

Christ is Risen and Spring is Here!



April 2018



Celebrate Christ's Passion and Glorious Resurrection at Easter!

The Benedictine Community began the month of April celebrating Christ's Passion and glorious Resurrection at Easter with a house full of guests. Our chapel is still beautifully adorned with the Cross at the entrance and fragrant Easter flowers near the altar.

After a few old-fashioned Minnesota snowstorms, God provided us with a beautiful spring evening for the Prioress Dinner on April 12. Sister Lucia initiated this annual Prioress event eight years ago, and it has become a tradition to gather and celebrate with old and new friends that share our Benedictine heritage.

Guests were "welcomed as Christ" by Sister Linda Soler, and the Hill-Murray Student Service Group helped guests to find their places. Each table had a hostess and a delicious meal was served by Kane Catering. Sister Paula Hagen, Prioress, set the stage for an evening of thanksgiving and celebration of the 70th Anniversary of St. Paul's Monastery with the Wisdom Prayer that the Sisters and guests have been praying this year. Each guest was given a prayer card to join us.

The tradition of presenting the illuminated Rule of St. Benedict by Sister Mary Charles McGough, OSB, to persons who have passed on the Benedictine values to the next generation was the focus of





the program. Barb Rode, President and CEO of Saint Therese Foundation, was introduced by Sister Marie Fujan, Pastoral Minister at Saint Therese at Oxbow Lake in Brooklyn Park. Barb Rode gave a very inspiring talk on how their administration and staff have continued to respect each resident as Christ. She paid a tribute to the Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery who founded Saint Therese 50 years ago and the national contribution Saint Therese continues to make to ministry of health care of the elderly.

Our second award recipients were Don and Jean Regan who welcomed and supported the Sisters as they founded first Archbishop Murray High School 60 years ago by beginning to provide bus service to students, thanks to Sister Claire Lynch and a contract for services with Mr. Don Regan. This began a deep friendship between Don and Jean's family and our Benedictine Family. Don charmed the audience with his acceptance speech.

Five excellent speakers then gave testimony to the ministries that are provided by the Monastery. These ministries carry on the mission and legacy of the Sisters.

Sister Catherine Nehotte thanked the many hands and hearts who made this evening a great expression of recognition and thanksgiving to God for the blessings of 70 years of Benedictine living.

Sister Mary Lou Dummer, Director of the Oblate Program, closed the evening by leading us in traditional prayer, the Magnificat, originally prayed by the Blessed Virgin Mary in thanksgiving for God's Blessing.

Sister Paula Hagen, OSB

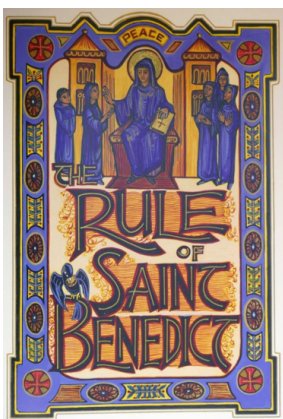
Prioress

Prioress Dinner Event Photos



Top left Honoree: Don Regan; top right: Travis Salisbury, Oblate; bottom right Honoree: Barbara Rode; bottom left: Mary Lou Kozmik, Mike Dickson and Sister Joan Utecht.

Prioress Dinner was a Great Benedictine Gathering



Wisdom 9:1-11

(Adapted from *Wisdom, The Good Life*
by Sister Irene Nowell, OSB)

Merciful God of our ancestors,
with a word you created all things.
In wisdom you made humankind
to care for your creatures
with holiness and an upright heart.

Give us Wisdom who sits by your throne;
with you is Wisdom;

she knows your works,
was there when you made the world.
She sees what you judge as best,
to teach us your will.

Her understanding is complete.
Guide us wisely through all
we are called to do and be,
and guard us with her clear light.

**Bless Us, O Lord, and these your gifts
through Christ, our Lord,
your Wisdom incarnate. Amen.**

We opened the evening celebration praying for Wisdom for ourselves, for our communities gathered, and our world leaders. Each guest received a copy of the above opening prayer for Wisdom to take home.



Holy Thursday

by Sister Mary Lou Dummer

The Monastic Community Celebrates the Triduum beginning with a Festive Meal. The liturgy for Holy Thursday is always celebrated in the evening, where we commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus with his apostles when he gave us the incredible gift of the Eucharist. Celebrating above are Sister Lucia Schwickerath, Sister Carol Rennie and Sister



DIRECTED RETREAT EXPERIENCE

Settle in for eight days of quiet and renewal, solitude within the rhythm of the monastic community. Each day you will meet one-on-one with a spiritual director who will accompany you wherever the Spirit leads. The remainder of the day you are welcome to join the Sisters for prayer, walk the labyrinth, take in the art exhibit, explore the resources in the library, or simply enjoy the privacy of your own room for prayer and rest. Questions are welcome if you are considering such an experience for the first time.

DATE & TIME DETAILS: Fri., Jun. 22 1p thru Fri., Jun. 29, 1p

PRICE: Single – \$450.00 includes single lodging, meals, and spiritual direction

CONTACT:

Guest Services

benedictinecenter@stpaulsmonastery.org

651.777.7251



Pedagogy of Peace

by Sister Jacqueline Leiter

Sister Jacqueline participated in an international symposium at Kylemore Abbey in Ireland, "The Pedagogy of Peace: Theory and Practice of Catholic Sisters in Migrant Education." In 1995, Saint Pope John Paul II spoke about migrants moving from the developing world to affluent societies. He spoke of the need for a "pedagogy of peace" in response to this. The conference included participants from six continents, including Sisters from many different religious congregations who work with migrant and immigrant communities and scholars.

Sister Jacqueline is a teacher working with English language learners, many of whom are recent immigrants and refugees. From this experience, she shared reflections on how work with her students and their families shapes and informs her life as a Benedictine and her understanding of the Rule. Here is a portion of the paper she presented:

"...While it has been my job to teach children to read, write, listen, and speak in English, my experience is that my students and their families have taught me much more. I have always loved the moment that usually comes in the springtime when my students begin to blossom and grow in confidence as readers and speakers of English. I haven't always been aware, however, of the quiet moments of *conversatio*- or transformation- within my own heart and soul that happen.

Conversatio is one of our Benedictine vows. Like all Christians, we seek

to be transformed in our lives and put on Christ. *Conversatio* is about our fidelity to the monastic way of life- trusting that the life and prayer we live in community will lead us to Christ. *Conversatio* is about always being ready to turn around and reorient our lives to Christ. It is life lived in journey to Christ. *Conversatio* is a very Lenten way of life .

Working with my immigrant and refugee students and learning from them has been one of the ways in which my own life has experienced and deepened my *conversatio*. I hope to tell you, through some stories about my students and their families, how they have helped me to live my life in community, seeking God and journeying together along the way of life. We have heard many stories in the short time we have been together. Here are some more.

Luis was a first grader in my class last year and he taught me about living a life of love. Luis was funny and had the biggest, kindest heart of any child I knew. He always wanted to help others and be friends with others – which sometimes got him into trouble when more sophisticated children encouraged him to copy their misbehavior and he didn't understand what he had done that was wrong. When this happened, he often told me a long and complicated story to explain his innocence, leaving out the parts about what he had done.

One day, I found Luis crying. Between tears, he was able to explain to me how much he missed his mama. Although Luis and his brother were born in the United States and were US citizens, his parents had come to this country without documents. The boys lived with their grandma and auntie because Mama and Papa were in Mexico, and were not allowed to come back to the United States. He missed them terribly.

Luis carried this deep pain, yet he also lived from a heart of love. He was the kindest child in the class, always ready to comfort a fellow student or stand by another in need and the first to offer help, sometimes when no one else stepped up to move.

Luis reminds me of Benedict's idea of an expanded heart, a heart that is living Christ's love. This is our goal as Christians. Luis's love reminds me of my own journey in Community as a Benedictine:

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." - Prologue, Rule of St. Benedict



We Would Love to Hear from You

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

If you have not seen our new website, we invite you to have a look! The address is still the same. If you would like to send a prayer request or concern via our website, you will find that request submission form on the Home page (www.stpaulsmonastery.org), just under the header "St. Paul's Monastery Community."



Book Review

by Sister Louise Inhofer, Librarian

New books!! 3 of several Christmas gifts. At first glance I thought, "Good! They're fiction and will be simple to catalog..." Not so! On checking more carefully, I discovered they are the memoirs of Susan Branch, a woman who led quite an interesting and diverse life, and also kept copious diaries.

First in the series is, The Fairy Tale Girl, her free and happy beginning

when she believed in the fairy tale of ‘happily ever after’ only to have that dream shattered.

The second, Martha's Vineyard, finds her living a contented life as a home owner where she meets Joe and they travel to England which is the subject of book #3, A Fine Romance. A Fine Romance, was written first but should really be read last, if you're like me and want to read series books in order.

These books are delightful, not only because of the story, but also because the books are hand-written and illustrated by the author. I loved them and I think you will, too.



In Memory of Fred Gorka

by Victoria Fritz

Fred Gorka, a St. Paul's Monastery volunteer baker for over 30 years, passed away in February. He will be missed very much by the kitchen staff, volunteers, Sisters and all who have enjoyed his baked treats over the years. Fred was always one of the first bakers in on Tuesday mornings and led the team of volunteers with calm gentleness and a good sense of fun and humor. We are so very thankful for Fred's many years of service and he is deeply missed.



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This is an opportunity to partner with a national company...AMAZON! Most everyone has placed a few orders for those hard to find items. Others use Amazon because it is easy to find "everything!" Go to smile.amazon.com and pick your donation; we hope you pick us! Type "St Paul's Monastery" in and in the future a pop-up window will appear reminding you to go through AmazonSmile to count your donation. Your account will appear as normal but you'll see "Supporting: St Paul's Monastery" right under the search bar. **0.5% of your purchase will come back to us every quarter. Last quarter we only made \$5.00 but we're hopeful to spread the word and get everyone connected to us designating us on AMAZONSmile! It makes you just want to SMILE!**



Saint Pius

by Sister Linda Soler

Sister Linda spoke to a group of youth on vocations at Saint Pius church in White Bear Lake, Minnesota on Wednesday, April 4. If your group or parish would like a vibrant speaker please contact her at 651-777-8181 x202 or lsoler@hill-murray.org.



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Wills & Estates

We are deeply honored by those friends and supporters who have made a planned or estate gift to the Monastery. Including the Monastery in your estate planning allows you to continue sharing in the work that the Monastery plans to do for generations to come: supporting and serving in our educational apostolates, pastoral ministry, social outreach and spiritual care. To help foster the mission of St. Paul's Monastery, planned gifts and annual contributions can be made for general needs or to a special fund. Possibilities include:

Vocations
Education
Hospitality
Benedictine Volunteer Corps
Pastoral Social Outreach
Spiritual Direction and Retreats
Health and Retirement

If you would like information on how to make a planned gift to the Monastery, please let us know. If you have already included the Monastery in your estate planning and have not yet informed us, let us know that as well so we can thank you now for including us in your planning. For more information, contact Annette Walker in the Mission Advancement Office, awalker@stpaulsmonastery.org or 651-777-6850.



Hill-Murray Distinguished Alumni Award

by Mary Elizabeth Ilg, Executive Assistant

On April 9, Sister Paula accepted the Benedictine Award at the Hill-Murray Distinguished Alumni Award Dinner on behalf of the Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery who founded the school 60 years ago. Award recipients are shown *left to right*: Pat Regan, Mary Hangge Regan, Kay Baker, Jim Rohlik, Sister Paula Hagen, Jim Morelli, Jan and Mike Johnson. *Below*: Sister Paula is pictured here with Jim Hansen, President of Hill-Murray as she received the Award.



American Indian Spirituality

by Mary Lou Kozmik, Benedictine Associate



Lawrence Martin, member of the Lac Court Oreilles Ojibwe tribe and Benedictine Oblate, delights his audience with a comparison of Native American spirituality and Benedictine values. He shares what is similar between the Benedictine Medal and the American Indian Medicine Wheel.

On April 19, the Benedicta Riepp room was filled with people interested in learning from Lawrence what American Indian spirituality and the Benedictine tradition have in common. Lawrence's personality shone through as he shared stories, letters, songs, family history and a wide knowledge of Native traditions. This event was sponsored by the Justice and Peace Committee.

Stories of Christian missionaries and Native American elders were highlighted. Among them, Lillian Pitawanakwat taught from both Native and Catholic traditions to be grateful to the Creator for "All life is spirit."

Central American monk, poet and leader Ernesto Cardenal and Thomas Merton were lifelong friends who wrote letters sharing their high regard for the Rule of Benedict, contemplative practices and interest in American Indian spirituality. Lawrence also played the flute while his wife, Claire, led the audience in singing "A Song For the Four Directions."



Maple Tree Childcare Center

by Jennie Schlauch, Director

The week of April 16th was National Week of the Young Child. Maple Tree Childcare Center designated Tuesday as Community Helper Day. In this picture, we have a volunteer officer visiting with the toddlers.



What are corporate team volunteer grants?

Team volunteer grants are corporate giving programs in which a company provides a monetary donation to nonprofits when a group of employees volunteer together.

Corporations offer these programs to promote team building and community service. These corporate grant programs have the potential to be a win-win for everyone involved. If your organization can design appealing opportunities for groups of corporate employees to come out

and volunteer, everyone wins!

- Your organization receives volunteer support from a group of individuals
- The group of employees has an enjoyable and rewarding team-building event
- The corporation gets to give back to the community
- Your organization receives a grant from the company

[read full article here](#)

[Check out this list of Minnesota Companies that match!](#)



Donate

Keep in Contact:

To connect with or
support Community
ministries, call
651-777-6850 or donate
securely online on the
[Monastery web site](#)



Did you know that St. Paul's Monastery will be celebrating our 70th Anniversary in

2018? The anniversary date is

June 22, 2018. Annette Walker, Mission Advancement Director, wants to hear from you! Please let Annette know if you have St. Paul's Monastery photos, memories and stories. In addition, if you or someone you know is interested in being on the event planning committee, please **contact Annette**

at awalker@stpaulsmonastery.org or **651-777-6850.**



Writers and Photographers Needed!

We'd love to hear from you on various events, movie/book reviews, Sister stories and more! Have a story you'd like to share? Maybe a

special event you'd like documented? We can put your time and talent to good use! The Monastery publishes a fall and spring magazine, a monthly e-newsletter and regularly posts to Social Media. Please prayerfully consider whether you or someone you know may be interested. **For more information, contact Ann at 651-209-9022 or abechtell@stpaulsmonastery.org**

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