance has been unswerving in helping me to achieve this."

Ann Siverling shared that, "My spirit had been yearning for a long time to find a faith community of which I could be a part. Each time I came to St. Paul's, I felt more and more as if I were coming home and realized

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that I had found my faith community. The stability of my daily prayer, and knowing the Sisters are praying for me, keeps me at peace and brings such comfort and support. This is the rootedness, the Community of Faith, for which I longed.”

For more information about Oblates, contact Sister Mary Lou Dummer, Oblate Director, at 651-777-8181 or mldummer@stpaulsmonastery.org

Development

We are grateful for the thoughtful generosity of gifts for our community. Your contributions support the community, the implementation of the new Monastic Direction Statements, the ministries and the Healthcare Center. Last year, we asked for the final altar cloth for our chapel and we are pleased to share that our appeal was answered. This year's projects include a new digital camera, a char broiler for the kitchen, and blinds for the Chapel. In addition to the more traditional forms of contributions (cash, check, credit cards) St. Paul's Monastery also accepts donations of appreciated stock or securities.



Create a Legacy that Lasts Forever

For more than 60 years the Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery have planted seeds that grew into large trees: St. Mary's Hospital and Home in Winsted, St. Therese Home in New Hope, Archbishop Murray Memorial High School, the Benedictine Center, Ministry of Mothers Sharing, iLLUMINARE, and Maple Tree Childcare Center. You, too, can create a legacy that continues beyond your lifetime. All it takes is a little faith and membership in St. Paul's Monastery's Legacy Society. When you include St. Paul's Monastery in your will or estate planning, you become part of a legacy of good works that endure forever.

St. Paul's Monastery participates in Thrivent Choice®

Thrivent Choice®, the member-advised charitable grant program from Thrivent Financial®, has enrolled St. Paul's Monastery in its organizations eligible for

Thrivent Choice® grant funding. If you are an eligible member, please consider St. Paul's Monastery when directing your Choice Dollars®.

Designate your United Way Campaign Contributions to St. Paul's Monastery

If your company participates in a United Way Campaign, you may designate St. Paul's Monastery as the receiver of your personal contributions.

For further information on any these opportunities, please contact

Thekla Rura-Polley at 651-777-6850 or trura-polley@stpaulsmonastery.org

Sisters' Corner

Installation of Prioress Sister Paula Hagen

On Pentecost Sunday Sister Paula Hagen was installed as the 11th Prioress. Sisters, family and friends from across the country filled the chapel. At the end of the Eucharistic Celebration, Sister Paula blessed all of the celebrants and was blessed by her Community of Sisters and all present in return. Sister Paula's family had an opportunity to speak at the reception. They shared beautiful stories about growing up on their family farm in Bird Island, Minnesota. Pictured above are (l-r) Sister Paula, Federation of St. Benedict President Susan Hutchens, OSB, and outgoing Prioress, Sister Lucia Schwickerath.



Brief Updates



Sister Linda Soler (pictured at left during the August 6 Hill-Murray Tennis Court Dedication) joined Hill-Murray School campus ministry. **Sister Carol Rennie** is now a member of the CommonBond Communities Board of Directors.

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Sisters Reconnecting

After turning over Prioress duties to Sister Paula Hagen last June, **Sister Lucia Schwickerath**, with **Sister**



Marie Fujan, took time to visit dear friends At Benet Hill Monastery in Colorado Springs, Sister Lucia and Sister Marie re-connected with former St. Paul's Monastery members **Sister Katherine Wawersich** and **Sister Charlotte Redpath**. Sisters Lucia and Marie then traveled to Denver where they met with other former Community

members, **Angeline Hubert** and **Laura Roiger**.

Sister Sheila Long, recently appointed Superior of Transfiguration Monastery in Windsor, New York visited St. Paul's Monastery last June, and her visit presented a reunion opportunity with **Sister Rosemary Rader** (St. Paul's Monastery Prioress, 1984-92). Said Sister Sheila:

"Sister Rosemary and I talked about our meeting in Rome in 1991 when



I served as a bilingual translator for the Symposium of Benedictine Abbesses and Prioresses and Sister Rosemary was the keynote speaker. I was very touched by the warm hospitality of all the Sisters. I hope that at least some of them will come to Windsor and let us repay the favor."

2014 Monastic Institute

Benedictine Associates Linda Anderson and Mary Lou Kozmik attended the Monastic Institute at St. John's University School of Theology. The theme was Imagining the Future: Monastic Life in 2020. They were accompanied by Sister Sheila Long from Transfiguration Monastery and Sister Isaac Bae, OSB, a Missionary Benedictine Sister from Korea. The sessions emphasized the great need for monasticism in our world. Communication methods have changed radically, but the message that monastics can share is eternal: God's love and inspiration in each life.

Sister Monica's Personal Outreach

Every week, Sister Monica Raway boards a bus to Ramsey County Care Center to visit her sister Luella, who has spinal muscular atrophy. Sister Monica helps Luella with personal tasks, and the two sisters always include prayer in their visits.

Sister Monica also reaches out to her other sister JoAnn Kirch, in Arden Hills, who also suffers from spinal muscular atrophy. Pictured (above at right) in June – when all three sisters got together to celebrate JoAnn's birthday – are: (l-r) Luella Raway, Sister Monica, and JoAnn Kirch.



Founders' Day Celebration of Service

by Linda Anderson, Benedictine Associate

As part of St. Paul's Monastery Founders' Day Celebration of Service, volunteers gathered at the Monastery to work with the Sisters and staff on various service projects.

There were two working teams: team one had their choice of various Meals on Wheels

and letter writing projects while team two improved one of the garden beds.

At the end of the day, team one had written about 20 letters to overseas service personnel and finished a box full of Meals on Wheels placemats, greeting cards and



lunch bags. Team two weeded and installed 18 plants on Bernie's Path, directly west of the Benedictine Center.

The work begun by these two

service teams continues at the Monastery. Every Tuesday morning, Sisters in the Healthcare Unit work with a volunteer to create and decorate more greeting

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cards, placemats, and lunch bags with messages of hope, blessing and God's love for Meals on Wheels recipients.

On the morning of July 18th, another group of volunteers worked on other planting beds along Bernie's Path and also planted and weeded in the Grotto.

You are invited to come by the Monastery to see the outcome of their efforts. In the Grotto, you'll see a "materials-at-hand" support for a Lavender Mist Rue, which can get as tall as five feet!

A Family's Legacy: *Project Flo*

In June, Sister Lucia Schwickerath and Sister Linda Soler participated in *Project Flo* in New Hampton, Iowa. *Project Flo* started in 2012 after Sister Lucia's sister Florence (Flo) Thronson died unexpectedly



and Flo's children decided to honor their mother and her passion for volunteering by refurbishing a house for a family.

Since then, Flo's children, their spouses, grandchildren, other

relatives, and friends have made an annual convergence from all corners of the United States to dedicate a week to *Project Flo*. Paul Thronson explained, "Our mom was a big influence in our lives. She raised 15 kids so her life was spent serving other people."

According to youngest daughter Jennifer Knutson, "It's a lot of work, but it's also something much bigger than a construction project to us. It's an opportunity to spend time with our family (and this year Aunt Sister Lucia and friend Sister Linda). Everyone gets to come home and reconnect." (New Hampton, Chickasaw County Tribune: July 7, 2014).

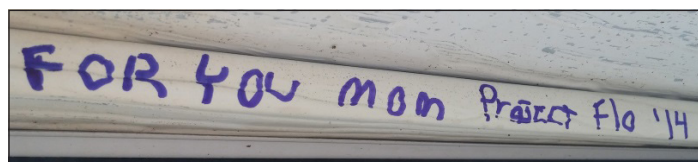
Sister Lucia was especially close to Flo. Sister Lucia grew up on a farm outside of town. In the winter, she stayed with Flo and Flo's husband Irv in town to get to school more easily. Being part of *Project Flo* this year brought back many



happy memories and allowed Sister Lucia to reconnect with her nieces and nephews and their families.

Irv and Flo emphasized love, work, gratitude, and charity. They lived frugally, shared their talents, reached out to those less fortunate, and taught their children life skills that were both basic and far reaching.

Irv was still alive during the first *Project Flo* week. He was blessed to see the life lessons and skills that he and Flo passed on to their children make a difference in the lives of others. Just like in their family growing up, he saw his and Flo's children use and share their talents and skills with one another and with the next generations.

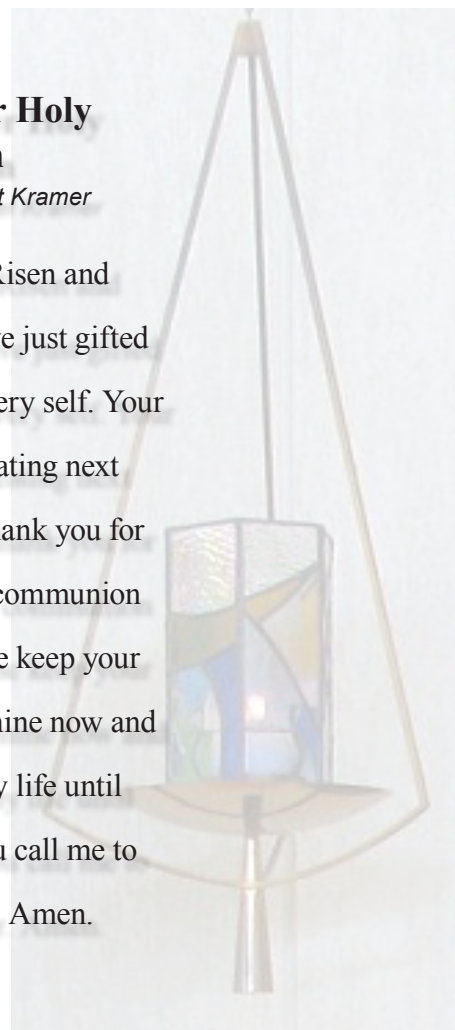


Find out more about *Project Flo* at www.thronson.com

Prayer After Holy Communion

by Sister Margaret Kramer

Loving Jesus, Risen and
Living, you have just gifted
me with your very self. Your
heart is now beating next
to my heart! Thank you for
this incredible communion
with you. Please keep your
heart close to mine now and
every day of my life until
the moment you call me to
see you forever. Amen.



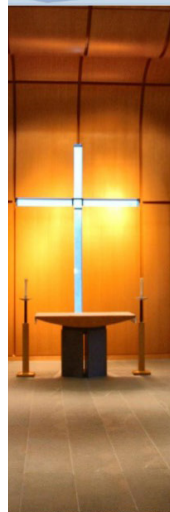


Saturday,
December 6th, 2014
4:00—7:00 p.m.



Christmas at the Monastery

Benedictine Bakery
Candy Shoppe
Wine Wall
Gift Card Wall
Live and Silent Auction
Live Entertainment
Christmas Ornaments
Fellowship



The Sisters of St. Benedict welcome all guests as Christ. Please join them to celebrate His birth.

For sponsorship or auction donations contact
Thekla Rura-Polley at 651-777-6850

Upcoming Dates of Note:

Oct. 3-5: School of Discernment,
Benedictine Center.

Oct. 9: Joe McHugh on Pope Francis.

Oct. 29: Sharing by England and Wales
pilgrims.

Nov. 13: Give to the Max Day.

Dec. 6: Christmas at the Monastery.

April 23, 2015: Prioress Dinner.

Ongoing Events:

Taizé Prayer every 3rd Friday, 7:00 p.m.

**Mass for our Relatives, Friends,
Oblates, and Benefactors
every 2nd Friday, 5:00 p.m.**

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

Did you recognize all of the Prioresses
on the cover of the Spring *Passages*?
Photos and names are at
www.stpaulsmonastery.org

If your address has changed or is incorrect,
please call or email us so we can correct it:
651-777-8181 or
development@stpaulsmonastery.org
Thank you!