



# Sacro Speco Sacred Space

Vol. XX1, No. 1

Newsletter of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Winter 2011

## 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.

## We Give Thanks To All Of You...

On Sunday, November 21, 2010, the monastic community hosted a Liturgy of Thanksgiving for Benefactors of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago in St. Scholastica Chapel. Celebrating the Feast of Christ the King, the chapel reverberated with the sound of voices raised in songs of worship and praise.

In the fall, community benefactors were sent invitations to the liturgy, and were asked to send in cards listing the names of deceased loved ones for the Sisters to include in their daily prayer. Many prayer cards were sent to the monastery, from those living nearby and those residing far away. Throughout November, the Sisters remembered these dear departed friends and family members in their liturgies and daily prayers. During the liturgy on November 21<sup>st</sup> the memorial cards were present in a basket located near the main altar.

### We Give Thanks

continued on page 3.

(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Kathy Caudill)



Left: Before the Liturgy of Thanksgiving, Sister Benita Coffey, O.S.B. and Oblate Roberta Michaletz discuss hospitality preparations for the brunch. Many Oblates volunteer to assist the monastic community at this event thanking generous friends of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago.

Below: Oblate Fr. Michael Garcia, O.P. presided at the Mass as the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago gather for a Liturgy of Thanksgiving in St. Scholastica Chapel.



Sister Belinda Monahan, O.S.B. at the place where Archbishop Romero lived until he was martyred, now known as the Centro Historico Monseñor Romero in San Salvador, El Salvador.

## Benedictine Sisters Commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Deaths of Four North American Churchwomen

Article on pages 4-5.

(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Kathy Caudill)



## Message from the Prioress



Prioress Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.

Dear Friends,

Our community, the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, continues to explore new ways to manage our property and buildings and to decrease our expenses as we look ahead. You probably are aware that in 1986 the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) inaugurated an office to address the significant lack of retirement savings among religious communities in the United States. In 1988, an annual collection was established to support the many religious communities whose retirement funds were sorely underfunded. Ours is one of these. Our community has, indeed, benefited from that annual collection for many years.

This past year in April of 2010, three of us (Sisters Mariella Hathorn, Judith Murphy, and myself) launched a new relationship with the USCCB's National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) through a workshop in Dayton Ohio. This pilot project, Planning and Implementation Assistance, is designed to provide more intensive consultation services to groups such as ours. Through a skilled health care consultant and a skilled financial consultant, we have begun to explore ways to significantly reduce the cost of running our infirmary and have taken steps to develop a master plan for our buildings and property. We also continue to work with Maureen Gallagher of The Reid Group in our community planning. We are blessed to have so many wonderful companions along this road. We give thanks to our monastery's Development Council (you will find their names on the last page) for their guidance and support in this process.

As we enter into this new year of 2011, the world is changing and so are we! Your gifts, your support, and your friendship mean so much to us. May this New Year avail us of opportunities to build a more peace-filled and just world for all!

Gratefully,

*Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.*

## In Loving Memory



**Sister Mary  
Cornella, O.S.B.  
1910 – 2010**

Mary Jane Cornella was born in Graycreek, Colorado, on December 5, 1910, the only

daughter of the eight children of Victor and Angelina Donini Cornella. She was baptized Maria Giovanna Julia at Holy Trinity Church in Trinidad, Colorado. Along with her brothers, she grew up in Florence, Colorado, where she came to know the Benedictine Sisters in religious education classes at St. Benedict Parish.

In 1931, Mary Jane (as she was also called) entered the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago. She entered the novitiate in 1932, receiving the religious name, Sr. Clotilde. Her first vows were pronounced in 1933, and she made her perpetual profession in 1936. She was known by that name until the period of renewal following Vatican Council II, when she chose to simply use the name Mary that she had received at birth and baptism.

In preparation for what would be a 42 year career as an elementary teacher, she earned a bachelor's degree in education from DePaul University. Sr. Mary taught primary or intermediate grades in Chicago

(St. Joseph, St. John Nepomucene and St. Symphorosa) and in southern Colorado (St. Michael School in Delta, St. Mary in Pueblo, St. Michael in Cañon City, and St. Leander in Pueblo). She often served as sacristan and/or cook.

Sr. Mary frequently taught summer religious education programs in Colorado parishes where there were no Catholic schools, sometimes teaching in two, three, or even four towns in one summer. Sister also assisted with the campers attending Camp San Benito outside Cañon City.

Sr. Mary worked at Saint Scholastica Academy in Cañon City as receptionist, switchboard operator, and needlecraft and crocheting instructor.

In 1979, Sister was fortunate to spend three weeks on pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Another summer, she volunteered in a reading program for prison inmates.

After sixteen years at the Academy, Sr. Mary moved to Saint Mary's in Pueblo where she ministered to the elderly and shut-ins of the parish.

In 1992, Sr. Mary retired to the monastery in Chicago. She took charge of the "gift shop", a cabinet near the monastery front door. Here hand-made items and religious goods were displayed and sold. Sister contributed many beautifully handmade items.

Quiet service was characteristic of Sister who welcomed every chance to help with mailing projects or clerical tasks. She spent hours each day in prayer or reading, and was regularly present at community prayer and liturgy. Her last responsibility was opening and sorting the Prioress' mail.

In the fall of 2006, the National Religious Retirement Office chose pictures of Sr. Mary to be used in the publicity for their annual collection campaign. Her hands as she prayed the rosary, and her cheerful face, were featured in posters and brochures distributed across the nation. She was affectionately named "our poster girl" by the community.

For 79 years in the community, Sr. Mary prayed and worked, gently and faithfully, serving wherever she was needed. Her 75<sup>th</sup> jubilee was marked in 2008. On December 2, 2010, she died peacefully, just days before the anticipated celebration of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Sr. Mary is survived by her youngest brother, Joseph, of Florence, Colorado, her many nieces and nephews, their extended families, and her Benedictine Sisters, who mourn her death, but rejoice with her as she now enjoys eternal life.



The community expressed gratitude for all that friends and benefactors do for the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago. After communion, with hands outstretched, the monastic community blessed friends and benefactors gathered in the chapel:

“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 continued the sharing of Benedictine hospitality, providing a delicious brunch with friends, old and new.

Whether the gifts given are financial contributions, donations of time, talents or goods, or heartfelt prayers, the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago give thanks for the many loyal friends who assist the Sisters as they aspire to receive all guests as Christ, and strive to live out the community’s mission of “reverence: seeking to find and honor God present in each person and in all created things.”



Top row, left: *Sister Eleanore Hillenbrand, O.S.B.* and 2010 Testimonial Dinner honoree, *Susana Cordova*. Top row, middle: *Sister Suzanne Zuercher, O.S.B.* speaks with *Mary Simon* and *Maureen Dondlinger*. Top row, right: *Development Council member and Testimonial Dinner committee member, Mary Ann Harrington* and *Michael P. Wrenn* visit during the brunch.  
 Second row, left: *Oblate Anne Matz* and *Solena* and *Susan Rizzato*. Second row, right: *Andrea Ciccone* and *Patricia Campion*.  
 Third row, left: *Sister Benita Coffey, O.S.B.* provides *Oblates Kathlyn Myers* and *Kay McSpadden* with their volunteer instructions. Third row, right: 2011 Testimonial Dinner honorees *Mary* and *Edward Matthei* visit with *Sister Judith Murphy, O.S.B.* (center) in the chapel after Mass.  
 Fourth row, left: *Development Council member and Testimonial Dinner committee member, Mary G. Kaye* and *Oblate Patty Ballard*. Fourth row, right: *Peggy Hayes, Sister Callista Kaley, O.S.B.* and *Janet Hayes* stand before a fresco from *St. Scholastica Chapel, Norcia, Italy*.  
 Bottom row, left: *Dominic* and *Margaret Caminiti* visit with *Sister Winifred Sommer, O.S.B.* (center) at brunch. Bottom row, right: *Oblate Carolyn Fields* (a 2006 Testimonial Dinner honoree) volunteers during the brunch.

## Benedictine Sisters Travel to El Salvador ...

*Editor's Note: Sisters Patricia Crowley, O.S.B. and Belinda Monahan, O.S.B. traveled to El Salvador in November as part of a delegation with SHARE Foundation (www.share-elsalvador.org). They share their comments and reflections about the trip.*

### *Sister Belinda Monahan, O.S.B.:*

The week after Thanksgiving, I was given the opportunity to travel, with Sr. Patricia, to El Salvador with a SHARE delegation commemorating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the deaths of the four North American churchwomen. It was an amazing opportunity for me to learn more not only about the lives and deaths of these women and the many people who died as a result of the civil war in El Salvador, but also about the struggles that continue in El Salvador today. We met so many people and heard so many inspiring stories during the course of the week that it would be impossible for me to share them all here, so I will just mention a few which meant the most to me. I'm sure that every single one of the nearly fifty women—and three very brave men—on the delegation brought home memories of things that inspired them and things that disturbed them from this pilgrimage.

The liturgy at the site of the discovery of the bodies of the four women was a celebration of their lives of service to the Salvadorans. The small church built on the site was overflowing, some people were seated, but many more were standing both inside and outside of the church. People who knew the women were present, along with those for whom this was the first trip to El Salvador. Among the congregation were several groups of high schoolers from Cleveland, where Dorothy Kazel and Jean Donovan were based, and from several Jesuit high schools. It was exciting to see such young people engaged in this experience. The Mass was celebrated in English and in Spanish, with a large group leading the singing in Spanish. Rather than being a celebration of the deaths of these women, it was very much a celebration of their lives and the joy and inspiration they gave to those around them.

The visit to the cemetery where the Maryknollers (Ita Ford and Maura Clarke) were buried, in the city of Chaletanango where they worked, was a much more somber experience, but deeply moving.

The delegation also visited sites of other martyred church figures, including Archbishop Romero's house and the church where he was killed while celebrating Mass, and the University of Central America, the site of the murders of six Jesuits, along with their cook and her daughter, by the Salvadoran military. These sites, and the materials in the museums, made the activities of people who gave their lives in service to others very real to me.

SHARE sponsors grassroots activities which are organized by local communities in response to the needs of those communities. Several such groups spoke to us about the work they are doing in El Salvador. One such group included about ten young women from a rural settlement near Suchitoto. These girls are receiving high school scholarships and training on sexual and reproductive issues that affect women and girls. They commit to training at least three other young women in the community about these issues. In addition, they have formed a drum line, a traditionally male activity in El Salvador. After they spoke to us about their training and some of the difficulties they have faced for taking part in non-traditional activities, the drum group performed for us. The courage of these young women in defying stereotypes and their joy in becoming part of a group which has accomplished so many things is inspiring.

Sister Belinda Monahan, O.S.B.



*La Sihua Batucada, the Girls' Drum Line.*



*Sisters Patricia Crowley, O.S.B. and Belinda Monahan, O.S.B. join Sister Marcelline Koch, O.P., in the chapel on the campus of the University of Central America (UCA).*

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

This special trip to El Salvador, where I had spent time in 1990, was a 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee gift to me. It was challenging to return there after twenty years! Then, the civil war was in its height. Now, violence continues but is much more subtle. A great hope and tremendous patience was evident in the people who spoke to us. On the first day we visited the Hospital Divina Providencia where Archbishop Romero lived and where he was killed by the military. It was powerful! In that setting, we heard from women's groups who are fighting against the terrible violence done to women in that country and around the world.

Belinda and I went to two different places on the second day on opposite sides of the Rio Lempa. I traveled to San Vicente where I had accompanied a group of people who were re-populating their land back in 1990. It was very poignant to be able to reconnect with a woman organizer from C.R.I.P.D.E.S. (the Association for the Development of El Salvador) whom I had met at that time. With amazing energy, she continues to organize in very poor villages. We visited one such village in the afternoon. The experience was one of community and of utter poverty – with houses made of cardboard and tin and so susceptible to the rain.

*Winter 2011 Sacro Speco*

# ...to Commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Four Murdered Churchwomen

One afternoon we visited a city park where a monument to those killed in the war in El Salvador are named. A small woman, fondly called Madre Guadalupe, shared her story and the story of the wall being constructed as a monument to all those killed and massacred during the twelve years of the intense civil war. More than ten thousand are represented on the wall, perhaps one-eighth of those actually killed. Her own husband's name is on that wall.

We also had a chance to visit the Jesuit University of Central America (UCA) and talk with a wonderful woman theologian and a Jesuit who volunteered to come here after the six Jesuits, along with their housekeeper and her daughter, were murdered in 1989 by the army as they slept or were preparing for bed. When I was here in 1990, I visited this place. Then, it was just a house and a rose garden tended by the husband of the housekeeper. Now, it is a museum and center for learning visited by thousands each year.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, we rode in silence over the same road the four churchwomen (Maryknoll Sisters Ita Ford and Maura Clarke, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel, and lay missionary Jean Donovan) had taken in 1980 as the military followed, and later raped, murdered and buried the women in a remote field. They were found by a local campesino (farmer) coming to plow and plant his field. Now a small church stands on the field along with a monument to these four modern day women martyrs. Many campesinos from far away came to remember the sisters who worked among them. Our celebration of



*Members of the SHARE delegation gathered outside the church at the site where the bodies of the four North American churchwomen were discovered.*

Eucharist was full of wonderful Salvadoran music and a good reflection on the lives of these saints of our own day. What I heard was that we each must live out the gospel in whatever situations we are in right now and look to the future rather than just concentrating on the

past. When something new calls to us we need to not look back! The church of the poor here in El Salvador was vibrant that day! Their energy gave me new energy as I returned home.

Sister Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.



*Photos of the four North American Churchwomen who were slain thirty years ago were displayed at a memorial service held outside the church where their bodies were first discovered.*

## Please join us at St. Scholastica Monastery During Lent

Sung Vespers – Sundays (March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10) 5 p.m. at St. Scholastica Chapel

### and Holy Week

#### Palm Sunday, April 17

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

#### Holy Thursday, April 21

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

#### Good Friday, April 22

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

#### Holy Saturday, April 23

9:00 a.m. Tenebrae                      8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil

#### Easter Sunday, April 24

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

## We Love To Hear From You

Please use these funds for your retired Sisters. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their dedication to us. Our education was very, very good!

Best wishes to the community of women who touched my life.

*My wonderful education at St. Scholastica Academy in Cañon City has guided me thru life's joys and trials.*

*I was so fortunate to go to school there. I keep you all in my prayers!*

When others complain about their Catholic education, I am always happy I attended St. Scholastica.

God bless you for the wonderful hospitality you give.

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

My sisters and I have such good memories of all of you. Your dedication will always be remembered.

*I have such fond memories of my four years at St. Scholastica. What I learned has helped me throughout my life each and every day. God bless you all!*

**I honor all holy women of St. Scholastica (on earth and in heaven) whose lives reached into my own to share the grace of our Lord.**

## Calling All SSA Chicago Alumnae

We want YOU to share with us information about you and your St. Scholastica Academy - Chicago classmates. We hope to share information in a column (or perhaps an alumni page?) in this quarterly newsletter. If you know a classmate who is not already receiving *Sacro Speco*, please encourage her to contact our development office to add her name and address to our mailing list. We would love to share the good news about the wonderful works of St. Scholastica graduates!

## 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 Sisters to consider. Perhaps you will find one of these books beneficial for your own Lenten journey.

*A Crucified Christ in Holy Week: Essays on the Four Gospel Passion Narratives* by Raymond Brown, S.S.

*Lent and Easter Wisdom from John Paul II* by John Paul II.

*What Jesus Meant* by Garry Wills.

*With Burning Hearts: A Meditation on the Eucharistic Life* by Henri Nouwen.

*The God Who Won't Let Go: Great Themes of the Christian Life* by Peter Van Breeman, S.J.

*Day Breaks: Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter* by John Shea.

*Lent and Easter Wisdom from G.K. Chesterton: Daily Scripture and Prayers Together with G.K. Chesterton's Own Words* from The Center For the Study of C.S. Lewis and Friends.

## Benedictine Sisters Then ... And Now

### Sister Suzanne Zuercher, O.S.B.



**Then:** First known by the religious name of Sister Clare, she joined the community in 1949, entered the novitiate in 1950, professed her first vows in 1951, and made her final vows in 1954.

Sister graduated *magna cum laude* with a degree in English from Loyola University in 1960, earning her Master's degree in Clinical Psychology from Loyola University in 1967.

Sister Suzanne taught English, Latin, and Psychology, and served as school psychologist and guidance director, from 1960 to 1975. In 1975 she became campus minister at Loyola University Chicago's Water Tower Campus. In 1979, she began eleven years as a co-director and teacher at Loyola's Institute for Spiritual Leadership, an international program educating adults to accompany individuals on their spiritual journey. She was a member of the editorial board of *Review for Religious* for five years. For fourteen years, Sister Suzanne served as formation director for the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago. From 1994 – 2006, she was president of St. Scholastica Academy Chicago.

Sister Suzanne has authored four books on the Enneagram, as well as a book of poetry, and given workshops throughout the United States and in other countries.

**And Now:** Sister Suzanne currently works with non-profit organizations specializing in executive consultation. She is a member of The International Thomas Merton Society, a Rotary Club Paul Harris Fellow, and a Damen Scholar for the Graduate School at Loyola University. She is a licensed clinical psychologist, serves as a spiritual director and psychotherapist, assists with fundraising for St. Scholastica Academy, and continues her writing, workshops, retreats and lecturing.



### Sister Judith Murphy, O.S.B.



**Then:** First known by the religious name of Sister Lawrence, she joined the community in 1960, entered the novitiate in the summer of 1961, professed her first vows in 1962, and made her final vows in 1967.

Sister completed her bachelor's degree in Spanish and Education at Mundelein College in 1967. She earned a Master's in Education from DePaul University in 1980.

Sister Judith taught second grade at St. Symphorosa and Queen of All Saints Schools in Chicago, fifth and sixth grades in Salida, Colorado, and religious education courses for

first and second grades in Buena Vista, Colorado. She taught Junior and Senior English, Advanced Spanish and Theology, and served as Dean of Students. From 1980 – 1990, Sister Judith was Principal of St. Scholastica High School, Chicago, and from 1990 – 1994, she served as its President. In 1995 – 1996, she was a consultant preparing for the opening of the first Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago, and from 1996 – 2001 served as its first Principal. In 2002, she shared the Cristo Rey story as a Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Latino Studies at Notre Dame University. From 2003 -2005, Sister was Deputy Director of the Chicago High School Redesign Initiative. From 2005 – 2008 Sister Judith served as the Principal of St. Martin de Porres High School, in Waukegan, Illinois.

**And Now:** Sister Judith now serves as Director of Board Formation for the Archdiocese of Chicago Office of Catholic Schools. She also is a member of the Monastic Council for the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, is Assistant Secretary for the corporation, and serves on the Board of St. Scholastica Academy, Chicago as well as on the community's planning committee.



## News from SSA Cañon City Alumnae

St. Scholastica Academy Cañon City Class of 1960 celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> reunion in Colorado Springs. The alumnae participated in a tai chi class, took a refreshing morning walk, received copies of a special memory book, and shared stories about the antics and experiences of an all girls' boarding school.

Four members of the Class of 1962 joined the celebration – evidence of the Benedictine hospitality the women learned while students at SSA Cañon City. Members of the Class of 1960 look forward to joining the class of 1962 at THEIR 50<sup>th</sup> reunion in 2012!



Photo taken by Paul Telck

Front row, left - right: DonaKay Franch Stever, Roberta Cornella DiMarino, Nancy Parker Vernetti, AnnaMay O'Grady Scalzo, and Mary Alice Janitell Scuderi. Middle row, left - right: Agnes Ann Schwieterman Zielinski and RonnieLou Cress. Back row, left - right: Kathy Downing Melchiorre, Kathleen O'Toole Cramm, Eleanor Cummins Smith, Pat Javernick Matz, Louise Barragree Cook, Pat Vernetti Rampone, Carolyn Jenkins Greene, Jane Hanagan Ecklland, Patty Sue Ullstrom Seese, and Lois Brin Telck.



We regret to report the passing of Kay McGuire Bain, SSA Cañon City, Class of 1955, and Therese Logue, SSA Cañon City, Class of 1962.

# Memorials

September 25, 2010 through December 31, 2010

---

**In memory of Adelaide Agnew**

Frank and Gerianne Savage

**In memory of Sr. Mary Jude Ahern, O.S.B.**

Terrance Ahern, Willard and Mildred Burns,  
Andrea Ciccone, Brenda Nelson

**In memory of Inez Ambre**

Judith Alexander, Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Joseph Ambrosio**

Linda Strauch

**In memory of Sparky Anderson**

Patty Ballard

**In memory of Amalia Arzer**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of deceased Bajda family members**

Danuta Bajda

**In memory of Steve Baker**

Rosa Marshall-Scott

**In memory of Dorothy Baran**

Katie Anderson

**In memory of Rich Becker**

Dominic and Margaret Caminiti

**In memory of Bernice Belec**

Matthew and Dorothy Miholic, Fred and Marie Zalaznik

**In memory of deceased Benedictine Sisters**

Sylvia Morris

**In memory of Frank and Margaret Bishop**

Julie Bishop Brown

**In memory of Helen Boosalis**

Matt and Beth Boosalis Davis

**In memory of Leonard Borkowski**

Caryl A. Galassini

**In memory of Harold and Marian Boyle Carlson**

Diane Huntington

**In memory of deceased Ciciora family members**

Danuta Bajda

**In memory of Jerry Cielinski**

Paul and Gloria Brandys, Jeff and Kathy Caudill,  
Andrea Ciccone, Donna Dehnert, Drew and Sandy Dixon,  
Susan Dyer, Elissa Feldman, Jay and Cathy Fortman,  
Steve and Martha Frey, Mr. and Mrs. William Frey,  
Sr. Eleanore Hillenbrand, O.S.B., Jim and Dot Jung,  
Charles Korez, Angel Noncek, Jeff and Donna Rusk,  
Jerry and Lorraine Sachek, Charles Schiller,  
Bob and Elaine Siepka, Joseph and Loretta Stec,  
Karla I. Weinrick, Don C. Winslow, Estelle Wroblewski,  
Kristine Wroblewski

**In memory of Sr. Mary Cornella, O.S.B.**

Dorothy Andries, Jeff and Kathy Caudill, Robert Cornella,  
Bill and Helen Davis, Robert and Marilyn Hammer

**In memory of John Charles Conway**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of James Crawford**

Mary Jane Crawford

**In memory of Dick Crawford**

Mary Jane Crawford

**In memory of Gary Crow**

Marilyn E. Crow

**In memory of Pat and Patty Crowley**

Gary and Mary Ann Kono, Alan and Vicki Rodrigues

**In memory of Jack Curns**

Valerie Downes

**In memory of deceased Dabrowski family members**

Danuta Bajda

**In memory of Carl Damlos**

LaVerne Damlos

**In memory of Sr. Victoria Davis, O.S.B.**

Anthony and Jayne Altimari, Andrea Ciccone,  
Steve and Gwenn Suvarda

**In memory of Judy DeRoach**

Jane Thain

**In memory of James Deuter**

Jim and Dorothy Jung

**In memory of Rose Deverich**

Joe and Ruth Garcia, Matt and Agnes Glavich

**In memory of Kevin DeVuono**

Eileen Moorman

**In memory of Louis DiOrio**

Ed and Alice Skerjanec

**In memory of Susie Fox Dollahan**

Judith Bertacchi

**In memory of Eva Domagalswa**

Danuta Bajda

**In memory of Eugene and LaVerne Dondlinger**

Mary Lynn Hixson

**In memory of Thomas Dondlinger**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Joe and Pearl Drowinski**

Dorothy Holland

**In memory of Frederic Eberlein**

Elizabeth Eberlein

**In memory of Ray Erjavec**

Joan Erjavec

**In memory of Jane M. Fern**

Julie Kaufman and Beth Wright

**In memory of Robert "Bob" Fortman**

Janet Gengler

**In memory of Dorothy Frank**

Edward and Judy Hodnik

**In memory of Loretta Garrett**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago,

Marian Buckley, Bettye Garrett

**In memory of Gloria Gazda**

Louis Gazda

**In memory of Tabitha Gewirtz**

Marian Burkhart

**In memory of Art and Marge Giebner**

William and Kathy Riordan

**In memory of Sr. Joyce Gleeson, O.S.B.**

Mary Ellen Rybicki, Carolyn Tecktiel, Suzanne Walsh

**In memory of John Gray**

Dr. and Mrs. Arnold Einhorn

**In memory of Ralph Graybill**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of John and Therese Green**

Therese Green

**In memory of Clarence Hanagan**

Joan Sindler

**In memory of James Hanagan**

Joan Sindler

**In memory of Sheila Harrington**

Mary Gin Harrington

**In memory of Thomas Harris**

Santina Harris

**In memory of Sr. Jeanne Hegarty, O.S.B.**

Jeffrey Bugno and Leila Polintan,  
James and Marilee Hegarty and family, Marvin Hegarty

**In memory of James Hegarty**

Marilee Hegarty and family

**In memory of Madeleine Hegarty**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago,  
Gregory and Sherry Hegarty and family,  
Marilee Hegarty and family

**In memory of Don Hegerman**

Mary Wechsler

**In memory of Bernard A. Henry, Jr.**

Lucy Henry

**In memory of Mimi Hess**

Jim and Dot Jung

**In memory of Mary Hisler**

Margaret Wagner

**In memory of John and Helen Hodnik**

Edward and Judy Hodnik

**In memory of Deane Hofstad**

Chris and Susan Hofstad

**In memory of Edward R. Hohmann**

Jeff, Kathy, Tom and Pat Caudill

**In memory of Anatol Holubowicz**

Danuta Bajda

**In memory of Ken Houseman**

Judith Doerann-Houseman

**In memory of Anita Hunter**

Srs. Barbara McCarry and Ann Sharp, O.S.B.

**In memory of Harry J. Hynds**

Kathryn Hynds

**In memory of Patricia Nagel Kehoe**

Luke Kehoe

**In memory of Martin Kelley**

Barbara Kelley

**In memory of Zofia and Chester Kouszawski**

Danuta Bajda

**In memory of Norita O'Donnell Kramer**

Therese Alexander, Benedictine Sisters of Chicago,  
Family and Friends of Norita O'Donnell Kramer,  
Susan Gransee, Georgette Kesselring,  
Dan and Debbie Kitts, Therese McGuire,  
Mary Ellen Mitterer, Megan Mitterer,  
Bonnie Strassenberg

**In memory of Victoria Krenn**

George and Helga Ruby

**In memory of John and Mary Kuhar**

Edward and Judy Hodnik

**In memory of Marian Kuhlman**

Loretta Kuhlman Astorino

**In memory of Jeanne Kukla**

LaVerne Damlos

**In memory of Rose Lemeckis**

Margaret Wagner

**In memory of Martha Christine Taylor Levy**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Tina Lillig**

Patty Ballard

**In memory of Sheila N. Loftus**

Thomas and Patricia Loftus

**In memory of Therese Logue**

Patricia Reyes

**In memory of Lizzie Lowrey**

Patty Ballard

**In memory of Steven, Matthew and Anna Lubin**

Joanne Moran

**In memory of Lorraine and Max Mack**

Gayle Mack Gambill

**In memory of Charles Maggard**

Dorothy Maggard

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

## **In memory of John Maloney**

Mark and Joan Harris

## **In memory of William D. McDonald, Jr.**

Roseann Catalano

## **In memory of Susan McGee**

Robert McGee

## **In memory of Marjorie McLaughlin**

Ed and Mary Matthei

## **In memory of Shannan McNamara**

Edwin and Janis McNamara

## **In memory of Serafina Mecali**

Anthony Mecali

## **In memory of Billy Misik**

Jeff, Kathy, Tom and Pat Caudill

## **In memory of Teresa Miks**

Geraldine Marqui

## **In memory of Bill Miller**

Valerie Downes

## **In memory of Ellen Lou Wescott Montemurri**

Casmier J. Montemurri

## **In memory of David Moore**

Helen Moore

## **In memory of Barbara Moran**

Gina Glick

## **In memory of James Moran**

Joanne Moran

## **In memory of Michael Morris, Jr.**

Sylvia Morris

## **In memory of Audrey Moskow**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

## **In memory of June Mramor**

Bernice Krasovec

## **In memory of Eleanor Munro**

Margaret Wagner

## **In memory of James Nolan**

Linda Strauch

## **In memory of Eileen O'Connell**

Robert and Joan Du Chateau

## **In memory of Tess O'Hern**

Margaret Wagner

## **In memory of Patricia O'Neil**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

## **In memory of Jack O'Ryan**

Ginger O'Ryan Hoyt

## **In memory of Kevin and Yvonne O'Ryan**

Ginger O'Ryan Hoyt

## **In memory of Thomas Palmer**

Jeannine Palmer

## **In memory of Dan Penn**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

## **In memory of Helen Perse**

Willard and Mildred Burns, Dr. and Mrs. Joe Sajbel

## **In memory of Matthew Peterson**

Dave and Shirley Newquist

## **In memory of Francis and Lea Pirman**

Margaret Pirman

## **In memory of Jennie Potocky**

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Paulson, Sr. Ann Sharp, O.S.B.

## **In memory of George Quinn**

Margaret Wagner

## **In memory of George Radacy**

Marian Radacy

## **In memory of Richard Raven**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Dan Raven

## **In memory of Clifford Rees**

Kathy Rees

## **In memory of Josephine Repp**

Gil and Marge Heaphy

## **In memory of Sr. Rosaria Riter, O.S.B.**

Brenda Nelson

## **In memory of Fred Rosch**

Diane Syms

## **In memory of deceased Rutell family members**

Caroline Shebenik

## **In memory of Eugene Ryder**

Marty and Arlene Martin

## **In memory of Elizabeth Sackley**

Mary Ellen Brady

## **In memory of Edward Sarsha**

Wanda Sorensen

## **In memory of Mary Alice Sasso**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

## **In memory of Catherine Schabel**

Cathleen Wallyn

## **In memory of Loretta M. Schneider**

Agnes Ivantic

## **In memory of Homer Schuetz**

Roberta Schuetz

## **In memory of Ted Schultz**

Sheila Schultz

## **In memory of deceased Shebenik famil members**

Caroline Shebenik

## **In memory of Gordy Siebert**

Linda Hermann, Milleker Family

## **In memory of James W. Simon, Jr.**

Srs. Barbara McCarry and Ann Sharp, O.S.B.

## **In memory of Sr Beatrice Singler, O.S.B.**

Frances Jegen, George and Joan Wray

## **In memory of Robert J. Smith, Sr.**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago,

Sr. Barbara McCarry, O.S.B., Sr. Ann Sharp, O.S.B.,

Don C. Winslow

## **In memory of William Smith**

William and Susan Harnett

## **In memory of Michael Socki**

Chester and Alice Zdunek

## **In memory of deceased members of the**

### **Edward Spatz, Sr. family**

Elizabeth Zeller

## **In memory of Ernest Steele**

Gil and Margie Heaphy

## **In memory of Edwin Steinhauser**

Bernice Steinhauser

## **In memory of Mary A. Storey**

Patty Ballard, Benedictine Sisters of Chicago,

Mary Ellen Healey

## **In memory of Paul C. Stowick, Esq.**

Jeff, Kathy, Tom and Pat Caudill

## **In memory of deceased Sullivan family members**

John L. Wren

## **In memory of Kate Torossian**

Patrick and Kathleen Rooney

## **In memory of Jean Trunk**

Marilyn Borucki

## **In memory of Kathryn Tschanz**

Matthew and Dorothy Miholic

## **In memory of Stephen Vernon**

Patty Ballard

## **In memory of Sandra Waite**

Sylvia Morris

## **In memory of deceased Watson family members**

Mary Watson

## **In memory of Sr. Collete Westrick, O.S.B.**

Edward and Barbara Cunningham

## **In memory of Sr. Miriam Wilson, O.S.B.**

Dr. Gayle Porter

## **In memory of Dale Winslow**

Don C. Winslow

## **In memory of Jean Marie Winters**

Katherine McSpadden

## **In memory of John J. Wittner**

Lillian Wittner

## **In memory of Sr. Anna Wrenn, O.S.B.**

Michae and Grace Gaughan, Catherine Wrenn,

Charles and Dawn Wrenn, Michael J. Wrenn,

Michael P. Wrenn

## **In memory of deceased Wren family members**

John L. Wren

## **In memory of Jane Wohler**

Margaret Wagner

## **In memory of Ellie Zabor**

Matthew and Dorothy Miholic

## **In memory of Sr. Susanne Zeller, O.S.B.**

Kathryn LeJeune

## **In memory of deceased Zeller family members**

Elizabeth Zeller

## **In memory of Peter J. Zielinski**

Jeff, Kathy, Tom and Pat Caudill

## **In memory of deceased Zupec family members**

Mary Watson

## **Special Occasions**

### **In honor of Judy Beaumont's birthday**

Juliet Bergner

### **In honor of Sr. Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.**

Jane Clark, Monique Garrity

### **In honor of the 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of**

#### **Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gricus**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

### **In honor of Marilyn Hennessy**

Irene Frye, Margaret Kearney

### **In honor of Sr. Joan Hentges, O.S.B.**

Daniel and Donna Molello

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

Jeffrey and Nancy Wagner

### **In honor of Sisters who taught**

#### **at St. Lambert School (1955-1962)**

Thomas and Susan Reilly

### **In honor of Greg and Judy Matz**

Donald Sprague

### **In honor of Sarah McDermott's birthday**

Mary Ann McDermott

### **In honor of Sr. Mercedes Moore, O.S.B.**

Willard and Mildred Burns, Brenda Nelson

### **In honor of Sr. Sylvia Muganda**

#### **on the occasion of making perpetual vows**

Sr. Leocretia Muganda

### **In honor of Juan Rangel's birthday**

Sr. Ann Sharp, O.S.B.

### **In honor of Rev. William Welsh on**

#### **the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Ordination**

Fred and Mary Ann Henning

## Newsbriefs

**S**ister Vivian Ivantic, O.S.B. continues to work in the archives and has recently finished a catalog so that past events of monastery and schools can quickly be located. She still enjoys gardening, raising asparagus and rhubarb. She also works with used postage stamps which are sorted and sent to a retired Benedictine Sister in Bismark, North Dakota. Sister collects religious articles which are sent to various parishes including those where the community's Sisters minister. Recently, medical supplies, religious articles and books were sent to Kenya, Africa, through the services of the Salvatorian Fathers and Brothers. Used greeting cards are recycled for parochial school children's art projects. Unused cards are shared with community members, the Little Sisters of the Poor and, women incarcerated in Cook County Jail.

**I**n October, Oblates Regina Wilson and Kathlyn Myers joined Sister Benita Coffey, O.S.B. at a regional meeting of the National Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors at Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, Indiana. In November, Sisters Patricia Cielinski, O.S.B., Patricia Crowley, O.S.B., and Benita Coffey, O.S.B., and Oblates Kathlyn Myers, Kay McSpadden, and Gerri Barosso attended the Call to Action conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

**O**blate Bertha Blattner has been working with the Director of the Infirmary, Sister Mariella Hathorn, O.S.B., to design a program for Oblates volunteering in the infirmary.



**T**his fall, Sister Jane Smith, O.S.B. (not pictured) joined Sisters Benita Coffey, O.S.B. and Callista Kaley, O.S.B. (standing) with graduates of St. Hilary School at a reunion for the Class of 1957.



**I**n December, Sister Susan Quaintance, O.S.B. (pictured above with student volunteers) coordinated a very successful blood drive at St. Scholastica Academy.

**S**isters Joan Gannon, O.S.B. and Patricia Crowley, O.S.B. attended a dinner to honor Sister Joan's biological sister, Sister Ann Ida Gannon, B.V.M. at Newberry Library where a collection of sacred texts were named in her honor. Sister Joan and her niece recently drove to visit Sister Ann Ida at Mount Carmel in Dubuque, Iowa, and were pleased to avoid all snow storms in their travels. Sister Ann Ida recently moved to a beautiful geothermal facility, joining 300 other retired B.V.M. Sisters.

**S**ister Hilary Halpin, O.S.B. continues to teach at the British Infant Preschool. She is also a massage therapist.

**O**n January 11 – 13, the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago participated in a retreat facilitated by Sister Miriam Brown, O.P. Sister Miriam is the co-director of the Siena Center in Racine, WI. The theme of the retreat was "The Greening God: Retreat Reflections with Hildegard of Bingen".



**S**ister Benita Coffey, O.S.B. represents the community in an Archdiocesan group called Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants. With Oblate Kathlyn Myers, she participated in the rosary at the Detention Center in Broadview, praying for the seventy-seven people who were being deported on Friday, December 17. The rosary was followed by a posada, a two mile walk led by a couple representing Mary and Joseph. This tradition commemorates Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem seeking shelter, time and again, until finally being welcomed. The walk, by over one hundred people that day, was to draw attention to the plight of thousands of immigrants who are being turned away in our country as they seek shelter and the chance for a better life.



**T**he Development Council meets quarterly, offering their advice and expertise to Sister Patricia Crowley, O.S.B., Prioress, and Development Director, Kathy Caudill. Clockwise, from lower left: Sheila McGuire, Kitty Gehrke, Dan Henrick, Sister Barbara McCarry, O.S.B., Anthony Rizzato, Joanne Rooney, Sister Patricia, Mary Ann Harrington and John Hourihane. Not present in photo: Mary G. Kaye, Virginia Malter and Kathy Caudill.

*Winter 2011 Sacro Speco*



(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Sister Belinda Monahan).

Left: Sister Columba Kim, O.S.B. with Sisters Mary Alice Setnicar, O.S.B. and Joan Gannon, O.S.B. in the monastery dining room.



(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Sister Belinda Monahan).

Below: Sister Columba Kim, O.S.B. and Sister Mercedes Moore, O.S.B. in the infirmary dining room.

This fall, the community said “good-bye” and “until we meet again” to Sister Columba Kim, O.S.B., a Benedictine Sister from South Korea who had been living with the community for many months as an international student.

On October 17, 2010, Pat Heineman-Vernon was received as an Oblate candidate, as was Kathy Caudill on November 17, 2010. St. Scholastica Monastery now has 104 Oblates and candidates in Chicago and Colorado. An Oblate Advent Retreat, facilitated by Sisters Suzanne Zuercher, O.S.B. and Benita Coffey, O.S.B., was held at St. Scholastica Monastery on December 11.

One of our 2008 Testimonial Dinner honorees, affectionately known to all as “Uncle Pete,” was featured on the front page of the Christmas Day edition of the *Chicago Tribune*. If you missed the article, you can also find it available online at <http://www.chicagotribune.com/classified/realestate/ct-met-uncle-pete-20101224,0,578416.story>. God bless, Uncle Pete!

## Are You Interested in Learning More about Becoming an Oblate?

Do you want to learn more about the Benedictine way of life and spirituality? To meet with other Oblates on a monthly basis? To find out more about what it means to be an Oblate, contact Sister Benita Coffey, O.S.B. (773/764-2413, ext. 327, or [bc Coffey@osbchicago.org](mailto:bc Coffey@osbchicago.org).)

The Council of Elders (members of the monastic community who are at least 81 years young) meet monthly with Sister Patricia Crowley, O.S.B. Recent meetings have included sharing insights on the Rule of Benedict. Sisters Callista Kaley, O.S.B. and Rosemarie Rupar, O.S.B. provide the refreshments for these meetings. At a recent Elders meeting, the monastic community gathered together for a presentation about health care options available to the Sisters. Below, Sisters Vivian Ivantic, O.S.B., Wlnifred Sommer, O.S.B., and Rosemarie Rupar, O.S.B. listen attentively to the presentation.



(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Kathy Caudill).

As this issue of *Sacro Speco* goes to press, the Illinois House and Senate voted to abolish the death penalty. Our community has worked hard over the years and give thanks for this action in memory of our Sister Miriam Wilson, O.S.B. who longed to see this day arrive.

## A Good Steward



(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Sister Belinda Monahan).

Viola Wellington with Sister Mary Benet McKinney, O.S.B.

The Rule of Benedict calls us to be good stewards. Viola Wellington has been a familiar face in St. Joseph's Court infirmary since 1984. In June, she will mark 27 years as a certified nursing assistant caring for Sisters in the infirmary.

Viola is known to be kind, loving and strict. “If Viola wants you to do something,” one of the Sister residents noted, “You better do it!” Viola’s apparent “strictness” is softened by her willing heart of gold. “Nothing is ever too much for her,” said Sister Mariella Hathorn, O.S.B., director of the Infirmary. “She has a delightful laugh and a wonderful sense of humor. We are most blessed to have Viola as a member of our infirmary staff.” Amen!

Mark Your Calendar for Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011 2:30 p.m.

As part of celebration of 150 Years of Benedictine Sisters in Chicago, Sister Joan Chittister, O.S.B. will speak at St. Scholastica Monastery. Look for more information in the Spring 2011 issue of *Sacro Speco*.



## Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

St. Scholastica Monastery

7430 N. Ridge Blvd.

Chicago, IL 60645-1913

[www.osbchicago.org](http://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 © 2011.  
Names and addresses from our mailing list are NEVER sold or distributed to other organizations.  
Contact Director of Development Kathy Caudill ([kcaudill@osbchicago.org](mailto: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

Have you prepared your Last Will and Testament? Maybe you think that you don't really need a Will, but perhaps the following information may persuade you to re-consider and prepare a Will.

**If you die without a valid Will, the state where you reside will decide who will receive your assets when you die.** This may or may not coincide with your wishes. A Will allows you to direct where your property goes upon your death.

**People who do not have a valid Will are likely to incur additional expenses at the time of their death.** These expenses include increased probate costs as well as estate taxes that might have been avoided or reduced with a valid Will.

**Maybe you think you do not need a Will because all of your assets are held jointly or have beneficiary designations.** Beneficiary designations are sometimes out-of-date. Assets held jointly still need to be distributed when the surviving joint tenant dies. A valid Will makes that distribution possible, and outlines exactly who is to receive your property.

**Even if you plan to leave everything to your spouse, you should have a valid Will.** What if you are both involved in a fatal vehicle accident? The state might distribute your property in ways that do not match your wishes or those of your spouse. If you are in a second marriage, or if your spouse is not the parent of your children, dying without a valid Will may result in your estate passing to unintended beneficiaries.

**A handwritten Will is not necessarily valid in every state.** An attorney can assist you with the preparation of a valid Will.

Once you have a signed Will, it is a good idea to review the document every five years to make sure it still expresses your wishes. While reviewing that document, please consider a bequest to the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago. Thank you!

Kathy Caudill, Director of Development

## Save the Date

17<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Testimonial Dinner  
Wednesday, June 15, 2011

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 2011 Honorees:

Edward and Mary Matthei,  
Sr. Kathleen Maloney, O.S.B.,  
and Rosie Randle.