



ST. PAUL'S MONASTERY

E-NEWSLETTER

May 2021



"Behold, I make all things new."

Revelation 21:5 (RSVCE)

We cherish the creative ways you are staying in touch with us, eagerly waiting to see your faces at our doors and your presence with us at prayer.

The Monastery grounds are experiencing the beauty of spring everywhere as trees pop and the grass grows greener. Soon, the native plants and grasses will be in full bloom. Perhaps you are smelling the lilac trees and other fragrances in your neighborhoods. In reflective moments, we ponder these miracles of nature and praise God who brings this new life to us each year. As I am writing this, it is a sunny day and happens to be Earth Day—a time to stop and give special thanks to all that God has blessed us with.

As we enjoy spring and anticipate summer, the new and sobering experiences of the past year may have challenged the way we view our world and ourselves in it. Sensing an urgency—even a crisis at times—many of us are joining our voices with the prophetic voices in our communities, in the belief that every new challenge comes with an opportunity for change.

Amy Tan, author, writes "You have to be displaced from what's comfortable and routine, and then you get to see things with fresh eyes, with new eyes." To do this, we will need to exchange our habitual ways of hearing and seeing with the new eyes and ears of divine Wisdom. Jesus Christ, who true to all the prophets of the Judeo Christian world, not only called us to new ears and new eyes but has the power to make it happen.

In an ever-changing world, may you all see and hear in a different way today, taking in all of God's amazing blessings. "Let us open our eyes to the light that comes from God, and our ears to the voice from heaven" (*Rule of Benedict*, Prologue: 9).

Sister Mary White, OSB



Signs of spring at the Monastery and elsewhere remind us of God's amazing grace and beauty.





Sister Sharon Schiller, OSB, is a Minnesota-born girl from the small town of Miesville, just south of the Twin Cities. Her father and mother, Joseph and Odelia, were farmers, and she had three brothers and two sisters. From an early age, Sharon learned a work ethic worthy of a farm family, as she would help unload corn and hay, and work in the garden with her mother.

Her favorite chore was baking, and today Sharon admits she still loves baking cookies.

When she made her first profession on July 11, 1967, she continued her hard work ethic and dedicated herself to a life of service. For many years, she worked in childcare and as a secretary. At the Monastery, she continues to work in the library and at the front desk. Her education includes a bachelor's degree in Education from Edgewood College in Madison, Wisconsin, a degree she earned after her profession as a Sister.

You can also see Sharon's determination as she works to heal from a recent fall in which she broke her hip. I ask her what makes her keep going through what has been a difficult time struggling with Multiple Sclerosis the past ten years and now the broken hip. She says, "keep moving, do what you can, do not stop!" Sister Karen Sames chimes in eagerly that Sister Sharon "does not let it stop her." Indeed she does keep moving as best she can. Along with other activities in the monastery, she does physical therapy two times per week and is seen



Before breaking her hip earlier this year, Sister Sharon kept moving by using the NuStep machine in the exercise room.

in the exercise room on the NuStep machine.

Asked when she knew she wanted to become a nun, she remarks that she first felt the call in elementary school and knew for sure in high school. Her advice and words of wisdom for people right now are to stay in community with

people as best you can. Her built-in community is the Sisters of St. Benedict, but she encourages all to stay in contact with friends and family.

Please see the rest of Sister Sharon's story [here](#).

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UPCOMING EVENTS

June 22: Founding Day
and [Commemorative
Paver Summer
Installation Ceremony](#)

July 10, 1:00—4:00 p.m.:
[Benedictine Festival](#)

July 11, 11:00 a.m.:
Livestream of Feast of
Saint Benedict Mass with
Archbishop Bernard
Hebda

**FREE
ENTRY**

BENEDICTINE FESTIVAL

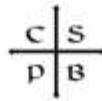


JULY 10, 2021

JULY 11, 2021



**JULY 10, 2021
1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
OUTDOOR EVENT**

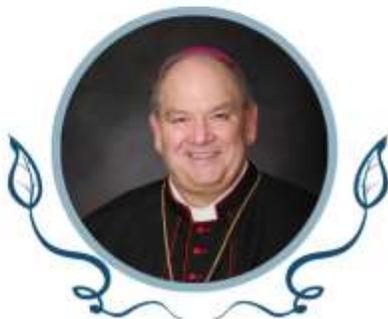


**ST. PAUL'S MONASTERY
2675 BENET RD
ST. PAUL, MN 55109**



**FOOD TRUCKS
GAMES & ACTIVITIES
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**

**Individual pricing for food trucks, games, etc.*



**JULY 11, 2021
FEAST OF SAINT BENEDICT
11:00 A.M. LIVE STREAM MASS
WITH ARCHBISHOP HEBDA**

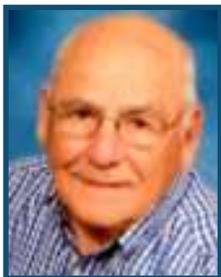
STPAULSMONASTERY.ORG/BENEDICTINE-FESTIVAL

May Remembrances

by Mission Advancement

In November last year, we remembered those who had passed with a special heartfelt pause for the past six months. Again we would like to express our sympathies for the beloved that our community has lost since last November. We send prayers and blessings to all missing a loved one.

Please join us in prayer wherever you are, as we gratefully and lovingly reflect upon those who have preceded us into everlasting life. We invite you to share with us the names of your loved ones you would like us to remember in prayer. You are a blessing to us, and we hold you all in our daily prayers. To submit your prayer intentions to the Sisters, please email us at development@stpaulsmonastery.org.



Sister Mary White said goodbye to her cousin James Raymond Tacheny in November. Jim was born in Nicollet, MN. He was one of eight children born to Joseph and Grace (Vigue) Tacheny. The family moved to a farm in Litchfield, MN, where Jim lived throughout his childhood. During high school, Jim and his brother, Ralph, joined the National Guard. After graduating, Jim started to attend St. John's College in Collegeville, MN. [Read more.](#)

Sister Mary White said goodbye to her brother Bob White in December. Bob was born on July 20, 1930 in Lakeville, MN, to Bud and Louise Gephart White. He graduated from Lakeville High School in 1949, from the College of St Thomas in 1957 after serving as a medic in the Air Force, and from William Mitchell College of Law in 1961. He and Jo were married in 1952 and raised their family in St Paul. [Read more.](#)



“Those we have held in our arms for a little while, we hold in our hearts forever.”
Khalil Gibran



Sister Mary Lou Dummer said goodbye to her Sister-in-law Elaine Dummer in January. She was born April 4, 1934 in Hector, the daughter of Paul and Mabel (Barnick) Peris. Elaine attended country school and later graduated from Hector High School. She worked at the local dime store, restaurant and gas station. On June 9, 1956 she married Gerald Dummer at St. John's Catholic Church in Hector. [Read more.](#)



We said goodbye to our dear Sister May Joanne Lusk in March. [Read more.](#)



Sister Virginia Matter said goodbye to her brother

Raymond Matter in April. Raymond was born and grew up in southwestern, MN. He served his country in WWII as a U.S. Navy airplane mechanic until his honorable discharge in December 1946, four months before his 20th birthday.

[Read more.](#)



We said goodbye to our dear Sister Joan Utecht in January. [Read more.](#)

Maple Tree Childcare Updates

by Jennie Schlauch, Maple Tree Monastery Childcare Center



Lyza

The Maple Tree children had a hoppin' good time last month as they celebrated during Easter week. Our babies dressed as bunnies and lambs, offering a fun photo op. In these pictures, Ella, Isla, and Lyza are enjoying dress-up time.



Our older children also participated in Easter activities (such as an Easter egg hunt) and learned about the true meaning of Easter.



Isla



Ella

Our Extended Community Celebrates Jim Hansen

by Mission Advancement



The Sisters of St. Benedict extend their congratulations to Jim Hansen, President at Hill-Murray, on his retirement. As president for the past six years, Jim shares with Mission Advancement that his “planned” retirement comes at the end of a challenging year, but Hill-Murray School is well positioned to move into the future with the hiring of its new president last year, Melissa Dan.

Jim reflects on his retirement from education as a career that has come full circle. Before spending 30 years in business and in teaching business at the University of St. Thomas, he started out as a high school teacher. I

“harbored a little dream to end my work life where it started.”

As an Oblate of St. Paul’s Monastery, Jim lives the Benedictine values and helps to instill these values into the students at Hill-Murray. The history and value systems that Hill-Murray is built upon are the very values that Jim hopes to continue in whatever he does next. As he steps down, he is using this time to reframe retirement and use it as another transition. Ultimately, he hopes to “add value” wherever he goes and what he does.

Thank you, Jim for your service. Your devotion to Benedictine practices are truly a gift to Hill-Murray School, St. Paul’s Monastery, and the surrounding community.

By his good life let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.

James 3:13b (RSVCE)

Hilda of Whitby's Invitation

by Sister Jacqueline Leiter, OSB

Saint Hilda was born around the year 614, a niece to King Edwin of Northumbria.

Hilda's mother had a dream about her unborn child. In the dream, she found a beautiful jewel that shone with a beautiful light so that "all Britain was lit by its splendor."

The seventh century was a time of turmoil and conflict between rival kingdoms. Britain was gradually being converted to Christianity, and Hilda was baptized at the age of thirteen. At the age of thirty-three, she felt called to religious life and intended to go to a monastery in France where her sister was. Bishop Aiden, an Irish monk, encouraged her to remain in her homeland, and Hilda began a monastery in Northumbria, and later a double monastery for men and women in Whitby. Under her leadership, the monks and nuns of her monastery were known for their study of scripture and good works. Hilda was much loved because of her devotion and grace. Many people came to her, seeking her wisdom and advice.

Whitby was a place of learning and culture where Hilda invited musicians and poets to perform at the monastery on feast days. A story told about Whitby recalls that Caedmon, an uneducated swineherd, avoided the crowded celebrations and instead went out to sit with the pigs. One night, an angel appeared to him in a dream and asked him to sing some verses of praise. Caedmon objected, saying he knew nothing about poetry, but the angel persisted until he sang in praise of God the Creator. Upon awakening, Caedmon remembered the song he had composed for the angel. When Hilda learned of what had happened, she encouraged Caedmon's talent. Caedmon is the earliest poet in the English language whose name we know. *In this same spirit of encouragement, we welcome you to meditate on the invitations below:*



Hilda's invitations:

- When have you appreciated and encouraged another person's gifts?
- Who is a person that appreciated and encouraged you to share your gifts?
- How can you be a light that shines for those around you?





employee spotlight

Chris Folkenson

Chris Folkenson, a long-time employee at St. Paul’s Monastery, gets this month’s *employee spotlight*. As a guest services/housekeeping employee for 22 years—both at the Larpenteur Avenue Priory and at the Benet Road locations—she keeps the monastery clean and “top-notch” in the public spaces, the dining area, the serving area, and various other spaces. As needed, she assists with the Benedictine Center and with cleaning rooms for the Sisters. She admits she “is somewhat of a perfectionist.”

Chris interacts with a lot of guests, other employees, and the Sisters. This interaction is what makes Chris an amazing co-worker and person. Sister Karen Sames, OSB, says that Chris is “Benedictine hospitality personified” as she is a joy to work with, and she will do anything for the Sisters.

On the wall of Chris’ office (also known as her cleaning closet) are pictures of Sisters from the past 22 years. Chris grows very close to many of the Sisters, and it is always hard when one of the Sisters or staff members passes away. Sister Paula Hagen, OSB, tells of the time that another employee, Bonnie, suddenly passed away in 2018. “She had a very strong connection to Bonnie.” Chris’ “wall of memories” is very special for her.



Chris’ ability to connect shows up in her work as one of the longest tenured employees of the Monastery and in her continued relationships with staff after they leave the Monastery. Chris loves her work and coming to the Monastery each day as she enjoys taking care of the Sisters and other people. “I care for this place. It will be good when we are able to open up again—the Sisters are all about hospitality!”



Thank you to all who participated in our Hildegard of Bingen’s Bud and Blooms Spring Plant Sale! May your gardens be beautiful and bountiful!

As a reminder, we are offering curbside pick-up at St. Paul’s Monastery on May 13 (1:00 -3:00 p.m.) and May 14 (10:00-12:00 p.m.). No reservation required. For alternative delivery options, please contact us at development@stpaulsmonastery.org

Courage for the Call: An Invitation to Trust



A four-week, online retreat led by
Sister Paula Hagen, OSB, and
Christine Jurisich

Begins Monday, May 31

God is always calling you to a deepening awareness and connection with the Divine. Sometimes that call can feel scary. Am I worthy? Will I get hurt? What will I have to let

go? Within that beckoning is the grace to respond when you allow yourself to surrender into the merciful arms of God. This is a four-week, facilitator-led, self-paced retreat.

You will appreciate this retreat if you:

- Want to trust God but wrestle with fears and anxiety.
- Have a problem with the word “surrender.”
- Are yearning for a sense of inner freedom.

[Click here to register.](#)

At the end of our four weeks together you will:

- Discover the difference between worries and concerns. (Which are helpful and which are toxic?)
- Appreciate the strength and freedom you can find through lessons in humility.
- Learn practices you can use for your most “courage-needed” moments.

How does a four-week online retreat work?

- You will receive an email reflection every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning for four weeks. Each email will offer a reflection and chance to share with others in a supportive and encouraging environment. The retreat is self-paced and led by facilitators who will respond to participants’ comments each evening. You can reflect and pray through the lessons during the times that are convenient for you.
- Cost: \$50. Scholarships are available. e-mail Sister Paula at srpaula@stpaulsmonastery.org



Christine Jurisich’s work in retreat ministry began fifteen years ago as a participant of the Sisters of St. Paul’s Monastery Ministry of Mothers Sharing (now Within Ministries). For ten years

thereafter, the Sisters mentored Christine as she developed her ministry as a national retreat facilitator-trainer and writer. Christine is the author of *Retreat, Reflect, Renew: A Sacred Journal for A More Peaceful You*, and foundress of the Retreat, Reflect, Renew Ministry.

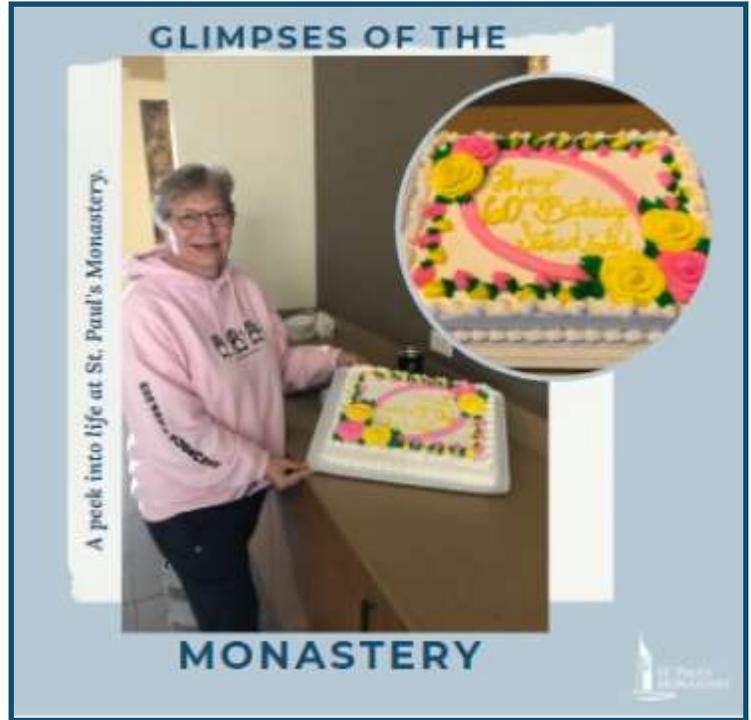
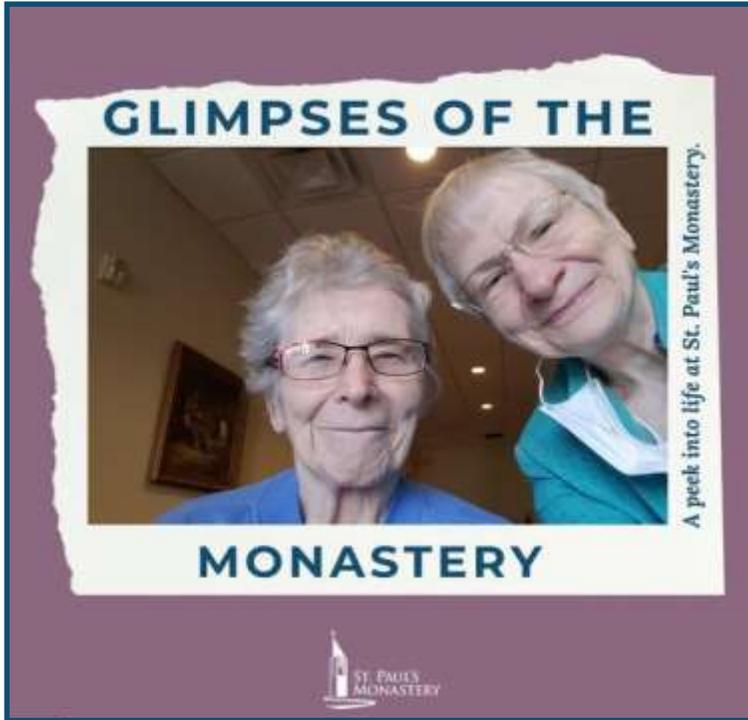


Sister Paula Hagen, OSB, has over 30 years of experience in retreat development and as a retreat facilitator. In addition to a Master’s in Family Systems, Sister Paula trained as a retreat director at the Franciscan Renewal Center. She

created and published several *On the Journey* retreats for use in parishes nationwide and created and published the Ministry of Mothers Sharing Journal and materials for parishes.

Around the Monastery

by Mission Advancement



Above left: Sisters Mary Claire (left) and Lucia (right) take a selfie as they visit together at the Monastery. Above right: Sister Linda Soler celebrated her milestone 60th birthday on April 11!

Below: Easter Sunday was a day of activity at St. Paul's Monastery. In the center photo, Sister Catherine Nehotte prepares for the Easter service by blessing the candle and inserting pins representing the wounds of Jesus. At right, Karin Barrett and Kathryn Lien play a piano and organ duet, "The Lord of the Dance," before the start of Eucharist. Left, Father Cyril Gorman from St. John's Abbey celebrates Easter Eucharist with the Sisters.



Commemorative Pavers Summer 2021

Honoring Those Who Light Our Way

SUMMER 2021 INSTALLATION
ORDERING DEADLINE APRIL 30



Hurry! Last
day to order
is April 30!

As part of Founding Day,
we are doing a special
Summer 2021 Installation.

Order by April 30 for installation
on June 22.

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.

4x8 Paver

Three lines of text, \$125

8x8 Paver

Six lines of text, \$250

**Thank You and
God Bless You!**



[Click here to pay online](#)
[or print 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 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

Evening Prayer: 5:00 PM

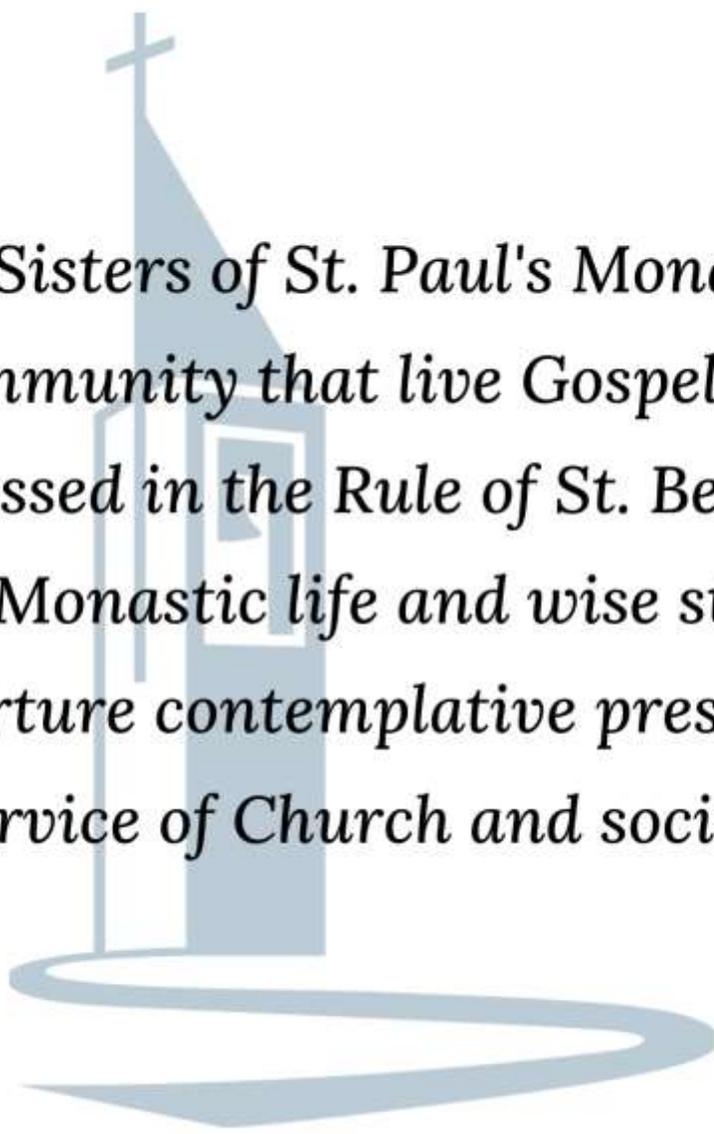
For further information, call 651-777-8181 or visit us www.stpaulsmonastery.org.



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 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



*We, the Sisters of St. Paul's Monastery,
are a community that 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.*

Mission Statement

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](#)