



# Sacro Speco Sacred Space

Vol. XX, No. 3

Newsletter of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Summer 2010

## Charism

We are Benedictine women called to seek God in prayer and community, serving where there is need.

## Mission

Reverence:

Through common prayer, stewardship, hospitality and mutual respect, we seek to find and honor God present in each person and in all created things.

## Five Benedictine Sisters Celebrate Three Hundred and Fifteen Years of Service to God and God's People

Five Benedictine Sisters of Chicago were honored by their community members, family, and friends as they marked the anniversaries of their first profession of vows with jubilee celebrations on Saturday, July 10, at St. Scholastica Monastery. After the Liturgy of the Word each Sister renewed her vows. Community members, Oblates, guests, family, and friends gathered for a buffet luncheon immediately following the ceremony.

Sister Mercedes Moore, O.S.B. pronounced her vows 75 years ago. She entered the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago in 1933, the second of three members of her family to join this community. She earned two degrees from Loyola University in Chicago and one from St. Joseph College in Rennselaer, Indiana.

Jubilees

continued on page 3.

O God, we thank you for the many gifts you give to us each day. We ask you to accept this offering of ourselves, to live each new day more fully celebrating the life you have called us to share.

Through Jesus the Christ. Amen.



(Tintype Studio, Inc.)

Left to right: Sisters Rita Nowak, O.S.B., Mary Alice Setnicar, O.S.B., and Patricia Cielinski, O.S.B. at the 16th annual Testimonial Dinner held at the Park Ridge Country Club, awarding the Spirit of Benedict award to Albert and Katherine Gehrke, the Spirit of Scholastica award to Oblate Fr. Michael Solazzo, and the Spirit of Benedictine Hospitality award to Susana Cordova.



Above, standing: Sisters Callista Kaley, O.S.B., Joan Hentges, O.S.B., and Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.

Above, seated: Sisters Amy Campbell, O.S.B. and Mercedes Moore, O.S.B.

Right: The Benedictine community, family, and friends extend their hands, asking God to bless the Jubilarians.



## Testimonial Dinner

article and additional photos on page 4.

## Message from the Prioress



Prioress Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.

Dear Friends,

For many right now it feels as if the earth is shifting right under our feet, from the physical tremors that created havoc in the lives of millions of Haitians or Chileans to the man-made impact of an outrageous oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico that spells total life change for humans and for our earth. We are shaken as our church has come under serious scrutiny by its laity and by the press. Our nation, also, faces polarization in so many contentious issues currently being addressed. As all this movement occurs, and these tremors are felt, we, the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, try each day to stay rooted in God through our monastic life together.

In our faith tradition we often use the image of a rock for God. Our hymns speak of clinging to that rock. I used to think that imagery was stagnant until one day I wandered through the rock section of a museum of natural history. The Teilhardian sense of matter and spirit being one came alive to me in that diverse display of what I had thought was not “alive”. Life is like that ... moments of leisure and exploration can give us a new and fuller sense of who we are in this world, and of what our world is. Let’s invite each other to take advantage of those moments of new insights as we grow together into the fullness of God.

This issue of *Sacro Speco* features a terrific array of photos from our annual Testimonial Dinner along with some testimonials to our 2010 jubilarians who celebrated on July 10, 2010. Both events were great causes to rejoice.

Since our last issue, we have welcomed two apostolic visitators and participated in a very vibrant meeting of the Federation of St. Scholastica in Atchison, Kansas. There our delegation joined with twenty other Benedictine communities to elect new leadership, to set goals for the coming four years, and to share with one another the “good news” of our monastic life’s journey.

Thanks to all of you, we ended our last fiscal year having met 99.14% of our fundraising goals. We also had to take some monies from our retirement fund to meet our total expenses. Our community continues to plan and to listen to the Spirit as we move together, with all of you, into the future. We are grateful for this – our moment in history!

Gratefully,

*Patricia Crowley OSB*

## We Love to Hear From You

“Thank you for just being there!”

“I volunteer in St. Joseph infirmary at the monastery. These Sisters, who need additional physical care, remain in community, serving God, growing spiritually, and incorporating life’s changes into their daily existence. I find each visit there to be a joyous one.

Contact with the Benedictine community continues to be inspiring. I am inspired and seek to follow the Sisters’ dedication to the Rule. Not easy, but not impossible!”

“It was my pleasure to have a short retreat with you. I will keep in mind that God is always with me and in me, and will lead me to peace. Thanks so much for your prayers.”

*“My husband always held a special place in his heart for the Benedictine Sisters. He never forgot their dedication and inspiration. Much of what he achieved in his lifetime was due to their motivation and encouragement. He always felt grateful.”*

“May the love of God enfold you,  
the peace of Christ empower you,  
and the wisdom of the Spirit inspire you  
as you witness to the vibrancy of Benedictine life in your community.”



*Sister Mercedes Moore, O.S.B.*

Sister Mercedes' education was broadened by further studies at ten other colleges. She taught and/or served as principal at various parish schools in Colorado and Illinois, and taught at St. Scholastica Academy in Chicago. Sister Mercedes later served as a hospital chaplain. Her involvement in parochial ministry included the initiation of RCIA and "Christ Renews His Parish" programs in a parish in Evanston, Illinois. She worked in the Virgin Islands with those experiencing homelessness. She has served her monastic community in many ways, including a term as Sub-Prioress. Since retiring, she has volunteered in the Advancement Office of the monastery, in the Development Offices of both the monastery and St. Scholastica Academy (Chicago), as well as continuing to crochet beautiful afghans.

Retired and living in Cañon City, **Sister Amy Campbell, O.S.B.** joined the community in Chicago to celebrate her 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Sister Amy is a native of Denver, entering the Benedictines after graduating from St. Scholastica



*Sister Amy Campbell, O.S.B.*

Academy, Cañon City in 1938. She earned her Bachelor of Philosophy degree from DePaul University, studied theology at Loretta Heights in Denver, and took courses at the University of Southern Colorado, University of Colorado in Boulder, and the National College of Education in Evanston, Illinois. In her early years as an educator, she taught in parochial schools in southern Colorado and at parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago. She was the director and teacher of the preschool at St. Scholastica Academy in Cañon City. Sister served as Director of St. Scholastica Academy (Cañon City) Alumnae Association as well as substitute dorm counselor in the residence hall. In addition, she served as bookkeeper at a local convent and, at times, as sacristan.

**Sister Joan Hentges, O.S.B.**, ministering in southern Colorado since 1962, celebrated the 60th anniversary of vows. The occasion was first celebrated with the parish community

of Christ the King in Pueblo. Sister Joan taught in Chicago and in Tucson, Arizona. Within the Diocese of Pueblo, she has been active not only within the local church but also in many civic activities. She taught at St. Michael in Delta and later at St. Joseph in Salida where she was principal. A graduate of DePaul University in Chicago, she later earned a Masters in Ministry at Seattle University and studied at the Mexican American Cultural Center in San Antonio, Texas. She began pastoral ministry in Capulin and LaJara as Director of Religious Education (DRE). She accepted the position of DRE at Christ the King Parish, later becoming Pastoral Associate. Though "officially" retired, she remains involved in the pastoral work of the parish of which she has been a part for thirty-three years. Under her direction, a group of Benedictine Oblates was formed in Colorado in the spring of 2009.

**Sister Callista Kaley, O.S.B.** professed her vows as a Benedictine in 1950 and renewed her vows at this jubilee celebration, marking her 60th anniversary. Recognized as a gifted pianist during her high school years, she went on to study in the School of Music at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Entering St. Scholastica Monastery, she interrupted her training, but continued her musical studies at the American Conservatory of Music where she earned her bachelor's degree. In her earliest years as a Benedictine, she taught in four parish schools in Chicago, and then joined the teaching staff of St. Scholastica Academy in Chicago where she ministered for 35 years while also serving as one of the community organists. Though she is remembered as an outstanding piano teacher, she was fully engaged as a faculty member, as homeroom moderator, instructor in the Fine Arts Department, and sponsor of several extra-curricular activities. She offered piano lessons after school hours to students in the area. In 1994, she was asked to teach music



*Sister Joan Hentges, O.S.B.*



*Sister Callista Kaley, O.S.B.*

in the Academy's pre-school. Semi-retired, she now teaches a number of piano students in their homes, provides music education for British Infancy School, is the community organist, and serves as the choir director for the monastery.

Celebrating her 50th jubilee, **Sister Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.** is the current Prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago. Having earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mundelein College in Chicago, and later a



*Sister Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.*

Masters in Catechetical Theology from Manhattan College in New York City, she has been awarded honorary doctorates from Elmhurst College and Chicago Theological Union Seminary. After a few years teaching in parish schools in the Archdiocese of Chicago, she taught Theology, English, and French at St. Scholastica Academy for thirteen years. During that time, she also served for two years as Sub-Prioress of the community. In 1979 she became Executive Director of the Howard Area Community Center. She received a Community Service Fellowship from Chicago Community Trust in 1989 which provided the opportunity to spend time in Latin America and Caribbean countries studying women's organizing efforts. In 1991, she became executive director of Deborah's Place, a facility offering extensive services for women who are experiencing homelessness. From 2004 until 2006, her ministry was with the Chicago Continuum of Care. In addition to her many responsibilities as Prioress, she serves as Coordinator of the Women's Team for the Ignatian Spirituality project, which conducts retreats for women who have experienced homelessness.

Three hundred and fifteen years of service to God and God's people have been a gift - to their community and to those whose lives they have touched - through their ministerial work. Congratulations, Sisters Mercedes, Amy, Joan, Callista, and Patricia. We are grateful!

# Testimonial Dinner

continued from page 1.

The 16<sup>th</sup> annual Testimonial Dinner was held on June 16<sup>th</sup> at the Park Ridge Country Club. The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago were joined by friends and family to gather in friendship, enjoy a delicious dinner, and recognize honorees Albert and Katherine Gehrke, **Oblate Fr. Michael Solazzo**, and Susana Cordova.

Sister Jane Smith, O.S.B. introduced Albert and Katherine Gehrke, recipients of the *Spirit of Benedict* award. "Kitty and Al are just nice people. We, as Benedictine Sisters, say that our charism is to seek God and to serve where there is a need." Citing the Gehrkes' years of service to St. Hilary's Parish, and their generosity with the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Sister Jane added, "Kitty and Al are individuals who see a need and are willing to help."



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Above, left (l-r): **Sister Agnes Kelly, O.S.B., Richard Fields, and Oblate Carolyn Fields.**

Above, right (l-r): **Sister Francisca Nzeke, H.H.C., and William Bogan prepare to give each other a "high five" as Sister Columba Kim, O.S.B. looks on.**



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Left (l-r): **Eric and Susie Gegner, Fr. Edward Pelrine, Susana Cordova, Sister Mary Melady, O.S.B., and Ignacio Cordova, Sr. after the presentation of the Spirit of Benedictine Hospitality award to Susana Cordova.**



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Above, left: **Albert and Katherine Gehrke accept the Spirit of Benedict award.**

Above, right (l-r, standing): **Laura Munro, Pat Kane Musto, Brigid O'Brien, Moira O'Brien, and Ellen Kane Munro, (l-r, sitting) Kathy Kane, Peggy Kane O'Brien, Pat Winkler Moritz, and Terry Ryan. Right: During the cocktail hour, Sister Margaret Ann Holtz, O.S.B. visits with Kitty Gehrke, Laura Cowen, and Mary Beth Schaedel.**

Below, left (l-r, standing): **Candy Borkowicz, Fr. Michael Solazzo, Oblate, Ralph Borkowicz, Denice Steffen, Dennis Steffen, "Uncle" Pete Zonsius, Joan Duffy, Jerry Duffy, (l-r, sitting): Terry Tyndall, John Tyndall, Jean Croke, Kurt Kozeny, and Rose Ugel.**

Below, right (l-r): **Marybeth Owen, Dorothy Hannigan, Rose Marie Mischke, Liz Staib, Pat Sullivan, Sheila Kelly, Anna Flaherty, Kitty Gehrke, Cathy Dahl, Judy Metken, Pat Purdy and Joan Haley.**

Page 5, top photo: **Fr. Michael Solazzo, Oblate as he accepts his Spirit of Scholastica award.**

Page 5, bottom photo: **Beverly Solazzo, Anne Teoli, and Deacon Dennis Robak.**



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(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Kathy Caudill)



(Tintype Studio, Inc.)



(Tintype Studio, Inc.)

## Reflections from the Development Office

Sister Judith Zonsius, O.S.B. began her introduction of Oblate Fr. Michael Solazzo, recipient of the *Spirit of Scholastica* award, by wryly noting, “two years ago I was honored to introduce Uncle Pete at this evening. Tonight I am privileged to introduce someone who most of us know as Fr. Mike. I’m thinking that two years from now I’ll get to introduce an honoree who has a last name!” Sister Judith acknowledged Fr. Mike’s long years of service as an archdiocesan priest, his work in special religious education (SPRED), and his service as a liturgical presider at St. Scholastica Chapel since 1992. As Fr. Mike begins a new chapter of his life, joining the Marmion Abbey Benedictine community, Sister Judith emphasized, “we will truly miss him, but I think he knows that his chair will always be saved at our table.”

Sister Mary Melady, O.S.B. shared lovely stories about her thirty-plus years of knowing Susana Cordova, recipient of the *Spirit of Benedictine Hospitality* award. Noting that “beauty is as beauty does,” Sister Mary said, “it is not so much what Susie does, but how she does it ... beautifully, from the heart.” In accepting her award Susie noted that, “with each beautiful rose we see, and each lovely rainbow that appears after a storm, we must thank God.” Amen!

Friends who now volunteer for this Benedictine community often express their surprise as they walk the halls of the monastery, talking about their school days when the monastery was “off limits.”

I think there is a general perception of St. Scholastica Monastery as a quiet, mysterious, and prayerful place. This is a true and accurate assessment of this amazing campus and the faith-filled women who have chosen to live their lives here in community. It can be so quiet that you can hear a pin drop. It is a place filled with mystery and history – something that strikes me each time I walk on the strong slate stairs at the end of the hall, now worn and bearing evidence of the hundreds of Sisters who have traveled up and down on their personal journeys of life and faith. It is also a very prayerful (and, I would add, prayer-filled) place. Prayer requests arrive, and the Sisters remember those special intentions at Mass and in their daily prayer together throughout the day. I have seen firsthand the power of the community’s prayer ... and heard the Sisters’ personal concerns. They really want to know about the persons they are praying for, how they are doing, and offer their words of encouragement.

The monastery buildings and grounds are also a beehive of activity. As I write this message, it is the morning after the first meeting of the “150 Years” committee – a group planning how to commemorate and honor the wonderful faith-filled women who have called themselves Benedictine Sisters of Chicago from 1861 to the present day. Look for more information about this celebration in the months to come - in this newsletter, on the website, and on Facebook (just search for the facebook page entitled “Benedictine Sisters of Chicago”).

It seems an especially busy time in the monastery right now – but I have come to realize that there is never really a dull moment at St. Scholastica Monastery. This morning, the community mourns the death of a biological sister of one

of the community members, and each comes to offer their support and condolences. This morning, the community began its annual retreat, followed also by the monastic “community days” where the Sisters addressed community business, received their commissions, and renewed their vows, to be followed just a short time later by the liturgical celebration with this year’s Jubilarians. All that activity taking place just two weeks after the community gathered with many friends for the 16th annual Testimonial Dinner!



Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Kathy Caudill



Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Kathy Caudill

I encourage you to consider a visit beyond the brick walls of the monastery building. Stop by to check out the “mortar” that holds the monastery together – the Rule of Benedict - which guides this community of strong women of faith who daily offer hospitality and seek God. Come and visit St. Scholastica Chapel for a quiet moment of reflection or to join the community in prayer. Walk the labyrinth, enjoy the beautiful flowers and the cool breezes generated by tall trees on the monastery grounds. Stop by St. Joseph’s Court Chapel to join the community for mid-day prayer or provide a welcome visit for a Sister who now resides in the infirmary. Spirit-filled moments can be found at unexpected times and in unfamiliar places. Benedictine hospitality and reverence are tangible, real experiences here at St. Scholastica Monastery. This community welcomes you to join them on the journey to their mission as they “seek to find and honor God present in each person and in all created things.”

Come ... visit ... experience the peace, hospitality and joy that resides with this Benedictine community.

Kathy Caudill  
Director of Development



*(Tinytype Studio, Inc.)*

# Memorials

April 9, 2010 through July 6, 2010

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## In memory of:

### **Sam Anderson**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

### **Trudy Campion Anderson**

Patricia Campion

### **Louise Andre**

Jeff and Kathy Caudill

### **Howard Andrews**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

### **Bill Baka**

Gertrude Miholic

### **Nancy McDonnell Balog**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Sr. Jane Smith, O.S.B.

### **Angela Barosso**

Mary Regan Druktenis

### **William Beth**

Ted and Kathy Beth

### **S. Bonita Brand**

St. Vincent de Paul Society

of St. John Brebeuf Parish

### **Robert and Josephine Borchers**

Judith Borchers

### **Cecelia Barton Bradford**

Adriane Bradford Miller

### **Joseph Carracio**

Dominic and Margaret Caminiti

### **Louis Ciccone**

Andrea Ciccone

### **Dolores Cole**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Jeff and Kathy Caudill

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Cole

Sr. Louise Eggen, O.S.B.

Joseph and Marion Goetz

Bill and Cay Hillenbrand

Sr. Eleanore Hillenbrand, O.S.B.

Iris Hillenbrand

Bill and Cay Hillenbrand

Richard and Patricia Hillenbrand

Sr. Ann Sharp, O.S.B.

### **William and Mary Theresa Coultry**

Sr. Ann Sharp, O.S.B.

Sr. Jane Smith, O.S.B.

### **John J. Cramer**

E. J. Zonsius family

### **Lorraine Cucchi**

Jeff and Kathy Caudill

### **Mrs. Nancy Davis**

Linda Connor

### **Janine Denomme**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Sr. Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.

Sr. Susan Quaintance, O.S.B.

Sr. Judith Zonsius, O.S.B.

### **LaVerne Dondlinger**

Don and Dorothy Andries

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Jeff and Kathy Caudill

Sr. Ann Sharp, O.S.B.

### **John V. Donovan**

Richard and Evelyn Wynne

### **Joe and Pearl Drowinski**

Dorothy Holland

### **Robert Eggers**

Robert and Joan DuChateau

### **George J. Ehrenberg**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Margaret Mei

### **Carrol Epling**

Matt and Dorothy Miholic

### **Joseph Ferraro**

St. Vincent de Paul Society

of St. John Brebeuf Parish

### **Jacquelyn Fields**

Mrs. John Basil

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Mr. and Mrs. Earnest Canfield

Jeff and Kathy Caudill

Sr. Louise Eggen, O.S.B.

Carolyn and Richard Fields

Janet Hitzman

Colleen Mullarkey

Kathlyn Myers

Mary Schill

Sr. Ann Sharp, O.S.B.

Mr. and Mrs. William Weinstein

### **Morgan Fitzgerald**

Dodie Kreutzer Haas

Sr. Jane Smith, O.S.B.

### **Msgr. John Flanagan**

Peter and Barbara Zonsius

### **John Gately**

Lawntech Enterprises, Inc.

### **John Munroe Gaylord**

Gerrie Pretzel

### **Sr. Mary Martin Gehl, O.S.B.**

Fr. Fran Dyer

Mary A. Flessner

Sheila Gallagher

Joe and Mary Ann Godec

William and Ann Marie Gradishar

### **Kathy Geroski**

Jill Newberger

### **Sr. Joyce Gleeson, O.S.B.**

Suzanne Dowell

William and Ann Marie Gradishar

### **John Michael Haggenjos**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

### **James Hanagan**

Joan Sindler

### **Sheila Harrington**

Peter and Barbara Zonsius

### **Margaret C. Harris**

Sr. Jane Smith, O.S.B.

Sara Smith

### **Helen Stram Hart**

Ruth Hart Wojcik

### **Sr. Jeanne Hegarty, O.S.B.**

Joan Diamond

Helen Fitz

William and Ann Marie Gradishar

James Hegarty

### **John A. Hillenbrand, Jr.**

Joe and Marion Goetz

### **John and Marion Hillenbrand**

Sr. Eleanor Hillenbrand, O.S.B.

### **Joel Howard**

Robert Anderson family

### **Rosemary Jagla**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Art and Theresa Malinowski

### **John Jensen**

Denise, Carla and Renée Christensen

### **Eugene Jones**

James and Dorothea Jung

### **Sook Jones**

Genevieve DeLana

### **Sister Helen Kallus, O.S.B.**

Catherine Willis

### **Joseph Kania**

James and Dorothea Jung

### **Gerry Doyle Kansoer**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

# We remember daily those entrusted to our prayers ...

**Yanko Kopic**

Sr. Gregory Rohar, O.S.B.

**Annette Kerpan**

Betty Gerzel

**Sophia Kirn**

Matt and Dorothy Miholic

Roy and Joanne Paulson

Fred and Marie Zalaznik

**Sr. Jean Klimisch, O.S.B.**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Sr. Callista Kaley, O.S.B.

**Ronnie Lamperis**

Willard and Mildred Burns

Thomas and Mary Gough Family

Margaret Mei

Margy Pajakowski

**Kathleen Szymczak LeCrone**

Robert and Patricia Justice

**Dorothy Lescher**

Sheila Gallagher

**Esther F. Lucht**

Jeff and Kathy Caudill

**Howard MacKenzie**

Mr. and Mrs. Robert MacKenzie

**John Maloney**

Evans and Patricia Rees

**Baby Markert**

Annie and Melannie Jay

**Daniel C. Marlow**

Jeff and Kathy Caudill

**Jon Karl Mihalick**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Robert and Geraldine Blazich

Jeff and Kathy Caudill

Sr. Louise Eggen, O.S.B.

Joe and Ruth Garcia

Sr. Rosemarie Rugar, O.S.B.

Evelyn Vertovec

**Catherine Miller**

Peter and Barbara Zonsius

**Michael Morris, Jr.**

Sylvia Morris

**Deceased members of Francis J.****Murray family**

Ann Murray

**Rosemary Nelson**

Joyce Baxter

Mary Leach

**Carmen Nespeca**

James and Dorothea Jung

**Mark Norris**

Joe and Vivian Nemanich

**Cissy O'Connor**

James and Dorothea Jung

**Julia Ann O'Donnell**

Mary M. O'Donnell

**Kevin O'Toole**

James and Dorothea Jung

**Jutta Peddinghaus**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Sr. Mary Alice Setnicar, O.S.B.

**Helen C. Perse**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Jeff and Kathy Caudill

Herman Kamlage

Sr. Rosemarie Rugar, O.S.B.

**Bernice Pharr**

Fields family

**Walter J. Piotrowicz**

Estelle Wroblewski

**Carol Porter**

Don and Dorthy Andries

**Helen Lufen Powers**

Patricia Pruitt

**Jacob Reiser**

Jeff and Kathy Caudill

**Pat Taylor Repp**

Marge Repp Heaphy

Matt and Dorothy Miholic

Fred and Marie Zalaznik

**Paul Robb, S.J.**

Jeff and Kathy Caudill

**Celia Rodriguez**

Janet Hitzman

**John F. Ryan, Jr.**

Jean Hellman Ryan

**Dr. Edward Sarsha**

Edward and Ellamae McGrath

Janet Sarsha

**Sr. Olivia Schaefer, O.S.B.**

Ruth Hart Wojcik

**Sr. Mildred Scheetz, O.S.B.**

William and Ann Marie Gradishar

**Dan Sharp**

Tom Sharp

**Ronald Sinkus**

Jeff and Kathy Caudill

**Anna Sommer**

Sr. Winifred Sommer, O.S.B.

**David Soria**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**Gerhard Stadler**

Helga Ruby

**Mrs. James Stanton**

Mary Schill

**Bernice Streed**

Agnes Ivantic

Angela Schroeder

**Tom Stuermer**

Mary Ellen Stuermer

**Audrey Sullivan**

Jack Sullivan

**Jakob Talheimer**

Helga Ruby

**Frank Tamulionis**

Mara McHugh

**Sophia Thompson**

Jeff and Kathy Caudill

**Patti Tighe**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**Willard Tschanz**

Matt and Dorothy Miholic

**Sandra Morris Waite**

Sylvia Morris

**Sr. Colette Westrick, O.S.B.**

Edward and Barbara Cunningham

**Sr. Miriam Wilson, O.S.B.**

Judy Chan and Kevin McDonald

**John Worklan**

Betty Gerzel

**Deceased members of****the Zakrajsek family**

Mr. and Mrs. Nick Zakrasek

**Deceased members of****the Zbacnik family**

Mr. and Mrs. Nick Zakrasek

**Roy Zechlin**

St. Vincent de Paul Society

of St. John Brebauf Parish

**Marie Zullo**

Patricia Champion

**Tony Zupancic**

Robert and Geraldine Blazich

**Anna "Toots" Zupec**

Gertrude Miholic

**Nancy Zymantas**

Richard and Evelyn Wynne

... let us serve one another in love.

## Special Occasions

In honor of:

**Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bingham**  
on their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

Matt and Dorothy Miholic

**Sr. Patricia Crowley on her Birthday**

Mary Pat Buckley

**Sr. Patricia Crowley on**  
her 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee

Maureen Cahir

Jane K. Hennessey

Kathleen Hill

**Vince Eggen on his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

Sr. Louise Eggen, O.S.B.

**Emily Eckland on the occasion of**  
her First Communion

Jane Eckland

**Carolyn Fields**

Colleen Mullarkey

**Richard Fields**

Colleen Mullarkey

**Al and Kitty Gehrke**

Gregory and Heather Rusk

**Katherine "Kitty" Gehrke**

Mary Ann Cummins Kupper

**Jubilarians**

Sr. Amy Campbell, O.S.B.

Rosie Randle

**Richard E. Lind on**  
his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday

Jeff, Kathy, Tom and Pat Caudill

**Dennis and Mary McDermott on**  
their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

Sarah McDermott

**Barbara Monahan on**  
her 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Sheila H. Schultz

**Sr. Mercedes Moore**  
on her 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee

William Taylor

**Fr. Robert Oldershaw on the 48<sup>th</sup>**  
Anniversary of his Ordination

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**St. Scholastica Academy,**  
Cañon City, Class of 1960

Jane Eckland

Listen ... with  
the ear of your heart.

~ Prologue, Rule of

## Sisters Serving Where There Is Need

**S**ister Benita Coffey, O.S.B. serves in many areas where there is need. She is the director of Oblates, a promoter of social justice work, a member of the liturgy team, vocation minister on the initial formation team, and chairs the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. She has also been an elementary school teacher, principal, high school teacher, and director of religious education. She led many youth retreats, has worked in campus ministry, and served for eight years as Sub-Prioress. She is happy and proud to be a Benedictine, and considers herself blessed to have been called to this life and to be able to spend it with the women of St. Scholastica Monastery. "Who knows?" muses Sister Benita, "Maybe the best years (in community, Church, and world) are yet to come?"

**Sister Dorothy Van Alstyne, O.S.B.** now resides in the infirmary, where she attends special events, listens to presentations and speakers, enjoys reading and actively participates in group projects including wreath-making, tea parties, and decorating cookies. As a member of the Council of Elders, she meets regularly with the Prioress, offering her advice. She also prays for **Sisters Judith Murphy, O.S.B.** and **Joan Gannon, O.S.B.** For many years, Sister Dorothy taught typing, shorthand and accounting at SSA (Chicago and Cañon City). "These were the subjects I knew best. I liked helping other people learn and put their skills into practice. I really enjoyed my years as a teacher."

**Sister Patricia Coughlin, O.S.B.** began her service as a teacher in the summer school religion programs in Alamosa, Colorado in the early 1960s. She also taught at Queen of All Saints School, St. Symphorosa School, and St. Scholastica Academy. She served on the community's formation team for about twenty years, and twice served as formation director. She has also been a member of the constitutions (Call to Life) and social analysis committees for the Federation of St. Scholastica. Currently, Sister Patricia serves as a pastoral psychotherapist, a spiritual director, a faculty member of the Institute for Spiritual Leadership, a writer, and secretary for the community and the corporation (Benedictine Sisters of Chicago).

## A Good Steward

**T**he Rule of Benedict calls us to be good stewards. Officially, Rosie Randle works for St. Scholastica Academy, but her presence and great faith are felt by all who cross her path - at the monastery as well as the school. **Sister Judith Zonsius, O.S.B.** observantly notes that "each morning, as Rosie walks down the driveway to the building, she gently takes dew from one of the trees and blesses herself. She does this every day."

**Sister Mary Benet McKinney, O.S.B.** has known Rosie for fifty years. "She has worked for the community for so long, she feels a part of it," Sister Mary Benet remarked. "She is a wise and faithful steward, a woman of great faith."

When someone commented about how well she maintained all in her care, she responded, "Oh, sure, we take good care of things, but you should see how we care for the girls!" Rosie Randle always has a smile and a pleasant greeting ("God bless you, Sweetie!") to share with everyone. We are grateful for her amazing faith, her willingness to serve where there is need, and her dedication to the Benedictine community!



Rosie Randle

# Book Recommendations

Looking for some meaningful books for your summer reading? Here are some suggestions from the monastery librarian, **Sister Eleanore Hillenbrand, O.S.B.**

*American Magnificat: Protestants on Mary of Guadalupe*  
by Maxwell E. Johnson.

*Mary: Shadow of Grace* by Megan McKenna.

*Gift of Saint Benedict* by Verna Holyhead, S.G.S.

*Pillars of Community: Rule of Benedict* by Terrence Kardong, O.S.B.

*The Human Face of Jesus: Meditations and Commentary on the Gospel of Luke* by Alfred McBride, O.Praem.

*Experiencing God: The Three Stages of Prayer* by Thomas Green, S. J.

*Prayerfulness: Awakening to the Fullness of Life* by Robert J. Wicks.

*The Difference God Makes: A Catholic Vision of Faith, Communion, and Culture* by Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

*Freeing Theology: The Essentials of Theology in Feminist Perspective* by Catherine M. Lacugna.

*What Happened At Vatican II and A History of the Popes: From Peter to the Present*  
both by John W. O'Malley, S.J.

*Quest for the Living God: Mapping Frontiers in the Theology of God* by Elizabeth A. Johnson.

*Silent Hope: Living with the Mystery of God* by John J. Kirvan.

*A Place Apart: Monastic Prayers and Practice for Everyone*  
by M. Basil Pennington, O.C.S.O.

*A Passion for Life: Fragments of the Face of God* by Joan Chittister, O.S.B.

*Religious Life: The Challenge for Tomorrow* edited by Cassian J. Yuhaus, C.P.

*Reading the Bible As God's Own Story: A Catholic Approach for Bringing Scripture to Life* by William Kurz, S.J.

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# Newsbriefs

Thanks to the efforts and arrangements made by **Sister Susan Kilduski, O.S.B.**, **Sister Suzanne Zuercher, O.S.B.**, and Infirmarian, **Sister Mariella Hathorn, O.S.B.**, the residents of St. Joseph's Court infirmary have various activities or guest speakers scheduled almost every afternoon.

**O**blate **Georgianne Ellis** shared with the Sisters her experiences as the mother of a gay man, and talked about how this has influenced her spiritual journey as a Catholic.

The infirmary participated in a special May Crowning in St. Joseph's chapel.



Above, left to right: **Sister Pierre Marie Moore, O.S.B.**, looks on as **Sister Mariella Hathorn, O.S.B.** places a wreath of roses on the statue of Mary. **Sister Gregory Rohar, O.S.B.** folds her hands in prayers before the Blessed Mother.

Right: After the May Crowning celebration, **Sisters Gregory Rohar, O.S.B.** and **Pierre Marie Moore, O.S.B.** observe a moment of quiet prayer in St. Joseph's Chapel.

Below, left to right: **Sisters Ann Sharp, O.S.B.**, **Winifred Sommer, O.S.B.**, **Eleanore Hillenbrand, O.S.B.**, **Mary Benet McKinney, O.S.B.**, **Susan Kilduski, O.S.B.**, and **Mercedes Moore, O.S.B.** recite a prayer during the May Crowning ceremony.



**O**blate **Matt Ambre** visited the infirmary and spoke with the Sisters about his work as an artist. After sharing a video of his work with the Sisters, Matt displayed many pieces of his beautiful artwork.

Clockwise from top: **Matt Ambre** displays his watercolor painting of sunflowers as **Sister Mary Benet McKinney, O.S.B.** looks on appreciatively.

Middle, right: **Matt** shares his painting of **John Paul II**.

Bottom: **Sister Pierre Marie Moore, O.S.B.** closely examines **Matt's** **Santa Claus** painting.

Middle, left: **Matt** explains his painting process in his artistic depiction of **Jesus on the cross**.



## Newsbriefs ... continued

The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago were selected by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) to participate in a planning workshop and consultation. Sisters Mariella Hathorn, O.S.B., Judith Murphy, O.S.B. and Patricia Crowley, O.S.B. attended a three day workshop in Dayton, Ohio. Sisters Judith Zonsius, O.S.B., Rita Nowak, O.S.B., and Kathleen Maloney, O.S.B. will also participate in monthly meetings with the consultants.

Sister Belinda Monahan, O.S.B. has been selected as one of two winners of the American Benedictine Academy's Junior Essay contest. The contest takes place each year when the American Benedictine Academy (ABA) meets. This contest encourages monastics in initial formation to examine their community's archives and participate in monastic scholarship. Sister Belinda's essay, "Changing Habits, Changing Lives," explores the history and process of the community's clothing transitions during renewal. The essay will be published with the ABA's meeting report. Congratulations, Sister Belinda!

Sister Hilary Halpin, O.S.B. is celebrating her 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee with a month long visit to Ireland.

Sister Patricia Crowley, O.S.B. attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination to the priesthood of Father Dan Coughlin, current chaplain for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Sisters Virginia Jung, O.S.B. and Suzanne Zuercher, O.S.B. have articles published in a recent issue of *Benedictines* magazine. Sister Virginia's article, entitled "Japanese Flower Arrangements Create Contemplative Space," discusses how Sister Patricia Cielinski, O.S.B. uses of the art of ikebana each week to enhance the community's liturgical space. Sister Suzanne's article, entitled "Thomas Merton, An Artist of the Monastery," recounts Thomas Merton's struggle between his monastic vocation and his artistic call.

Sister Judith Murphy, O.S.B. was re-elected to the Monastic Council of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago. Sister Mary Ann O'Ryan, O.S.B. has recently completed her term of service on the Council.

Sisters Karen Bland, O.S.B., Patricia Cielinski, O.S.B., Patricia Crowley, O.S.B., Judith Murphy, O.S.B., and Susan Quaintance, O.S.B. attended the Federation meeting held at Mt. St. Scholastica Monastery in Atchison, Kansas. Sister Susan was re-elected to the Federation Council for the next four years.

The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago continue to extend open arms of hospitality to many individuals, parishes, schools and groups who visit the monastery, schedule meetings in the Oasis room, or spend time in the chapel in reflection, prayer and silence.



On August 23, 2011, a year long series of events will begin as the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago celebrate their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the city of Chicago. Mark your calendars to join the community on September 25, 2011. Sister Joan Chittister, O.S.B., author and a member of the Benedictine community in Erie, Pennsylvania will be speaking here that day. Mt. Se. Benedictin Monastery is the "mother house" that originally founded the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago. Look for more information about Sister Joan's visit, and other 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary events, in upcoming issues of *Sacro Speco*.

## Community Celebrates with Colorado Oblates



Photo by Catie Randall.

Members of the Benedictine community gather to welcome the final Oblation of these Colorado Oblates. Front row, left to right: Oblates Connie Counts Godrey, Marta Wallin, Sylvia Canty, Matthew Canty, and Sister Patricia Crowley, O.S.B. Middle row, left to right: Oblate Tracy Baird, Sister Joan Hentges, O.S.B., Oblates Cindy Kramer, and Dorothy Mansfield, and Sister Karen Bland, O.S.B. Back row, left to right: Oblates Mary Agnes Leonard, Jessie Smith, Jim Kramer, Shirley Rocco, Emily Hartman, and Sister Mary Susan Remsgar, O.S.B.

## SSA Cañon News

Alumnae of St. Scholastica Academy, Cañon City, gathered for a reunion this summer in Las Vegas, Nevada. If a picture speaks a thousand words, this photo clearly shows a group of women happily reunited and renewing friendships.



Photo provided by Teresa Harrigan Holmes.

Top row, left to right: Meredith Betterton, Anita Valdez Hohenstein, Teresa Harrigan Holmes, Brenna Bell, and Charlotte Edwards. Bottom row, left to right: Raquel Flores, Cristy Araujo, Angelica de la Serna, Megumi Fujise Ata, Liliana Ibarra Baca, and Alejandra Cortez.



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## And the Winners Are...

The raffle winners for the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Testimonial Dinner are:

\$1,000 gift card – Pat Reding  
Notre Dame vs. Stanford football tickets – Fr. Bill Flaherty  
Murphy's Rooftop Company tickets – Cubs vs. Houston –  
Barbara Blickhahn  
Notre Dame vs. Pittsburgh football tickets – Irene O'Ryan-Fox  
iTouch and iTunes gift cards – Fr. Bill Flaherty

Winners of the special "in house" raffle items include: Kate Bogan,  
Mary Ann Harrington, Donna Dehnert, Virginia Curtis, Jeff Caudill,  
Mimi Nolan, and Judy Borchers.

The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago thank all those who generously sponsored the Testimonial Dinner, purchased tickets, donated raffle prizes, and made contributions that help to support the ministries and care of the Sisters. Special thanks to our Gold Sponsor, Queen of All Saints Basilica, and our Silver Sponsors, James and Dorothea Jung, Stephen and Margaret Lombardo, Loyola University Chicago, ResCare HomeCare, and Patrick and Joanne Rooney.

Next year's Testimonial Dinner is set  
for Wednesday, June 15, 2011.

We hope you can join us for  
another wonderful evening of Benedictine hospitality!



Left: Don Heidkamp holds the raffle drum while Joseph Bogan draws a winning raffle ticket. His twin brother, William, stands ready to draw the next winning ticket.

Below: In anticipation of the big drawing, William and Joseph Bogan, grandsons of Albert and Katherine Gehrke, guard the raffle drum as Dick Heidkamp, twin brother of Don Heidkamp, looks on.

(Tintype Studio, Inc.)



(Tintype Studio, Inc.)