



Passages

Volume 25/Issue 1 Spring 2014



*Rooted in History
Living in the Presence of God
Preparing for the Future.*



*If today you hear God's voice,
harden not your hearts.*

The Rule of St. Benedict, Prologue

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIORESS

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your friendship, your visits to the Monastery, your attendance at programs and special events, your volunteering, your donations and most of all your prayers during the last five years. This is my last public letter as Prioress. In April the Sisters elected Sister Paula Hagen as Prioress. You will find information about Sister Paula in this issue. After her installation, I will take time for a Sabbatical Retreat, to visit other monasteries and spend time with my family and friends. Please keep me in your prayers as I discern what I will do upon my return to St. Paul's Monastery.

This issue is titled "Rooted in History, Living in the Presence of God, Planning for the Future." As a community of Sisters, we draw strength from the history of Benedictines all over the world and especially from the inspiration of Benedicta Riepp and her companions. Moreover, the Prioresses and Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery who have gone before us still guide us. They have found their final resting place in our cemetery where we visit and pray with them. In this issue of Passages you will find information on planned enhancements to our cemetery, called the Sacred Ground Initiative.

We Sisters live in the presence of God, we pray for an open heart, trusting in God's plan for us. Our changing ministries are the result of listening to the Holy Spirit and responding to current needs. The impact of one such ministry, *Ministry of Mothers Sharing* is visible in Christine Jurisich's reflection.

In this issue you will also read how we Sisters prepare for the future. One recent sign of our hospitality and desire to share the Benedictine Charism is the new concept of Benedictine Associates, committed lay women who associate very closely with us and are involved in our life and ministries. Of course, there are also updates on the Sisters, photos of special events and invitations to spend time with us. Please stay in touch and welcome Sister Paula Hagen as 11th Prioress of St. Paul's Monastery. Our prayers are with you, Sister Paula, during your ministry as Prioress!

In Saints Benedict and Scholastica,



Sister Lucia Schwickerath, OSB
Prioress, St. Paul's Monastery

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Monastic Leadership and Editorial Board

Sister Lucia Schwickerath, OSB
Sister Linda Soler, OSB
Sister Mary Courteau, OSB
Sister Mary White, OSB

Editors

Thekla Rura-Polley
Ann Bechtell

Contributors

Mary Dickinson, Obl. OSB
Sister Paula Hagen, OSB
Sister Lois Hauwiler, OSB
Sister Laverne Hudalla, OSB
Christine Jurisich
Samuel Rahberg, Obl. OSB
Sister Linda Soler, OSB
Sister Mary White, OSB

Proofreader

Sister Jacqueline Leiter, OSB



ROOTED IN HISTORY

Celebrating Our 2014 Jubilarians

The three Sisters of St. Benedict celebrating Jubilarian anniversaries at St. Paul's Monastery are Sister Bertha Karels (70 years), Sister Monica Raway (60 years) and Sister Susan Bourauel (60 years).

Sister Bertha Karels said that "The beginning was the day I made first communion when I was 12 years old (in 1925). The Mass, the Eucharist, and the Liturgical Year were things I was drawn to. And when I was growing up, we got *Our Sunday Visitor* paper - I always read it from first to last page."

After graduation from Ortonville (Minnesota) High School, Sister Bertha was employed by various families to help with child care and housework.



"But I was always interested in the Church, and people could see that. Convent always meant St. Ben's (in St. Joseph, Minnesota) to me. So I wrote to St. Ben's and was invited to come and see for myself. In 1942, I went there to visit and after I got there, things progressed quickly." Sister Bertha made her final vows in July 1944.

In the last 70 years, Sister Bertha stated that the choice to become a Sister has blessed her in many ways. "It has allowed me to get closer to God. To be there for the different seasons and observations of the Liturgical Year, to share that with others, and help others on their Christian journey. As I served and worked with families throughout my life, it has been my honor to witness Christ to them."

This last February, Sister Bertha's younger (biological) sister, Sister Nathalie Karels passed on (see Page 5).

"As we were growing up, I sensed that she had an interest in the religious life, but she never said anything to me. She later told me that if I hadn't become a Sister, she wouldn't have chosen to take her vows three years after I did."

Sister Bertha, at 101, remains busy and continues her service "wherever and however I can." She is an active

member of the community who can often be found climbing up and down the stairs and participating with other Sisters in their prayer ministry.

Sister Monica Raway was born on her family's farm near Miesville, Minnesota, where she grew up with three other siblings and was baptized at St. Joseph's Church. When asked why she made the choice to become a nun, Sister Monica said, "I just felt that God was calling me to the religious life. There is a passage from the Gospel of St. John that spoke to me, 'Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you.'"

Sister Monica decided that she would join with either the St. Joseph or the Benedictine order. On a visit to



the St. Paul Cathedral, she talked with a priest who told her, "Why there's a Benedictine house just down the street!"

"I went right there to inquire. It was Christmas time, and I was invited to spend the weekend. I just felt so welcomed. So in September 1952, I entered the Priory on Summit Avenue. I just had a high school education, so my initial duties were mainly domestic, and I worked in the laundry and kitchen.

"I retired in 2009, and now I serve in the Monastery's prayer ministry. That is my vocation now, but I also have other interests and activities. I like reading, knitting and crocheting, telling riddles and jokes, and Lawrence Welk re-runs."

Continued on page 4

ROOTED IN HISTORY

2014 JUBILARIANS continued from page 3

Sister Susan Bourauel grew up with five sisters in Bruno, Saskatchewan. She became a Benedictine because “I liked the prayer life of the Benedictine Monks at (nearby) St. Peter’s Abbey. They were a down to earth, hardworking community. I admired how they lived, and the work they did such as their gardens, farming, and teaching.



“In 1951 or ‘52, I was in the Cities and heard about the new Monastery (on Summit Avenue). When I visited, there was such a hominess and hospitality about it. It seemed like a place where I’d feel at home.

“I’ve done many things over the last 60 years. My degrees and teaching experience are in music and education, and I was the Monastery Liturgist for many years. I love to keep busy and some of my

current tasks are hospitality for the Benedictine Center, organist, writing thank you notes, and Monastery Archivist. Oh yes, and I’m tapped for a lot of driving-related errands, too.”

Somehow, Sister Susan finds time for her hobbies, too, which include playing cards, knitting, reading, and following professional sports.

All of the Jubilarian Sisters grew up in rural areas. Perhaps, they said, it is easier to hear God’s voice in a pastoral setting. Sisters Bertha, Monica and Susan expressed overwhelming gratitude for their community, families, and friends for their steadfast love and support. When asked (separately), what advice they’d



give to women who may be considering a religious life, all three Sisters enthusiastically replied in effect: “I’d tell them to try it to find out if it’s right for them!”

In Memoriam

Sister Rose (Marcella) Lewis died December 31, 2013. She was 83 years old, having lived her monastic profession for 55 years. Born to Michael and Gertrude (Lamb) in St. Paul, Minnesota, she was second in a family of three, one boy and two girls. Receiving the sacraments of baptism and confirmation at St. Michael’s Church in St. Paul, she later graduated from Derham Hall High School. She entered St. Paul’s Priory in 1956.



After her first vows in 1958, Sister performed domestic service at the Minneapolis Catholic Boys’ Home and then kitchen work at Most Holy Trinity, followed by cooking at St. Mary’s Hospital and Home in Winsted, Minnesota. Her ministry also included housekeeping and cooking duties at St. William’s Convent, Maternity of Mary and Visitation churches. During this period she also taught Vacation Bible School in Lindstrom, Minnesota. In 1969 Sister Rose began working at Abbott-Northwestern Hospital as a central purchasing aide. Sister returned to St. Paul’s Priory in 1993.

Sister Rose enjoyed traveling to California to visit her sister, Dorthea, and from there would take many excursions. She loved playing 500 and liked to be the scorekeeper. Sister served faithfully at the reception desk at St. Paul’s Monastery. She was faithful to prayers and daily Eucharist, and shared her love of animals and nature with others.

Sister was preceded in death by her parents, her sister, and her brother. Sister is survived by her Benedictine Sisters, cousins Lucy and Jerry Gouitte, and many friends. We pray, after her dedicated life of service, she may be guided and received by the Morning Star into the realms of the blessed and greeted with great joy by her loved ones.

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.

Continued on page 5

ROOTED IN HISTORY

IN MEMORIAM continued from page 4



Sister Nathalie Karels, OSB, biological sister of Sister Bertha Karels, passed away at St. Peter Hospital in Olympia, Washington on February 12, 2014. Sister Nathalie was born in Rosen, Minnesota, to Anton and Catherine (Lambrecht) Karels. Sister Nathalie (formerly Cecilia Catherine)

joined St. Benedict's Convent in St. Joseph, and made her Monastic Profession July 11, 1947. She transferred to Tacoma, Washington in 1950. She completed her B.A. at Holy Names College and Teacher Certification at Fort Wright College. Sister Nathalie, a founding member of St. Placid Priory, served as a teacher at Holy Rosary, Visitation, St. Ann's, and Assumption schools. She was a gifted artist, and in recent years developed a gift for spinning wool. Sister retired to St. Placid in 1998, where she continued to serve, primarily as monastery librarian. A quiet person who spent hours before the Blessed Sacrament and praying the rosary, Sister greeted everyone with a radiant smile and frequently a pun. (*Tacoma News Tribune*)

Sacred Ground Initiative

The Sacred Ground Initiative is a new project of the Sisters. It refers to planned enhancements to the cemetery, the Labyrinth and the Fatima Grotto.

When Sisters pass on, they are buried in a grassy field near the woods on monastery grounds. In keeping with Benedictine values, the Sisters' final resting space is kept simple.

But the Sisters' final resting place is much more than a cemetery. It is an extension of life in community where Sisters visit, pray and seek guidance. It is a place for retreat guests to be inspired by the lives and works of the deceased Sisters, a piece of history of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and worthy of historic preservation. While retaining the simple, monastic nature and setting, the Sisters wish to make the grounds more accessible to aging

community members and more hospitable to visitors. Hard surface paths to the Grotto and on the north side of the gravesites are needed. Next to the cemetery, the Sisters envision a gathering plaza for services, with statue of St. Benedict. They also wish to honor the Sisters' legacy through appropriate signage and ways to alert visitors to the Labyrinth. You are invited to support the Sacred Ground Initiative with a donation (see Tribute Pavers on page 6 also).



**Prayer Meditation
from Psalms 22 and 61,
Proverbs Chapter 8**
By Sister Lois Hauwiller

God is my Shepherd. There is nothing that I shall want. God guides me along safe paths, no evil do I fear. God gives me comfort, goodness, and kindness. Happy is the one who obeys God. They will find life. God is my refuge, my strength, my courage; of whom should I be afraid? Only goodness and kindness shall follow me. My trust is in God. God is my helper. My hope is in God. In God alone is my soul at rest. God alone is my rock, my stronghold, my fortress. I stand firm.



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LIVING IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

My Spiritual Journey With the Sisters of St. Benedict

by Christine Jurisich
www.RetreatReflectRenew.org

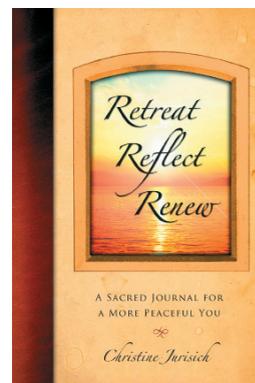


I'm sitting here at my desk about to write this article and all I can think is, "Never in a million years would I have pictured this moment: me, writing about a book I published last summer. Wow, what a difference the Sisters of St. Benedict have made in my life!"

More than ten years ago I experienced my spiritual awakening with the Ministry of Mothers Sharing. My journey with this ministry invited me to a different way of life as a Catholic, wife, mother, and former TV reporter.

About four years ago, after much discernment, I felt called to write a book. No one was more surprised than I to hear this calling! God's grace in the form of His people, sustained me through the ensuing years of doubts and questions. Every few months, Sister Paula Hagen sent me lifelines of just the perfect prayer for strength, a reflection on letting go, or a poem that I desperately needed!

I learned much about Benedictine spirituality from my time on the national leadership team of Ministry of Mothers Sharing, but I hungered for more. I spent weeks reading and praying with "Benedict's Rule: A Translation and Commentary." The words felt so right and important and relevant for our time to share that I just sat and read and allowed the words to seep into my soul however the Holy Spirit led.



After three long years of this humbling process, I finished the book that I am excited to share: *Retreat, Reflect, Renew: A Sacred Journal for A More Peaceful You*. I pray this book is the same welcoming, affirming and empowering experience of God's love and mercy that I experienced from the Sisters of St. Benedict.

The book invites people to walk through a process of slowing down, recognizing God's presence in the present moment, finding a more balanced life, and reflecting on their authentic self in order to develop a more intimate relationship with God.

Thank you, Sisters of St. Benedict for loving me and supporting me throughout this most difficult yet exciting birthing. Please keep me in your prayers as I share this critical message of living a more Christ-centered life in relationship and in prayer.

Sacred Ground Initiative: Tribute Pavers

The surface of the new gathering plaza will be made from brick pavers.

The Sisters hope that paver sponsors will honor the names of Sisters, Oblates, relatives, other friends and benefactors of St. Paul's Monastery, as well as special life events. Paver sponsorship supports the daily life of the Sisters and their ministries and is tax-deductible.

Two different paver sizes are available: Small with up to three lines; large with up to six lines. You may order online at www.brickrus.com/order/spm or call Thekla Rura-Polley at 651-777-6850.

Your donation supports all Sisters and their Ministries.



LIVING IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Christmas at the Monastery

Christmas at the Monastery drew hundreds of people to St. Paul's Monastery on a very cold day last December. The decorating team of Nancy Burns, David Fried, Karen McGahn, and Mary Ann Ryan spent many hours turning the monastery into a winter wonderland. Mary Ann said,



“We had a lot of fun together. Gluing tiny mirrors back to back with fishing line was a riot. I also remember the dozens of hydrangea blooms that I cut and dried in my garage. Nancy and I spray-painted them in her garden, making everything very colorful. And then they were way too dry, fell apart and couldn't be used. We were laughing so hard... I will definitely help again next year.”

Visitors especially enjoyed Sister Linda Soler's



auctioneering during the new, semi-live auction. She got everybody excited about the offerings and a few, spur-of-the-moment

items. Watching Auctioneer Sister Linda is a not-to-be-missed part of the 2014 Christmas at the Monastery, scheduled for December 6!

Prioress Dinner

On May 1st, almost 200 guests attended the 3rd annual Prioress Dinner. One highlight of the evening was honoring three special friends of the Monastery: Jim Bartol, Mary Dean and Marlene Yarusso.

Jim Bartol was chosen because of his dedication as volunteer baker. Rain or shine, sleet or snow, Jim comes every Tuesday morning to bake cookies for the Sisters and their guests. He also volunteers as the Benedictine Center IT specialist where he programmed and maintains the registration software.

The second honoree was Mary Dean. Mary has served on the Christmas at the Monastery, the Prioress Dinner and numerous other special event planning committees for many years. On a weekly basis, she assists with various community, ministerial and administrative

tasks. Many guests of the Monastery have bought an icon or other artwork at Christmas at the Monastery that was framed by Mary.

Marlene Yarusso (Sister LaVerne Hudalla's biological sister) has supported the Monastery for decades.

She helped with special events and the gift shop at the former

Monastery and continues

to help with Sisters' Jubilee

and other celebrations.

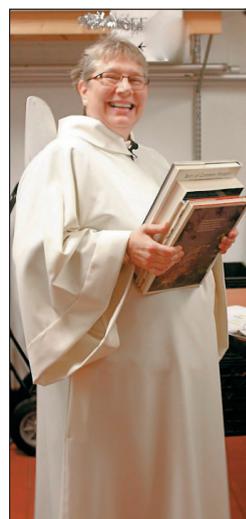
She helped with

with

downsizing the library prior to the move to Benet

Road. She's the proud grandmother of eleven, most of whom are alumni of Hill-Murray. During the Prioress

Dinner, Sister Lucia Schwickerath pointed out that the



Sisters especially like Marlene's homemade dill pickles.

Next, Sister Lucia gave us “The Inside Scoop” of life inside

the monastery. Sister Lucia

mentioned that all the Sisters love the new Monastery. They love the beautiful chapel. They love the

sunny dining room, and they love the library.

The library holds exactly 5,000

books, and for every new one the Sisters want to purchase, an old

book must be donated. At this

point Sister Linda Soler, acting

as Sister Lucia's Guardian Angel, interrupted, “That's why some of the Sisters have a Secret Mystery Library

up on 3rd floor. When our former librarian Sister Carole Sweely passed, they found hundreds of books in

her room.”

Sister Lucia also told a story about Christmas cookies:

“You know that many of us bake cookies for Christmas at the Monastery. One Sister especially likes to bake

cookies, but she doesn't always trust her Sisters and so hides them on top of the cupboards. Guess what: when

the Sisters did their spring cleaning last month, they found all the missing cookies still nicely displayed on

top of the cupboard.”

Sister Lucia introduced Sister Paula Hagen as the

LIVING IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PRIORESS DINNER continued from page 7



Prioress-elect. The public is invited to meet Sister Paula at the June 22nd Founders' Day Celebration of Service. Nancy Burns and David Fried gave moving testimony of the Sisters' effect on their lives. Nancy's first contact with Benedictines was her first grade teacher Sister Herman Joseph at St. Mary's

Catholic School in Stillwater. When she moved back to Minnesota, Sister Mary Lou Dummer helped her re-establish contact with Sister Herman Joseph who still remembered many tales of Nancy's first grade experience. Sister Mary Lou also persuaded Nancy to volunteer for the Monastery gift shop planning committee, and she served in that position until the



new Monastery was built. Nancy and David met during their Oblate formation in 2005 and married in 2008. David recalls, "On the last evening of the last meeting of our closing retreat, Nancy and I went

for a walk. We walked the old grounds for a while, passing the Labyrinth and the Cemetery.

When we returned, the front door was locked, as Sister Cathy had warned us. Sister Agnes answered the door, saying, 'I could have guessed it would be you two!'"

Prioress Dinner would not have been possible without those angels who helped at all stages and however they could. A special thank you to Vineeta Sawkar, Senior Video Host at www.startribune.com who served once again as MC and Amy Zortman who

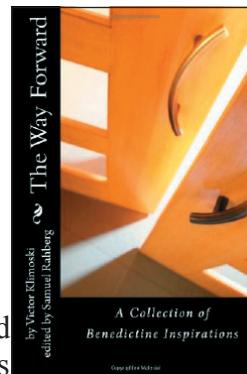


created all the beautiful flower arrangements.

Ministries' Corner

Benedictine Center

The Benedictine Center is pleased to announce the release of *The Way Forward: A Collection of Benedictine Inspirations* written by Victor Klimoski and edited by Samuel Rahberg. *The Way Forward* is a selection of Klimoski's writings and poems which have their roots sunk deep in monastic spirituality. Readers will encounter an invitation to move closer to a discerning life guided by the Gospel and practical monastic values. Available on Amazon.com, proceeds benefit the Benedictine Center and Saint John's Conversatio.



Leaning Into the Future: A Study of the Benedictine Center of St. Paul's Monastery

The March 2014 edition of *The American Benedictine Review* includes an article by Sam Rahberg, Director of the Benedictine Center, that summarizes research for the 30th anniversary of the retreat ministry. It reflects the ongoing commitment to understand both the dynamics and possibilities for the future of Benedictine retreat ministry. The article is available online at <https://db.tt/IcU81r4K>.

OBLATES

The Sisters congratulate Oblate and current St. Catherine's graduate theology student Judy Olmanson who received the 2014-15 Sr. Catherine Michaud Scholarship. Scholarship coordinator, Associate Professor William McDonough says, "Generous donors have made it possible for St. Catherine's to offer this scholarship to a talented and committed student each year. We are delighted that Judy is studying with us and equally delighted to award her this scholarship."



LIVING IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Maple Tree Childcare Center

Maple Tree Childcare Center welcomed Maplewood Mayor Nora Slawik for a visit on April 7. The Mayor came to help celebrate the national “Week of the Young Child.” Maple Tree Director, Jennie Schlauch, gave the mayor a tour of the center, which was started by the Sisters of St. Benedict. The Mayor’s visit kicked off a week of family and school activities. Though children are celebrated daily at Maple Tree, the Week of the Young Child is a featured highlight each year.



Sisters’ Corner



Blessing of Hill-Murray School Tennis Courts

When Hill-Murray School built tennis courts last fall, they asked the Sisters to

bless the ground. Sister Linda Soler lead the ritual and asked one young man to place a medal of St. Benedict and one young woman to place a medal of St. Scholastica in the ground. The Sisters pray that the Pioneers will win many sets on their new courts.



The dirt excavated to build the courts was used to build berms which are part of the Sacred Ground Initiative, described in more detail on Page 5.

Exercising Body, Spirit and Mind

Sister LaVerne Hudalla loves walking and biking. This past winter was so cold and the wind so strong that outdoor exercise was not advised. She came up with a brilliant



solution: most mornings she could be found biking or walking in the garage underneath the Monastery! Many Sisters participate regularly in Tai Chi and other classes.

NET Ministries Gala

On April 29th Sisters Mary White and Jacqueline Leiter attended the annual gala of NET Ministries.

NET Ministries challenges young Catholics to show their love of Christ and church by devoting nine months to travel



across the US sharing the Gospel with young people and their families. Since 1981, NET teams have led over 26,000 retreats and ministered to more than 1.6 million young Catholics. The Sisters were guests of Rosie Regan and Premier Banks. Sister Linda Soler has worked with NET Ministries in the Vocations Ministry in the past.

The Impact of Pornography on Children, Youth and Culture

Sister Mary White participates in the Anti Human Trafficking Working Group of the Justice Commission



of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet and Consociates. The group sponsored an event on May 7 to inform the public what children and teenagers currently see in the media, and how parents and the community can help them navigate traditional and social media. The speaker was Cordelia Anderson, a national educator on sexual violence prevention. Members of the Working Group also help and advocate

for victims of Human Trafficking, including talking with legislators at the Capitol.



PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

We have white smoke and announce Sister Paula Hagen as the 11th Prioress of St. Paul's Monastery

Electing a Prioress is the result of a discernment process of the entire community of Sisters. It focuses on bringing the community together in prayer, discerning the community's focus for the next five years, and listening to the Holy Spirit's call to serve.



Last December 15th, the Sisters entered into reflection and discussion facilitated by Joella Kidwell, OSB, to discuss what the Holy Spirit was calling them to be and do as servants to God's People for the next five years. The Sisters created direction statements on Community Life, Membership, and Ministry and Outreach.

The community committed itself to creating a prayerful, authentic Benedictine community where all are welcomed, respected and revered. In addition, the community will engage in a process that invites and provides for various forms of membership to keep the community vital and alive. The Benedictine Associates are one such new form (see Page 11).

The new Prioress is key in creating teams that make these statements come alive. Each Sister prayed for the wisdom to elect a fitting leader. They implored the Holy Spirit to guide them throughout this process and give them open hearts and minds to do God's will.

On the weekend of April 25-27 Sister Joella returned to lead the community through the final step of the election process. After two days of prayer and heartfelt



discussion Sister Paula Hagen was elected.

Sister Paula has a B.S. in Occupational Therapy from St. Catherine University and an M.A. in Family Systems from Colorado State University. She is nationally known for her women and families retreat ministry.

During her more than 50 years as a Benedictine Sister, Sister Paula has set up Occupational Therapy departments in various nursing homes, including St. Therese in New Hope. She has also worked as Family Therapist for Catholic Charities and as Family Ministry Consultant to parishes throughout the U.S. She co-founded and served as National Director for *Ministry of Mothers Sharing*.

On the Feast of Pentecost at the Eucharistic Celebration, Sister Susan Hutchens, President of the Federation St. Benedict — all Monasteries that trace their roots back to St. Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph — will install Sister Paula Hagen as the 11th Prioress of St. Paul's Monastery.

Sister Paula will be supported in her leadership role through the prayers of Federation Leaders, Community members, Oblates, Staff, family and friends. The motto of Sister Paula's Leadership is "If today you hear God's call, harden not your heart" (Prologue, Rule of St. Benedict). Please welcome Sister Paula and keep her and her leadership team in your prayers.

Discernment Reflections and Gratitude

by Sister LaVerne Hudalla

Benedictine monasteries have a treasured, community-based leadership election process. The process is coordinated by a Prioress Election Team, and thanks to their preparation and guidance, we Sisters were called to the process, had a clear idea of it, and were motivated to stay on track.

We were inspired by early presentations on discernment and leadership, which led us to a kind of reflection that opened our minds and hearts to the challenges our new Prioress will face and how our community can support her.

Our sincere thanks to the Prioress Election Team of Sisters Catherine Nehotte, Linda Soler (Chair), Sarah Voss, and Mary White.

Our deep gratitude also to the support of visiting Sisters: Meg Funk, OSB, Our Lady of Grace Monastery, Beech Grove, IN; Cecilia Dwyer, OSB, Prioress at St. Benedict Monastery, Bristow, VA; Joella Kidwell, OSB, Prioress of Immaculate Conception Monastery, Ferdinand, IN; Kerry O'Reilly, OSB, St. Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph, MN; and Federation President Susan Hutchens, OSB, St. Mary Monastery, Rock Island, IL.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Announcing: Benedictine Associates!

By Mary Dickinson, Oblate and Chair,
Committee for Benedictine Associates



You have seen them around St. Paul's Monastery: visiting Sisters, volunteering for special events, sharing their skills on committees, participating at chapel. Now Linda Anderson and Mary Lou Kozmik have been welcomed as the first Benedictine Associates at St. Paul's Monastery.

On March 21, during evening prayer on the Feast of Saint Benedict, Sister Lucia Schwickerath led a Ritual of Initiation to accept the two women as charter Associates. Sister Lucia asked "What do you seek?" to which each expressed a heart-felt request.

"As I become a Benedictine Associate, I seek a path of opportunity to know, love and serve God on my journey with this monastic community that welcomes all people as Christ. It is with gratitude and respect for all the Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery, that I ask for your blessing," responded Mary Lou Kozmik.

Linda Anderson responded "I seek God with this Community of Benedictine Women as a Benedictine Associate. May God and the Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery bless and support my journey."

After the Associates' responses, the Sisters signaled their approval by singing a blessing.

In 2011, the Sisters approved a Visioning Goal to invite others to monastic life: *St. Paul's Monastery will grow in numbers and flourish as a monastic community by supporting the spiritual and personal development of each member and by initiating new ways of inviting others to share in the Benedictine way of life.*

Thus, we bless our Associates as they embody the newest way to share the path with Saint Benedict.

New Faces at St. Paul's Monastery

Originally from Waterloo, Iowa, Director of Nursing LaShay Davidson got her nursing degree in 2006. LaShay wasn't job seeking, but the Monastery found her resume online. "It makes me feel that I am destined to be here. The welcoming and calm nature makes me feel invited and happy to be here."



Victoria FritzKapps (in photo below at right) has a B.A. in English Literature from Mt. Holyoke College; she has been cooking since childhood and professionally for 15 years and formerly owned her own restaurant. Feeding people is Victoria's passion, and cooking at St. Paul's Monastery is a joy for her.



Prior to becoming the newest staff member at St. Paul's Monastery, Tom Jacobson (in photo at left) gained experience as a cook and caterer for large social and corporate events. Tom served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2006-2009 and received medical retirement from injuries during his service in Iraq.

Development Assistant Ann Bechtell's degrees are in cultural anthropology and journalism, and she was formerly a University of Minnesota academic adviser. Ann discovered St. Paul's Monastery while commuting last year. "The web site said visitors are welcome, but even before I arrived, I could feel how welcoming and special a place St. Paul's Monastery is. About a year later, I'm working here. It was a calling and a leading, and I feel very blessed."

In addition to new staff, Thekla Rura-Polley, formerly Interim Director, is now Director of Development.

For information regarding the Benedictine Associate Program, please contact Sister Agnes Trombley, OSB, (651.777.8181; atrombley@stpaulsmonastery.org) or Mary Dickinson, Oblate (651.554.8448; mkdickinson@juno.com)



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Celebration of Service

- Plant a butterfly garden.
- Write letters to Armed Forces.
- Make placemats for Meals on Wheels.
- Pack meals for local food shelves ...
- Celebrate the new Prioress, Sister Paula Hagen.

Celebrate the founding of St. Paul's Monastery 66 years ago by joining the Sisters in a variety of service projects. **All ages welcome, bring your children, nieces, nephews, grandchildren.** We will start with a brief prayer and end with light refreshments.

**Sunday June 22, 2014
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

RSVP development@stpaulsmonastery.org or 651-777-8181 **by June 13.** For information visit www.stpaulsmonastery.org.

Bring a canned food or gently used book to share.

Upcoming Dates of Note:

June 13: Celebrating Community Through Young Eyes

June 22: Founders' Day Celebration of Service

July 11: Feast of St. Benedict

August 6: National Night Out

Nov. 13: Give to the Max Day

Dec. 6: Christmas at the Monastery, 4:00-7:00 p.m.

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.

Our annual Stewardship Report is available online at:
<http://tinyurl.com/SPM-Stewardship>

All guests welcomed as Christ

Rule of St. Benedict

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!