



Sacro Speco Sacred Space

Vol. XIV, No. 3

Newsletter of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Summer 2009

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.

Seven Benedictine Sisters Devote Four Hundred Fifty-Five Years of Service to God and God's People

Seven Benedictine Sisters of Chicago were honored as they marked the anniversaries of their first profession of vows. On July 5th, Sisters Pierre Marie Moore, O.S.B., Vivian Ivantic, O.S.B., and Gregory Rohar, O.S.B. marked their 75th jubilee celebration and Sister Ann Sharp, O.S.B. celebrated her 70th jubilee. Later that week, on July 11th, Sisters Patricia Coughlin, O.S.B. and Mariella Hathorn, O.S.B. celebrated their 50th jubilees and Sister Mary Benet McKinney, O.S.B. marked her 60th jubilee celebration.

The festivities began with a Mass of Thanksgiving in St. Scholastica chapel where family and friends of the jubilarians and Oblates of the community joined the Benedictines to witness the jubilarians renew their vows.

Jubilees

continued on page 9.

(Thayne Studio, Inc.)



Sister Callista Kaley, O.S.B.

(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Kathy Caudill)



Left (l-r): (standing) Sisters Patricia Coughlin, O.S.B., Vivian Ivantic, O.S.B., Patricia Crowley, O.S.B., Prioress and Mariella Hathorn, O.S.B., (seated) Sisters Pierre Marie Moore, O.S.B., Gregory Rohar, O.S.B., Mary Benet McKinney, O.S.B., and Ann Sharp, O.S.B.

Ubi caritas et amor,
ubi caritas Deus ibi est.
(Where charity and
love are, there is God.)

Right: On July 5th, the community and friends offer their blessing for the four jubilarians who, together, have shared 295 years of dedicated service to God and God's people.



(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Kathy Caudill)

Testimonial Dinner

article and additional photos on page 10.

Message from the Prioress



Prioress Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.

Dear friends,

This issue of *Sacro Speco* highlights many people for whom we, as a community, are deeply grateful. The summer of 2009 has been extremely celebrative with three outstanding honorees and some 270 people in attendance at our annual Testimonial Dinner, and seven jubilarians celebrating a total of 455 years of service and prayer in our community. Our representatives gathered with others from 21 Benedictine communities, two of which are in Mexico, for a Pre-Chapter meeting at Benedictine University. Our first retreat led by a lay woman, Beverly Mortensen, Ph.D., was followed by four lively community days facilitated by Maureen Gallagher of The Reid Group, Inc. Both contributed much to our community and deepened our sense of the sacred in our lives and the challenges life holds in these times.

As you receive this issue of *Sacro Speco*, three of us will be participating in the Monastic Liturgy Conference at St. John's Abbey, in Collegeville, Minnesota. Subsequently I will travel to New Orleans for the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) and for the LCWR board meeting.

Over these post-Vatican years as women religious we have learned to deepen our life of prayer and service. We have embraced the teachings of Vatican II and recognize that the church is the people of God. This sense of being church resonates in varied ways across the world. We are proud of our history, of our lives in community, and of the work we have done to enhance Christ's presence in our world. We move forward with women religious across the world, both Benedictines and others, to continue to live in community, seeking God, and serving where there is need.

Patricia Crowley OSB

Directions in Development

Did you know that ...

~ contributions to the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago are tax-deductible?

~ you can make a donation to the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago on-line via PayPal, a secured website?

Visit www.osbchicago.org, click on the box marked "contribute" and then click on the box marked "make a donation."

~ you can designate the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago as a beneficiary in your Will or Trust? Your attorney will need the legal name of the community: *Benedictine Sisters of Chicago* and the federal identification number for the community: 36-2171755.

~ setting up a monthly credit card donation is as simple as making one quick call to our Development office? Call Kathy at 773/764-2413, ext. 233 for more information.

We are grateful to the many generous friends of the community who continue, even in these uncertain economic times, to share their financial resources with the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago. Thanks to you, the community is able to provide for the retired Sisters, especially those who require special medical care in the infirmary. Additionally, your donations make it possible for many ministry efforts to continue.

Thank you!

News from Cañon City Alumnae

SSA – Cañon City alumna, Cristina Prieto, reports that alumnae living in the Denver area now gather for SSA brunches. Reconnecting through the social networking site, Facebook, the women met in February and May. Plans are underway for a summer meeting.



Back row (l-r): Shelli Bland, Cristina Prieto, Mercedes Torres, Downie, Katie Clear Newbold, Alycia McKone Cantrell.

Front row (l-r): Angelina Maestas Mabe, Rebecca Piltingsrud, Alethea Maestas Hoewhisch, and Katie's daughter, Madison.

The group gathers for a weekend brunch. "We talk, reminisce, and light a candle to represent our precious school and the Benedictine tradition that keeps bringing us together," says Cristina. "Please let the Sisters know that their traditions continue to live on with us here. The school may not be open, but we are still together in spirit."

Do you have news about Cañon City alumnae gatherings or classmates who have passed away? Please contact the Development office.

Looking for a Good Book?

If you are looking for a good book to read on a lazy summer's day, you may want to consider these recommendations:

Sister Virginia Jung, O.S.B. suggests *Texaco* by Patrick Chamoiseau, calling it "a family saga from Martinique that is lyrical, gritty and compassionate."

Oblate Mary Catherine Ryan encourages reading *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson. "A great book about the difference ONE person can make. Spirit filled, powerful, well-written, and interesting."

Pope John XXIII: A Life by Thomas Cahill is a book enthusiastically recommended by **Sister Jeanne Hegarty, O.S.B.**

Sister Eleanore Hillenbrand, O.S.B. suggests a new book about Thomas Merton entitled *Living with Wisdom* by Jim Forest.

Sister Joyce Gleeson, O.S.B. recommends *The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully* by Joan Chittister, O.S.B. Discussing topics from accomplishment to solitude, and ageism to spirituality, the book is truly a gift of years, celebrating aging as a joyous gift.

Or perhaps you seek Internet resources of a spiritual nature? Here are a couple of websites where you can obtain a free subscription to an e-newsletter:

www.herondance.org and www.henrinouwen.org.

For more suggestions, visit our website: www.osbchicago.org.

We Love To Hear From You

May God bless
all the wonderful Benedictine Sisters: past and present.

The spirit that all of you possess and share with all of us is heartwarming.

You gave me permission to question
(which all of you encouraged within the structure)
and to express my beliefs,
even when they were apart from the norm.
Know that you have my gratitude and deep respect.

**In appreciation for all of the teaching and guidance
thru my years at St. Hilary's.**

Thank you for the best education!

God's blessing to Sister Mercedes Moore
because of all that she has done.

*I am a piano teacher now and owe my success
to St. Scholastica Academy and specifically Sister Callista.*

Sister Gregory Rohar was my first grade teacher. She did a great job teaching me.

I will always cherish in my heart everything that you have shown me.

I was a stranger and you welcomed me in.

I was sad and you cheered me by your smile.

May God bless you for who you are in His eyes.

Serving

"Where There Is Need"

Sister Mildred Zember, O.S.B. says when she met the Sisters in Alamosa, Colorado, "I just knew I wanted to be with them!" She is a member of the Elders Council and she prays for Sister Mary Susan Remsgar, O.S.B. and her ministries in Colorado. Her teaching and parish assignments included service at St. Mary's in Pueblo, Colorado, and St. Symphorosa, Queen of All Saints, St. Hilary, and Queen of the Rosary, in Illinois. For many years she prepared lay instructors to teach religious education classes. "I enjoyed every place I was and everything I did. I had a lot of fun teaching. The only thing I didn't like – having to quit!"

Sister Judith Zonsius, O.S.B. has served as International Baccalaureate (IB) Coordinator, auditorium rental coordinator, theology teacher, and principal of St. Scholastica Academy. She has been a formation team member and liturgy coordinator for the monastery. Her interest in liturgy began early in life. "I had a great love for the liturgy, begun at my home parish of St. John Brebeuf as we built our new parish church in 1965 with Vatican II liturgical reforms in mind." What are the challenges in her ministry work? "The challenge of the 'work' of liturgy is having to think about Christmas or Easter planning when Advent/Lent have just begun," says Sister Judith. "But liturgy is where I feel most creative."

The assignments of **Sister Johnette Sawyer, O.S.B.** have included being an elementary school teacher in Colorado, principal of St. Leander's school in Pueblo, Colorado, a director of religious formation and a pastoral worker in a small mission church in the San Luis Valley, and a director of liturgy and music at Sacred Heart Chapel. She is currently the pastoral associate and director of liturgy at Sacred Heart Parish in Alamosa, Colorado. What does Sister Johnette enjoy most about her ministry work? "The people – empowering them to love and work in the church. I celebrate the God of surprises." Some of her great surprises in life have included a sabbatical program at Notre Dame and the Benedictine study program in Rome.

Newsbriefs



Sister Agnes Kelly, O.S.B. (above, center) celebrates her 85th birthday at the Grand Canyon with her niece, Beth Knowles (left), and her sister, Pat Sacco (right).

Six members of the community were interviewed for a Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society oral history program. An article, focusing on the oral interviews, was featured in the Spring 2009 issue of *Rogers Park 2000*. The interviewer noted that the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago “have dedicated their lives to enriching our community.”

Oblates Kathlyn Myers and Anne Matz have retired from the faculty and administration of St. Scholastica Academy, respectively. Oblate Ron Hoover has been named as principal of St. Scholastica Academy.

In honor of Sister Judith Zonsius, O.S.B., and her many years of service to St. Scholastica Academy, the community sang a special version of the song “Thanks for the Memories” with some new lyrics, including: “Thanks for the memories of shepherding IB to scores the world would see were better than the rest of those at home or oversea. We thank you so much...”

In early May, Sisters Benita Coffey, O.S.B. and Belinda Monahan, O.S.B. attended the Novices and Directors Institute (NADI) conference held at St. Benedict’s Monastery, St. Joseph, Minnesota. Thirteen novices and ten directors participated, examining the theme “Finding God in Benedictine Life.” In July these two Sisters traveled to visit community ministries in Colorado.

Sister Columba Kim, O.S.B., a member of Sister Zeno Sagong’s community in Korea (see article on page 11), recently visited the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago. While here, she joined the community and friends at the Testimonial Dinner celebration.

Oblate Matt Ambre will have a gallery showing of his watercolor artwork this summer in Florence, Italy.

Sister Joyce Gleeson, O.S.B., and her sister, Mary Rybicki, attended an Elderhostel at a YMCA Trout Lodge near Potosi, Missouri in early June. The program, entitled “Looking on the Bright Side: Joy, Peace and Lots of Laughter,” featured humor in American literature, games and entertainment, with an emphasis on music from the big band era.



Sister Karen Bland, O.S.B. (above) receiving the 2009 Pedro Arrupe Distinguished Alumni Award for Service from Father Julio at Wheeling Jesuit University, West Virginia.

The North Shore Choral Society, which includes community member Sister Mary Melady, O.S.B. as one of its sopranos, received rave reviews for their final concert of the season given on Sunday afternoon, May 31, at the Parish Church of Saint Luke in Evanston, Illinois.

On April 19, Sister Callista Kaley, O.S.B. and Oblate Donna Dehnert joined priests, religious, and other talented musicians for Padres Plus on Parade II, a benefit for the Retirement Fund for Religious and Priests’ Retirement Mutual Aid Association held at St. Scholastica Academy.



(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Kathy Caudill)

The community gathered July 1 – 3 for their annual community retreat. This year’s program, “Sing a new song unto the Lord,” was facilitated by Beverly Mortensen, Ph.D. (above). Dr. Mortenson is an adjunct professor of religion at Northwestern University. She introduced the community to new ways to examine the psalms through a developmental look at the images of God found there.

Sister Sue Kilduski, O.S.B. attended the “Under 55” Benedictine meeting in Atchison, Kansas.

On May 14, 2009, U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur (Ohio-D) introduced a resolution “Honoring the Historical Contributions of Catholic Sisters in the United States,” noting that “these women have offered so much to the world yet their stories have rarely been narrated or honored in our history.” The resolution announced the opening in Cincinnati, Ohio of a traveling exhibit entitled, “Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America.” The exhibit is sponsored in part by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) and will tour multiple cities in the next few years.

Sister Suzanne Zuercher, O.S.B. recently presented a Thomas Merton retreat at St. Benedict’s retreat center in Schuyler, Nebraska, and an enneagram retreat for members of parish leadership teams for the Diocese of Erie in Ludlow, Pennsylvania. She is a member of the program committee for the International Thomas Merton Society Conference, which will be held in Chicago in 2011.

Summer 2009 Sacro Speco



Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Kathy Caudill

Colorado Oblates **Sylvia Wallin** and **Matthew Canty** visited the Benedictine community this summer while on vacation in Chicago. **Sister Benita Coffey, O.S.B.**, took Sylvia and Matthew on a tour of the campus, including St. Scholastica Chapel (above).



(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Kathy Caudill).

This spring the Benedictine Sisters gathered to thank Mr. Ramon Grenée (above with **Sister Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.**) for the many years of service he provided as the driver for the community, and to wish him well as he pursues other business opportunities. **Sister Jane Smith, O.S.B.** now serves the community in this capacity.

United Neighborhood Organization (UNO) charter schools were featured in a front page story in the June 22, 2009 issue of the *Chicago Tribune*. **Sister Barbara McCarry, O.S.B.** serves in an administrative role at UNO.

Hot July days sound like a good time for an ice cream social in the infirmary to entertain the entire community.



(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Sister Louise Eggen, O.S.B.).



(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Sister Louise Eggen, O.S.B.).



(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Sister Louise Eggen, O.S.B.).

The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago and the Benedictine Sisters of the Sacred Heart, of Lisle, Illinois, co-hosted the Pre-Chapter meeting of the St. Scholastica Federation at Benedictine University in Lisle. This meeting was held in preparation for the Federation Chapter meeting scheduled for June 2010 in Atchison, Kansas. **Sisters Judith Murphy, O.S.B.** and **Patricia Cielinski, O.S.B.** are delegates who, with the Prioress, **Sister Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.**, represent the community at Chapter. **Sisters Susan Quaintance, O.S.B.** and **Karen Bland, O.S.B.** are members of the Federation Council. **Sisters Mary Melady, O.S.B.** and **Johnette Sawyer, O.S.B.** served on the Liturgy committee. Many members of the community served as drivers, hospitality coordinators, tour guides, and evening social planners for the out of town delegates and visitors.

Above, left (l-r): **Sisters Mercedes Moore, O.S.B.** and **Pierre Marie Moore, O.S.B.**

Above, right (l-r): (foreground) **Sisters Joan Gannon, O.S.B.** and **Eleanore Hillenbrand, O.S.B.** (background) **Sisters Jeanne Hegarty, O.S.B.** and **Johnette Sawyer, O.S.B.**

Bottom, right (l-r): **Sisters Amy Campbell, O.S.B.** and **Dorothy Van Alstyne, O.S.B.**

Thank you

Benedictine Sisters
of Chicago

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Memorials

April 3, 2009 through July 2, 2009

In memory of Lois Abrams

Evelyn Vertovec

In memory of

Melanie Clonts Aikens

John and Mardo Petrovich

In memory of Leonard Bartnicki

Frances Setnicar

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

In memory of Theresa Behr

Agnes Ivantic

Sr. Vivian Ivantic, O.S.B.

William and Ruth Ivantic

In memory of Kathleen Bennett

Jeff and Kathy Caudill

In memory of Ralph Berry

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Kathy Caudill

Sr. Kathleen Maloney, O.S.B.

Roberta Pierick

In memory of Rosanna Berry

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Kathy Caudill

Sr. Kathleen Maloney, O.S.B.

Roberta Pierick

In memory of Tom Berry

Joan Berry

In memory of Ralph Gwyn

Bollinger

Mary Jo Glavich

In memory of Miner "Bill" Welsh

Bonwell, Jr.

Tom and Beth Kneesel

In memory of James Busse

Kenneth and Vivian Busse

In memory of James M. Byers, Sr.

Ann Byers

In memory of Katherine Byrne

Peggy Byrne

In memory of Leonard Choyce

Barbara Jank

In memory of Michael Cielinski

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Cielinski

In memory of Kenneth Cole

Dolores Cole

In memory of Merna Cross

Robert DeAngelis

In memory of Richard Cullen

Margaret Cullen

In memory of

Sr. Victoria Davis, O.S.B.

Paul and Suzanne Betts

Mary Vandendorpe

In memory of Wanda Delgado

Victor Delgado

In memory of

Cameron Felgenhauer

Donald and Dorothy Andries

In memory of

Anthony and Eleanor Frodyma

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Cielinski

In memory of Nancy Fuller

Diane Syms

In memory of Anne Marie Furey

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Kathy Geroski

Tyron and Twila Bergeron

Susan Cataffo-Heiland, C.N.M.

Eleanor Guzzio and Judith Plathe

ICSW Colleagues of Kathy Geroski

Edward and Carole Krise

Diane Leamy

George F. Morby, Jr.

Stella Senyk

In memory of Stanley Gersick

Barbara Greenwood

In memory of

Raymond and Sally Glavich

Mary Jo Glavich

In memory of Ginny Gunn

Richard and Stephanie Klingelsmith

In memory of Sheila Harrington

Al and Mary Frances Brennan

Eileen Elenz

Margaret and William Stanley

Harry and Mary Ann Sweeney

Peter and Barbara Zonsius

In memory of

Sr. Bernadette Harrison, O.S.B.

Lucy Henry

In memory of

Patricia O'Brien Hawkins

Janice Auerbach

Sue Debaets

Nancy Howard

Rosemary Kuga

Lee Mason

Millie Maxim

Gladys Price

Barbara Prather

In memory of

Robert Hofmeister, Jr.

Geraldine G. Grimm

In memory of Judge John J. Hogan

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

John Henrick

Paul and Phyllis Hurley

Sr. Jane Smith, O.S.B.

In memory of Andrew Johnstone

Jeff and Kathy Caudill

In memory of

Sr. Evangelista Kapusta, O.S.B.

Sr. Vivian Ivantic, O.S.B.

In memory of Patricia Kehoe

Luke Kehoe

In memory of Edward Kocman

Sr. Rosemarie Rupar, O.S.B.

Evelyn Vertovec

In memory of Zofia Kouszawski

Danuta Bajda

In memory of Robert Langert

Bob and Kathie Andersen

In memory of Don Landsverk

Louis and Theresa Bunk

Mavis Landsvek

In memory of George Phillip Later

Catherine Moran Lee

In memory of Fred J. Louis

Agnes Ivantic

Sr. Vivian Ivantic, O.S.B.

William and Ruth Ivantic

In memory of Sr. Catherine Lynch

Sally Duple

In memory of Mary H. Mackin

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

We remember daily those entrusted to our prayers ...

In memory of

Juanita “Nino” Mansfield

Sr. Sue Kilduski, O.S.B.

In memory of Michael Maris

Betty Gerzel

In memory of Francis Massie

Jim and Dot Jung

In memory of Virginia Mertens

Irene Nowak

In memory of Joseph F. Miks

Claude and Ruth Basten

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Agnes Ivantic

Sr. Vivian Ivantic, O.S.B.

William and Ruth Ivantic

James and Valerie Macrowski

Geraldine Marqui

John and Rosemary Miks

Gerald and Eleanor Murphy

Douglas and Jo Anne Pekkarinen

In memory of Catherine Miller

Peter and Barbara Zonsius

In memory of Michael Morris, Jr.

Jack and Mary Flessner

Betty Gerzel

In memory of

Patricia Reid Morrisey

Sharon and Frank Schorsch

In memory of Paula Murray

Diane Syms

In memory of

Judy Langhenry Nelson

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Hilda Obdrezał

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of K. Angela O’Donnell

Joan Berry

In memory of Willmar William Ott

Jeff and Kathy Caudill

In memory of Denise Perse

Margaret Cullen

In memory of Edmund Perse

Margaret Cullen

In memory of Taylor Perse

Margaret Cullen

Bob and Andrea DeGarbo family

In memory of Ed Peterlin

Charles and Ursula Perko

In memory of Mary Catherine Poker

Sr. Barbara McCarry, O.S.B.

In memory of Saul Prieto

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Jack Queeney

Mary Lou Queeney

In memory of George Radacy

Marian Radacy

In memory of Raymond Realy

Kevin and Mara McHugh

In memory of Michalene Robida

Evelyn Vertovec

In memory of Dorothy W. Roeser

William and Katherine Milleker

In memory of Vivian Mae Rose

Agnes Ivantic

Sr. Vivian Ivantic, O.S.B.

William and Ruth Ivantic

In memory of Tommy Rowley

Bill and Cay Hillenbrand

In memory of James Scardino

Kathy Statz Rees

In memory of

Sr. Olivia Schaefer, O.S.B.

Olen and Kimberly Kalkus

In memory of

Sr. Dolores Schorsch, O.S.B.

Judy Palmer

In memory of Mrs. Sevier

Greg and Sherry Hegarty

In memory of Jack Sharp

Robert and Barbara Perkaus

Sr. Ann Sharp, O.S.B.

In memory of Robert Shondell

Sr. Mary Frances Schermerhorn, O.S.B.

In memory of Margaret H. Sieben

Judy Radimecky

In memory of Arnor Simpson

Fred and Marie Zalaznik

In memory of Clara Smith

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Kathy Caudill

Sr. Kathleen Maloney, O.S.B.

Roberta Pierick

In memory of Greg Staranowicz

Donn and Georgine Ebert

In memory of Nondine A. Stec

Sr. Patricia Cielinski, O.S.B.

Stec family

In memory of

Mary E. “Betty” Taylor

Anne Taylor Ryan

In memory of Sandra Lee Waite

Jack and Mary Flessner

Betty Gerzel

Tom and Terri Ivantic

Rose Rosko

In memory of Thomas H. Walsh

Nancy Sedgwick

In memory of Nancy Schu Ward

Mary Walsh

In memory of

Stephanie Gregorski Wegrzyn

Suzanne Cepon

In memory of Jennifer Wehling

Bernadine Drasler

In memory of

Eleanor Larkin Wetzel

Catherine Moran Lee

In memory of

Edward and Margaret Zonsius

Peter and Barbara Zonsius

In memory of

Margaret Zonsius, B.V.M.

Peter and Barbara Zonsius



... let us serve one another in love.

Special Occasions

In honor of the Bajda Family

Danuta Bajda

In honor of Sr. Karen Bland, O.S.B.

Atsuko T. Griffin

In honor of Caitlin Boland

Chris Fox and Irene O’Ryan-Fox

In honor of

Sr. Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.

on her 70th birthday

Isabel and Mary Pat Buckley

Maureen Cahir

Pat Campion

Joe and Patricia Crowley

Paul and Patti Crowley

Tom and Alice Crowley

Monique Garrity

Jane Hennessey

Diep X Hoang

Father Robert Oldershaw

Xuam Hoang

Ngoc Hoang and Kim My Tran

Joseph Nghi Hoang

and Cecilia Mieng Vuong

Polly Jeffries

Rita Killean

Richard and Nancy Kunnert

Ted Perzanowski and Larry Zimmer

Jayne Steffens

Regina Weissert

Marietta Zintak

In honor of Carolyn Fields

Jeff and Kathy Caudill

In honor of the Sisters

who taught at St. Hilary School

John Henrick

In honor of the 75th Jubilee

of Sr. Vivian Ivantic, O.S.B.

Rev. Albert Adamich

Don Jeffries

Marjorie June

Thomas Ivantic family

Tom and Beth Kneesel

Anthony and Joan Lippis

Travis and Elizabeth McGhee

Mary Ann McNamara

Anne Sobba-Brohan

Rich and Jeanne Sulkowski

In honor of Sr. Callista Kaley, O.S.B.

Genevieve Delana

LeAnn Gannon

Brian and Wanda Pabich

Ted Perzanowski and Larry Zimmer

Mary Henne Yena

In honor of

Mary “Mimi” Ward Lynch

George Courtney and Patricia Cowhey

In honor of the

**50th Wedding Anniversary of
Gay and Charlie Marino**

Veronica Lamperis

In honor of the 60th Jubilee of

Sr. Mary Benet McKinney, O.S.B.

George Courtney and Patricia Cowhey

In honor of the 75th Jubilee of

Sr. Pierre Marie Moore, O.S.B.

Rev. Albert R. Adamich

In honor of

Sr. Mercedes Moore, O.S.B.

Judy O’Neil

Marianne Zelewsky

Wedding blessings

for Aretha Muganda

Sr. Leocratia Muganda, sTh

In honor of the

**50th Wedding Anniversary of
Cliff and Kathy Rees**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Cliff and Kathy Rees

In honor of the 75th Jubilee and

the 95th birthday of

Sr. Gregory Rohar, O.S.B.

Lorraine Glach

Marge Wagner

In honor of

Sr. Rosemarie Rupar, O.S.B.

Gary and Katie Rupar

In honor of

**Sr. Mildred Scheetz, O.S.B.
on her birthday**

Dwight and Martha Serfoss

In honor of Rose Zemeckis

Wayne and Margaret Wagner

In honor of

Sr. Judith Zonsius, O.S.B.

Donald Sprague

New Oblate Chapter in Pueblo, Colorado

In May, thirteen new Oblate candidates were received into the community in Pueblo, Colorado. Sisters Joan Hentges, O.S.B., Karen Bland, O.S.B., Mary Susan Remsgar, O.S.B. and Patricia Crowley, O.S.B. participated in the ceremony. A reception for the new Oblates followed, hosted by Sister Joan Hentges.



(Rudy Gallegos)

Sister Patricia Crowley, O.S.B., (left) and the thirteen Oblate candidates in Pueblo, Colorado.

The community welcomes Oblate candidates Tracy Baird, Matthew Canty, Eileen Gallegos, Connie County Godfrey, Emily Hartman, Phyllis King, Cindy Kramer, Jim Kramer, Mary Agnes Leonard, Dorothy Mansfield, Jessie Smith, Marta Wallin and Sylvia Wallin.

Oblates of St. Benedict are Christian women and men in all walks of life who associate themselves with a Benedictine community to enrich their Christian way of life. They seek God by striving to become holy in their own chosen way of life. Integrating their prayer and work, they manifest Christ’s presence in society. Oblates do not take on new religious practices, but simply promise to deepen their faith and to lead enriched Christian lives according to the Gospel as reflected in the Rule of St. Benedict. Through association with the Benedictine community, Oblates receive help and guidance in living a full Christian life, and are offered guidance and enrichment through newsletters, prayer reflections and personal guidance.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming an Oblate in Colorado, please contact Sister Joan Hentges, O.S.B. (jmhentges@q.com or 719/542-9248). In Chicago, please contact Sister Benita Coffey, O.S.B. (bcoffey@osbchicago.org or 773/764-2413, ext. 327.

Summer 2009 Sacro Speco

Jubilees

continued from page 1.

Sister Pierre Marie Moore was the first of three biological sisters to join the community. For more than 52 years her ministry to youth included service as teacher, librarian, and parochial school principal in Illinois, Colorado and Arizona. She also served the community for a short time as infirmarian, and for many years as sacristan. Retired and visually handicapped, she remains faithful to liturgy, prayers, meals, and common life.



As the community archivist, **Sister Vivian Ivantic** continues to make an invaluable contribution to the community. She has served as local superior, principal, teacher and school librarian in parochial schools. Since 1975, Sister Vivian has coordinated reading materials for Sisters who are visually handicapped, gardened extensively, and kept abreast of current affairs. In 1978 she became the community archivist, a position demanding careful research, translation of letters, verification of documents, travel to monasteries, and countless hours of sorting and filing. Precise records of community growth and of individual Sister's pursuits are a gift she has given the monastery.

Sister Gregory Rohar is a native of Colorado. For more than fifty years, she taught in primary and intermediate grades in the Chicago area and Colorado, and taught summer religion classes in Colorado.



Sister Gregory was resident for several years at St. Mary Convent in Pueblo, Colorado. A skillful expert in crochet, Sister Gregory lovingly creates dresses and hats for dolls. Now retired, she participates in the infirmary life of prayer, meals, and social activities, and continues to crochet.

For almost half of her years of religious profession, **Sister Ann Sharp** has held a position in community or school administration. Known in her earlier years as Sister Ann Felice, she was an elementary teacher in Chicago, and served as local superior, principal and teacher in Colorado. She was Director of Scholastics and joined the faculty at St. Scholastica Academy in Chicago where she taught theology and was later named as Dean. She served as House Superior, and was elected Prioress in 1978. During her four years as prioress, the monastery's infirmary wing, St. Joseph Court, was constructed. She later served as co-administrator of that new facility. She now resides in St. Joseph Court, where her smiling face and kind words greet infirmary visitors.



Sister Mary Benet McKinney has been an author and spiritual director. She taught in six parochial schools in the Archdiocese of Chicago. After serving as principal at an inner city parish, she was co-founder of the Urban Apostolate of the Sisters and served as its director for five years. She participated in the Civil Rights movement and the historic walk in Selma, Alabama. For ten years, she held a position in the Chicago Catholic School Office. Sister Mary Benet was elected as Prioress of the community in 1986, serving for nine years. She became a national and international speaker and facilitator. She has worked in dioceses throughout the nation assisting with the creation and support of parish councils and her book, *Shared Wisdom*, has been widely used. Now semi-retired, Sister is director of the Benedictine Oblate Program at St. Scholastica Monastery.

Sister Patricia Coughlin is a pastoral psychotherapist. Her early ministry work involved education, first on the elementary level, then as a high school English teacher.



A participant in the Institute for Spiritual Leadership (ISL), she later joined the ISL staff. She has facilitated workshops and retreats in North America and overseas, and spent a sabbatical period in Indonesia. Her work frequently brings her to places like Wales, Ireland, Brazil, Lithuania, and Kenya. In 1999 she became a licensed pastoral psychotherapist. Over the last few years, she has again become involved in programs at ISL. Within the community, Sister Patricia has served as Director of Formation, and now serves as Secretary of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago and is a member of the Monastic Council.



Sister Mariella Hathorn is the current subprioress of St. Scholastica Monastery. She professed her vows at St. Joseph's Monastery, St. Marys, Pennsylvania where

she served for 38 years. After many years as an elementary teacher at four schools in Pennsylvania, she served for eighteen years as principal. The Sisters at the monastery chose her as their Prioress in 1987 and she led the community for eight years. Following a sabbatical year in Chicago, Sister Mariella decided to continue her monastic life as a member of the Benedictine Sisters at St. Scholastica Monastery. She has served in the Development office and as a part-time staff person at a local parish. As pastoral minister in the monastery infirmary, St. Joseph Court, she supervised the nursing staff for ten years and coordinated the activities of the Sisters who reside there. As subprioress, Sister Mariella is presently on the Monastic Council and serves as House Superior, attending to the needs of the individual Sisters, managing schedules, overseeing the planning of major events, and coordinating hospitality.

Four hundred fifty-five years of service from these seven remarkable women of faith has been a gift to the community. We are grateful!

*Blessed are they,
blessed are they,
who dwell in your house,
O God.*

Making a Joyful Noise at the 15th Annual Testimonial Dinner

On June 17, 2009, the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago gathered with friends and family at the 15th annual Testimonial Dinner, to celebrate and support the care and ministries of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago. The Benedictine spirit was recognized in honorees LaVerne Dondlinger, and her late husband, Gene, **Sister Callista Kaley, O.S.B.**, and Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care.

Fr. Ken Simpson delivered the opening prayer, noting that the evening's honorees were "humble and cheerful givers, who have not sought the honor." He thanked God for the meal about to be served, praying "that we might echo Your praise on earth."



Left (l-r): Fr. Tom Franzman, LaVerne Dondlinger, and Mary Lynne Hixson.

Above (l-r): Mary Hickey, Mary Scardina, and **Sister Callista Kaley, O.S.B.**

Sister Suzanne Zuercher, O.S.B. introduced LaVerne Dondlinger, and her late husband, Gene, recipients of the *Spirit of Benedict* award, saying "the Benedictine Sisters have always been enveloped in LaVerne's warm family embrace; she is a part of us and of our mission. She has a deep and loving dedication to the community."

Sister Joan Hentges, O.S.B. spoke about **Sister Callista Kaley, O.S.B.**, recipient of the *Spirit of Scholastica* award, acknowledging that Sister Callista's ministry of music and her passion to be of service have touched countless lives. "The author, Pat Conroy, states, 'Without music, life is a journey through the desert.' Thank you, Sister Callista, for providing us with music on our journey."

Sister Callista accepted her award, saying: "This is one of the nicest days of my whole life. All the community should be up here. Together we walk to God."

Sister Louise Eggen, O.S.B., Infirmarian for St. Joseph's Court, introduced the recipient of the *Benedictine Spirit of Hospitality* award, Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care. Accepting the award, Rainbow President Pat Ahern, a graduate of St. Scholastica Academy and a former student of Sister Callista's, thanked the Benedictine community for honoring Rainbow with the *Benedictine Spirit of Hospitality* award, noting that the word "hospice" comes from the root word "hospitality."

The evening ended in prayer. "We thank you for the wonderful people gathered here and for all of the friends and supporters of your daughters, the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago," said **Sister Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.** "We thank you for the music of the life we live together. In the spirit of Benedict and Scholastica, we go forth to continue our lives of prayer, community and service where there is need."

The 16th Annual
Testimonial Dinner
is scheduled for
Wednesday,
June 16, 2010.
We hope you can join us!



(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Kathy Caudill).



Above (l-r): **Sister Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.**, Prioresse, and Testimonial Dinner Committee Chair, Joanne Kelly.



Above (l-r): Sheila Schultz, Agnes Atwood, and Mary Lou Brennan.

Below: Staff, volunteers and supporters of Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care (front row) Nitza Rosario, Jeanne Frazel, Laura Pawuk and Sue Nebel, (middle row) Pat Ahern and Jackie Mathews, (back row) Ellen Ahern, Mary Jo Sheridan and Donna Schiller.



Above (l-r): (standing) Kate Bogan and Geri Ann Gehrke (sitting) **Sister Mary Alice Setnicar, O.S.B.** and member of Development Council and the Testimonial Dinner Committee, Kitty Gehrke.

"I Am Enjoying the Differences..."

Editor's Note: Sister Zeno Sagong, O.S.B. is a Missionary Benedictine who is a member of a community in Korea. Living with the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago since the fall of 2008, she shares her thoughts about her American experiences.

When I was a novice, my director said that as a Missionary Benedictine sister, live where you stay as if you would live there forever, and always prepare to leave from there as if you would move to another place tomorrow. It means live and love earnestly wherever you go. At the same time, do not adhere there where you work so that when you are asked to depart from there, you can leave easily. Yes, America is very different from Korea, but I am enjoying the differences.

The greatest difference between Korea and America is the various ethnic groups. Although Daegu, where my convent is, is one of the biggest cities in Korea, I seldom meet people from other cultures. However, in Chicago I meet diverse races everyday, and it reminds me that I am in an international city. I

live with those who have different cultures, languages, traditions, and appearances. There are even four African sisters. What a wonderful thing this is! On the other hand, I am a Missionary even though I did not work in another country yet. Therefore, when I face a new culture, I am ready to open my mind and try to understand it. Living in Chicago for over a year, I have adapted somewhat. Waiting for a bus a week ago, haphazardly I looked around and felt that everything seemed comfortable and familiar: the sights, the road, the people who were next to me, the buildings, and so on. Now when I walk in the neighborhood, I feel that I am in my hometown, and St. Scholastica Monastery has become like my convent.



(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Kathy Caudill).

Sister Zeno Sagong, O.S.B. standing near the photos of past prioresses of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago.

I am grateful to live with the Benedictine Sisters in St. Scholastica Monastery because I have come to know the plentiful gifts we Benedictines have. Sometimes I compare my community's life style with here and learn different ways that we use to follow the rule of Benedict. I would like to say that the most impressive thing in this community is the mind of hospitality. Since I am staying at this house of God, all of the sisters have shown me their kindness and willingness to help me with whatever I need. I will never forget their warm hearts especially Sister Jane who has taken care of all my needs like a grandma, Sister Mercedes who has taught me English with great patience, and Sister Patricia who has considered me as though she were my prioress.

To live in a new culture and environment is a graceful experience that broadens my outlook. Furthermore, to live with those who have the same spiritual charism is a gift for which I am thankful because it deepens and enriches my religious life. I am going to study spirituality, so I will experience American culture more. A hospitable reception that I received from St. Scholastica Monastery sisters encourages me in living abroad, so I think I will study well with redoubled courage. When I leave this community, I will happily remember all of the sisters and the beautiful garden where I have walked.

A Visit from Author Esther de Waal

On Sunday, May 31st, the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago and St. Scholastica Academy hosted a visit with Esther de Waal. the author of a new book entitled, *Seeking Life: The Baptismal Invitation of the Rule of St. Benedict*. She has written numerous books, including *Seeking God*, *A Seven Day Journey with Thomas Merton*, and *A Life-Giving Way: A Commentary on the Rule of St. Benedict*.

Ms. de Waal believes that the Rule "invites us to engage, to action, to seek God." Discussing resurrection theology as "a way of living life in a new way" she noted that Benedict "brings us home." She asserted that no one living stability can avoid an interest in the environment, and suggested that St. Benedict should be the patron saint of ecology. Citing Chapter 73 of the Rule, she encouraged reading from divergent sources, and observed that "the heart becomes an echo chamber for the Word of God."

She joined the community, and many program attendees, for evening Vespers in St. Scholastica Chapel.



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Contact Kathy Caudill, Director of Development (kcaudill@osbchicago.org or 773/764-2413, ext. 233).

And the Winners Are...

The raffle winners for the 15th annual Testimonial Dinner are:

\$1,000 gift card - Rod Wojcik

Week's stay in Dayton, Wyoming – Don Schwendau
Mrs. Murphy's Rooftop Company, Cubs game for six –
Sr. Hilary Halpin, O.S.B.

Weekend in Door County, Wisconsin – Sheila Mickus
Notre Dame football tickets – John Hourihane
Matinee tickets to Tosca at the Lyric Opera and gift certificate to Gibsons – Rita Wiltgen

Winners of the special "in house" raffle items donated by the Benedictine Sisters, and their generous friends, are: Eileen Griffin, Therese Reynolds, Merle Suba, Marsha Heidkamp, Maureen Dondlinger, Heidi Labuszewski, Maureen Cogan, Sigrid Brooks, Mimi Nolan, Jeff Caudill, and Jamie Harrington.

The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago thank all those who generously sponsored the Testimonial Dinner, purchased tickets, donated raffle prizes, or made contributions that help to support the ministries and care of the Sisters.

Next year's Testimonial Dinner is set for Wednesday, June 16, 2010.

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



Left: Ellie Hermanson, a piano student of *Sister Callista Kaley, O.S.B.*, draws a winning raffle ticket after Don Heidkamp spun the raffle bin.

Below (left to right): Masters of Ceremony, Don Heidkamp and Dick Heidkamp, encourage Testimonial Dinner guests to purchase raffle tickets to support the care and ministries of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago.

