



Sacro Speco Sacred Space

Vol. XX, No. 1

Newsletter of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Winter 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.

Benedictine Sisters Offer Thanks for Good and Loyal Friends

On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, the Feast of Christ the King, the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago gathered with friends in St. Scholastica Chapel to celebrate a liturgy of thanksgiving for the community's many generous benefactors. On behalf of the community, the Prioress, **Sister Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.**, thanked the donors who joined the community at the liturgy that day, saying, "We welcome all of you and thank you for the ways in which you support us throughout the year."

Good Friends

continued on page 5.

(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Kathy Cauffill)



Above: **Sister Suzanne Zuercher, O.S.B.**, **Peggy Hayes**, **Sister Callista Kaley, O.S.B.**, and **Oblate Fr. Michael Solazzo**.

Left: The community and their friends as they recess from St. Scholastica Chapel.

Right: **Fr. Michael Solazzo** reads from the Gospel of John at the liturgy celebrating the Feast of Christ the King.

(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Kathy Cauffill)



(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Kathy Cauffill)

Message from the Prioress



Prioress Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.

Dear Friends,

With the Apostolic Visitation moving into its third phase, more and more articles are appearing on the meaning of religious life today. I thought you, our readers, might be interested in some thoughts about the meaning of monastic life for women today. On the day I began to write this letter, we listened to a commentary on Chapter 72 of the Rule of Benedict by Joan Chittister, O.S.B. I paraphrase Joan's thoughts here. She speaks of Benedictine simplicity that allows us to rest in God, community that gives us the support we need on this journey, balance which makes it possible, and prayer rooted in scripture which lights the way. The monastic way makes the ordinariness of daily life holy and it prompts us to pursue life to its fullest.

Some fifty two years ago I entered this community of women, doing so because of the atmosphere of prayer, community and meaningful work that I had seen in my teachers. I learned quickly that the Rule of Benedict is replete with living wisdom that promotes a balanced life which deeply respects the individual and works to protect the integrity of the group. Benedict warns against anything that will erode that integrity and especially warns against negative conversation that he calls "murmuring."

Our small community of women considers itself to be monastic in an urban setting (with a small group of us on mission in Colorado). Our monastery property consists of fourteen acres of land on the edge of the city of Chicago. It is an oasis in the midst of the city's multi-unit buildings. Here we pray, eat, sleep, work (or depart for our ministries elsewhere). Our communal and individual prayer, our search for God, are as central as is our effort to live well in community. Hospitality, a mark of monastic life, is willingly shown to our oblates, to people who come to visit for a few days, to our retreatants, and to others. We are women of the Church who have grown to appreciate the mission of the Church gathered at the Second Vatican Council. We support people through education, retreats, and other ministry for those who are homeless as well as through hospitality to international Sisters studying in Chicago. Many of you who are reading this have spent time with us. We welcome you all!

This issue features three of our beloved members who died within a short period this fall as well as featuring our annual appreciation event and three of our Sisters who are "serving where there is need." On these pages we also announce some special people who will be honored at our annual Testimonial Dinner on June 16, 2010. You won't want to miss this year's event!

Patricia Crowley

In Loving Memory



**Sister Mildred
Scheetz, O.S.B.
1918 – 2009**

Mildred Scheetz was born March 31, 1918, in Delta, Colorado, daughter of Edward J. and Martha Dorie Scheetz. She attended St. Michael parish school where she came to know the Benedictine Sisters. When she was fifteen, she entered their community in Chicago.

On July 11, 1934, Mildred received the religious name of Sister Dominica, returning to her baptismal name after the Second Vatican Council. She professed triennial vows August 16, 1935 and perpetual vows in 1939. She celebrated the 70th anniversary of her profession in the summer of 2005.

Sister was an elementary teacher for 53 years, and at some schools she also

acted as principal. She served in twelve parishes: in Illinois, at St. Symphorosa, Queen of All Saints, St. George, St. Joseph, and St. John Nepomucene (Chicago), St. Lambert (Skokie), Mother of God (Waukegan), and in Colorado, at St. Michael (Cañon City), St. Michael (Delta), St. Joseph (Salida), St. Mary and St. Leander (Pueblo). She taught summer religion classes to children in Colorado towns where there was no Catholic school. She also served at St. Scholastica Academy, Cañon City. She often acted as sacristan in the parish church. After retiring from teaching, Sister Mildred was house coordinator at the convent in Pueblo, visited shut-ins, and taught many the art of stained glass and how to crochet.

In gratitude for her years of service to the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Pueblo, Sister Mildred received a papal award, the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* medal, in 2002.

For much of her life, Sister Mildred suffered crippling rheumatoid arthritis which

necessitated several surgeries as doctors attempted to correct some of her bone deformities. She endured painful surgeries, always patiently hoping she could continue to be of service.

Her final years in community were spent as a resident of the infirmary. Sister loved reciting the Divine Office with the community. She read and reread her favorite "spiritual reading" books and liked to quote passages to those who stopped to chat with her. Ever cheerful in conversation, Sister enjoyed telling jokes and teasing. In the last months of her life, when she rarely spoke, her eyes gave warm response.

Sister Mildred died on Oct. 14, 2009. She is survived by her brother Ray Scheetz, many nieces and nephews and their children. Sister is mourned by these, her family, and by all the Sisters of her Benedictine community.

In Loving Memory



**Sister Joyce
Gleeson, O.S.B.
1930 – 2009**

Jalois Catherine Gleeson was born on November 28, 1930, in Evanston Illinois, the daughter of John Francis and Ellen Langen Gleeson. Her sister, Mary Ellen, was three years younger. The girls attended parish elementary schools and St. Scholastica High School, where Jalois was active in the Sodality. She worked summers and after school to help pay her tuition.

After graduating in June 1948, Jalois entered St. Scholastica Monastery in September. Her maturity and competence were recognized and she was assigned to St. Hilary Parish where, under the supervision of an experienced teacher, she taught fourth grade. In 1949, she received the habit and was given the name Sister Joyce and the special patronage of Mary, under the title, Cause of our Joy. She professed triennial vows in 1950, and perpetual vows in 1953.

Her love of reading and eagerness for knowledge made her a lifelong learner. She earned her Bachelor of Philosophy degree

from DePaul University, Masters in Library Science from Rosary College, and Masters in Religious Studies from Mundelein College. Sister Joyce was enrolled in the Study Unlimited Program of Chicago City Colleges where she studied Spanish and Computer Programming.

As a senior citizen, Sister Joyce attended numerous Elderhostels in various parts of the country with Mary Ellen, whom she affectionately spoke of as her "Sis." Her travels took her to many American states, Canada, Europe, the Holy Land and Turkey. Because her father was born in Ireland, Sister Joyce held Irish Free State citizenship, and carried an Irish passport along with her U.S. passport.

An educator for 47 years, Sister Joyce taught in the parishes of Saint Hilary, Queen of All Saints, and St. Symphorosa in Chicago, Mother of God in Waukegan, Illinois, and St. Leander in Pueblo, Colorado. At both Saint Scholastica Academy, Chicago, and Saint Scholastica Academy, Cañon City, Colorado, she served as a teacher and librarian. She often served as catechist for children who attended public schools, and she set up libraries in all three of the school buildings at St. Symphorosa parish.

Between 1970 and 1974, she worked with FOCUS, Friends of the Convicted United in Support, at a prison in Cañon City, where children of the incarcerated were provided care during visiting hours.

Sister Joyce also worked for the Chicago Public Library. She was a children's librarian at the Austin Irving Branch for six years. Since 1996, she was in charge of the monastery library, and worked four hours each week as a volunteer at St. Francis Hospital. For several years she coordinated the distribution of the community's Social Justice Fund.

Sister Joyce will be remembered for her generous spirit and fidelity to community life, but also for her sense of humor, her interest in each Sister, her assistance to guests, her timely conversations, and the hours she would spend playing games and being company for elderly and infirm Sisters.

Sister Joyce died on November 10, 2009, after a brief illness. She is mourned by her sister, Mary Ellen Rybicki, her niece, Suzanne Dowell, her nephew, John Simmons, and the Benedictine Sisters of her community.



**Sister Jeanne Hegarty,
O.S.B.
1926 – 2009**

Jean Ann Hegarty was born on October 16, 1926, in Nortonsville, Kansas, first child and only daughter of Carl Francis and Helen Diddle Hegarty. She and her brothers spent five years living with other family members and in an orphanage while their mother was ill with tuberculosis and their father was trying to save their family farm.

In 1943, after graduating from Saint Scholastica Academy in Cañon City, Colorado, Jean entered the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago. She received the name Sister Mary Charles (later changed to Sister Jeanne) and professed her perpetual vows in 1948.

Sister earned her Ph.B. degree from DePaul University in Chicago, serving as an elementary teacher and principal for seventeen years. She was appointed director of the

novitiate. At St. Scholastica Academy, Cañon City, Sister worked in public relations and set up the Academy's first advisory council and development department. Returning to Chicago, she helped establish Saint Scholastica Academy's first development office and public relations program.

Sister Jeanne earned a master's degree in Professional Training for Pastoral Ministry from St. Paul University in Ottawa, Ontario, and became the first person in the Diocese of Pueblo to be hired in Ministry to the Aged. Her next fifteen years were devoted to direct service to the elderly, while also educating others through workshops, conferences, courses and articles. Appointed as a delegate to the Governor's Conference in Aging, and Liaison for Aging from the Diocese of Pueblo to the University of Southern Colorado, Sister also helped establish an adult day care center at the St. Thomas More Hospital in Cañon City.

As a Benedictine, Sister Jeanne's prime ministry was her commitment to her community.

Her fidelity to common prayer, and her genuine love and interest in each Sister, will long be remembered. As a resident in the infirmary, she served as minister of communion, reader for liturgy and visitor to the sick. She read to the visually impaired and wrote letters for those who needed assistance. An active participant in the On-Going Formation committee, Benedictines for Peace, and the Prioress' Council of Elders, she offered valuable input. Sister loved reading, learned to use the computer, and stayed abreast of current events and social justice issues. In her final years, she spent time offering clerical help in the monastery administration offices.

Sister Jeanne's death came suddenly on November 19, 2009. She is mourned by her brothers, Marvin and Carl (Madeleine), her sister-in-law, Marilee Hegarty (wife of her late brother James), and many beloved nieces, nephews with their families. Her Benedictine community feels her loss deeply.

We Love To Hear From You

I was educated in Benedictine schools from kindergarten through high school.

The older I get, the more I realize how important the lessons were.

In addition to introducing me to the values of the Gospel, as a result of the Sisters' example, it never occurred to me as a woman that I should not explore the world or aspire to achievement.

Oh, and I learned that when you sing, you pray twice.

I am grateful for St. Scholastica because it had a big role in making my sister the person I loved so much.

I graduated from St. Scholastica Academy in Cañon City, Colorado.

Not only did I have a religion class on the Rule of Benedict, but I was surrounded by Benedictine values at meal times, at Mass and communion service, in classes, and in our routines and daily chores.

I felt so embraced by the community, empowered as a woman and as a citizen of the Earth to always do what is just and what is compassionate. What I learned from the Benedictine Sisters and the overall community is with me every day and I treasure the lessons learned and the joy and peacefulness I have found in them.

I love the newsletters and the pictures/stories about the Sisters who reside in the infirmary.

During this season of love, it is so appropriate to thank all of the Sisters of St. Scholastica for your love and dedication to the ideals of St. Benedict. You molded me into what I am today.

I will be ever grateful for the love of learning, the respect for others, and the opportunity to create music every day that I was given during my years at St. Scholastica Academy.

I hope to visit your labyrinth again. Thanks, Sisters!

I want to thank you for all you taught me during my years at Scholastica.

I attribute my self-confidence to the education you provided to me.

I am the woman I am today because of you.

Book Recommendations for Your Lenten Faith Journey

As the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago prepare for the liturgical season of Lent, members of the community will spend time in prayer, fasting and almsgiving. This Lenten preparation will also include reading from various theological and spiritual books. The monastery library will feature the following books for the community to consider. Perhaps you will find one of these books beneficial for your own Lenten journey.

- ~ *The Hospitality of God: A Reading of Luke's Gospel from Infancy to Emmaus* by Brendan Byrne, S.J.
- ~ *Blessed Are You: The Beatitudes for Modern Man* by Charles Murphy.
- ~ *The Passion of Jesus: The Gospel of Matthew* by Donald Senior, C.P., of Catholic Theological University. He has also written similarly titled books on the gospels of Mark, Luke and John.
- ~ *Spirituality of the Beatitudes: Matthew's Challenge for First World Christians* by Michael Crosby.
- ~ *Woman Wrapped in Silence*, by John Lynch.
- ~ *The Cup of Life: Guide for Spiritual Growth* by Joyce Rupp.
- ~ *Blessings and Woes: The Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Plain in the Gospel of Luke* by Megan McKenna.
- ~ *The Strangest Way: Walking the Christian Path*, by Robert Barron, professor of systematic theology at Mundelein Seminary.
- ~ *The Ladder of the Beatitudes* written by Jim Forest.
- ~ *Twelve Steps to Inner Freedom: Humility Revisited* by Joan Chittister, O.S.B.
- ~ *The Beatitudes: Soundings in the Christian Tradition* by Simon Tugwell.



Top, left: *Sister Benita Coffey, O.S.B., Jim Coffey, Ann Coffey, and Margie Auer.*
 Top middle: *Mary Ann Harrington, 2010 Testimonial Dinner Committee Chair and Development Council member, Mary Cunningham, and Sheila McGuire, member of the Testimonial Dinner Committee and Development Council.*
 Top right: *SSA classmates Sister Joanna Trapp, O.S.B. and Louann Van Zelst.*
 Second row, left: *Pat Coffey, Ron Auer, and John Coffey.*



Second row, right: *Irene Nowak visiting with her sister, Sister Rita Nowak, O.S.B.*

Third row, left: *Gretchen Greening, Jill Newberger, Eleanor Guzzio, and Judy Plathe in the chapel following Mass.*

Third row, right: *Herman Kamlage visits with Sister Rosemarie Rugar, O.S.B. in the dining room after brunch.*

Fourth row, left: *Louise Catanzaro, Mary G. Kaye, member of the Testimonial Dinner Committee and Development Council, and Helen Jascoviak in the monastery community room.*

Fourth row, right: *Marsha and Don Heidkamp in the monastery library.*

Fifth row: *Paul Hoang and his grandmother, Cecilia Vuong Mieng.*



Led by Sister Patricia Crowley, the Benedictine Sisters raised their hands and blessed those gathered in the chapel, as Mass ended:

**“Blessed are you, O God of mercy,
 who through your Son
 gave us a marvelous example
 of charity
 and the great commandment
 of love for one another.
 Send down your blessings
 on these your servants,
 who so generously
 devote themselves to helping others.
 We ask this through Jesus, the Christ.
 Amen.”**

After Mass, the Sisters shared more of their Benedictine hospitality with a delicious brunch and delightful conversation with friends, old and new.

Whether the gifts given are financial contributions, donations of time, talents, goods, or prayers, the community thanks the many loyal friends who show their support for the Sisters and the community’s many works.



(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Kathy Caudill).



Memorials

October 1, 2009 through January 6, 2010

In memory of:

Sr. Mary Jude Ahern, O.S.B.

Terrence Ahern, Andrea Ciccone

Pedro Arenas, Sr.

William and Ruth Ivantic

Robert Ashenhurst

Jane Thain

Deceased members of the Bajda family

Danuta Bajda

Beverly Ann Barr

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Sr. Maurus Becker, O.S.B.

Jim and Carla Krcmarik

Bentley family

Matthew and Dorothy Miholic

Deceased members

of the Birmingham family

Catherine McDermott

Frank and Margaret Bishop

Julie Bishop Brown

Paul Blough

Barbara Blough

Linda Bolt

Richard and Stephanie Klingelsmith

Tony Brondel

Sr. Louise Eggen, O.S.B.

Bruce Brusven

Patricia Campion

Bill Bryers

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago,

Nancy Bryers

Edward Burke

Jack and Lois Gallagher

Mark Byrnes

Jim and Dot Jung

Andrew Carl Cepon

Susanne Cepon, John and Joan Delisi,

Jack and Mary Flessner,

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Nordstrom,

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Paulson, Jr.,

Angela Schroeder

Deceased members

of the Ciciora family

Danuta Bajda

Mary Cipolla

Joe and Sally Cipolla, Marion Hohmeier,

B.V. and M.K. Rottach, Kathleen Tickle,

Frances M. Tirone

Loretto Corfman

Mary Ann Harrington

Deceased members

of the Coyne family

Catherine McDermott

George Cullen, Sr. and Annie Cullen

Margaret Cullen

Deceased members

of the Dabrowski family

Danuta Bajda

Carl Damlos

LaVerne Damlos

Bruce Davis

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Kevin Devuono

Eileen Moorman

Ewa Domagalski

Danuta Bajda

Gil Eschelbach

Gerard Chimney Company

Stella Dulovich

Jim and Marietta Vandendorpe

Don Foertsch

Jim and Dot Jung

Sr. Joyce Gleeson, O.S.B.

Ellen Ahern,

Anonymous, Danielle Berkmeier,

Yvonne Lance Black,

Jeff and Kathy Caudill, Andrea Ciccone,

Suzanne Dowell, William Flannery,

Geraldine Gleason, John Gleason,

Richard and Marilyn Halvorsen,

Robert and Marilyn Hammer,

Jerry and Polly Jaworski, Mary Kelly,

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Kellogg,

Mr. and Mrs. Billy J. Langam,

Margaret Marie Langam, Hector C. Lobo,

Madonna McCutcheon,

Liljana Nacevska, Oksana Nagirna,

Brian and Wanda Pabich,

Mary Beth Pistillo, Mary Ellen Rybicki,

Sheila Schultz, John Simmons,

Shirley Stang, Carolyn Tecktiel,

Carol and Jun Topi, Andrew Walsh,

Josepha Walsh, Sean Walsh

William Francis Griffin

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Barbara Nugent Hahn

Richard Hahn

Deceased members

of the Halleran family

Catherine McDermott

Tom Halpin

Lisa Halpin

Suzanne Heelan Harrington

Larry, Sharon, and Nemeth Barr

Sr. Jeanne Hegarty, O.S.B.

Ellen Ahern,

Robert and Geraldine Blazich,

Nancy Bryers, Jeff and Kathy Caudill,

Bill and Helen Davis, Fr. Fran Dyer,

Rudy and Eileen Gallegos,

Joe and Mary Ann Godec,

Robert and Marilyn Hammer,

Mary Ann Harrington,

Carl and Madeleine Hegarty,

Jean Marie Hegarty, Michael Hegarty,

Michael and Teresa Hegarty,

Rosemary Hegarty,

Mary Etta Koch Johnson,

Bernice Krasovec, Theresa Marion,

Kathlyn Myers,

Brian and Wanda Pabich,

Charles and Ursula Perko,

Marian Radacy, Clare Jeanne Sanchez,

Mary Ellen Stuermer,

Andrew and Amy Sutherland,

Terry Tatum, Joyce Koch Thomas,

Mickie Trujillo, Shirley Tuttle,

Josepha Walsh, Virginia Wilkinson

Jessie Hitchens

Patricia Campion

Rita R. Horen

Nancy S. Simonian

Timothy J. Howard

Robert Anderson family

Mariella Jamieson

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago,

Sr. Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.

John E. Johns, Jr.

John and Mardo Petrovich

Margo Campion Kelch

Patricia Campion

Wayne Kettler

Jim and Dot Jung

Mary Lou Kilgen

Mary Joan Kilgen Truesdell

We remember daily those entrusted to our prayers ...

Ron Kippenberger

Gerard Chimney Company

Anna M. Klun

Sr. Rosemarie Rupar, O.S.B.

Rita Kmak

Edward Kmak

Deceased members

of the Kociszewski family

Danuta Bajda

Aubrey Kramer

Bud and Betty Chess,

Sr. Dorothy VanAlstyne, O.S.B.

Jeanne Kukla

LaVerne Damlos

Deceased members of the Kurcz family

Danuta Bajda

Dorothy Lescher

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago,

Sheila Gallagher, Patricia Roesner

Anne Lipowski

Mary Ann Harrington

Howard MacKenzie

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

John Maloney

Anonymous,

Stephen Andrin,

Elizabeth Angeleri, Donna Bartell,

Margaret Bell,

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago,

Al and Colleen Bodfish,

Jeff and Kathy Caudill,

Robert and Mary Pat Collins,

Milorad and Dragana Cupic and family,

Dennis and Daryl D'Amato,

Rosemelita Ducucyuy, Earner family,

Robert Evans, Bob and Donna Frasor,

William and Gloria Frett,

Paul and Virginia Gaiser,

Nora Grajdura, Todd and Lori Hall,

Jim and Kathy Haymaker,

Nancy Heinsch, Pat Hickery,

Tom and Kathie Hoban,

Steven and Patricia Janik,

Carol Jepsen, Irene King,

Mike Kocher, Kolbus Family,

Steven and Kathleen LePitre,

Joan MacArthur, Kieran Mahoney,

Benjie Maloney, Margaret Maloney,

Thomas and Diane Marini,

Miceli Drapery, Sharon Mischke,

Dan and Jackie Mitchell,

William and Maureen Perchiazzi,

Tom Roman, John and Denise Ronan,

Jerry and Gloria Rose,

Andrew and Barbara Scelsi,

Martin and Mary Sebastian,

Fr. Michael Solazzo,

Paul and Dolores Stanton,

Richard Stoddart,

Ken and Patricia Vanderlin,

Elaine Weiss, Don C. Winslow,

Jacob and Alice Wych,

Chester and Alice Zdunek,

Bob, Shirley and John Zimmer

Sr. Constance Matern, O.S.B.

Jane Eckland

Sr. Jean Marie Matern, O.S.B.

Jane Eckland

Sr. Walburg Matern, O.S.B.

Jane Eckland

Patrick McDermott

Catherine McDermott

August Mecali

Anthony Mecali

Serafina Mecali

Anthony Mecali

Miholic Family

Matthew and Dorothy Miholic

Vince Mirtich

Ann Mirtich

Ellen Lou Westcott Montemurri

Casmier J. Montemurri

Maria Rosana Monti

Don and Dorothy Andries

Patricia Reid Morrissey

Leo Morrissey

Margaret Mule

Iris Hillenbrand

Pepe Munquia

Pat Champion

Anne Natale

Dominic and Margaret Caminiti

Barbara Nugent

Richard Hahn

Rita O'Brien

Sr. Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.

Ruth Oechsle

Tom and Beth Kneesel

George Olen

Ken and Judy Bartels

Jack O'Ryan

Phil and Virginia Hoyt

Kevin and Yvonne O'Ryan

Phil and Virginia Hoyt

Erin Winnan Palmer

John J. Palmer

Margaret A. Paluch

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Martha Pederson

Barbara Mongoven-Bredehoeft

Patricia Pederson

Tim McGurn

Peter Perse and Mary Gersick Perse

Margaret Cullen

Francis and Lea Pirman

Margaret Pirman

Mark Podraza

Tom and Ellen Hardy

George Radacy

Marian Radacy

Alvin and Elwyn Richter

Lisa Halpin

Mary Rohan

James Rohan

Rose Rohr

Tom and Beth Kneesel

Deceased members of the families

of Edward and Martha Scheetz

Raymond Scheetz

Joseph Scheetz

Raymond Scheetz

Lawrence Scheetz

Raymond Scheetz

Sr. Mildred Scheetz, O.S.B.

Ellen Ahern, John and Theresa Baviere,

William and Helen Davis, Fr. Fran Dyer,

Robert and Marilyn Hammer,

Mary Hovis, Agnes Ivantic,

Eleanore McCarthy,

Rick and Marge Radebaugh.

James Rhodes and Annette Scheetz,

Raymond Scheetz,

Albert and Carole Schmalz,

George and Marie Schmalz,

Irene Schmalz family,

Joe and Mary Ann Schmalz,

Dwight and Martha Serfoss,

Tom and Mildred Sinner

Sylvester Scheetz

Raymond Scheetz

... let us serve one another in love.

Irene Schmalz
Raymond Scheetz
Ralph Schmalz
Raymond Scheetz
Aliceve Schmid
Lisa Halpin
David Schmid
Lisa Halpin
Joseph Schuessler
Matthew and Dorothy Miholic
Marianne Schuessler
Matthew and Dorothy Miholic
John Schwendau
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago,
Sr. Jane Smith, O.S.B.
Rita Johnson Six
Cheryl Johnson
Stanley Peter Skarbalus
Suzanne Cepen, Mary Anne Jones
William J. Smith
Bob and Judy Atlas,
Padilla Speer Beardsley,
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago,
Jim and Virginia Bransfield,
Jeff and Kathy Caudill,
Mary Terese Cozzola, John J. Divane,
Jim and Kathleen Eaton,
Peter and Mary Fitzgerald,
Anna Flaherty,
Rudolph and Eileen Gallegoes,
Albert and Katherine Gehrke,
Donald and Sharlene Goldenson,
Allen Greenberger, Jane Harnett,
Mary Ann Harrington, Margaret Harris,
Bernard Henry, Lucy Henry,
Leonard and Rosemary Huray,
Sheila Kelly,
Steven and Barbara Kuklock,
John and Peg Lattner,
Steve and Peg Lombardo,
Roberta Michaletz,
Barbara Monahan, Joe and Lora Oberle,
Dick and Elaine Olds,
T.J. and Laurie Paal,
Thomas and Joan Planek, Betty Prichard,
Bill and Kathy Riordan,
Mary Ellen Rybicki,
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Saigh,
Margaret Schermerhorn,
Frances Setnicar, Sr. Ann Sharp, O.S.B.,
Paula Slowey, Tom and Gladys Smith,

Synovis Life Technologies,
The Training Company, Don C. Winslow
Bill Stolberg
Larry and Judy Brod
Tom Stuermer
Mary Ellen Stuermer
Lawrence J. Suffredin, Sr.
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
**Deceased members
of the Sullivan family**
John L. Wren
Carl E. Swanson
Joan Beyer Swanson
Carl Thorley
Patricia Kane Musto
Jan Tkaczow
Danuta Bajda
Tom, Mary and Bill Twardy
Jim and Judy Moel,
Eino and Betty Seppala
Mary Tyler
Tim McGurn
Elinor Van Houghton
William Van Houghton
Sr. Antoinette Vogel, O.S.B.
Susan Goedke
Sr. Colette Westrick
Ed and Barbara Cunningham
Russell Dale Winslow
Don C. Winslow
John J. Wittner
Lillian M. Wittner
Deceased members of the Wren family
John L. Wren
Sr. Anna Wrenn, O.S.B.
Michael and Grace Gaughan,
Catherine Wrenn,
Charles and Dawn Wrenn,
Michael J. Wrenn, Michael P. Wrenn
Ann "Toots" Zupec
Barbara Jurcin
Rose Rosko
Angela Schroeder

Special Occasions

Doris Bato on her 80th Birthday
Pat Campion
Judy Beaumont on her Birthday
Jill Bergner
**Benedictine Sisters who taught
at St. Lambert's School
from 1954 - 1962**
Thomas and Susan Reilly
Marilyn Hennessy on her Birthday
Irene Frye, Julie Kaufman,
Margaret Kearney
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Klinger
Elizabeth Klinger
**Dick and Mona Ladner
on their 50th Wedding Anniversary**
George Courtney and Patricia Cowhey
Dorothy McGurn
Luke Kehoe,
Mark and Shannon Kownick,
Christopher McGurn, Tim McGurn,
Greg and Nadine Schreiber,
Brian and Mary Beth Sullivan
**Tom and Pat Meyers
on their 50th Wedding Anniversary**
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago,
Fred and Mary Ann Henning
**Joseph and Vivian Nemanich
on their 65th Wedding Anniversary**
Joseph and Vivian Nemanich
Sisters of St. Therese, Tanzania, Africa
Sr. Leocratia Muganda
In honor of Mark Smith
Mary Terese Cozzola
**Jim and Mary Kay Stanczak
on their 50th Wedding Anniversary**
Fred and Marie Zalaznik
Martha Stevens on her 100th Birthday
Kathleen Kirschen Janessa,
Karen Ugel Nickerson

Listen ...with the ear of your heart.

~ Prologue, Rule of Benedict

News from Cañon City Alumnae

All who attended or graduated from St. Scholastica Academy in Cañon City are invited to attend a special reunion to be held in Las Vegas, Nevada on June 11 - 14, 2010. This is an opportunity to reconnect with old friends, meet new ones, and share some memories. For more information, visit www.ssareunion.com or send an e-mail to tlh@sbcglobal.net.

Jessica Golloher (SSA '91) is a correspondent for National Public Radio in Moscow.

Sister Jeanne Hegarty, O.S.B. (formerly known as Sister Mary Charles) passed away suddenly on November 19, 2009. The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago posted this information on Facebook. We heard from so many SSA Cañon City graduates, and former faculty and staff, about the difference this amazing woman made in their lives. We thought we would share some of these remembrances with you:

We often chatted and her gentle input helped me to deepen my own relationship with God and for that I will be ever grateful.

: (... and yet, when I think about it, all I can remember are her smiles and hugs.

She was such a wonderful lady. Many fond memories of her at SSA. She will be missed.

I am happy to have many good memories of SSA that included Sister Jeanne.

It was a blessing to be able to know and interact with such a wonderful Sister! I am thankful she was part of my life.

What a great loss to us all. Sister Jeanne was kind, compassionate, and much admired.

Sister Jeanne was, and always will be, an incredibly vibrant and compassionate person. We will miss her lovely smile and overall demeanor.

She was a wonderfully kind woman...she will be deeply missed. I will always remember her warm smile.

Sister Jeanne was always so upbeat and cheerful. She could always brighten your day and I'm sure she's still smiling.

Please join us at St. Scholastica Monastery During Lent (February 17 - April 1, 2010)

Sung Vespers – Sundays, 5 p.m. at St. Scholastica Chapel

and Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 28

10:30 a.m. Mass 5:00 p.m. Sung Vespers

Holy Thursday, April 1

9:00 a.m. Tenebrae 5:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, April 2

9:00 a.m. Tenebrae 3:00 p.m. Service

Holy Saturday, April 3

9:00 a.m. Tenebrae 7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, April 4

11 a.m. Mass 5:00 p.m. Sung Vespers

The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago Have a Facebook Page

The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago now have a page on Facebook, a social networking resource on the Internet. Become a "fan" of the Benedictine Sisters and receive updates and news about the monastic community as the information is posted. We already have about 100 "friends" who have become "fans" of our Facebook page. Just enter "Benedictine Sisters of Chicago" in the search area in Facebook to locate our page. Become a fan, add a comment, read the information and check out the photos located there.

You can also find prayer opportunities, news about the community, and other information on our website: <http://www.osbchicago.org>.

Newsbriefs



Left to right: Sub-Prioress, **Sister Judith Zonsius, O.S.B.**, and **Sister Susan Quaintance, O.S.B.**, visit with **Sister Judith's brother, Michael Zonsius, Sr.**, and her nephew, **Michael Zonsius, Jr.** at the *Appreciation Liturgy brunch.*

(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Kathy Caudill).

Sister Judith Zonsius, O.S.B. is the new Sub-Prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago. **Sister Mariella Hathorn, O.S.B.** is now the Director of the Infirmary. **Sisters Susan Kilduski, O.S.B.** and **Suzanne Zuercher, O.S.B.** are assisting in the afternoon activities in the infirmary.

A Mass will be offered in memory of former member, and **Oblate, Rita Horen** on Sunday, March 21, 2010 in St. Scholastica Chapel. All are welcome to attend.

Sister Judith Murphy, O.S.B. attended a meeting for the Federation of St. Scholastica in September. She is also a member of the University of Notre Dame task force on the participation of Latino children and families in Catholic schools, which has recently published its report entitled *To Nurture the Soul of a Nation: Latino Families, Catholic Schools, and Educational Opportunities.*

In late October, **Sisters Susan Quaintance, O.S.B.** and **Karen Bland, O.S.B.** traveled to Baltimore for the Federation Council meeting.

In November, **Sister Mary Benet McKinney, O.S.B.** once again began preparing monthly Scriptural reflections. The reflections provide the daily Scripture readings, and a related commentary from **Sister Mary Benet.** **Sister Marilyn Hattrup, O.S.B.** assists Sister Mary Benet with the preparation of these reflections for mailing and for posting at the website. These monthly reflections can be found at <http://www.osbchicago.org/prayer.htm>.

Oblate Joan Thiry has written a children's book about Jeanne Jugan, the foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor, who was canonized as a saint in October 2009. Joan was interviewed this fall on Relevant Radio in a panel discussion about Saint Jeanne Jugan. Two members of the Little Sisters of the Poor also participated on the panel.



(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Kathy Caudill).

Above, left to right, standing, are: **Mary Ann Mozina Flessner, Joan Mozina Delisi, Betty Twardy Seppala** and **Beverly Sieben Gust**, and seated, **Sister Ann Sharp, O.S.B.**

Former students of **Sister Ann Sharp, O.S.B.** came to St. Scholastica monastery in the fall for a lunchtime visit. Sister Ann was one of their teachers at Mother of God Parish in Waukegan, Illinois.



(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Kathy Caudill).

Sister Belinda Monahan, O.S.B. (above) has returned to her work as an archeologist. Here she examines, weighs, and records data about a bone that was uncovered at an archeological dig in Turkey.

With this issue, *Sacro Speco* begins its twentieth year of publication. It was first published in the winter of 1990, when **Sister Mary Benet McKinney, O.S.B.** was the Prioress and **Oblate Roberta Michaletz** was the first layperson to serve as Director of Development for the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago.

In September, **Sister Benita Coffey, O.S.B.** attended the 30th anniversary celebration of Chicago Archdiocesan Vocation Association (CAVA). She was a co-founder of this Chicago-based vocation organization.

Sister Patricia Crowley, O.S.B. attended the opening of the Smithsonian Museum "Women and Spirit" exhibit on the history of women religious in this country.

The Oblates often “serve where there is need” at St. Scholastica monastery. Some visit the Sisters regularly in the infirmary. Others help out at Jubilee celebrations or the annual Appreciation Liturgy Mass and brunch that follows. Below, left: Oblates Mary



Catherine Ryan and Paul Brimstin take a short break from collecting dishes to be washed. Below, right: Dominic and Margaret Caminiti visit with Sister Winifred Sommer, O.S.B., as Oblate Matt Ambre refreshes their coffee.



(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Kathy Caudill).

Becoming an Oblate

Are you interested in learning more about the Benedictine way of life and spirituality? Do you want to know more about what it means to be an Oblate? Contact Sister Benita Coffey, O.S.B. (773/764-2413, ext. 327, or bcoffey@osbchicago.org.)

Mark Your Calendar

August 23, 2011

On that date, the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago will begin celebrating the community's 150 years in Chicago.

What Would You Like to Read About?

We hear from many of you, telling us what you enjoy most about this newsletter. Thank you for your kind words.

What would YOU like to read about the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago?

- ~ More information about opportunities for prayer and liturgy at the monastery?
- ~ More photos and Newsbriefs features about the Sisters?
- ~ More stories about individual Sisters and their ministries?
- ~ More information for your personal journey of faith?

Please let us know. Thank you!

Sisters Serving Where There Is Need

For twenty five years, Sister Rita Nowak, O.S.B. taught in schools in Chicago, Colorado, and at St. Scholastica Academy in Chicago. She has also served as Sub-Prioress. Today she is the community's Director of Buildings and Grounds, juggling repairs, maintenance issues, renovation projects, and budgetary constraints with a quiet calm. She works with Sister Patricia Cielinski, O.S.B. preparing the liturgical environment in the Chapel. "I enjoy work which involves creating," says Sister Rita. "I especially enjoy our grounds. There is something in me which comes from my father, who was a grower and wholesale florist." Visit the chapel, labyrinth, or various alcoves and niches throughout the monastery, and you will see evidence of Sister Rita's artistic touch.

Sister Mary Benet McKinney, O.S.B. was a teacher and principal for many years. She worked to establish parish school boards in the Archdiocese of Chicago, a movement that eventually spread throughout the country. She played an important role in the creation of the Urban Apostolate of the Sisters. Her work as a facilitator with countless parishes and religious communities continues to have a positive impact today. Her book, *Sharing Wisdom: A Process for Group Decision Making*, is still widely read and followed. She served as the Prioress of the community for nine years, as a member of the Monastic Council for many years, and as Director of Oblates for nine years. Recent health issues have reduced her involvement in various ministries.

Sister Marilyn Hatstrup, O.S.B. is a member of the Monastic Council, coordinates schedules for the monastery's liturgical functions, assists in the archives, serves as a monastery portress, and helps with driving and other tasks as needed. Sister Marilyn has served as a teacher, principal, computer consultant, parish business manager, and administrative assistant to the Prioress. She assists with the distribution of monthly spiritual reflections, a task she finds to be both rewarding (working with Sister Mary Benet again) and challenging (thanks to the monastery's temperamental photocopy machine). When asked about the work she does to benefit the monastic community, Sister Marilyn confesses, "I really prefer to work behind the scenes." Clearly, another example of serving where there is need.



Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
St. Scholastica Monastery
7430 N. Ridge Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60645-1913
www.osbchicago.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LONG PRAIRIE, MN
PERMIT NO. 388

Development Council

Kathy Caudill
Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.
Katherine Gehrke
Mary Ann Harrington
Dan Henrick
John Hourihane
Mary G. Kaye
Virginia Malter
Barbara McCarry, O.S.B.
Sheila McGuire
Anthony Rizzato
Joanne Rooney

Sacro Speco is published quarterly by the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago. Copyright © 2010.
Names and addresses from our mailing list are NEVER sold or distributed to other organizations.
Contact Director of Development Kathy Caudill (kcaudill@osbchicago.org or 773/764-2413, ext. 233).
Please help us keep our mailing list current. Thank you!

- New address.
- Please remove my name from the mailing list.
- Receiving more than one copy. Please send all labels, indicating the correct one.

Directions in Development

The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago have many loyal and generous friends!

This summer, we asked some of our friends if they would contribute funds for the repair of stained glass windows and restoration of the organ in St. Scholastica chapel as part of a matching grant challenge. Thanks to you, these expensive repairs and renovations are now completely paid for!

This fall, we told you about the cost of providing care for the elderly and infirm Sisters who live in the monastery infirmary. Thanks to many, many donors who gave so generously, thus far the funds raised will cover the cost of providing infirmary care for two Sisters for a year!

Many of you contribute with memorial donations and gifts in honor of birthdays or anniversaries. Some authorize a monthly credit card donation, or arrange monthly payments with their bank. Others name the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago as beneficiaries of their estate or trust, making a contribution to be received by the community after the donor has passed away. We are grateful for your continued generosity!

If you have an IRA, are 70½ years of age or older, you can contribute up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA to a qualifying charity (like the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago) without having to consider the donation as taxable income in 2010.

Perhaps you have a connection with board members or staff of a foundation that might be willing to fund a project for the community? If so, please let me know. We are always looking for new fundraising options to benefit the care of the Sisters and support their ministries "serving where there is need."

With gratitude,
Kathy Caudill
Director of Development

Save the Date

16th Annual
Testimonial Dinner
Wednesday, June 16, 2010

5:30 p.m. cocktails
6:30 p.m. dinner

Park Ridge Country Club
636 Prospect Avenue,
Park Ridge, Illinois

Come and join us
for a special evening
with our 2010 Honorees:
Albert and Katherine Gehrke,
Oblate Father Michael Solazzo,
and Susana Cordova.

2010 Testimonial Dinner Chair,
Mary Ann Harrington