



Sacro Speco Sacred Space

Vol. XX, No. 2

Newsletter of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Spring 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.

Spotlight on Honorees

for the 16th Annual Testimonial Dinner

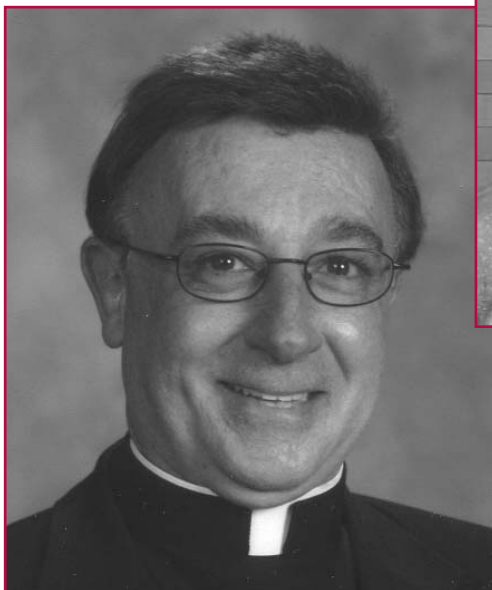
On Wednesday, June 16, 2010, the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago will be joined by many friends at the Park Ridge Country Club for the 16th Annual Testimonial Dinner. This year the honorees are Albert and Katherine Gehrke (*Spirit of Benedict* Award), **Father Michael Solazzo, Oblate** (*Spirit of Scholastica* Award), and Susana Cordova (*Spirit of Benedictine Hospitality* Award).

Testimonial Dinner Honorees

continued on page 4.



Katherine and
Albert Gehrke,
Spirit of Benedict
Honorees



Father Michael Solazzo, Oblate,
Spirit of Scholastica Honoree

Susana Cordova,
Spirit of
Benedictine Hospitality
Honoree



Message from the Prioress



Prioress Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.

Dear Friends,

In the midst of our community's planning process, we keep returning to some basic themes: seeking God in community and prayer, exercising reverence in all we do, and serving where there is need in this wounded world of ours.

Last week, as I listened to a presentation of the Chicago Archdiocesan effort to promote the Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform, I considered again where we, as Benedictine Sisters of Chicago and as people of faith, might be called at this time in history. We came here (149 years in Chicago this year!) to educate the children of immigrants, and continued to work in education in many parishes in Chicago, in Colorado, and for a while, in Arizona. In a time that undervalued women's rights and dignity, we educated young women at our two academies (previously in Colorado and currently in Chicago). Our alums continue to carry the gospel message into their work and their lives. In the time after Vatican II, we heard the Church's call to address poverty and to work for justice in our world. Toward that end, many of us worked to re-settle refugee families (first from southeast Asia and then from Central America), served people in prison, worked to eradicate homelessness for individuals and in our society, advocated against the death penalty, and worked for peace in our world. Hospitality has always been our trademark. Today, we welcome international women religious who are studying in Chicago, and continue to work for peace and justice.

This issue of *Sacro Speco* features four wonderful people who are part of our "circle of friends" whom we hope you will join us in honoring at our annual Testimonial Dinner on June 16th. These special awards highlight some of the values and the work that our community treasures. In this issue, we remember one of our Sisters and two of our Oblates who have died, focus on three of our Sisters who continue to "serve where there is need" and one of our long time employees who does a splendid job overseeing the management of our buildings and grounds with Sister Rita Nowak.

As you read this newsletter, we, as a community, are preparing for the apostolic visitors to spend most of the week of May 9th with us. Please keep us in your prayers as we meet with the visitors.

Patricia Crowley OSB

In Loving Memory



**Sister
Mary Martin Gehl,
O.S.B.
1916 – 2010**

Helen Marie Gehl was born February 20, 1916, the first of five children in the family of William John and Mary Catherine Jansen Gehl.

In 1940, Helen entered the Benedictine community at St. Scholastica. Her pastor, Father Paul Loeffel, had directed her to this community where some of his aunts were members. She received the habit and her religious name, Sister Mary Martin, on July 11, 1941. Her triennial vows were professed on August 16, 1942 and her perpetual vows on that same date in 1945.

Sister Mary Martin attended classes at both Loyola and DePaul Universities in Chicago, and completed her Bachelor of Arts degree at Mt. St. Scholastica College

in Atchison, Kansas, specializing in Home Economics. She later studied theology at Loretto Heights College in Denver.

Her first twenty-eight years in ministry were in education. She taught in elementary schools: St. Joseph's, St. Hilary's, and St. Symphorosa's in Chicago; Mother of God in Waukegan, Illinois; St. Lambert's in Skokie, Illinois; St. Mary's and St. Leander's in Pueblo, Colorado, and also served in a secondary school assignment at St. Scholastica Academy in Cañon City, Colorado, where she taught home economics and history. She also taught summer school classes in Alamosa and Westcliffe, Colorado, and was a craft instructor at Camp San Benito teaching leather craft.

In 1970, Sister Mary Martin was assigned as kitchen manager at the monastery, and took courses in food service management to better serve in that position. She later became the community seamstress and served in that role until she retired, making clothes for the Sisters according to their specifications, as well as offering her alteration skills and customized drapery talents throughout the monastery.

Sister Mary Martin served on many community committees and joined in the endeavors of Benedictines for Peace. Keenly interested in being of service outside the community, she answered an ad in the newspaper and became a volunteer bookkeeper for UNICEF, and later served on their board. She joined other Sisters in the community who worked to arrange housing for displaced Vietnamese families and taught them how to shop in Chicago. For many years she worked as an election judge and received a citation for public service from the Board of Elections. She also crocheted afghans for use in the day care facility at the Howard Area Community Center.

In the fall of 2005, failing health demanded that she take up residence in the infirmary. Sister Mary Martin died peacefully there on March 15, 2010. She is survived by her sister Loretta Gallagher, and her many nieces and nephews who now, along with her Benedictine Sisters, mourn her.

In Loving Memory



Rita Horen, Oblate
1927 – 2009

Rita Horen, originally from Waukegan, Illinois, was a member of the Benedictine community for eighteen years. During that time she served as an elementary teacher in Chicago parish schools. After leaving the community, she remained interested in the Sisters she had come to know and love, and

decided in 1990 to become an Oblate of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago. She made her Oblation in 1994. At that time she was living in Rogers Park. In her retirement, she found companionship with neighbors in her apartment complex. For many years she attended Oblate meetings whenever she could. When her health failed and she wasn't able to join the Oblates for meetings, she kept in touch with an occasional phone call or a note. Though she had suffered ill health for a long time, her death came unexpectedly on August 24, 2009. At that time, there were no services and her burial was private. On Sunday, March 21, 2010, a Memorial Mass was offered for her at the monastery. Sisters and Oblates, along with her cousin, several friends and neighbors remembered and prayed for her, and enjoyed dinner together following the liturgy.

In Loving Memory



Angela Barosso, Oblate
1923 – 2010

Angela Barosso, an Oblate for only a short time, had been actively involved with the Benedictine Sisters over many years. Her five children had attended Queen of All Saints School and her two daughters both graduated from St. Scholastica Academy (Chicago). She and her husband, Joe, who preceded her in death, often visited the monastery, quite regularly coming for Midnight Mass and providing food for the Shepherds' Breakfast. As a resident at Addolorata Villa in Wheeling, Illinois, she was a Eucharistic Minister, sacristan, choir member, organist, and member of various

study groups. With her daughter Gerri, an Oblate since 1979, she attended Call to Action conferences. She suffered a stroke in late January and died peacefully on February 6, 2010. At her funeral, Dick Wesley, whose daughters also attended SSA Chicago, gave a wonderful eulogy and personal reflections about Angela at her funeral, a testimonial to the impact she had made on the men and women of that retirement community, the SSA community, and the Benedictine community.

As Prioress, Sister Patricia Crowley, O.S.B., looks on, Oblate Angela Barosso signs her Oblation at St. Scholastica Chapel on August 30, 2009.

Sisters Serving Where There Is Need

The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago often served "where there was need" as teachers or principals. Later, the following Sisters moved on to new and varied ministries "serving where there is need."

Sister Margaret Ann Holtz, O.S.B. began her ministry work teaching in Chicago and Colorado in grades two through eight, and serving as an assistant principal at St. Hilary parish in Chicago. She served as treasurer (and banker for various students' accounts) for St. Scholastica Academy (Cañon City), worked in the monastery business office, and was the treasurer for St. Scholastica Academy in Chicago. She "retired" from her financial responsibilities, to become the coordinator of the monastery's resources and housekeeping. "I have wonderful women working for me," she shares. "They are proud of the work they do." While not a fan of shopping, she is responsible for purchasing supplies and keeping inventory. She is the assistant sacristan in St. Joseph's Court chapel, serves as a communion minister, and keeps all of the monastery employees in special prayers.

Sister Joan Gannon, O.S.B. taught students in kindergarten for ten years - and later taught high school Chemistry and Math for another ten years! She spent three years as the community's Infirmary Director, and for nine years she served as a pastoral associate in several parishes. Sister Joan spent a year in Canada as part of her training for her pastoral work. For ten years she worked the monastery's telephone switchboard. She attends weekly bingo games held at St. Jerome's parish, works on puzzles and plays board games with Sisters who reside in the infirmary, serves as a member of the Council of Elders, the keeper of the infirmary's aviary, cares for the community room plants, and prays especially for peace and reconciliation throughout the world.

Sister Mariella Hathorn, O.S.B. came to the community fifteen years ago after more than thirty five years as a member of the Benedictine community at St. Joseph's Monastery, in St. Marys, Pennsylvania. She was a teacher and principal in Pennsylvania. She has worked in the development office at the monastery in Chicago, and served as an assistant to the religious education coordinator at St. Nicholas Parish. For ten years she served as the Director of the Infirmary, and then spent two years as Sub-Prioress. She now serves again as the Infirmary Director. What does she enjoy most about her work in the infirmary? "I enjoy making the infirmary the Sisters' home, being able to 'be there' for the Sisters. Their lives are so rich. I am privileged to be part of their lives, especially as they go on to the loving arms of their God." Sister Mariella also continues to pray for the community of St. Joseph Monastery in Pennsylvania, where she served for eight years as Prioress.

Through the *Spirit of Benedict* Award the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago seek to honor persons who have been generous with all of their gifts and goods. This year's recipients, Albert (Al) and Katherine (Kitty) Gehrke, have known the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago for many years. Kitty remembers her mother visiting the Sisters at St. Scholastica Monastery on "visiting Sunday." Kitty attended St. Hilary grammar school and St. Scholastica High School. Al was raised in St. Henry's Parish and attended St. George High School before studying to become a plumber. Fifty-four years later, he is the President of Fettes, Love and Sieben Plumbing in Chicago. Al and Kitty were married at St. Hilary's in 1957. They have five children and eight grandchildren. All of their children attended St. Hilary's, and two daughters are also graduates of St. Scholastica Academy. Long-time volunteers at St. Hilary's Parish and School, they served in many ways, including parish council, school board, mother's club, men's club, the finance committee, and the maintenance committee.

Al and Kitty continue as dedicated volunteers. Al has served as the President of the Plumbing Contractors Association of Chicago and Cook County, and President of the Chicago Chapter of American Society of Sanitation Engineering. Kitty volunteers weekly at Holy Family Pantry in Waukegan, at the Chicago Botanic Gardens during the summer, and attends Bible study at her home parish, St. Patrick's in Lake Forest, Illinois. She serves on the Development Council for the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, chaired the SSA Fall Fest in 1984, and has served on (and chaired) the Testimonial Dinner Committee for many years.

One of Kitty's favorite things to do is spend a day with Sister Mary Alice Setnicar, O.S.B. "We go shopping, and sometimes we visit her sister in Gurnee, or just grab a quick hot dog after a shopping trip." One of Al's great joys is "keeping the [monastery] buildings on Ridge Blvd. in good working order."

What does Benedictine spirit mean to Al and Kitty? "Humility, meekness, and compassion," Al and Kitty respond. "We are very humbled by all the ways God has blessed us ... good health, five loving and caring children and the ability to continue to help, nourish, give (and forgive) especially those in need.



Left to right: *Sister Mary Alice Setnicar, O.S.B., Michael Bogan, Kate Gehrke Bogan, Kitty Gehrke, Al Gehrke, Heather Gehrke Rusk, Griff Gehrke, and Geri Gehrke.*

We try being true to ourselves and doing what is right no matter how hard it is, God has always shone a light on us."

The *Spirit of Scholastica* Award is designed to honor a person who has a listening heart and gives of self in the service of others. Father Michael Solazzo is this year's recipient of the *Spirit of Scholastica* Award. Fr. Solazzo has known the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago since 1992 when he began serving as one of the volunteer chaplains for Sunday Mass. An archdiocesan priest, he became a Benedictine Oblate here in 2004, and has been the Pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Evanston, Illinois for the past ten years. This June he will be joining the Benedictine community at Marmion Abbey. "I will probably be the 'oldest living novice,'" Fr. Solazzo says with a smile. He has a great love for music, especially folk music from the 1960s, and loves to vacation in Washington state, where he believes he finds the best of both water and mountains.

What does Benedictine spirit mean to Father Solazzo? "Reverence, hospitality, a life governed by prayer and service."

The *Spirit of Benedictine Hospitality* Award recognizes a person who humbly lives a life in the Benedictine spirit of hospitable service, giving to those who are poor and those who are pilgrims on life's journey, recognizing and welcoming all persons as Christ. This year, Susana (Susie) Cordova receives the *Spirit of Benedictine Hospitality* Award. Susie was born in Ecuador, but came to America in her twenties. She is married to Ignacio Cordova. They have three children and three grandchildren. Both of her daughters are St. Scholastica Academy alumnae.

Susie has been a beautician for over forty

years. Sister Mary Melady, O.S.B. recalls first visiting Susie's shop in the 1970s. About twenty years ago, Susie started visiting the monastery one evening a month to cut the Sisters' hair. She still comes faithfully every month.

Susie has been a member of The Lions Club for many years. At her shop she collects eyeglasses for distribution by the Lions organization to individuals with vision problems.

For many years, Susie and her friends have decorated the Ecuadorian Christmas tree at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.

Once a month, Susie volunteers at the American Cancer Society, serving as a beautician and wig consultant for women undergoing chemotherapy.

Clearly, Susie demonstrates gracious Benedictine hospitality in many aspects of her life.

The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago are grateful for the many ways that these honorees have befriended the community of Sisters who live at St. Scholastica Monastery. May God continue to bless each of these deserving honorees!

Listen ...
with the ear
of your heart.

Prologue,
Rule of Benedict

We Love To Hear From You

Our thanks for the wonderful education our three daughters received at St. Scholastica Academy in Chicago and the help our Parish, St. Peter in Skokie, receives today.

To the best women I know!

We will leave it to your discretion to apply our donation as you deem most appropriate.
We have the utmost confidence in the work you do and its benefit to humanity.

Thank you so much for a wonderful education for my high school years and for life.
I treasure the Sisters I had – Sisters Catherine, Mercedes, Gabriel, Audrey
and many more – wonderful teachers and friends.

Many, many thanks for all you did for me during my elementary school years at St. Hilary Parish, Chicago.
You gave me a great education, a lot of confidence, and many kindnesses.

To the retired nuns – thank you for all you have done to make the world a better place!

One of the greatest gifts my parents gave me was my SSA education.

*I respect and admire the Sisters for continuing to follow a way of life that's becoming increasingly rare
while at the same time balancing the fine line between faithfulness to the Church and loyalty to their hearts.*

Book Recommendations for April

Sister Eleanore Hillenbrand, O.S.B., serves as the monastery's librarian. She offers the following book suggestions to the community, and we pass these ideas along to our friends and benefactors:

Lydia: Paul's Cosmopolitan Hostess (Paul's Social Network: Brothers and Sisters in Faith) by Richard Ascough.

Humble Pie: Benedict's Ladder of Humility by Carol Bonomo.

The Rosary: Joy, Light, Sorrow and Glory by Alice Camille.

Fully Human, Fully Divine: An Interactive Christology and Sacred Reading: The Ancient Art of Lectio Divina both by Michael Casey, O.S.B.

Seeing with Our Souls: Monastic Wisdom for Every Day and *The Gift of Years: Growing Old Gracefully* both by

Joan Chittister, O.S.B.
Altogether Gift: A Trinitarian Spirituality by Michael Downey.

Women Who Knew Paul by Florence M. Gillman.

Meeting St. Paul Today: Understanding the Man, His Mission and His Message by Daniel J. Harrington, S.J.

The Circle of Life: The Heart's Journey Through the Seasons by Joyce Rupp and Macrina Wiederkehr.

Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality by Richard Rohr.

My Life with the Saints by James Martin, S.J.

Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith by Kathleen Norris.

Can You Drink the Cup? and *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming* both by Henri J. M. Nouwen.

Sister Wendy's Book of Meditations by Wendy Beckett.

Harlots of the Desert: A Study of Repentance in Early Monastic Sources by Benedicta Ward.

What Are We to Do?: Living the Sermon on the Mount by David Yount.

The Song of the Seed: A Monastic Way by Macrina Wiederkehr.

Using the Enneagram in Prayer: A Contemplative Guide by Suzanne Zuercher, O.S.B.

The Road to Emmaus: Pilgrimage as A Way of Life by Jim Forest.

The Music of Silence: Entering the Sacred Space of Monastic Experience by David Steindl-Rast, O.S.B. with Sharon Lebell.

Memorials

January 7, 2010 through April 8, 2010

In memory of:

Margaret Ahern

Jim and Dot Jung

Angela Ambrose

Don and Dorothy Andries

D. J. Andries

Don and Dorothy Andries

Evelyn Archibald

Jim and Dot Jung,

Sr. Virginia Jung, O.S.B.

Dorothy Aweve

Larry and Judy Brod

Judith Barbosa

Kathlyn Myers

Angela Barosso

Anonymous, Steve and Faith Asper,
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago,

Jim Borden and family,

Deon and Gayle Cross,

Kay L. Dickison,

The Earl & Bette Fields

Automotive Group Foundation,

Robert Kreiger

and Ruth Sohl-Kreiger,

Friends and Colleagues of

Marisa Oberding at Pulte Homes,

John Regan,

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

Gerry and Pat Zeller,

Richard and Dolores Zgonina

Charles Beltrami

Matt and Dorothy Miholic

William Beth

Ted and Kathy Beth

Dorothy Birrer

Lloyd and Barbara Birrer

Mark Blondell

Charles Kenny

Alonso Bonds

Kathlyn Myers

Karol and Helen Brandys

Jerry and Mary Cielinski

Joan Brenner

Leroy and Marilyn Herrick

Minnie Brewer

Sr. Francisca Nzeke

Winifred Brost

Gerard Brost

Fran Byrne

Dan Schwegel

Carl Cepon

Matt and Dorothy Miholic

Rose Ciccone

Andrea Ciccone

Michael and Angeline Cielinski

Jerry and Mary Cielinski

John Conroy

Sr. Patricia Cielinski, O.S.B.

Bishop Edwin Conway

St. John Brebeuf -

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Ted Corbett

Virginia Malter

William and Mary Coultrey

Catherine McDermott

Richard Cullen

Margaret Cullen

Honora M. Cullinan

Pat and Mariwin Cullinan

Janet Cunningham

Rosemary Kuga

Margaret Wolf Cushing

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Deceased family members

Danuta Bajda

Honorable John J. Divane

The Smith family

Mary Dohen

Genevieve Delana

Sr. Mary Donahue

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Joseph G. Dvoroznak

Bill and Cay Hillenbrand

Jean Tracy Erickson

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Bernadette Murphy

Brother Ronald Fogarty, F.M.S.

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

June Formeister

Jill Formeister

Anthony and Eleanor Frodyma

Jerry and Mary Cielinski

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

Ellen Ahern,

Robert and Marilyn Hammer,

Agnes Ivantic,

To Thi and Liem Huy Kieu,

Children of Henry

and Dorothy Lescher

Kathy Geroski

Jill Newberger

Stanley Gersick

Barbara Greenwood

Helen Getty

Jim and Dot Jung

Adele Kiser

Margaret Giebner

Doug and Ellen Davidson,

Mrs. T.S. Hawkins,

Leonard and Rosemary Palicki,

Bill and Kathy Riordan

Frank and Barbara Gill

Robert and Joan Schermerhorn

Sr. Joyce Gleeson, O.S.B.

Mary Lou Brennan,

Suzanne Dowell,

Ron and Rita Nemchausky,

Joanne Walsh

Anastacio Gonzales

Sr. Virginia Jung, O.S.B.

William F. X. Griffin

Jeanne Flood

Sheila Harrington

Cathy Sullivan

Sr. Jeanne Hegarty, O.S.B.

Richard and Ann Bertel,

Julie Bishop Brown, Helen Fitz,

Alice Jurjovec, Lillian Nacevska

Marianne Heinz

Sr. Winifred Sommer, O.S.B.

Francis J. Hennessy

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago,

Pat Hennessey

We remember daily those entrusted to our prayers ...

Rita Horen

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago,
Evelyn Wynne

Mary Ann Jereb

Tom and Beth Kneesel,
Matt and Dorothy Miholic,

William Jordan

Dorothy Flock

Marcia Joseph

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago,
Jeff and Kathy Caudill,
Sr. Ann Sharp, O.S.B.

Anton and Frances Kaplan

Margaret Cullen

Joan Kenny

Charles Kenny

John and Theresa Kepic

Sr. Gregory Rohar, O.S.B.

Yanko Kepic

Sr. Gregory Rohar, O.S.B.

Roger Kesselring

Pat and Jane Ellwood

Phillip "Ron" Kobeski

Mary Ellen Stuermer

Josephine Kosiba

Robert and Joan Schermerhorn

Joseph and Nora Kuczynski

Carol Kuczynski

Ronnie Lamperis

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago,
Valerie Green

Jack Loos

Robert and Joan Schermerhorn

Patrick McDermott

Catherine McDermott

Robert McDonnell

St. John Brebeuf -

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Sheila McGovern McKeon

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Howad J. MacKenzie

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Robert Maganini, M.D.

Robert and Murph Anderson

John Maloney

Rose Ann Catalano, Patricia Culver,
Richard and Anita Hallman,
Thomas and Barbara Hojnacki,
Candance Kane,
Ron and Cindy Loszach,
Dorothy Maloney,
Mercy Hospital -

Department of Surgery,

Nancy Putyrski, Ellen Raisbeck,
Rbert and Elaine Skudnig

Judith Yost Mason

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago,
Richard Mason

Barcelisa Mirafuentes

Bill and Ellen Wirth

Carole Murphy

Genevieve Delana

Deceased members of the

Francis J. Murray family

Ann C. Murray

Louise Neafsey

Patricia Campion

Evelyn Nelson

Patricia Hartmann

Carl Nitz

Jim and Barb Jank

Muriel O'Brien

Sarah Smith

Bettye O'Callaghan

Barb Jank

Julia Ann O'Donnell

Mary Donnell

Thomas Nyagaka Ongige

Jeff and Kathy Caudill

Jack O'Ryan

Therese Reynolds

Kevin and Mary Yvonne O'Ryan

Therese Reynolds

Henry Peppe

Mary Bzik

Denise Perse

Margaret Cullen

Edmund Perse

Margaret Cullen

Peter and Mary Perse

Margaret Cullen

Taylor Perse

Margaret Cullen

Frances and Lea Pirman

Margaret Pirman

Fr. John Powell, S.J.

Loretta Brady

Helen Lufen Powers

Helen B. Ueberbacher

George Radacy

Marion Radacy

William Rogers

Barbara Rogers Goepel

Mary Ellen Rohan

John Rohan

Isadore Salinas, Jr.

John and Joan Delisi

Dr. Edward Sarsha

Anonymous, Michaelynn Arnold,

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago,

Ronald and Karen Celesnik,

Jo Ann Cepon, Joseph P. Cresto,

John and Joan Delisi,

Eileen M. Dimitroff, Marge Drasler,

Margaret Dunn, Stephen Dunn,

Jack and Mary Ann Flessner,

Daniel and Patricia Furlan,

Victor and Kathlyn Gairani,

Elizabeth Godby,

Henry and Kathleen Govekar,

Helen Grenus, Jerry and Beverly Gust,

Lance Henrickson,

Edward and Judy Hodnik,

William and Mary Jesenovec,

Barbara Keenan, Diane Krupa,

Thelma Larsen,

James and Judith Macrowski,

James and Valerie Macrowski,

Walter and Emily Macrowski,

Stanley and Elizabeth March,

Elizabeth Marsh, James McGrain,

Matt and Dorothy Miholic,

Frank and Rosalie Mlinar,

Ken and Bonnie Nordstrom,

... let us serve one another in love.

Edward and Gail Pasiewicz,
Dennis and Bette Pasiewicz,
Roy and Joanne Paulson,
Richard and Joan Pucin,
Quadrant One, L.L.C.,
Drs. Sarsha, Williams,
Dandino & Associates, Ltd.,
Joan Schrank, Eino and Betty Seppala,
Frances Setnicar,
Sr. Ann Sharp, O.S.B.,
Gary and Susan Slocum,
John and Linda Slocum,
Jeffrey and Julie Smith, Sharon Steele,
Loreen Strasser,
Don and Cyndi Van Lyssel,
James O. Williamson,
Richard and Sylvia Wirtanen,
William and Mary Ann Zorzy
Gerrie Saunders
Walter and Janet Gengler
Sr. Mildred Scheetz, O.S.B.
Virginia Wilkinson
Harry M. Schermerhorn
Robert and Joan Schermerhorn
Harry Schwass
Sr. Patricia Cielinski, O.S.B.
Margie Parrilli Seeberg
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago,
Jill (Catherine) Connelly,
Ann Spillane
Diane Sementa
Georgette Kesselring
Richard Siepkowski
St. John Brebeuf -
St. Vincent de Paul Society
Bill Shebenik
Caroline Shebenik
William A. Shebenik
Caroline Shebenik
Michael P. Sheridan
Robert and Joan Schermerhorn
Sr. Beatrice Singler, O.S.B.
Lila Singler
Helen A. Slattery
Helen M. Slattery
Thomas Slattery
Helen Slattery

William Smith
Edward and Carla Sloan, Donna Smith
Isabel Smogolski
Tom and Beth Kneesel
Mary Stanonik
Betty Gerzel
Nondine Stec
Joseph Stec
Edwin Steinhauser
Bernice Steinhauser
Henry "Hank" Theisen
Robert and Joan Schermerhorn
Jeno Toth
Sr. Ann Sharp, O.S.B.
Ruth Trader
Jeff and Kathy Caudill
Patricia Faricy Troisi
Jean Culpin
Dan Tucker
Don and Dorothy Andries
Dorothy Walsh
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Sr. Miriam Wilson, O.S.B.
Marybeth Runnion
Bruno Wisniewski
Matt and Dorothy Miholic
Jane Wohlers
Wayne and Peg Wagner
Pauline Wulsch
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago,
Jeff and Kathy Caudill
Michael Youtsey, M.D.
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Evelyn Zabkar-Schwartz
Bernadine Drasler
Al Zabor
Matt and Dorothy Miholic
Sr. Susanne Zeller, O.S.B.
Pat and Gerry Zeller
Louis J. Zember
Ray and Patty Erjavec
Edward and Margaret Zonsius
Peter and Barbara Zonsius
Sr. Margaret Zonsius, B.V.M.
Peter and Barbara Zonsius
Anne Zupic
Matt and Dorothy Miholic

Special Occasions

In honor of:

Bill and Sue Brander
on their 50th Wedding Anniversary
Robert and Joan Schermerhorn
Birthday of
Barbara Peterson Bredehoff
4th Tuesday Club, Anita Kelly
50th Jubilee of
Sr. Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.
H. Woods Bowman
and Michele Thompson
Sr. Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.
receiving the CFW Impact Award
Julie Kaufman and Beth Wright
100th Birthday of Agnes Ivantic
Ted and Joyce Bond,
John and Joan Delisi, Margaret Heaphy,
Tom and Terri Ivantic,
Bob and Ann Kneesel,
Bob and Elaine Ogrin, Rose Rosko
75th Jubilee of Sr. Vivian Ivantic
John and Joan Delisi
Sr. Mary Benet McKinney, O.S.B.
Joan Krebs
Sr. Mercedes Moore, O.S.B.
Joan Krebs
Birthday of
Sr. Mildred Zember, O.S.B.
Kelly Zerfahs

Hymn to Saint Scholastica

Scholastica, your heart aflame
With longing and with love
Flew out from this world's binding cage
And to heaven like a dove.
Your brother learned to follow you,
Your love was greater still.
May we, like him, learn from your life
How we're called to do God's will.
In these our days we seek your strength
Your passion burning bright.
May we bring to our daily tasks
Love like yours for our world's night.

~ lyrics written by
Sister Suzanne
Zuercher, O.S.B.

Directions in Development

Photo by Jonathan Fogel



*Sisters Dorothy Van Alstyne, O.S.B.,
Mary Benet McKinney, O.S.B., and
Mercedes Moore, O.S.B.
praying in the chapel in St. Joseph's Court.*

Each weekday morning when I arrive at the monastery at 7 a.m., the first thing I see as I approach the infirmary door to enter the building, are Benedictine Sisters already in the chapel, praying. One might be reading Scripture with her Bible in her lap, another praying her rosary, still others quietly reflecting on the readings for the day's Mass. Every morning, it moves me to see these amazing women of faith who strive to live their lives "serving where there is need" as they "seek to find and honor God present in each person and in all created things." Four years as the Development Director for the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago have provided me with just a taste of the incredible hospitality and community present in this place and with these women religious.

The community continues the work to make plans for their future, financial and otherwise. As you make your own financial plans, I would ask that you prayerfully consider remembering the Sisters' current, and future, fiscal needs. Perhaps you are able to establish a monthly credit card donation or a monthly contribution from your checking account? As you consider your own estate planning documents, please consider providing support for the community through a specific gift in your will or, after your family's needs have been provided for, by leaving a portion of your residual estate for the benefit of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago.

Do you have questions about making a gift to the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago in your will or trust? Please feel welcome to contact me. On behalf of this wonderful community of women who strive to receive all as Christ and live by Jesus' words - "I was a stranger and you took Me in" - thank you for prayerfully considering this request to continue to remember the good works of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago.

With gratitude,
Kathy Caudill, Director of Development
773/764-2413, ext. 233 or kcaudill@osbchicago.org

How Well Do You Know St. Scholastica Academy?

True or False:

The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago have sponsored an Academy here in Chicago since before the Great Chicago Fire.

The SSA motto is "Preparing young women for life."

SSA is sponsored by the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago.

SSA is a separate legal corporation from the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago.

SSA is a Benedictine, Catholic school following five Benedictine tenets: love of learning, sense of balance, respect for the individual, importance of community, and stewardship of gifts.

There are 12,000 living alumnae found in every state in the nation, and many places around the world.

Today 100% of SSA students graduate and enroll in college.

SSA offers students the opportunity to participate in the challenging International Baccalaureate honors program (IB) through which students have opportunity to take college-level classes at SSA, with the potential for universities to award college credit for IB student work during high school.

In Illinois, about 42% of students who attempt the International Baccalaureate honors program (IB) program are successful. At SSA about 80% of the IB students succeed.

SSA offers need-based financial assistance and merit-based academic scholarships.

The diversity among SSA students and faculty in all areas of life speaks to the broad and welcoming embrace that is allowed by SSA's Benedictine roots and spirituality. The racial mix of SSA students closely mirrors the city of Chicago's demographics: (Caucasian – 31%, African-American – 29%, Latina – 20%, Asian – 13%, and multiracial – 7%).

Answers: All TRUE!

A Good Steward



Jack Andrews

The Rule of Benedict calls us to be good stewards. At St. Scholastica Monastery, Jack Andrews has served as the Plant Manager since 1985. He plans and coordinates the upkeep, management and development of all buildings and grounds, and supervises the maintenance personnel, custodians, housekeepers and security guard. He has worked for the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago for almost twenty five years, initiating preventative projects and restorations, hiring good workers, and proactively addressing possible concerns on the property. His experience and expertise, combined with his attention to the financial bottom line of a project, are invaluable. We are grateful for his reliable, knowledgeable and dedicated service!

Newsbriefs

In January, **Sister Suzanne Zuercher, O.S.B.** spoke to the Chicago Chapter of the Thomas Merton Society on the topic "Learning to Love: Revisited". She also presented an "Introduction to the Enneagram" at a Spiritual Directors training program at the Sienna Center, in Racine, Wisconsin. During the month of March, Sister Suzanne participated in a four week program about the Enneagram and Prayer at St. Peter's Church, in Chicago.



Photo by Jonathan Vogel.

Columbia College photography student, Jonathan Vogel, has been visiting St. Scholastica Monastery, capturing some great pictures of daily life here in the monastery. Above: **Sister Vivian Ivantic, O.S.B.** reading the newspaper in the community room.

Oblate **Rosie Newton** wrote a short play entitled "Nancy Drew and the Clue in the Christmas Stocking" for the A Reasonable Facsimile Theater Company (ARFTCo) Christmas Show. It is a parody of the Nancy Drew detective stories.

In late January, **Sister Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.** attended the Conference of Benedictine Prioresses in Beech Grove, Indiana. In February, she attended the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) board meeting. In March, Sister received a Chicago Impact Award from the Chicago Foundation for Women (CFW) on the occasion of the CFW's 25th anniversary. The Foundation recognizes twenty-five women and men who are improving Chicago-area communities for women and girls.

The students and parents of St. Symphorosa School surprised the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago with a bundle of beautiful cards and letters prepared during Catholic Schools week, thanking the community for the love and generosity of the Benedictine Sisters for nearly eighty years of service in their parish. "You have taught us the meaning of serving in the vineyard of the Lord," wrote one family, "helping our brothers and sisters through your hard work." One young student told her mother she wanted to "thank the Sister "for being good helpers to God." Another family wrote: "Your selfless giving, spiritual examples, and teaching knowledge have empowered your former students to achieve great things. Most importantly, you taught the children how to live their lives devoted to Jesus Christ." Second grade students drew lovely pictures for the cover of their cards, and carefully printed the messages inside the card, including many reasons why they like St. Symphorosa School. Another graduate of St. Symphorosa, now a teacher herself, mentioned "the good nuns that came into my life, like Sisters Winifred, Gregory and Xavier. They inspired me to teach. I will say a prayer of thanks for the work you do and the foundation of faith you helped create in me."



Bishop Fernando Isern with **Sister Karen Bland, O.S.B.** at a meeting after his appointment as Bishop for the Diocese of Pueblo, Colorado.



(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Sister Judith Zonsius, O.S.B.).



(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Sister Judith Zonsius, O.S.B.).



(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Sister Judith Zonsius, O.S.B.).

A furry friend (a.k.a. volunteer Jamie Harrington) visited the Sisters in the infirmary, bringing Easter lilies and baskets of goodies.

*Above, top photo: **Sister Mariella Hathorn, O.S.B.** snaps a photo of **Sister Mildred Zember, O.S.B.** posing with the Easter Bunny.*

*Above, middle photo: **Sister Ann Sharp, O.S.B.** offers a hospitable greeting to the visitor at her door.*

*Above, bottom photo: **Sister Mercedes Moore, O.S.B.** appears to be tickling the rabbit's nose!*

Sister **Susan Kilduski, O.S.B.** served on a Participatory Budgeting steering committee for the 49th Ward. Participatory budgeting is used in Brazil, the United Kingdom and Canada. The neighborhood community decided how to spend part of a government budget through a series of meetings and a final, binding vote. When participatory budgeting was adopted in the April vote, the 49th Ward became the first political jurisdiction in the nation to adopt participatory budgeting.

“Sister” Visits the Benedictine Sisters

Students from St. Scholastica Academy took a tour of the monastery in January/February with one of their teachers, **Sister Susan Quaintance, O.S.B.** The visit had a profound impact on many of the students. “I felt like I was becoming a part of this building’s history. In a small way, I felt part of a big thing.” “St. Scholastica is one of the best things that ever happened to me.” “When Sister Susan said that it didn’t matter who they sat next to at dinner together, I thought about how Jesus probably didn’t care who he sat next to because he treated everyone the same.” “The Benedictine Sisters’ example of community should be an example to the world and how we could best function. There is really a lot those nuns can teach us.”



Photo by Jonathan Vogel.

Sacristan Sister Joanna Trapp, O.S.B. assists Fr. Robert Birely as he prepares before liturgy in the sacristy of St. Scholastica Chapel.

On April 24, **Sister Benita Coffey, O.S.B.** represented the Chicago Archdiocesan Vocation Association (CAVA) at an archdiocesan program established to share ideas about parish vocation committees and parish action plans, and also to pray together for vocations. The following day Sister will also be coordinating the Parish Vocation Fair at St. Mary Parish, in Evanston, where Father Michael Solazzo, an Oblate of our monastery, is pastor. In May, Sister Benita will be at Notre Dame University attending a symposium to address the catechetical, spiritual, and vocational needs of young people in the Church and society today. The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago ask the many friends of the community to join them in praying often that women sensing a call to religious life will consider membership in this religious community.

Editor’s note: In March, the residents of St. Joseph’s Court infirmary received a special visit from Oblate and St. Scholastica Academy (SSA) alumna and Oblate Rosie Newton, an actress who performs the role of “Sister” in “Late Nite Catechism” productions. Rosie Newton can often be found generously donating her time volunteering at SSA or in the monastery gardens with Sister Agnes. She recently spent an afternoon with the Sisters, discussing her role as “Sister.” She then put on her full costume and “Sister” taught a religion class to an appreciative audience of Benedictine Sisters. Here are a few of her comments from that delightful afternoon:

When I first started working on “Late Nite,” I thought it was a very funny play. I had attended Catholic grade school and high school, and the play’s take on the old-fashioned, pre-Vatican II style of teaching was very familiar to me. To me, “Late Nite Catechism” lets Catholics laugh at themselves without criticizing or putting down our religion. I enjoyed the character of Sister and the power and the confidence that she had—as Sister, I could get away with a lot of things that I would never say as Rosie Newton.

But something else happened while I was working on the show. After every show we have a meet-and-greet with the audience in the lobby. I started to notice the effect that “Late Nite Catechism” had on people. It was so amazing to me how quickly people were able to mentally transport themselves back to the fourth grade. It was a fun, nostalgic trip for them, and it was a real pleasure to see how much they were enjoying the trip. “Late Nite Catechism” gave them a chance to look back on their childhood with humor and warmth—it gave people a chance to let go of some of the anger that many of them have felt toward the Church. It gave them a chance to laugh.

Many times I’ve had audience members tell me after a performance that they hadn’t been to church in years, but they felt like they’d

been back—and they loved it. One woman told me that the plastic glow-in-the-dark rosary I gave her meant so much to her because when she was little her father would beat her, and when he did, she would pray the rosary—and it was what saved her. One man told me that he had been abused by a priest as a boy and this was the first time he’d been able to laugh about anything having to do with the church since that time.

I had a new appreciation for my religion—for the healing that it was capable of and for the solace that it offered all of us. I felt something inside of myself begin to open up in a way that was unfamiliar, but very welcome.

My spiritual life has been reawakened through this experience—through the audience members who have responded so positively to the show and with so much depth of feeling, and through my relationship with the Benedictine Sisters—becoming a part of this



(Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Kathy Caudill)

Left to right: Sisters Virginia Jung, O.S.B., Winifred Sommer, O.S.B., Rosemarie Rugar, O.S.B., and Ann Sharp, O.S.B. listen as “Sister” scolds Sister Virginia for her posture in class.

community, seeing the devotion that all of you have toward each other and to God has been very inspiring and humbling. “Late Nite Catechism” brought me down many different paths that I did not expect. St. Scholastica Monastery has been one of them and I am very grateful to this community.

Rosie Newton also shared a story about the role that the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago played early on in “Late Nite Catechism”:

Eighteen years ago, when the writers were putting the script together they knew they would need a nun’s habit, but didn’t know where to get one. One of the writers was friends with a nurse who worked here in the infirmary. Sister Benigna was wearing a hospital gown while living here in the infirmary and her habit was in her closet. The nurse asked Sr. Benigna and the Prioress, Sister Ann Sharp, O.S.B. if she could borrow the habit. With their permission, the habit was taken to a seamstress and copied. That is the costume they have been using ever since—an exact copy of Sr. Benigna’s habit. That makes it even more special for me – sort of a full-circle kind of thing.



Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

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Benedictine Sisters Testimonial Dinner

As a new decade dawns ...

- | | |
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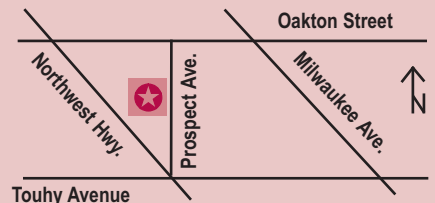
For credit card donations, please call 773/764-2413, ext. 233.

R.S.V.P. by June 2, 2010.

**Dear Friends,
Please join us
for the 16th Annual
Testimonial Dinner.**

Wednesday, June 16, 2010
5:30 p.m.

* Park Ridge Country Club
636 North Prospect Avenue
Park Ridge, IL 60068



We will honor
Albert and Katherine Gehrke,
Fr. Michael Solazzo, Oblate,
and Susana Cordova.
We hope to see you there!