



ST. PAUL'S MONASTERY

E-NEWSLETTER

March 2021



The *Rule of St. Benedict* makes reference to the observance of Lent in Chapter 49. This chapter begins instructing the monastic that our life is to be a continuous Lent throughout the year. St. Benedict expects the monastic to curtail from too much food, idle talk (oops, I am in trouble here), and any other distraction that would be on the peripheral of preparing for the Holy Season of Easter. St. Benedict also expects joy during Lent, the joy of devoting more time for private prayer and doing charity work that can help us prepare for the coming Easter joy.

On the Feast of St. Scholastica, I celebrated 30 years of my monastic profession. It wasn't until I reflected on those 30 years that I realized how the year 2020 was my most real and true experience of living Lent throughout the year. As we all know, the year 2020 was anything but ordinary with the many challenges of COVID-19 on multiple levels. Do you feel the year 2020 brought many to a deeper prayer life and a rich generosity to those who were less fortunate? Even though we did adjust to more silence/pause in our life, there was a new meaning to the sacrifices in our form of human contact, routine and daily living—which was quietly and not so quietly heartbreaking. The continuous Lent in the year 2020 was to see the good that comes out of our sacrifices and creates a glittering sea of hope. That is where God is.

Ministry just isn't the same, and for me personally there was a grieving in that process. My contact with the students, my living situation, family, and Community gatherings were not the same. However, I did experience joy for the generosity of others in way I have not experienced before. I believe we will be stronger than we can imagine, because only positive can happen from here.

“But you, O LORD, are a shield around me, my glory, and the one who lifts up my head.” Psalms 3:3 (NRSVCE)

I don't know about you; but I feel we are in need of a Hallmark movie in action, and 2021 is already offering those warm transitions to a joy during Lent. The responsibility is ours whether we see that gift or not. History speaks truth, and we have made our future stronger and more promising for our youth, just as our ancestors did for us. We are all standing together. Like Jesus, St. Benedict and St. Scholastica turned to the psalms from the Jewish traditions, we too turn to psalms as the daily prayers within the Monastery. May you share the Easter joy, so that in all things God may be glorified.



Sister Linda Soler, OSB

February 10, 2021 marked the 12th Feast of St. Scholastica that the Sisters of St. Benedict of St. Paul's Monastery celebrated in their Benet Road monastery home.

In 1992, long before our 2009 moving day, our Community began the discernment process. Monastery Leadership member, Sister Mary White shared, "As a Monastic Community we continually discern our real needs. This led us to years of discernment, which then led to the sale of much of our land and our Larpenteur Avenue Monastery." Sister Catherine



Nehotte adds, "When I think back on the planning required, I am aware of the time that we took to discern the best ideas for a new Monastery from each Sister. If a Sister was not directly involved with the planning, she was asked to serve as a praying Sister. These ideas came together to create the Monastery that we have called 'home' for the past twelve years."

Many Sisters agree with these two remarks. The Monastery has become home over the past twelve years. Sister Sharon Schiller recalls, "Our discernment went on for years. I remember so many different meetings and Community gatherings. We even met at the Maplewood City Hall. We looked at the practicalities—what was possible according to experts—and what we dreamed of and prayed for. It resulted in our wonderful home on Benet Road." Sister Karen Sames called the discernment process "one of the best community builders we could have done."

The actual move on February 10 that year was a rainy day. Sister Linda Soler recalls, "The biggest challenge, of course, was moving our artwork in the rain." Another challenge was coordinating all the Sisters and who moved when. Then Prioress, Sister Carol Rennie, stayed at the Larpenteur

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Meet our 2021 St. Scholastica Honoree, Margaret Barrett

by Mission Advancement

February 10 was the Feast Day of St. Scholastica. It is also the day that St. Paul's Monastery honors its St. Scholastica honoree. This year's honor was awarded to Mrs. Margaret Barrett. Margaret came to the Monastery on the Feast Day and in a socially distanced, live-streamed ceremony spoke about her time as a volunteer at St. Paul's Monastery and her 40 years of teaching at Saint Bernard's High School in St. Paul. She also sat down for an interview after the ceremony to talk about her experiences at the Monastery.

In regard to Saint Bernard's, Margaret says, "Two years turned into forty...I did buy an interview suit, so I could go out into the public schools and interview...and I thought, 'What's crazy about this? Why am I giving up a place that is welcoming and loving?' So I never did leave." Margaret first came to know some of the Sisters of St. Benedict of St. Paul's Monastery from her time at Saint Bernard's, including Sister Monica Raway, Sister Mary Joanne Lusk, and Sister Linda Soler. We are so glad you "never did leave," Margaret!



Top Left: Margaret receives the framed icon of St. Scholastica.
Top Right: Sister Linda poses with Margaret.
Bottom Left: Sisters Catherine and Linda listen to Margaret as she thanks the community for the honor.
Bottom Right: The Community gathers from a distance to thank Margaret.

As a volunteer at St. Paul's Monastery, Margaret has served for over a decade, helping out wherever she can, including the annual Prioress Dinner and the Christmas at the Monastery events. Most recently, she has served as the volunteer coordinator. This means that she welcomes any new volunteer at the Monastery. In the past, she would meet every new volunteer in person and get to know them. With the current pandemic she is doing her work from a distance and remarks that she misses interacting with everyone. She comments, "I would meet every single one of them [volunteers] and talk to them for a few minutes. I would get to know everybody; I miss that." *Continued on next page.*

Meet our 2021 St. Scholastica Honoree, Margaret Barrett (continued)

by Mission Advancement

Margaret also reminisced about what makes volunteering at St. Paul's Monastery special as she remembered a time when her husband was sick. Many of the Sisters reached out and offered "a place for" Margaret at the Monastery for her own recovery and silent time. She recalls that everyone was so "open, welcoming, and loving" through that time in her life and throughout the years.

For the future, Margaret dreams of when her entire family can be together again as it has been almost a year since they were all together. For now, she is very appreciative of seeing her family from a distance. She also includes the Sisters of St. Benedict in her family as she adds the following remarks about receiving the St. Scholastica honor, "I truly appreciate this and I truly do think of this as my second home. I feel so welcome here. I love it. Thank you so much for this honor."

The History of the West Suburban Benedictines Study Group

by Mary Kealy-Falk, ObISB



There was once a group of Benedictine Oblates of St. Paul's Monastery who asked a basic question when starting a study group on the *Rule of St. Benedict*. What should we use as our study guide? After discussing the many great books that have been written about the *Rule*, we made our selection. If we were going to study the *Rule of St.*

Benedict, we would use the *Rule of St. Benedict* as our study guide.

So began the journey in February 2012 of the West Suburban Benedictines Study Group. The group was the idea and inspiration of Sister Eleanor Wartman, with the assistance of Oblate Mary Kealy-Falk. Sister Eleanor saw the need to have a study group for Oblates of St. Paul's Monastery who lived in the western suburban areas of the Twin Cities to have a place for them to meet and study together. She sent an invitation to all the Oblates living in that area to an introductory dinner and discussion about participating in a study group on the *Rule of St. Benedict*.

There were many questions about how and what would be studied. [Read more.](#)

Oblates



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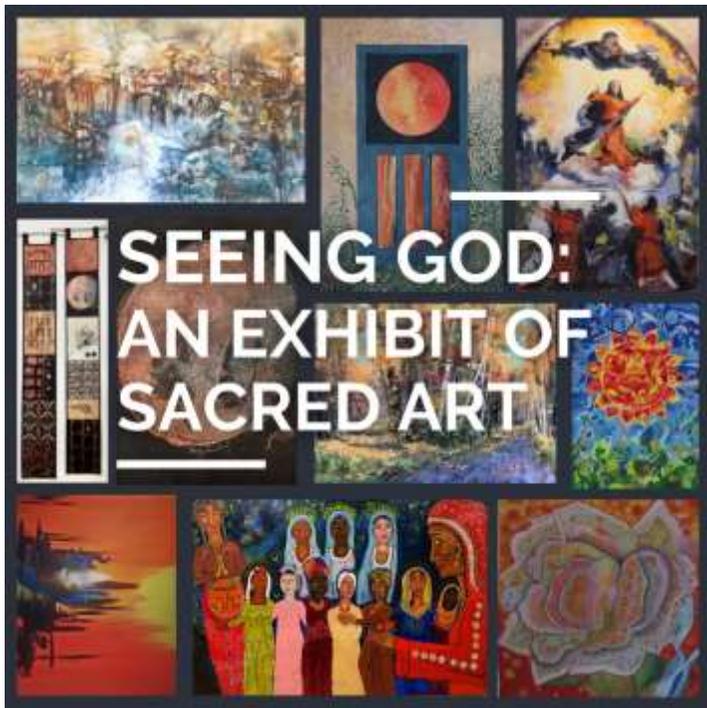
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Seeing God: An Exhibit of Sacred Art

by the Benedictine Center



Seeing God: An Exhibit of Sacred Art is virtual for 2021. To continue this important, long-standing exhibit, we moved it online this year. While the Gallery at St. Paul's Monastery is not physically open to hang this exhibit, we are displaying the art virtually. The artists' work speaks to the following questions: How are you Seeing God during this unprecedented time? Where are you Seeing God? Through the artwork they are sharing, the artists now invite the viewer to consider the viewer's challenges and blessings and the viewer's experience. During this pause in the Benedictine Center programming, this exhibit will provide a much-needed source of inspiration to those who would otherwise come to the Monastery. Entries will continue to be posted online throughout March on the [Benedictine Center blog](#).

Spiritual Direction

by the Benedictine Center

The Benedictine Center will be taking the opportunity during our current program pause to simplify and focus on the original founding purpose of the Benedictine Center—spiritual direction. In 2021, Benedictine Center spiritual directors will continue to virtually companion those seeking guidance on the path.

Interested in Spiritual Direction or a Directed Retreat?

Spiritual direction offers a non-judgmental environment for honest sharing about spiritual matters and an improved sense of how God is working in everyday lives. At this time, Benedictine Center spiritual directors are available to meet via phone or via Zoom or Skype. Benedictine Center Spiritual Directors are also willing to work with you to set up a virtual directed retreat (meeting daily for a series of days). Email info@benedictinecenter.org for a free initial consultation or [learn more](#).



Saint Leoba's Invitation

by Sister Jacqueline Leiter, OSB



Leoba was born around the year 710 in the British Isles. Her middle-aged parents had long given up hope of having a child. One night, Ebbe, her mother, had a dream in which she held a great church bell, ringing joyfully. When the parents were blessed with a daughter, they understood the dream to mean that she was to be consecrated to God. The child named *Leoba*, “greatly loved,” was born for a greater purpose beyond her homeland.

Leoba's invitation: Remember that you are greatly loved, and your life has a greater purpose.

Leoba entered Wimborne Abbey, and her early monastic life included prayer, work, and study. She corresponded with her cousin Boniface, who was working to spread the Gospel in Germany. One night, Leoba had a dream in which a purple thread came forth from her mouth, and she pulled and pulled on it and gathered it into a ball. Upon awaking, Leoba sought the counsel of a wise older nun, who interpreted the dream for her. The dream signified the life of service and contemplation, that Leoba was to lead, loving God and serving others through wise teaching and example. The purple thread was the wisdom that she would speak forth.

Leoba's invitation: What is the wisdom you are called to speak?

Boniface eventually wrote to Tetta, Abbess of Wimborne, asking for help with the missionary work in Germany. Tetta sent Leoba and a group of thirty nuns to answer the call. They left their comfortable home, families, culture, and everything they knew for Germany, which was then something of a wilderness. Showing the love of Christ by caring for the local people, Leoba and her community developed schools and hospitals. The example of Leoba's wise teaching and love for Christ, which they recognized in the love she had for them, impressed upon the local people, who turned to her for counsel and encouragement. Through patience, compassion, wisdom, and the work of Leoba and other missionaries, the Gospel spread. May we too serve as Leoba did, remembering that our lives and words may make Christ's love known in ways that we could never have imagined on our own.

Leoba's invitation: How are you called to love God and serve others? How do you show the love of Christ for the world?

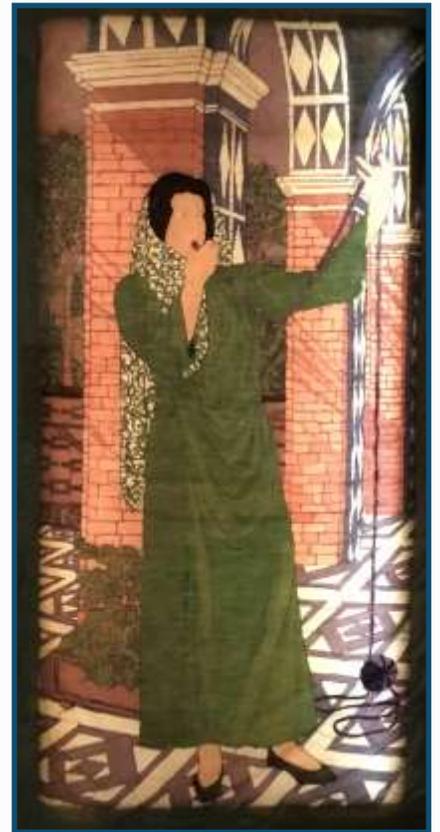


Photo of Leoba from the Batik on display at St. Paul's Monastery. Designed and crafted by Judith Goetemann. Gift of Sister Lucy Keller's Family, 1990.

Maple Tree Childcare Updates

by Jennie Schlauch, Maple Tree Monastery Childcare Center



Little Elena (left) just moved from the toddler room into the preschool room. In this picture, she is praying before eating lunch. Even though she is tiny, she is learning about Christianity as she attends Maple Tree. It is our joy and privilege to lead these precious children.



Winter at Maple Tree Monastery Childcare Center brings adventures with snow. From making snow angels to sledding on our beautiful grounds, we find joy even on a chilly day. Above: Frankie on sled; Left: Bea and Rory in the snow.

Maple Tree Childcare Center is selling Butter Braids as a fundraiser. Many enjoy ordering Butter Braids as a special treat for Easter! We are taking orders now and they will be delivered in plenty of time for the holiday. Please place your order at 651-770-0766 by Friday, March 12 (check may be written out to Maple Tree) and they will be ready for pick-up on Wednesday, March 31. [Click here](#) to view the order sheet. If you have questions, please contact mapletrecccc@gmail.com or 651-770-0766.



Maple Tree Monastery Childcare Center has a full-time opening to be offered in February or March 2021. The Center is located on the St. Paul's Monastery campus in Maplewood, Minnesota, near the intersection of Larpenteur and Century avenues.

Maple Tree is a non-profit organization committed to excellence in early childhood education, offering faith-based programming, set on five beautiful acres of land. Both staffing and clientele retention is excellent.

Based upon education level and qualifications as an aide, assistant teacher, or teacher, pay is from \$13-\$19 per hour. This position also offers the following benefits: life insurance, disability insurance, paid vacation, medical and dental plans. Please contact Jennie or Sara for further information at 651-770-0766 or mapletrecccc@gmail.com

Sisters' Words of Wisdom: Sister Lois Hauwiler

by Mission Advancement

Born on March 25, 1936, Sister Lois remembered that “Mother said I came early, and I am glad, as I arrived on the Feast of the Annunciation, and Mary is very precious to me.” Sister Lois, christened Lois Louise Ann Hauwiler in the St. Bonifacius Parish in Minnesota, was welcomed to the family of Francis and Catherine Hauwiler, as their second oldest child.

Formal education began at St. Victoria Parish school (in Victoria, Minnesota), which was staffed by Benedictine Sisters from St. Benedict’s Monastery in St. Joseph. “In seventh grade, Sisters from St. Paul’s Priory became our teachers. As a freshman and sophomore, I attended Waconia High School, and one of my sophomore-year friends said she was going to become a nun. Right then, I said ‘I’m going to, too.’ Must have been the Holy Spirit. My mother told me years later that was the happiest day of her life.

“After sophomore year at Waconia, I finished my high school education at Visitation Convent School in St. Paul. Father (Gerald) O’Keefe taught Theology, but all my other teachers were from St. Paul’s Priory. After our

novice reception in 1954, I began Novitiate training on June 14, for one year and a day and then made first profession on July 11, 1955.

“My ministry and service was always to meet the practical needs of a Parish or other religious facility. I primarily worked in kitchens, laundries, and general housekeeping. From 1964-65, I worked with my Community members Sisters Monica Raway, Adella Winkelman and Aidan Barthel for Archbishop Leo Binz. I finally came home to live with my Community at our Benet Road Monastery in 2010, the year after it was completed. After I came to Benet Road, I continued helping with household chores and was also on our Monastery’s Liturgy Committee.



1954: High school graduation



14 May 1944: Lois Louise Ann’s first communion with father Francis and mother Catherine Hauwiler

“My Community, friends and family have helped me along the way my entire life. I have had many difficulties and health crises to overcome. That is why I love the verse from Matthew: ‘with God all things are possible’ (Matthew 19:26b, NRSCVE). “As we Sisters continue to shelter in place, we still see our friends and family from a distance (and phone calls work well). They are so precious to us! So, though this quarantine forces us to physically distance, we have never been closer spiritually and in our love for one another.

“My letter writing has increased, too. If you haven’t been a person who corresponds, I encourage you to try it. It is a meaningful gift and keepsake to get a card or letter from a loved one.

“To everyone reading this, especially those feeling down and discouraged or who have suffered traumatic loss as a result of this pandemic, I encourage you to turn to your earthly and heavenly support systems. And if you do not have either of these, there is help to be found—you are not alone! I pray that as you reach out, you will feel the firm grasp of another hand. And may our loving God bless you today.” [Read more.](#)

“With God
all things
are possible.”

Until We Meet Again

by Ann Bechtell, Mission Advancement Staff



The end of this month marks a milestone for me: I am retiring from regular employment. Usually we just say “I’m retired” or “I’m retiring.” However, I prefer to think of this as a transition.

Let me start at the beginning. In spring 2013, I had a part-time job that required me to undertake a 16-mile commute East on I-94 from St. Paul to Woodbury at 4:00 p.m. Have you ever made that rush hour commute pre-COVID-19? I think it must be one of the worst in the Twin Cities. Since I really like exploring and gravitate toward “the road less traveled,” I started taking back roads.

I live two blocks South of Larpenteur Avenue near highway 280. Because of the disruption of Lake Phalen, I usually didn’t continue on Larpenteur. But one day, I did; which, of course, brought me to Century Avenue, and I noticed a large bell tower to the North. I thought “I have to find out what that is.” Very easily (starting with Google maps), I found out that the bell tower belonged to St. Paul’s Monastery, and clicked the link.

My eyebrows went up a notch when I read that St. Paul’s Monastery was open seven days a week and welcomes visitors during regular daytime hours. (Side note: I happen to be a Lutheran. I didn’t know that Catholic vowed religious communities were even open to, much less, welcoming to nonmembers!) Since they were offering, I made a point to leave early enough on my next commute to stop and visit. I remember vividly walking into the Monastery on a bright, warm spring day. It was cool and quiet inside, and I felt it: the sense of peace and welcome. It washed over me.

Fast forward to spring 2014, when I was job hunting. I checked the Archdiocese website, saw my position posted, I applied, etc., and that’s why I have been a Mission Advancement Assistant at St. Paul’s Monastery since March 2014!

I wrote the following lines in the spring 2018 Monastery newsletter, *Passages*, and it continues to be how I feel: “St. Paul’s Monastery exists because of the Sisters of St. Benedict. When I arrive at this beautiful place and during my workday, I know that everywhere I walk and whatever I do, it is because of the years of prayer, selfless hard work and service of the Sisters of St. Benedict of St. Paul’s Monastery.”

For the past seven years and the remainder of my life, I am honored and blessed to have become a part of this community. And I’m sure you join with me to say, to all of the Sisters who have passed on and to all who live and serve at St. Paul’s Monastery today: *Thank you and God bless you for building something so good, for all the good that you’ve done and do, and for teaching, reminding and showing us the meaning of loving service to others. Until we meet again; especially until we can meet face-to-face again, dear Sisters!*



Deep peace of the running waves to you.

Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the smiling stars to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of the watching shepherds to you.

Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.

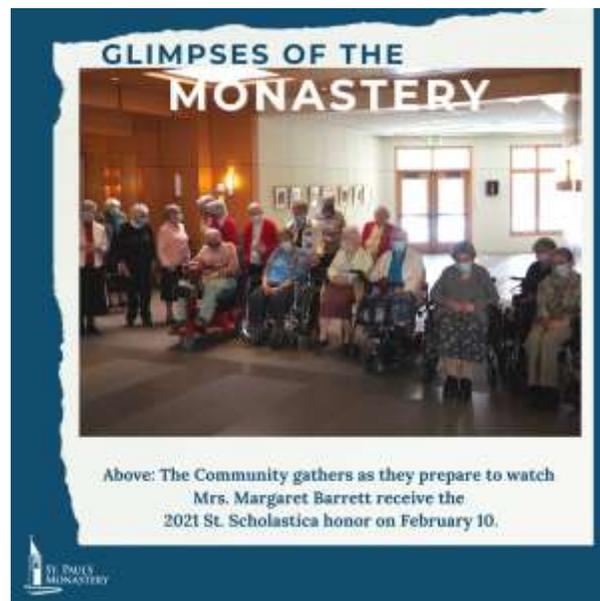
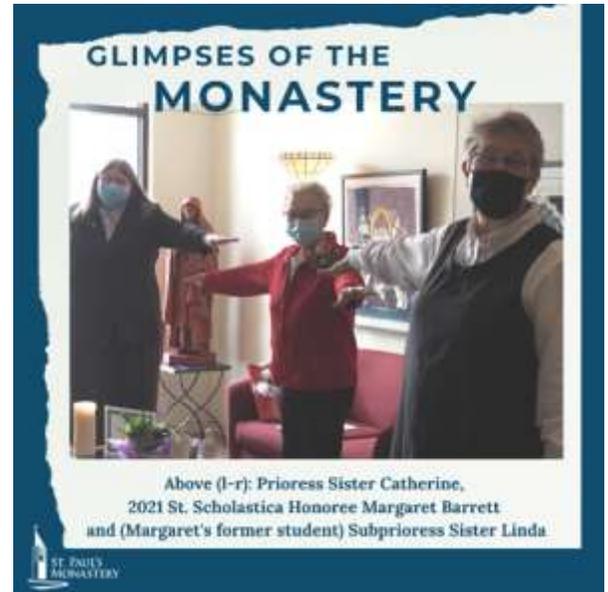
- An old Gaelic Prayer

Around the Monastery

by Mission Advancement

There was a lot of activity around the Monastery in February, most of it around the Feast Day of St. Scholastica.

Right: The Monastery's 2021 St. Scholastica honoree Mrs. Margaret Barrett (center in picture) enjoyed seeing the Community from a distance on the February 10 Feast of St. Scholastica. Pictured with Margaret is (at left) Prioress Sister Catherine Nehotte and Sub-prioress Sister Linda Soler.



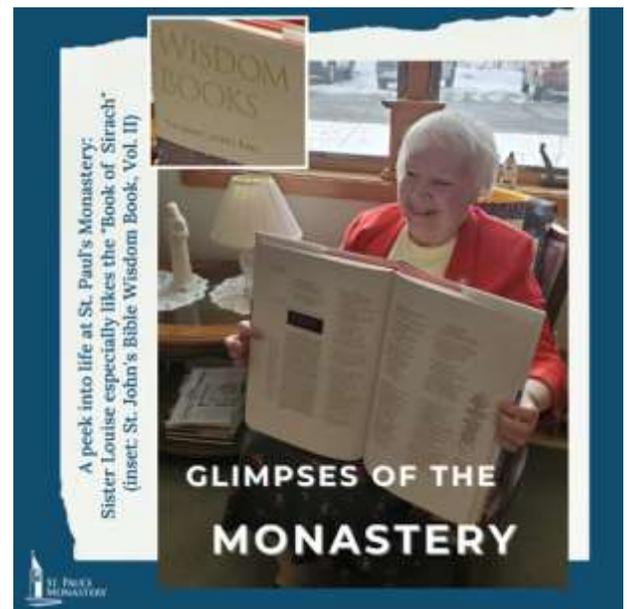
Left: The rest of the Community

is lined up in front of the Chapel entrance as they prepare to watch the ceremony honoring Margaret. They and Margaret were able to greet one another. Everyone present was so touched and happy for Margaret. It means so much to her, and we all got to hear and experience her gratitude.

To read more about Margaret, [see pages 3-4](#) and her reflections on many years as a volunteer at St. Paul's Monastery. Our [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages also have a

copy of the livestream ceremony from February 10.

Right: Sister Louise Inhofer, the Monastery Librarian, has some reading recommendations. Pictured is Sister Louise with the St. John's Bible Wisdom Book, Vol. II. Sister Louise especially recommends the "Book of Sirach" chapter. "These very wise authors can help us develop our own wisdom. Wisdom is an antidote for fear. So often, Sirach refers to us as 'my children,' such as 'Listen to me, my faithful children.' It always catches my attention and speaks to my heart (and I do listen). I also recommend the book *Sisters* by John Fialka. It is "The first major history of the pivotal role played by nuns in the building of American society" (from the book jacket).



God Bless Our Home (continued from page 2)

by Mission Advancement

Monastery to coordinate the move while then Sub-prioress, Catherine Schoenecker, welcomed the sisters and coordinated the movers at the Benet Road Monastery. Sister Catherine adds, "It went smoothly but took a bit longer than expected."

The Sisters shared many happy memories from the past twelve years. One common theme was the chapel. "We asked our architect Mark Mednikov and artist Michael Pilla to incorporate feminine spirituality in the design of our chapel," Sister Mary

Lou Dummer explained.

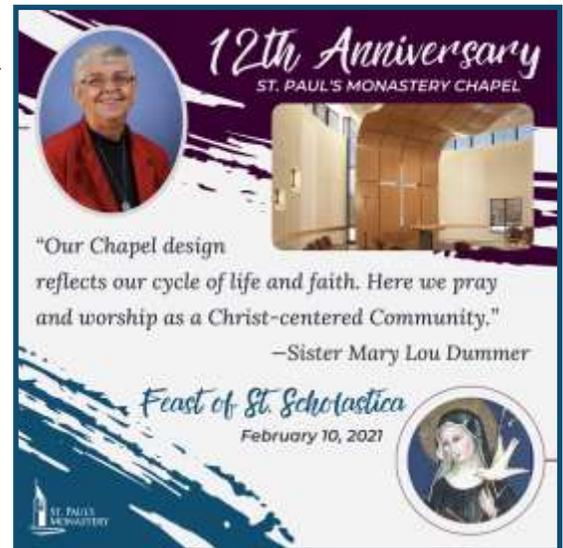
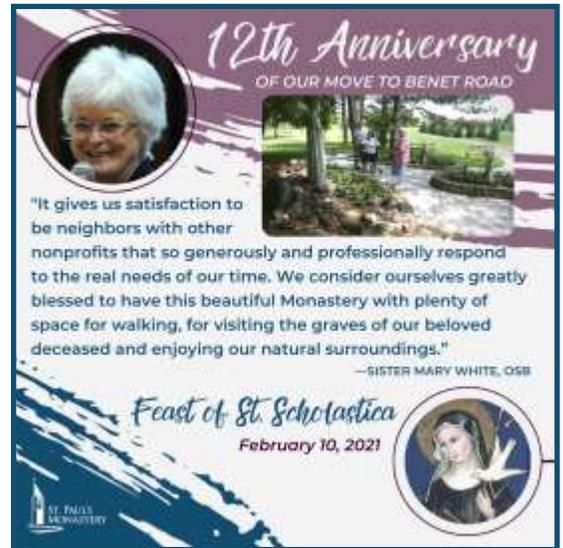
"Moreover, our Chapel design reflects our cycle of life and faith. From the baptismal font, we step in faith through the doors into a welcoming, enfolding space." As they are able, the Healthcare Sisters also attend all Community prayer times in the Chapel, and Sister Monica Raway is especially grateful that she can join her

Community in their "beautiful Chapel" every day. Sister Lois Hauwiller adds, "It is so nice to be with all my Sisters in this beautiful place, that is also so homey." In the Chapel, "We can we feel more of a Community during prayers."

Sister Jacqueline Leiter added her thoughts on the past twelve years: "The name Benedict, or Benet, means 'blessed.' The past twelve years in our home at 2675 Benet Road have been blessed. One of the greatest blessings are the many guests—friends, relatives, Associates, Oblates, volunteers—who have joined us for prayers, meals, and retreats. We have greatly missed your

presence in the past year. Know that even at a

distance, you are a blessing to us, and we long for the day when you may again be with us in person" in our beautiful home on Benet Road.



Commemorative Pavers

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Sizes

4x8 Paver: \$125
Up to three lines of text

8x8 Paver: \$250
Up to eight lines of text

Our Gathering Plaza is blessed with pavers engraved with messages from the Sisters, Oblates, relatives, and friends of St. Paul's Monastery. Click on the button below to print the form and create your own paver message to commemorate a special occasion or honor a Sister, your parents, other family members, or friends. The Sisters and those who visit the plaza remember your loved ones in prayer.

***Thank you and
God Bless you!***



[Click Here to Print the
Paver Order Form](#)

Prayer Schedule

*Even though our doors are closed temporarily,
we are grateful that you are praying with us in spirit!*

“Nothing is to be preferred to the Work of God.”

—Rule of St. Benedict, Chap. 43



SUNDAY

Morning Prayer: 10:00
AM

Eucharist: 11:00 AM

Evening Prayer: 5:00 PM

MONDAY–SATURDAY

Morning Prayer: 8:00 AM

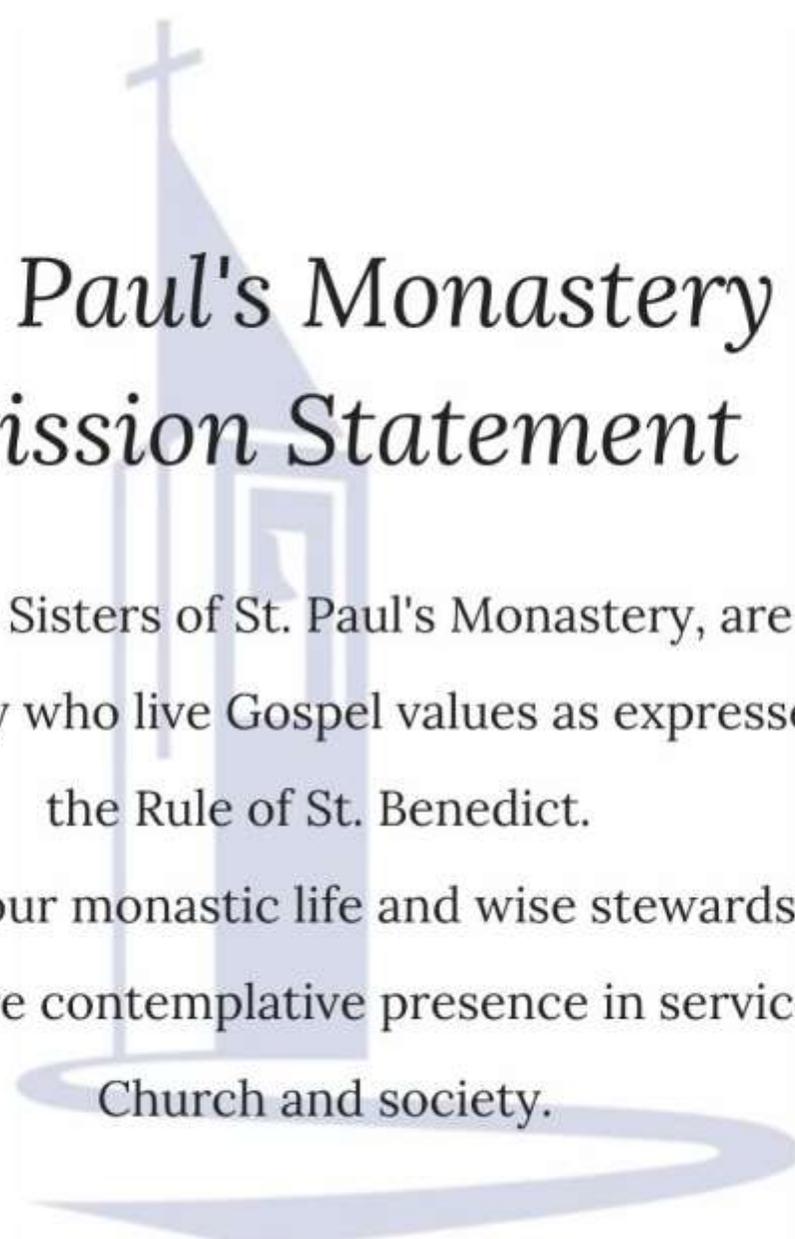
Midday Prayer: 11:30 AM

For further information, call 651-777-8181 or visit us www.stpaulsmonastery.org.



We Would Love to Hear from You

Let us, in fellowship, “lay (our) petitions before the Lord God with the utmost humility and sincere devotion” (*Rule of St. Benedict, Chap. 20*). If you would like to send an online prayer request, the Monastery website has two different ways to do so. You can use the “Prayer Requests” link at the top of our [home page](#). Or you can go to the “Ministries” tab and select “Community Prayer Ministry.” Prayer requests go to all the Sisters who pray daily for these intentions at Evening Praise, during adoration, and during the Rosary. May God bless you and your loved ones.



St. Paul's Monastery Mission Statement

We, the Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery, are a community who live Gospel values as expressed in the Rule of St. Benedict.

Through our monastic life and wise stewardship, we nurture contemplative presence in service of Church and society.

St. Paul's Monastery
2675 Benet Road
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55109
651-777-8181
development@stpaulsmonastery.org

To connect with or support Community ministries, visit us at www.stpaulsmonastery.org
[Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)