



Passages

Volume 29/Issue 2 Fall 2018



70 Years: Gratitude for the Past, Embracing the Future



Greetings from the Prioress: *Gratitude for the Past, Embracing the Future*

"Look to the past with gratitude, live the present with passion, embrace the future with hope." – Pope Francis

Dear Friends,

This issue is dedicated to the rich history and future of St. Paul's Monastery. I invite you to enjoy exploring our future hopes and dreams.

As we look ahead, we know that evolution into the future, with the ensuing confusion it causes, is a fact of life that will continue—as it has for millennia. And, as Benedictines have for millennia, we at St. Paul's Monastery will continue to minister and attend to those things for which we have vowed our lives.

The rich tradition of Benedictine Spirituality and life style has great appeal today. It is a striking and necessary contrast to a noisy, chaotic culture of materialistic values. Our Benedictine Community is and will remain a haven of peace and spirituality for the next generation.

Along with our 70th anniversary, our Community celebrates another milestone in 2018: 35 years of service at our Benedictine Center. On page 9, you'll see some of the Benedictine Center's "Quick Facts," compiled by Oblate Nancy Cicero.

From our three founding members to those discovering our Community for the first time—such as Dr. Dave Wright (see article on p. 7)—all continue to be deeply enriched by the experience of finding a new face of God in prayer, silence, art, spiritual direction, retreat, and friendship.

St. Benedict and St. Scholastica live on into the 22nd Century in you.

United in that Spirit,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sister Paula Hagen".

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



Art exhibits at St. Paul's Monastery make accessible original works that convey the artists' spiritual journey, insights, and deep experience of life. At left: "Triumphant Leadership" by Lynette Black



Monastic Leadership Team

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Cover: "You Give Life to All Things and Make Them Holy" by Lisa Bierer, from the August 2018 exhibit "Formed in Vision, Inspired for Mission: The Living Legacy of the Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery"



Leaning on God's Infinite Wisdom

by Michael P. Kassner, OblSB

For the past seven decades the Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery

have successfully supported individuals and organizations throughout the greater Minneapolis and St. Paul area.

Not wanting to rest on their laurels, and with an eye to the future, the Sisters are heeding the Prophet Jeremiah: "Thus says the Lord: stand at the crossroads, look, and ask for ancient paths: where the good way lies, walk in it and find rest for your souls." (Jeremiah 6:16)

Prioress Sister Paula Hagen agrees, mentioning, "We are blessed to have resources at our disposal — ancient and modern. The *Rule of Benedict*, over 1500 years old, guides our discernment on future ministries and books like *Wisdom, The Good Life* by Sister Irene Nowell, OSB."

In her book, Nowell — highly regarded for her knowledge of Scripture and St. Benedict's *Rule* — first defines wisdom, and then explains what should be obvious but isn't: how to make wise decisions.

Subprioress Sister Mary Lou Dummer adds, "Sister Irene's way of employing wisdom is helpful in that it

brings St. Benedict's *Rule* into the 21st century."

When it comes to the final say on the community's ministries, the entire community gets involved. However, before that happens there is a great deal of behind-the-scenes activity. For example, the community's leadership council studies what has worked in the past, what ministries should continue, and what new ones need to be initiated.

They then report their findings to the entire community. One area under consideration, for instance, is how to

develop a culture that nurtures individuals, strengthens cooperation, and enhances the overall quality of life throughout the Monastic Community.

Anyone who has taken Dr. Kathleen Cahalan's discernment class at the Monastery's Benedictine Center understands that working through possible scenarios is a big part of decision-making, and that is exactly what the Sisters did during a spring Community Day.

Dr. Victor Klimoski, consultant, divided those attending into small groups and gave them the task of creating a scenario of St. Paul's Monastery 5-10 years in the future. The group scenarios were rounded up and presented to the entire Community during a subsequent Community Day.

And, let's not forget the most important part of discerning what the future might bring — prayer. In steadfast obedience to the *The Rule*, the Sisters pray the Divine Office several times a day.

These ancient texts connect the Sisters to others, past and present, who have struggled with uncertain futures, leaning on God's infinite wisdom to show them the way. In the words

of Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

Dr. Ann Glumac, strategic planning facilitator, complimented the group for being very articulate about the goals they wanted to accomplish. She added, as she turned the task of implementation to Dr. Klimoski, "There is no doubt in my mind that these goals will be accomplished. What a great group!"



Aerial view of campus shows the legacy of the Sisters' strategic planning (clockwise from top left): CommonBond Communities, Tubman (former Larpenteur Ave. Monastery), Hill-Murray School, Maple Tree Monastery Childcare, Benet Road Monastery

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Leaning on God's Infinite Wisdom

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Father Eric Hollas recently wrote in the St. John's University newsletter, *Monk's Chronicle*: "Who hasn't been dazzled by brilliantly-articulated, but largely-ignored mission statements?" Father Eric goes on to mention that grandiose plans leave people wondering where to start, whereas, "...done over time, with discipline and attention to detail, modest steps have the potential to transform an organization."

Their discipline and attention to detail is how the Sisters have succeeded in the past, and how the Community will continue to accomplish God's plans for them.

As to the sacredness of this particular discernment, no one should doubt the commitment of these Sisters who live and breathe by St. Benedict's *Rule*. The Sisters may walk more slowly, need the help of walkers, or be assisted in a wheelchair, but they still get to the chapel ready to pray. That same zeal applies to their outreach to others.

Strategic Planning or the Will of God?

by Victor Klimoski, Ph.D.

The Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery have long recognized the centrality of God's presence in their decision-making. At the same time, they bear witness to the power of one of their core values—stewardship. Stewardship involves a careful, thoughtful, and mission-guided use of resources.



Above (l-r): Sister Paula, Victor and Sister Mary Lou at the June 22nd Founders' Day 70th Anniversary

As good stewards, some of the important questions the Sisters ask themselves are: Do we invest our time and energy in this or that ministry? How will we use our buildings and property to serve the common good? These questions require strategic planning and decisions that embody where the Community, *as a community*, believes God is leading them. Good stewardship requires discernment.

Discernment is a theological practice that has been part of the warp and woof of this Community since its founding. Discernment is a process of honest conversation and deep listening. It begins and ends with prayerful acknowledgment of God's leading hand. It challenges people to stay in the conversation even when they most disagree, to speak the truth as they see it with love, to so open their hearts that they can change their minds, and to muster the courage when the way

forward becomes clear. Like so many words in our spiritual vocabulary, *discernment* can be trivialized or used without a notion of the discipline it requires. That is not the case at this Monastery.

For nearly twenty years, I have observed the Community engage discernment as a regular part of their life and have had the opportunity to facilitate some of their discussions. At times, I become frustrated at the pace and question the efficiency of what seemed endless discussion.

But the first rule is to give everyone a chance to speak, and the second rule is to hear truly what each has to say. A decision emerges in an organic way so that any plan of action reflects the mind and heart of the Sisters. The results are strategic because they are purposeful, targeted on advancing mission, and rooted in a conviction the community has attended to the will of God. The results speak for themselves.

As we Sisters and Catholics around the World celebrate the *Year of Wisdom*, we wished to share the following article with you from Sister Genevieve, a contemplative nun of the Abbey of St. Walburga in northern Colorado. More of Sister Genevieve's writings are at genglen.blogspot.com
—Prioress Sister Paula Hagen, OSB

Seat of Wisdom

by Sister Genevieve Glen, OSB



Mary, Throne of Wisdom (12th c.),
Saint John's Abbey, Collegeville MN.
Photo: Br. Alan Reed, OSB. Used
with permission.

*"Mary, seat of wisdom,
pray for us."* —from the
Litany of Loreto

Near the back of Saint John's Abbey Church in Collegeville (Minnesota), a small Marian chapel houses a 12th-Century wood carving of Mother and Child, the "Throne of Wisdom." Mary sits on a chair. On her knees, the Child, a miniature adult rather than a baby, sits with right hand upraised in blessing and left hand clasped around a book.

Both figures, regally dressed, wear expressions of profound serenity. One has the impression that in their stillness, everything has been known, everything said, everything accepted.

Mary as the *sedes sapientiae*, a Latin title translated as "throne of wisdom" or "seat of wisdom," appears often in medieval iconography at a time when Christian imagery, both poetic and visual, often drew inspiration from court life. Mary as the seat of wisdom is a majestic figure who enthrones the Christ, called by St. Paul "the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Cor 1:24). She is often clearly seated on a throne herself. Her child is the adult Christ who has triumphed over sin and death by dying on the cross and rising victorious. The statue is a victory hymn in wood.

As a statue, a painting, or a line in the Litany of Loreto, the "seat of wisdom" offers comfort, hope, and strength at times when the defeated forces of sin and death seem to rise up again to threaten present peace. But at such times, I find that

I turn not to the image of Mother and Son enthroned in majesty but to a different image of the seat of wisdom: the image of Mother seated beneath the cross, her dead Son in her lap, commonly known as the *Pietà*.



Michelangelo's depiction of the scene, carved in marble and displayed in Saint Peter's Basilica, is perhaps the best known and most beloved of many pietàs. Here too serenity prevails, but it is the serenity not of triumphant majesty but of human experience known to its darkest depths but accepted with the patient perseverance of love. The Son, tortured and murdered by the worst distortion evil could wreak through human beings, is not merely dead but has "descended into hell," into the darkest place human beings have gone and learned our worst horrors. He bears the scars still, but he is undefeated and undestroyed. He seems to be sleeping after his ordeal, but we know somehow that from that marble stillness he will return for us, as he promised.

The *Pietà* assures us we will never be alone and unaided even in our grimmest moments. The Mother has understood, supported, and accompanied her son into the depths, spiritually though not physically. She too wears the peace of one who has refused nothing, not even her son's death and descent into hell. And she, like us, cannot claim the protection of divinity we sometimes imagine he hid behind, though Philippians 2:5-11 assures us that he did not. He too refused nothing of the human condition, except sin.

In biblical literature, wisdom teaches us how to live fully but faithfully within the boundaries of mortal life. So when the waters of chaos rise around me and the dark waters of self-interest—mine or someone else's—threaten to pull me down into lightless shadows, it is to the *Pietà* that I turn and pray, "Seat of Wisdom, pray for us."

"Seat of Wisdom," from *Give Us This Day*, www.giveusthisday.org (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2017), October 2017. Used with permission.

Pedagogy of Peace: *Lessons from Children on the Margins*

by Sister Jacqueline Leiter, OSB

As an ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher with many immigrant and refugee students, I was invited to participate in the symposium “Pedagogy of Peace: Theory and Practice of Catholic Sisters in Migrant Education,” held last spring at Kylemore Abbey in Ireland. Participants came from six continents and included scholars and Sisters who work with immigrant communities. We focused primarily on two questions: How do the charism and values of religious communities shape our work in migrant education? How does ministry with immigrants shape our understanding of charism and values?

I was asked to present a reflection on the second question, that is, on how my students and their families shape and inform my monastic life and understanding of *The Rule* and Benedictine values. Here I share one part of that presentation.

Conversatio

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

Working with and learning from my immigrant and refugee students has deepened my *conversatio*. My students have helped me to live my life in community, seeking God and journeying together along the way of life.

One student who was my teacher was “Beto,” a Spanish speaking first grader. Beto had a big heart and always wanted to help others and be friends with his classmates. This sometimes got him into trouble when more sophisticated children encouraged him to copy their misbehavior. When this happened, he often told me a long, complicated story to explain his innocence, leaving out the parts that implicated him. He never blamed anyone else.

One day, I found Beto sitting on the floor and crying. Between tears, he told me about how much he missed his mamá and papá. Although Beto and his brother were born in the United States and were citizens, his parents had come to this country without documents. The boys lived with their grandmother in Minnesota because his parents were deported to Mexico and not allowed to return to the United States.

Beto carried this deep pain every day, yet he somehow redeemed his suffering and lived from a heart of love. Though grieving the his parents’ absence, for reasons incomprehensible to him, he did not live out of anger, self-pity, or sadness. Instead, Beto was the kindest child in the class. He exemplifies Benedict’s idea of an expanded heart, a heart that is living Christ’s love.

Beto’s love reminds me of our own journey in community as Christians and as Benedictines: “*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.*”

This journey towards living with a loving heart is essentially our *conversatio*.



Sister Jacqueline (1st row, 3rd from right) at Kylemore Abbey

A Lutheran Discovers the Wisdom of St. Paul's Monastery

by Dave Wright, DVM

I have always felt that the way to improve is to surround myself with experts. Perhaps that is why I accepted an invitation to visit St. Paul's Monastery. After studying their publications and website, I could tell that the Sisters of St. Benedict are experts in wisdom with an insight to a deeper spiritual life. According to Prioress Sister Paula Hagen, their goal is "to seek a good life and wisdom for the ages."

When I arrived for my visit, I was struck by the quiet peacefulness of the Monastery which offered a distinct contrast to the chaos of everyday life and political strife that swirls just outside its doors. Midday Praise was just about to begin, and I was welcomed into the Chapel. A gentle wave of wood-grained ceiling hovered above the Sisters, who gathered before a sunlit cross to begin our holy meditation.

After lunch, I admired a variety of religious art that adorned the walls and greeted Sisters who I met. Many were navigating walkers so I might have easily confused St. Paul's with a retirement center—but I don't believe "retirement" is in the Sisters' vocabulary.

Ninety-three year old Sister Marie Rademacher invited me to her room, held my hand throughout our conversation, and explained how St. Benedict's rule of "ongoing conversion" has influenced her life. Sister Marie was an elementary school educator for 49 years but then, when most of us would have spent our days Googling golf courses, she transitioned into 16 years of pastoral care at St. Therese in New Hope—and she's not done yet! When I left the room, she returned to her reading and correspondence.

As a senior-age, liberal Lutheran, I admit to a healthy skepticism of human authority. "Absolute obedience" is one rule of St. Benedict that is somewhat disconcerting to me. Although I understand that Christians seek to submit to *God's* will in order to experience the full joy of our

relationship with Christ, I was inspired by how the Sisters have learned to respect authority coming from *others* who might interpret God's will differently. They practice prayer-filled "collaborative obedience" in selecting their leaders and "dialogue obedience" in discerning an individual's role in monastic life. They have discovered the wisdom of Spirit-led consensus.

The Sisters of St. Benedict celebrate a rich legacy of ministry and accomplishment including the Maple Tree Monastery Childcare Center, Hill-Murray School, the Harriet Tubman Center East, CommonBond affordable housing communities, and many others. They are giants

of the earth who now face the daunting challenge of recruiting women willing to take over their service to the next generation.

One response has been to open their doors to new and growing types of membership: Benedictine Associates are "Catholic single women seeking God with the support of the monastic community while engaging in the ministries of St. Paul's Monastery" and Oblates are married or single Christian

men and women "who pledge their lives to God, prayerfully support the Benedictine Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery, and incorporate Benedictine practices into their daily lives." Now I understand why a Lutheran friend of mine became a Benedictine Oblate. She explained, "The local Lutheran Church is my church home but my spiritual center is the Monastery."

In their 70th year of ministry, I discovered the Sisters of St. Benedict of St. Paul's Monastery. As I reflect on this Community's countless hours of service and acts of kindness over the years, I dearly hope that their service and my contact with them continue for years to come.



Dave and Sister Marie Rademacher

Dr. Dave Wright is the owner of Wright Veterinary Services in Buffalo, Minnesota. An active member of Zion Lutheran Church, Dave has volunteered internationally with Christian Veterinary Mission. Dave and wife Sue have two sons and four grandchildren.

Oblates

My name is Patricia Roberts originally from Arequipa, Perú. From 1993 to 1999, I was the Benedictine Center Director and lived with the Sisters on the 5th floor of the Larpenleur Avenue Monastery. Here is a poem that transmits the essence of how it was for me to spend my days in *ora et labora*.

Peace in the Monastery

by Patricia Roberts, OblSB

Peace within my four white walls with large window overlooking the grounds.
Peace at lauds, peace at noon, peace at vespers.
Rocking peace of cloistered sisters chanting the divine office in the dark.
Peace at dawn, waking up at five.
Peace before prayers with a cup of strong coffee writing in bed.
Peace sitting at my desk.
Peace walking up the spire stairs built by a Russian architect.
Peace going through the lunch line not having had to cook.
Peace slowly savoring leftovers.
Peace skipping down the long cloister walk to the black Madonna.
Peace breathing the crisp air on an autumn day going to my car
Peace dancing *tai ji* on the grounds to the gentle rhythm of falling leaves.
Peace in the red maple tree twirling in the wind.
Peace in the already naked cottonwood standing still.
Peace as night comes and work slows down.
Peace going back to chapel to share the bread and wine of community.
Peace once more singing praises to the Holy One.
Peace as I melt inside silk pajamas and dream of holidays in Greece.
Peace in the oblivion of sleep.
Peace, shanti, shalom, salam, pax, pace, paz, aman, om ...

In 1999, before retiring to the Canary Islands, I made my profession as a Benedictine Oblate. During formation, Novice Master Sister Carol Rennie sent my class into the Monastery grounds to reflect on the vow of stability, and this was my reflection:

Where is Home?

In the yellow dandelions
and speckled butterflies.
In the sky without a cloud
and the winding path outside.
In the chapel, in my room,
on the road.
In community and alone
while studying and praying.
In the dance and in stillness.

Stability is definitely in my heart, and in the center where we are all one.

Greetings and

congratulations to

Sister Paula, Sister Mary Lou, Sister Virginia, and all the Sisters on their 70th anniversary of faithfulness in St. Paul. It was a blessing that I found my way to you; it changed my life.

In gratitude and much love. —Patricia Roberts



Patricia's 6th book, *Prelude (Carpe Diem Publishers)* will be released this fall.

It is eighteen years since I left St. Paul's Monastery, but I live there still as it is my spiritual home of choice. The Sisters' ministries continue in my ministries of spiritual direction, *Lectio Divina*, centering prayer, and *Tai Ji* in Arequipa, Peru—the place where I was born and where I have returned.

Maple Tree Childcare Center

by Jennie Schlauch,
Program Director

We daily seek to impart wisdom to the children in our care. Often, we are blessed with gems of wisdom that they share with us. Last Father's Day, for example, the children made booklets that "tell all" about their daddies. One child drew a picture of his dad doing his favorite activity of fishing. He also drew a detailed picture of his dad doing his least favorite activity of scooping the kitty litter! They keep us chuckling, that is for sure.

It is our joy to interact with youngsters who are 6 weeks through 5 years of age. They form close bonds with their teachers and their peers. A parent recently sent me a picture of her daughter and her best friend at their Maple Tree graduation 13 years ago along with a current photo of the girls in their high school graduation gowns. What a blessing!

The children love to interact with seniors. Last May, the preschoolers sang for seniors at



CommonBond Century Trails and for the Sisters at the Monastery Healthcare Center. These outings serve

as both highlights of our social calendar and the opportunity for the children to learn the wisdom in being kind to and serving others!

We are thankful for the support of the Sisters and their wisdom in being future-thinking and arranging for Maple Tree to launch a new, functional website. Over the past school year, we worked with Evolve Systems to create a bright, interesting, and helpful site which will provide important information for new and current client families. Please visit us at: mapletreechildcare.com

Thank you and have a great fall.



Sharing the Treasure of Retreat Ministry

by Samuel Rahberg, OblSB and Benedictine Center Director

Some say that the Benedictine Center of St. Paul's Monastery is one of the best kept secrets on the East Side of St. Paul. To help celebrate 35 years of the Sisters' retreat ministry, Oblate Nancy Cicero compiled a list of 35 historic and current facts so we can all share a treasure never meant to be hidden. Here is an excerpt of Nancy's findings.

Benedictine Center Quick Facts (in reverse order)

35. The Benedictine Center (BC) embodies the values of the Monastic Community by:

- Extending radical hospitality;
- Practicing the art of prayer;
- Modeling the formative power of community;
- Deepening the habit of study;
- Discerning the call to service as disciples of Christ;
- Expressing God's presence in beauty.

34. 2009: The BC moved with the Sisters to the Benet Road Monastery, downsizing their housing and conference room capacities by half.

33. Guided by the *Rule of St. Benedict*, the BC forms a "School for the Lord's Service" to guide people through prayer, study and discernment to develop a contemplative heart open to the message of the Gospel and the discovery of God's presence at the core of their lives.

32. 1978: Sister Veronica Novotny, already contemplating the challenges and the vision needed to minister in the year 2000, recommended spiritual direction for its benefits to the Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery and to the wider community.

31. Circa 1980: The Sisters established a committee to explore the possibility of a spirituality center so that: "By 1983, we, the Sisters of St. Paul's Priory, will formulate a plan to organize ourselves as a center of prayer, worship, and spirituality available to the larger community."

30. 1983: The BC was founded, bringing Sisters and spiritual seekers together around the *Rule of St. Benedict*. (See Nancy's entire list at: www.benedictinecenter.org/35-quick-facts)

This October, our anniversary celebration culminates with three events that focus on food and spirituality, and we hope to see you at these or another Benedictine Center event this year!

October 19, 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.: *Of the Garden: Serving and Reflecting at Farm and Food Shelf*

October 19, 5:30–7:45 p.m.: *Taste and See that the Lord is Good: A Celebration of Food and Community*

October 19-21, Friday 5:30 p.m.–Sunday 1:00 p.m.: *Com-Panions: Do This in Remembrance of Me* with Duke Divinity School Theologian Dr. Norman Wirzba and Monastery Chef Victoria Fritz



Sister Veronica Novotny

A Home Away From Home

by Karen Fleming

It's funny how wherever you might go, you feel welcomed or ignored. If ignored, you turn around and walk the opposite way. At least, that's what I do. People are human and have their preferences as to whom they approve of or not.

It's not like that at the Benedictine Community of St. Paul's Monastery. The first time I walked through their doors, I was welcomed by one of my dear Sisters, Sister Mary Claire, with whom I have maintained a friendship ever since.

From this first, happy meeting, I have enjoyed many friendships with the Sisters.

How did these friendships evolve? Well, the Sisters have a working order of things called Benedictine Spirituality. It consists of love, kindness, respect, commitment, prayer, patience, hospitality, and acceptance to all they meet. If only the world could see them as a role model. I try, believe me, I try. But I am learning and growing in this wonderful home away from home. What a gift I have been given.

Thank You, Sisters!



Karen Fleming (at right above) with one of her St. Paul's Monastery friends, Sister Margaret Kramer



70 Years in the Lord's Service: *Gratitude for the Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery*

by Annette Walker, Mission Advancement Director

The heritage of Benedictine women in America began in 1852 when three Sisters left St. Walburga Abbey in Eichstatt, Bavaria to establish St. Joseph's Convent in St. Mary's, Pennsylvania. Their calling was to educate the children of German immigrants in the area.

In 1857, as the Pennsylvania community grew, three Sisters journeyed to St. Joseph, Minnesota to establish the first Benedictine women's community in the Upper Midwest: St. Benedict's Monastery. St. Benedict's flourished and developed into the world's largest Benedictine women's community. From their foundation, ten other Benedictine women's communities were established.

Founded in 1948 by 178 Sisters from St. Benedict's, St. Paul's Monastery is one of those communities. Over the last 70 years, the Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery have been a part of many other foundations. A present-day foundation of theirs is Hill-Murray School in Maplewood. Some would call them Pioneers, which happens to be the name of the Hill-Murray student population.

The foresight and wisdom of the founders is an inspiration. As they look down upon their work, we pray they pronounce: "It is good!"



Sisters with Archbishop Hebda at the Founders' Day 70th Anniversary Mass at Hill-Murray School on June 22, 2018

The pioneering spirit of the St. Paul's Monastery Community continues to live and share the *Rule of St. Benedict*. They continue to be of service however they can in the communities around the Archdiocese. They face their future with courage, conviction and the deep faith of the early, pioneering Benedictine Sisters who came to America. What awaits is to strategically advance our Membership ministry, according to God's plan, and so that in all things God may be glorified.



70 Years in the School for the Lord's Service

In commemoration, the St. Paul's Monastery Community celebrated at several events this summer.

June 22nd: Founders' Day 70th Anniversary began with Mass, led by Archbishop Bernard Hebda, at Hill-Murray School. The Monastery open house followed with food beautifully prepared by the Monastery kitchen staff and Bridgeman's ice cream (a big hit!), compliments of the Oricchio family. In the Community Room, guests enjoyed a video about "Life at the Monastery" and viewed historic Community memorabilia.

July 8: Community and family members enjoyed a day at the original 301 Summit Avenue Priory in St. Paul.



Above: 1) Community Members at 301 Summit on July 8; 2) June 22nd Founders' Day Monastery guests enjoying ice cream

Below: Founders' Day "Life at the Monastery" video and OSB habit (circa 1960) and Reception bride's dress displays



Right: Sister Catherine Schoenecker (left) and Sister Susan Bourauel prepare the coif (neck draping) for the habit display



Above: Mass at Hill-Murray School (HMS), Archbishop Hebda and HMS Chaplain Father Kevin Manthey

Right: the Archbishop greets Prioress Sister Paula Hagen

Below: the Archbishop and Sisters (l-r) Marie Fujan, Marie Rademacher, Rosella, and Duane enjoy a visit



You Are the Gift

We are deeply grateful to our supporters who have committed to a planned gift to the Community. This type of gift allows you to share in the work that the Monastery Community plans for generations to come: Membership, educational apostolate support and service, pastoral ministry, social outreach, spiritual care. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience or contact **Annette Walker** at awalker@stpaulsmonastery.org or **651-777-6850**.



Prayer Requests

The Benedictine Community of St. Paul's Monastery thanks God daily for you, for your friendship, and for the opportunity to be of service.

The Community's prayer ministry is available to you anytime. You can reach out online as follows: On the www.stpaulsmonastery.org home page, scan down to "REQUEST A PRAYER." You can also mail your confidential prayer requests to the address above, c/o Sisters of St. Benedict.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. —1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NKJV)

the Sisters of St. Benedict of St. Paul's Monastery
Gratefully Celebrating 70 Years in 2018



Celebrate in Community
Christmas
at the Monastery
Saturday, Dec. 8
4:00-7:00 p.m.



**To donate or
be an event
sponsor,
call Annette:
651.777.6850**

Please Help Us...

- If you prefer an electronic newsletter, please email Annette at: awalker@stpaulsmonastery.org
- If your address has changed or is incorrect, please call **651-777-6850** to let Annette know

Thank you!

Upcoming Dates of Note:

November 15: *Give to the Max*

December 8: *Christmas at the Monastery*

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

Benedictine Center Highlights:

September 18: *Attentive Companions: Spiritual Direction and the Journey with God*

October 19: *Of the Garden: A Day of Service and Reflection at a Farm and a Food Shelf*

October 19–21: *Com-panions: Do This in Remembrance of Me*

October 19: *Taste and See that the Lord is Good: A Celebration of Food and Community*

For further information on Benedictine Center events, visit www.benedictinecenter.org