



Sacro Speco Sacred Space

Vol. XVIII, No. 3

Newsletter of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Summer 2008

Our Charism

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

Our 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.

Hundreds Enjoy Benedictine Hospitality at the 14th Annual Testimonial Dinner



Many friends joined the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago at the Park Ridge Country Club on June 18th, including (left to right) LaVerne Dondlinger and Dr. Elaine Lee.

On June 18, 2008, more than 300 people gathered for the 14th annual Testimonial Dinner honoring Howard Dubin, *Spirit of Benedict* awardee, Eleanore McCarthy, *Spirit of Scholastica* awardee, and Peter Zonsius, *Spirit of Benedictine Hospitality* awardee. As the Prioress, **Sister Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.**, noted in her opening remarks, this “friendraising” event “will go down in history as one of the most sought after Testimonial Dinners.” Everyone shared their best “Benedictine hospitality” as they visited with old friends, and met new ones, during the evening’s festivities.

In her introduction, **Sister Jane Smith, O.S.B.** noted Howard Dubin’s lifetime of

Testimonial Dinner continued on page 5.

Celebrating 210 Years of Service to God and God’s People

This summer the community of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago honored five Sisters commemorating the anniversary of their profession of vows when they dedicated their lives to God within this Benedictine community. **Sister Louise Eggen, O.S.B.**, **Sister Kathleen Maloney, O.S.B.**, and **Sister Patricia Cielinski, O.S.B.**, each marked their 25th anniversary on June 22nd. On July 13th, the community celebrated the 75th anniversary of **Sister Mary Cornella, O.S.B.** and the 60th anniversary of **Sister Joanna Trapp, O.S.B.** Together, they have provided more than 210 years of devoted service.

Jubilee continued on page 3.



(Standing, left to right) **Sister Patricia Cielinski, O.S.B.**, **Sister Louise Eggen, O.S.B.**, and **Sister Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.**, Prioress. (Seated, left to right) **Sister Kathleen Maloney, O.S.B.**, **Sister Mary Cornella, O.S.B.**, and **Sister Joanna Trapp, O.S.B.**

Message from the Prioress



Prioress Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.

Dear Friends,

When I entered this Benedictine community nearly a half century ago, one of the things I sought was a way to find balance in my life which was one of much activity. Balance is a crucial element of our Benedictine life with its rhythm of work and prayer.

The Judæo-Christian tradition has a longstanding practice of celebrating years of jubilee. Why? Because human life often loses its sense of balance. "Jubilee" has always been a time to balance societal inequities like the distribution of land. In our modern day life, people long for balance in their lives – between work and play, activity and sleep, foods that satisfy and those that nourish, television and reading, e-mails and writing letters, time at home and time away. The search for balance seems endless! Jubilee is a time for re-balancing and for rejoicing.

This issue of *Sacro Speco* focuses on five of our Sisters who celebrated jubilees this summer. It also highlights the grand celebration at our 14th annual Testimonial Dinner where we honored three people who live well the Benedictine Spirit and in whom we rejoice. Summer offers us all an opportunity for jubilee. We wish you joy and a new sense of balance as you enjoy these long days of summer!

Gratefully,

Patricia Crowley OSB

Directions in Development

The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago are blessed with many generous donors who contribute towards the care of retired Sisters and support the ministries of the community. There are many creative ways to donate and benefit the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago.

Do you have an existing life insurance policy? Maybe it has already done its job - protecting the children who are now grown, a business that is now secure, and a mortgage that is now paid? Perhaps you might consider changing the beneficiary of that life insurance policy to the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, receiving a tax deduction for the cash value of the policy.

IF you make a gift of a NEW life insurance policy, your insurance premiums may be deductible IF you name the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago as both the owner of the policy AND the beneficiary.

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

Wanted: Donations of Digital T.V. Converter Box Coupons

Beginning February 17, 2009, televisions will require TV converter boxes. Coupons for the converter boxes can be sent to private households. To obtain the coupon, call the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) at 888/388-2009 or www.dtv2009.gov. If you have cable or satellite television, you will not need the converter. Televisions in the monastery do not have satellite or cable connections – would you consider ordering the coupon, and then donating it to the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago? Questions? Please contact the Development office if you would be able to do so. Thank you!

News from St. Scholastica Academy (Cañon City) Alumnae

The St. Scholastica Academy (Cañon City) class of 1953 is planning a 55th celebration in Cripple Creek, Colorado, on September 5-7. Museums, casinos, railroad scenic trips, and "Oklahoma" will assure fun for all! For more information, please contact Marian Darling (mariland@wyoming.com, 307/742-7406) or Barbara Remmers (barb0529@msn.com, 602/647-2624).

On August 1-3 the St. Scholastica Academy (Cañon City) class of 1983 is hosting their 25th reunion in Chicago. For more information, contact Alexandra Mihalas (AMihalas@kirkland.com or 312/715-0744) or Silvia Valle (silviacvr@hotmail.com).

Send your photos, share your stories, and/or provide alumnae information and updates via e-mail (kcaudill@osbchicago.org) or mail (Development Office, 7430 N. Ridge Blvd., Chicago, IL 60645-1913).



Sister Mary Cornella, O.S.B., the eldest member of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, was born and raised in southern Colorado. After earning her degree in education at DePaul University, she embarked on a long career as a primary and elementary grade teacher in Chicago and Colorado. In her later years, she visited the sick and shut-ins in their homes and nursing facilities. In retirement, she assists the Prioress with clerical tasks as she is able.

Sister Joanna Trapp, O.S.B., a native of Rogers Park, attended St. Ignatius Parish Grade School. After becoming a Benedictine Sister, she served several years as an elementary teacher. She then joined the faculty of her alma mater, St. Scholastica Academy. She recently retired after 59 years as a classroom teacher, 42 of those as a member of the social studies department. Her current position is as sacristan for the main chapel at St. Scholastica.



Sister Louise Eggen, O.S.B., born and raised in Jefferson City, Missouri, began a career as an educator in the field of special education. Later, she was Dean of Students at St. Scholastica Academy in Colorado. Having completed chaplaincy training in Chicago, she served fifteen years as a hospital chaplain in Missouri. At present she is Director of the Infirmary at St. Scholastica Monastery and a member of the Monastic Council.



Sister Kathleen Maloney, O.S.B. was an elementary teacher until 1986 when she began her career as a pastoral associate. After serving at St. Monica Parish for eighteen years, she was appointed to the Monastic Council and to the position of Treasurer of Benedictine Sisters of Chicago. Still holding those positions, she now also serves in parish ministry as Pastoral Associate and Director of Religious Education at St. Peter's Parish in Skokie.



Sister Patricia Cielinski, O.S.B. worked in job development and job placement at Howard Area Community Center just before entering the Benedictine community. At St. Scholastica Academy in Colorado, she was dorm prefect, teacher, and recruiter. Later she worked as Coordinator of Resources and Services at St. Scholastica Monastery until taking her current position as Administrative Assistant at Felician Services, Inc.



The Benedictine Sisters rejoice with each jubilarian for achieving such a milestone in service to God and God's family.

Sisters Serving "Where There is Need"

Sister Pierre Marie Moore, O.S.B. enjoys walking the monastery grounds, or chatting with her biological sister, **Sister Mercedes Moore, O.S.B.** She has created a colorful display in her room – a bay window filled with African violets covered in pink, white and purple blooms. Sister Pierre Marie is a member of "The Elders" and prays daily for **Sister Rita Nowak, O.S.B.**, Director of Buildings and Grounds.

On summer mornings, **Sister Agnes Kelly, O.S.B.** can often be found tending monastery flower gardens. After a break for lunch and midday prayer, she often returns to her gardening. "The weeds keep coming back," she jokes, "I enjoy what I do, but it just takes me a little longer now to get things done." With her good humor, green thumb, and tender loving care, geranium plants grow year-round in the greenhouse and gerber daisies started from seed come back year after year. Sister Agnes is a member of "The Elders" and the liturgy team. She bakes the Eucharistic bread, is a chanter for evening prayer, and sings as one of the chanters for Sunday liturgies.

Sister Hilary Halpin, O.S.B. is the Director of the British Infant School, a licensed massage therapist, and an instructor in infant massage at St. Francis Hospital. She believes her work is very compatible with spiritual work and healing. "My dear mother used to say I was taking people from the womb to the tomb," Sister Hilary recalls. "With infant massage I am still taking them from the womb, and I have made the final journey with some of my long-standing massage clients, helping them plan their funerals and their liturgy. It is a great gift to me."

What great blessings these three Sisters share with all of us!



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Newsbriefs

Sister Joyce Gleeson, O.S.B. was awarded a medal from St. Francis Hospital recognizing her 1,000 hours of volunteer service. She pushes wheel chairs, carries reports from department to department, and helps with flowers. Her favorite volunteer responsibility is wheeling new mothers with their babies.

Sister Mary Ann O’Ryan, O.S.B. received a grant from the Archdiocese of Chicago, awarded to three historians, to visit Israel in August.

In May postulant Belinda Monahan presented an archeological slide show to the Sisters in the infirmary and described her previous digs. This summer Belinda is in Armenia working with an archeological dig.

Sister Louise Eggen, O.S.B. and Sister Jeanne Hegarty, O.S.B. attended a memorial service for all families served by Rainbow Hospice. They received two blue spruce seedlings in memory of Sister Christina Kulovitz, O.S.B. and Sister Susanne Zeller, O.S.B. which will be planted on the monastery grounds.

Fourteen oblate candidates were received into the Benedictine community of St. Scholastica Monastery on July 11, the feast day of St. Benedict.

Sister Suzanne Zuercher, O.S.B. will be leading an Enneagram Workshop on September 27 at the Cabrini Retreat Center in Des Plaines. For registration information call 847/297-6530.



Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Sister Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.

A group of volunteers from AllWays Caring Services, Inc./ResCare, Inc. (above) recently visited the monastery grounds, to work with Sister Rita Nowak, O.S.B. on the labyrinth and in the monastery gardens.

Sister Patricia Coughlin, O.S.B. is a contributor to Carol LaChapelle's book, "Finding Your Voice, Telling Your Stories." The book, launched at Women and Children First bookstore in Chicago, contains writing exercises created to lead people "back to significant people, places, and events in their lives."

Sister Zeno Sagong, O.S.B., from South Korea, is staying with the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago while she studies English. Sister Theresa Peters, D.M.M.M., originally from Nigeria, will be staying with the Benedictine Sisters while she pursues her elementary education degree at Loyola University.

In early June St. Benedict's Place, a new 23 unit supportive housing project of Catholic Outreach, opened in Grand Junction, Colorado. Hundreds of people joined Sister Karen Bland, O.S.B. and Sister Patricia Crowley, O.S.B. in a wonderful interfaith celebration.

The Board of Trustees of St. Martin de Porres High School, Waukegan, noting the challenging academic program developed under her leadership, established the Sister Judith Murphy, O.S.B. scholarship to support future students.

Sister Susan Kilduski, O.S.B. recently attended a West Rogers Park Community Organization program entitled "Devon Avenue Needs Assessment."

Each Friday, in St. Joseph's Chapel, a group of Sisters gathers to pray the rosary for peace.

We Love to Hear from You

Thanks so much for my years at St. Scholastica.
They were happy days.

The mission statement of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago is so beautiful and well-worded.

For twelve years of education:
elementary – '50, high school – '54.

I can recall visiting my great aunts at the convent, walking around the grounds....It was a special place with kind, loving and dedicated women who were an inspiration.

You have all been an ongoing example of womanly courage, wisdom and charity. Thank you for my education not only in the usual subjects but also preparation for life.

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Testimonial Dinner

continued from page 1.



Left (l-r): Honoree Howard Dubin, his daughter, Anne Dubin, and his niece, Nancy Barnett visit during the cocktail hour. Below (l-r): Oblate and honoree Eleanore McCarthy receives her award from Sister Patricia Crowley, O.S.B.



work has demonstrated the basic tenets of Benedictinism: love of learning, respect for the individual, balance, stewardship of gifts, and sense of community. "Howard is awesome!" noted Sister Jane, "He is one of those people that Google provides more than fifty very valid references, but I like to call him 'friend'."

The second honoree, Eleanore McCarthy, was introduced by Sister Benita Coffey, O.S.B. "As a student, then a loyal alumna, later a parent and volunteer, Eleanore McCarthy was very much a part of St. Scholastica Academy. In more recent years, she has taken her place in the extended family of St. Scholastica Monastery as an oblate and benefactor." Comparing Eleanore and St. Scholastica, Sister Benita noted that both were known to be women of prayer, connected with an important man, with little recorded history of their lives. "Eleanore McCarthy's life and works may not be memorialized in history books, but her spirit is very much alive and will be forever treasured in the hearts of all who love her."



Barbara Zonsius listens as her husband, Peter Zonsius, accepts the Spirit of Benedictine Hospitality award.

Sister Judith Zonsius, O.S.B. introduced her uncle, the third honoree. "The last person in this room, and perhaps the entire world, who wants to have a tribute

paid to him is, ironically, the person we honor this evening with the Spirit of Benedictine Hospitality award: Peter Zonsius ... known in these parts, at least, as 'Uncle Pete.'" Sister Judith described a day in the volunteering life of Uncle Pete, noting that someone once asked her - Is there a MRS. Uncle Pete? "Indeed, there is, and Uncle Pete is quick to say that he would not be able to do all that he does without the loving support of his wife of 58 years, Barbara." Asking all to stand



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who had ever given something to Uncle Pete to give to another, or received something through Uncle Pete, the room was suddenly a sea of standing people. Sister Judith continued, "Uncle Pete, look around the room. Look at what you have done for the people of God! Thank you and God bless YOU!"



Above (l-r): Mary Jo Sheridan and Ellen Ahern of Rainbow Hospice enjoy the musical stylings of pianist Phil Varchetta during the cocktail reception. Left (l-r): Kitty Gehrke, Marybeth Owen and Mickie Dunne visit on the country club patio.

Sister Patricia ended the evening in prayer: "In the spirit of Benedict and Scholastica, we go forth to continue our lives of prayer, community, and service where there is need." Next year's Testimonial Dinner is scheduled for Wednesday, June 17, 2009. Mark your calendars now! We hope you can join us then for another spirit-filled evening of Benedictine hospitality.

Memorials

April 10, 2008 through July 9, 2008

In memory of:

Sr. Maurus Becker, O.S.B.

Virginia Michael

Helen Birch

Jeff and Kathy Caudill

Bridget Borchers

Patricia Campion

Thomas and Amy Ewert

James D. Bryers

Nancy Bryers

Patricia J. Bryers

Nancy Bryers

James Byers, Sr.

Ann Byers

Sr. Helen Capulak, O.S.B.

Josephine Kelly

Rudolph Cepon

Susanne Cepon

Fr. Thomas Conley

Eleanor Nauman

Mildred Kocman Cosimano

Evelyn Mae Vertovec

Joseph Crean

Sr. Winifred Sommer, O.S.B.

Alice Minogue Daley

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Lillian Endre

Smith Family

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Frances L. Walker

Sr. Jerome Frede, O.S.B.

Frances L. Walker

Loretta Friend

Jim and Dot Jung

Katherine Gersick

Margaret Cullen

Martin Gersick

Margaret Cullen

Sr. Carolyn Glach, O.S.B.

Bill and Helen Davis

Patricia Glunz

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Kathleen Connolly

Mary Connolly

Gertrude Gordon

Sarah Lane Hill

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Ruth Kapes

The Lamantia family

Catherine McDermott

Pamela Miller

Scott and Milissa Murphy

OLPH Women Club Guild 8

Joseph Pionke

Ann Sampey

Lois Weber

YMCA Bootcamp Buddies

Rev. Gilbert Graham, O.P.

Sr. Barbara McCarry, O.S.B.

Joseph Griffin

Genevieve Delana

Dave Hall

Jeff and Kathy Caudill

Loretto Hedrich

Jeff and Kathy Caudill

Wilbert Hegener

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Jack Heinz

Betty Paulus

Jean Heiser

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

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Mary Jeanne Schultz

Susan Sharp

Jane Marie Henigsmann

Mary Jo Glavich

Richard Holtmeyer

Sr. Louise Eggen, O.S.B.

Helen Kita

Richard and Stephanie Klingelsmith

Chester and Zofia Kouszawski

Danuta Bajda

Sr. Agnes Kulovitz, O.S.B.

Barbara Wilson

Sr. Christina Kulovitz, O.S.B.

Barbara Wilson

Clarence Lehmann

Jeff and Kathy Caudill

Suzetta Lekas

Jim and Dot Jung

Sr. Virginia Jung, O.S.B.

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Marilyn Moore

Edward Rolfsen

Sr. Rosemarie Rugar, O.S.B.

Angela Loritz

Evelyn Pavell

Sr. Catherine Lynch, O.S.B.

Sally Duple

Sr. Faith Matney, R.S.M.

Sr. Louise Eggen, O.S.B.

Rev. Joseph McGinnity

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Edmund Perse

Margaret Cullen

Taylor M. Perse

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Jeff and Kathy Caudill

Rudy and Eileen Gallegos

Matthew and Agnes Glavich

Roberta Pierick

We remember daily those entrusted to our prayers ...

Sr. Rosemarie Rupar, O.S.B.
Evelyn Mae Vertovec
Frank Petric
Rose Rosko
Sr. Dorothy Purcell, O.S.B.
Thomas Purcell
George Radacy
Marian Radacy
Adrienne Michelle Rogers
Jeff and Kathy Caudill
Mary Eileen Rohan
James T. Rohan
James W. Rohar
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Bernice Krasovec
Stephanie Ladd
Howard and Elizabeth Mangin
Michelle Rohar Parson
Roberta Pierick
Mrs. Carol Santarelli
Dr. Joe Rost
Pat Campion
Dr. Peter Gilmour
Dr. James Zullo
Betty Ryan
Gilbert and Margaret Heaphy
Father Bernard Sanders, O.S.B.
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Janet and Walter Gengler
Ralph Scheetz
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Ruth Slimak
Richard and Stephanie Klingelsmith
Eva Solazzo
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Mary Sheridan
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Walter and Marge Yordy
Julee Illner
Dorothy Zander
Bob and Katie Anderson
Sr. Susanne Zeller, O.S.B.
Lee Vigil

Sr. Louise Eggen, O.S.B.
on her Silver Jubilee
Sr. Amy Campbell, O.S.B.
Jeff and Kathy Caudill
Sr. Anne Krall, O.S.B.
Sr. Kathleen McNamara, O.S.B.
Fr. Michael Solazzo
90th Birthday of Stella Kozimor
Jeff and Kathy Caudill
Sr. Kathy Maloney, O.S.B.
on her Silver Jubilee
Sr. Amy Campbell, O.S.B.
Jeff and Kathy Caudill
Sr. Anne Krall, O.S.B.
Sr. Kathleen McNamara, O.S.B.
Fr. Michael Solazzo
Sr. Ada Rico's Birthday
Denise Christensen
90th Birthday of John Rudd
Gilbert and Margaret Heaphy
80th Birthday of
Sally Wolf Mutert Swanlund
Addie, Anita, Barbara, Dorothy
and Germaine Kelly
Sr. Joanna Trapp, O.S.B.
on her 60th Jubilee
Sr. Amy Campbell, O.S.B.
Jeff and Kathy Caudill
Ronald Hoover
Sr. Anne Krall, O.S.B.
Sr. Kathleen McNamara, O.S.B.
Norene Mahoney
Anne Matz
Brian and Wanda Pabich
Pete Zonsius
Edward and Kathleen Nichols

Special Occasions In honor of:

Ronald and Margie Auer on
their 50th Wedding
Anniversary
John and Jeanne Schutz
Sr. Patricia Cielinski, O.S.B.
on her Silver Jubilee
Sr. Amy Campbell, O.S.B.
Jeff and Kathy Caudill
Jerry and Mary Cielinski
Sr. Anne Krall, O.S.B.
Sr. Kathleen McNamara, O.S.B.
Fr. Michael Solazzo
Sr. Mary Cornella, O.S.B.
on her 75th Jubilee
Sr. Amy Campbell, O.S.B.
Jeff and Kathy Caudill
Sr. Anne Krall, O.S.B.
Sr. Kathleen McNamara, O.S.B.
Sr. Mary Dolan, O.P.
on her Golden Jubilee
Sr. Virginia Jung, O.S.B.





Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

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Contact Director of Development Kathy Caudill with feedback by e-mail at
kcaudill@osbchicago.org or by phone at 773/764.2413, ext. 233.



... And the
Winners Are ...



(Type Studio, Inc.)

Masters of Ceremony, Don (left) and Dick (right) Heidkamp, supervise Christopher Dubin (center) as he draws a winning raffle ticket at the 14th annual Testimonial Dinner.

The raffle winners for the 14th annual Testimonial Dinner include:

Potpourri of gift cards - Pat Michalski

Chicago Shakespeare Theatre and Phil Stefani Restaurants gift certificates – Maureen Hallagan

Matinee tickets to Madame Butterfly at the Lyric Opera and gift certificate to Gibsons – Virginia Michael

Notre Dame box seat tickets on the 50 yard line – Margaret Lombardo

Mrs. Murphy's Rooftop Company, Cubs game for six – John Perkowitz

Weekend in Galena – Sonoku Ghislandi

\$1,000 American Express gift card – Hillard Chamerlik

Winners of the special "in house" raffle items donated by the Benedictine Sisters, and their friends, include: Grace Wrenn Gaughan, Virginia Malter, Sheila Kelly, Jack Harrington, Mary G. Kaye, Joanne Rooney, and Phil Harrington.

The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago thank all those who generously sponsored the Testimonial Dinner, purchased tickets, donated raffle prizes, or made contributions that help to support the ministries and care of the Sisters. We hope you will "take a chance" again. Next year's Testimonial Dinner is set for **Wednesday, June 17, 2009**. We hope you can join us next year for another wonderful evening of Benedictine hospitality!

