



Sacro Speco

Sacred Space

THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF CHICAGO MAGAZINE + WINTER/SPRING 2021



An Interview with Jerome McDonnell

Award-winning journalist, radio host, and environmental activist

By Joanne Spata

Winter/Spring Issue 2020, vol. XXXI, no. 2



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Sacro Speco is a publication of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

We are Benedictine women called to seek God in prayer and community, serving where there is need. *Sacro Speco* is a biannual publication of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago for Oblates, Alumnae, and friends of the community.

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We are happy to share *Sacro Speco* with you and want to make sure you don't miss an issue! If you need to update your contact information or are receiving multiple copies of the newsletter, contact jlesanche@osbchicago.org or 773.764.2413 x241. If you know someone who is not receiving the newsletter who would like to be included in a future mailing, please encourage them to contact us with their current name and address. Thank you and enjoy this issue!

Letter from the Prioress

*so far we are well
doing all that we're asked
wondering what we will learn
when this too has passed*



*Sister Judith Murphy, OSB
Prioress*

Dear Friends,

In spring 2020, prioress members of the Conference of Benedictine Prioresses were asked to share about our early responses to the threat of COVID-19 in our monasteries. Barbara Rinehart, OSB, the prioress of House of Bread Monastery in Nanaimo, British Columbia, responded with the concise poem above.

Now, after months of living with the reality of the pandemic, the query Barbara raised continues to probe our understandings of the pandemic and of its implications for our world, “wondering what we will learn.” Here in our monastery, at Easter time several in our St. Joseph Court Infirmary were found to have COVID and we were all tested shortly thereafter; more than half of the community eventually were found to test positive, some asymptomatic and some with symptoms; some were hospitalized and are recovered or recovering. Some had symptoms and were able to recover at home here. We have grieved two deaths from COVID. We were hit hard by the pandemic. With the rest of the world, we have endured and continue to endure the disciplines of wearing masks, watching our social distances, and frequent hand-washing, gloves, and careful sanitizing of surfaces throughout the house, all this to mitigate the spread and severity of COVID while a vaccine is being developed.

We have slowly come to appreciate learning new behaviors and habits that help protect ourselves and one another. In our retreat days in June, we took the opportunity to share how much we had missed table conversation during the weeks and months when we did without it while taking meals alone; and now we appreciate having again more opportunities for interaction as a community. Our common prayer keeps us mindful of the human condition and our reliance on God’s gracious presence. We grieve our lack of singing that is usually a meaningful part of our experience in prayer together. We can be grateful for God’s ongoing creation of each of us in our daily living of faith, hope, and love-- even through the pandemic when we experience that much more our unity with the rest of humanity.

“What will we learn when this too has passed?” Perhaps because of a change of pace day to day, we have opportunities to pay more attention to the human realities that fill the media and are daily more apparent: persons of color suffering and dying from the disease at a higher rate, receiving different levels of care; one’s zip code may predict the quality of medical care one receives, not just during the pandemic; there is often a difference in air quality, and the quality of housing, education, social services, job opportunities, and civic life.

“What will we learn when this too has passed?” We, like many people of faith and good will find ourselves called to find ways to do better as a human community as we go forward together. To find ways to lean into responsible solutions for these issues and more: the effects of climate change that threaten our common home; global migration in search of safe and supportive places to live and raise families; concern for the vulnerable. Issues of justice seem clearer and interconnected. May our loving God support all of humanity at this time of such challenge and hope.

Know that we pray daily for all of you and about these issues and those that remain as yet in search of words.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judith Murphy, OSB". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Judith Murphy, OSB



Monastery News

August

Congratulations to Sister Vivian Ivantic, OSB! She celebrated her 107th birthday, preserving her title as “the oldest living Benedictine in the world.” For over 86 years, she has been a Benedictine Sister of Chicago who graces us daily with her deep wisdom and unwavering faith.

For three days at the end of August, Sister Belinda Monahan, OSB, along with representatives from four additional Midwest monasteries, co-hosted a virtual Benedictine Discernment Retreat. During this collaborative endeavor, the young women attendees joined in prayer, conversation, and virtual connection. They shared creative energy and came away with new perspectives.

September

The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago continued to advocate for social justice issues throughout the month of September. From Sept. 4 - Oct. 5, they joined the world in prayer to mark The Season of Creation and the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si'. Then, during our annual Labor Day commissioning ceremony, each Sister received her yearly ministry assignments which included an additional prayer request for “issues at the intersection of racism, migration, and climate reality.” The death of Breonna Taylor sparked nationwide outrage, and the Sisters gathered on the front steps of the monastery on September 23rd to join Chicago's citywide moment of silence in remembrance of her life. Finally, World Day of Migrants and Refugees found Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants (SBI) members Sister Benita Coffey, OSB and Oblate Kathlyn Myers, participating in the public stand at the intersection of Milwaukee Ave. and Belmont in the Logan Square neighborhood.

October

Early in the month, neighborhood people who garden in our shared public plot organized a small ceremony to celebrate this year's harvest and express gratitude for the Sisters' generosity in allowing them to grow vegetables and flowers. They presented Sister Rita Nowak, OSB, with an exquisite bouquet of wildflowers grown on the St. Scholastica Monastery land before she led them in a group prayer.

On October 2nd, Mahatma Gandhi's birthday and the International Day of Non-Violence, Social Justice Promoter, Sister Benita Coffey, OSB, organized a Silent Peace Walk directly along Ridge Blvd. Several Alumnae, Oblates, neighbors, and friends came together in solidarity for peace. Silent Peace Walks, a centuries-old tradition, is a participatory movement dedicated to supporting transformation and peace among individuals, relationships, and communities through the universal language of silence.

Community Archivist Sister Virginia Jung, OSB had the pleasure of presenting for the Chicago Area Archivists Unconference on October 30 where local archivists convened virtually to share sessions from conferences cancelled due to the pandemic. Channelling Pope Plus VI's inspirational words, Sister Virginia highlighted religious archives: how they document the passage of God through our world and serve a pastoral function. Read more about Sister Virginia's presentation on our blog: www.osbchicago.org/blog

November

Chicago area members of Communicators for Women Religious (CWR) organized the 2nd Annual Meet Our Sisters Tour, a collaborative National Vocation Awareness Week (NVAW) event designed to raise the visibility of hundreds of Catholic sisters who live and serve in Chicagoland. For seven days, from November 1 - 7, the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago premiered a video on the OSBChicago YouTube channel highlighting architectural features and design descriptions of the St. Scholastica Chapel. Utilizing still photos and voiceover narrative by the Sisters, this video series offers a virtual tour of the entire chapel. The script used in the production was primarily written over eighty years ago when Mother Imelda Fischer, OSB Prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago (1921-1941) described the commissioned chapel murals in the community newsletter. She chronicled how, in 1938, artist Josef Steinhage completed the artwork reminiscent of the Maria Laach monastery in Germany, well known for Beuronese art, a modification of the Byzantine style. Approximately half a century later, in 1993, Sister Vivian Ivantic, OSB, then the community archivist, compiled the “Murals of St. Scholastica Chapel Explanations.” These historical writings, along with newer material from the 1988 chapel restoration, serve as the narrative voiceover in each video. We welcome you to view the Virtual Chapel Tour on our YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/2Hb7mQO>



“...in memory of her.”



Sister Mary Ann O’Ryan, OSB
(1942-2020)

Sister Mary Ann O’Ryan from St. Symphorosa Parish Chicago, attended Mount Assisi High School in Lemont, IL and entered St. Scholastica Monastery during the fall of 1960. On July 11, 1961, she received the habit as a Benedictine Sister of Chicago and the religious name Sister Veronica. Following the novitiate year, she made first profession on August 16, 1962, and then was enrolled at Mundelein College.

As a young and carefully supervised teacher, she began her long career as an educator at Queen of All Saints (1963-64; 1970-73), St. Hilary (1964-65; 1973-74; Principal 1974-1980), St. Scholastica Academy (Dean of Students 1980-82, Social Studies Teacher 1998-2012, Children of Peace (1994-98).

Elected Prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago in 1982 she served four years. At her installation, she shared a cherished verse from the prophet Micah: “This is what Yahweh asks of you, only this: that you act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with your God.” This clearly guided her not only in that role, but in all the other important positions that she held. As treasurer of the community since 2012, Sister Mary Ann has been President of Illinois Treasurers of Religious Institutes.

She passed away on October 5, 2020. To read more about Sister Mary Ann’s dedicated life, visit our news blog at www.osbchicago.org/news and look for her story posted on October 8th.

“...in memory of her.”



Sister Victoria Marconi, OSB
(1922-2020)

Sister Victoria (Lorenzia) Marconi, OSB, a native of St. Marys, PA, entered the Benedictine Sisters of Elk County at St. Joseph Monastery, in January of 1944. She professed first vows on July 12, 1945 and perpetual vows on August 24, 1948. The Rite of Consecration of Virgins was reintroduced in the time of Pope Pius XII around 1950 and Sister Victoria participated in this Rite on the 13th anniversary of her vows.

Her 69 years of active ministry were primarily in teaching first graders. Sister corresponded with many of them until the time of her recent unexpected death.

In 2013, the Benedictine community at St. Joseph Monastery could no longer remain an independent monastery. Sister

Victoria asked to transfer to the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago and began her first year of residence in St. Joseph Court, the Infirmary at St. Scholastica Monastery, Chicago.

Sister Victoria will be remembered as a self-aware and humble person, who was quick to forgive others. Her welcoming personality caused her to be loved by many people. She had a good memory and held each new acquaintance as a friend.

She passed away on November 5, 2020. To read more about Sister Victoria’s dedicated life, visit our news blog at www.osbchicago.org/news and look for her story posted on November 9th.

Letters From You

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

If you have a letter you would like to share here, please contact:

Email smeluso@osbchicago.org with subject line “For Sacro Speco Letters.”

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Attn: Sacro Speco Newsletter
7430 N. Ridge Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60645

We will publish letters as space permits.



L to R: Sister Benita with new Oblates Linda Lewandosky, and her Oblate mentor Kathlyn Myers, Nancy Labiak, and her Oblate mentor Barbara Boland with Prior-ess, Sister Judith Murphy, OSB at the Dec. 6 virtual Oblation (Chicago, IL).



Left to Right: Oblate candidates Eleanore Sanchez, Abbey Algiene, and Ann Wright Ronquillo with Sister Mary Susan Remsgar, OSB, in Pueblo, CO.

Oblate News

St. Scholastica Monastery Welcomes Six New Oblates

*O*n August 25, after morning mass at Christ the King Church in Colorado, Sister Mary Susan Remsgar, OSB, the Associate Oblate Director for the Pueblo group, led the Oblation Ceremony to officially welcome four new members. Please join us in congratulating Abbey Algiene, Patty Lowry, Annie Ronquillo, and Eleanor Sanchez. According to Sister Mary Susan, "Pastor Fr. John Ozella celebrated the morning liturgy in honor of St Benedict and gave a moving homily highlighting the core values in the Holy Rule, emphasizing how Benedictines strive to be 'really real.'"

"My journey to this point was a long and winding road," says new member Annie Ronquillo. "It started when I first visited a Benedictine monastery in Pecos, NM. I was deeply affected by a feeling of joy and peace. I returned twice before the call to become an oblate became obvious. After I met with the Benedictine group in Pueblo, much closer to my home, I began the year's journey and now I am an oblate. This opportunity means I now find Jesus in daily psalms, lectio divina, and in every person I encounter. I now work for the good of others more than for my own."

Linda Lewandosky and Nancy Labiak made their Oblations via Zoom and the Sisters celebrated the ceremony following mass on December 6. "My journey to become a Benedictine Oblate has given me a precious gift – a community that supports my call to live a radical life; a life where Jesus' words "Our Father" can be lived in all its layers and textures. The Benedictine community gives me the strength to resist the "Me" culture and become part of the "Us" culture, providing a framework to live my life. I get to learn from all those who have lived the Rule these last 1500 years," shares Linda Lewandosky.

"St. Benedict's Rule emphasizing hospitality seems to be a lost value today — yet it is alive and well in the Benedictine way of Life. The isolation of Covid-19 has been more bearable because of the stalwart companionship of my Oblate mentor, Barbara Boland, who has shepherded me through my formation via Facetime. I have also been buoyed by the monthly Oblate Zoom meetings of prayer followed by deep sharing and discussion. Through these, I've connected more deeply with my fellow Oblates perhaps because of our shared vulnerability," said Nancy Labiak.

Monthly Zoom gatherings for the Chicago and Pueblo groups, support Oblates as they integrate Benedictine values in their daily lives. The meetings provide hope during a pandemic in a world riddled with uncertainty and separation.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Sister Benita Coffey, OSB, Director of Oblates, at bcoffey@osbchicago.org or 773.764.2413 x327.



L to R: Sister Benita with new Oblates Linda Lewandosky, Nancy Labiak, Prior-ess, Sister Judith Murphy, OSB at the 2019 Oblation when they became candidates.



Sudanese meal to Kathy and her husband. Peggy spends time with Feia (not her real name) about once a month – outside, of course, post-Covid. These relationships are both enriching and very special as well as challenging. Jill's presence in the house, which moved to Hyde Park in late 2019, is treasured by staff. She comments that these young women, in spite of the courageous and lonely journeys they have endured to come here, are just like other young persons here – growing up and longing for both independence and belonging.

When asked what advice they would offer to prospective volunteers to Bethany House, Jill and Nancy both said "just go ahead and do it!". Kathy spoke of how rewarding it is and that it is not a chore for her or for her family. Peggy commented on the need for patience as the process of building trust takes time. Each young woman has been through a lot prior to coming to Bethany House and her story unfolds very, very gradually.

Learn more about Bethany House of Hospitality:
bethanyhouseofhospitality.com

Alumnae Accompany Assylum Seekers

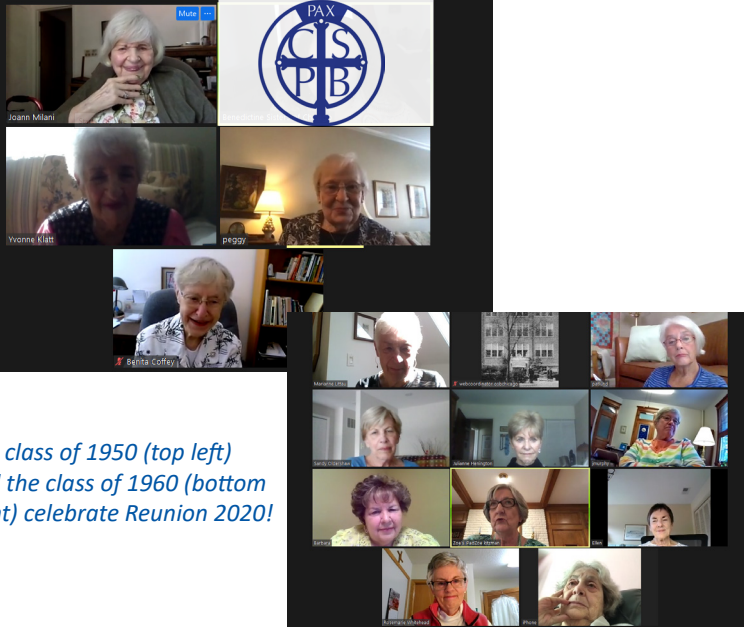
*W*hat do Nancy Bryers, SSA class of '72, Jill Beaumont Bergner '60, Peggy McCarthy '70, Patricia Crowley '57, and Kathy Leuschner Riordan '61 have in common?

Each of these women has opened her heart to young women from different countries seeking asylum in our country. Bethany House of Hospitality is the crossroads for them: Nancy as a volunteer financial manager from the beginning; Peggy and Kathy as companions to individual women from Eritrea and Sudan respectively; Jill as a regular volunteer, coming to cook meals and converse with the residents & staff and Sister Patricia as one of the founders and board chair.

Bethany House is a residential program for young women who have come here alone as children. When they turn 18, without Bethany House, they would be in adult detention. 48 young women and 9 small children have been welcomed to our country by these alums and others. Nancy loved to stop by with treats on weekends when the house was in Bartlett, IL. Peggy and Kathy keep in touch regularly by phone with Feven and Maissa respectively and welcome their "companion" to pre-Covid family gatherings. "Companioning" sometimes involves visits to Thrift Stores, responding to requests, accepting gifts, gradually developing a trusting relationship, and generally being supportive. Kathy has been tutoring Maia (not her real name) in English. Maia, in turn, sometimes brings a

Virtually Together- Alumnae Reflect on the 2020 SSA Chicago Reunion

"I enjoyed the reunion and being class representative despite the fact that there were only three from the class of '50 attending. Joanne had a lot to contribute as she has had an interesting life. Yvonne came to SSA late, as a sophomore I think, and I never knew her very well. It was really nice that Sr. Benita joined us since she was only one year ahead of us. We had a good time and I'm happy that we could meet. I would happily do it again. My daughter, Ann Cusick Spittle (Mrs. Brian) graduated in 1975, went to Univ. of Notre Dame and is now Director of Graduate Recruitment and Admissions at DePaul. My granddaughter is Hannah Cusick who was Valedictorian for the Class of 2012. She went to U of I and then to Harvard for a master's degree in Landscape Architecture. There are eleven of us, some related through marriage, who graduated from SSA. That would be my daughter and me, two daughters-in-law, my husband's two sisters, a daughter-in-law's (Hannah's mom) four sisters and a niece who entered late because of a family move. I have so many stories." - **Peggy Cusick class of 1950**



The class of 1950 (top left) and the class of 1960 (bottom right) celebrate Reunion 2020!

"A handful of alumnae came together virtually on September 19th in a way we never could have imagined on our graduation day in 1960. There we were, face to face with one another, compliments of the internet and Zoom, two unheard of technologies in those days and quite breathtaking when you think about it! We virtually shared many life stories- enough to fill a book or two or more to overflowing. Well lived lives- uniquely our own – blessed with the spirit of St. Scholastica and St. Benedict. We shared a little more than an hour together talking about our life's adventures. But what about our classmates not able to be with us? We missed seeing every one of them and hearing their stories! Allowing ourselves to dream a little, perhaps more of us will be together for our 65th. For after all, 'We are the stuff dreams are made of...' William Shakespeare's "The Tempest." Keep dreaming, Class of 1960! "

- Sandy Oldershaw McLaughlin SSA Chicago '60

Sandy Oldershaw McLaughlin's brother, Father Bob Oldershaw, is pictured (at right) visiting Sister Vivian Ivantic, OSB on her 107th Birthday in the St. Scholastica gardens this past August. Fr. Oldershaw has been a long time celebrant and confessor to the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago who reside in our St. Joseph Court Infirmary. We are grateful for his friendship and ministry to us!



"Right after our 45th reunion, we began to look toward our 50th reunion. In private conversations and over Facebook we began to formulate what our reunion weekend would look like- activities, hotels, connections, communication- all with an eye on re-connecting with classmates that we may not have seen in decades.

Even after Covid set in, we assigned class reps and formed a reunion committee. Of course, no one knew how Covid would play out. So, we proceeded with the assumption that we would be able to have in- person activities. Through Zoom, email and texting (none of which existed when we graduated), we were able to meet as a committee, hunt down and visit with classmates, and update our class list

We were disappointed when it became clear that our reunion would be a remote event on Zoom, but we hoped for the best, while continuing to plan activities for a time in the future when we would be able to connect in person.

Luckily, the Zoom reunion far exceeded our expectations! Somewhere around 40 classmates participated and within the 2 hours, most everyone had an opportunity to speak and share their life's story. On the one hand, we were unable to visit one-on-one or at length with anyone, but on the other hand, ladies who live across the country and may not have been able to travel to Chicago were able to participate and that was more than a fair trade-off.

The monastery Alumnae staff who helped organize the reunions did a good job in re-imagining these reunions in the face of the Covid restrictions. With very few glitches, our class spent a wonderful couple of hours, re-connecting and sharing. Although we are not done- we plan to have an in- person celebration- as soon as it is safe to do so, we are grateful for the Zoom event we were able to have. It was a terrific opening act." **-Di Murphy class of 1970**
(Other SSA relatives of Di include her mother, Margaret Mary Schriver Murphy '44 and her sisters, Kathie Murphy Anderson '68 and Milissa Murphy Larsen '77)

2020 Virtual St. Scholastica Alumnae Reunion!



In Memoriam

St. Scholastica Academy, Chicago

Elizabeth J. Heffernan (1940) (*3/17/2020), aunt of Mary Graehling (1979)
Patricia Forgie Carter (1945), mother of deceased Colleen Kelly (1968) and Patricia Battaglia (1973)
Rosalie Stanton Clary (1946)
Marilyn Jean Halvorsen (1948)
Carol J. Pauly (1953), sister of Nancy Gutreuter (1955)
Shirley Lewandowski Heinzl (1954)
Barbara Jane Bolton Kohn (1954), sister of deceased Mary Louise Bruenning (1959)
Patricia Malone Darnell (1955)
Sister Ann Diettrich, OSB (1957), aunt of Nancy Diettrich Gillis (1974) and Linda Diettrich Rush (1975)
Graham Neil Heikes, husband of Judith Cogan Heikes (1957)
Sande Shelley Bolan (1958)
Thomas Meyers, husband of Patricia Rocol Meyers (1959)
Patricia Langelund Funk (1961), sister of deceased Nancy Langelund Sedin (1958)

Philip R. Murtaugh, brother of Helen Murtaugh (1961)
Pamela Yost O'Brill (1962), sister of deceased Judith Yost Mason (1956)
Valerie Antoinette Varnes (1964)
Mary Elizabeth Gordon Bihler (1965) (*12/23/2019)
Mary Angela Densberger Christien, mother of Mary Lynn Christien Bower (1967), Carol E. Christien Brown (1969) and Nancy Christien-Zidek (1973)
Prudence Terranova Aiello, mother of Linda M. Aiello (1968) and Veronica Aiello Contri (1969)
Juliann Kaspari Stanich (1968), sister of Dorothy Kaspari Ross (1973)
Genevieve E. "Penny" Colleran, mother of Mary Louise Baldwin (1971), Colleen Smyrniotis (1973), deceased Regina Ernst (1975), Eileen Wright (1977) and Kathleen Timotijevic (1983)
Mary Catherine McKenna, mother of deceased Kathleen McKenna (1974), Maureen Healy (1977), and Eileen Knuerr (1981)

Eileen Ward Quinlan, mother of Peggy Quinlan Cooney (1979), Mary Quinlan Kovats (1980) and Therese Quinlan McCarthy (1983)

St. Scholastica Academy, Cañon City

Myriah Stinson (1996), sister of Natalee Stinson Brace (1998)

The above represents notices received July 1, 2020 – November 2, 2020.

** Denotes that death was prior to July 1, 2020 but we received notice of their death in the last several months.*



An Interview with Jerome McDonnell

Award-winning journalist, radio host, and environmental activist

by Joanne Spata

A familiar voice over the air-waves and the next honoree to be the recipient of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago's Spirit of St. Benedict Award, Jerome McDonnell has been a force in Chicagoland for the conservation of our environment for almost forty years. He is an award-winning journalist, radio host and environmental activist, using his talents to help promote the environmental protection of the Great Lakes Region and the world at large.

We are truly fortunate that Jerome McDonnell agreed to accept the Spirit of St. Benedict Award at our next Testimonial Dinner, which will be held after the pandemic has ended when it is safe to gather. Through his work to promote the protection of the environment, Jerome holds true to the rule of St. Benedict and the vow of stability, to remain committed to the earth and to be good stewards of that which God has given us.

He has an intelligent and pleasant manner about him that relates well to everyone. He not only talks the talk, but actually walks the walk on a daily basis. His mode of transportation is bicycling whenever possible, no matter the weather. He has a pretty serious native plant garden that he has cultivated for over 20 years, during which he has accumulated additional knowledge and lots of prairie plants. He has taken up the cause of reducing micro-plastics, by changing his own personal habits and limiting the use of anything which comes in disposable plastic containers, if at all possible.

After graduating from Northern Illinois University with a degree in Communications, Jerome began his career as a volunteer in 1984 at WBEZ, Chicago's NPR news source. With an eye for talent, the station officially hired him and over the next ten years put his skills to work, first

as a producer and later as the executive producer of talk programming. In 1994, he became host of one of their most popular shows, *Worldview*, which he broadcasted for 25 years.

Throughout his career on the radio, Jerome McDonnell has often championed the causes of social justice and environmental concerns. He believes "broadcasting's highest calling is to bring people together to make a difference", and he manages this quite artfully.

His many years in the business have led him to interview people of very diverse fields and beliefs. He has conversed with leaders as noteworthy as Jimmy Carter, Condoleezza Rice, Kofi Annan, the Dalai Lama, and Rev. Dr. Joshtrom Isaac Kureethadam – the coordinator of Ecology and Creation at the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

Jerome received a 2019 Studs Terkel Community Media Award and is proud of the recognition he's received from community organizations, including the Chicago Fair Trade's Change Maker Award, the CAIR Courage in Journalism Award, and the Excellence in Environmental Reporting Award from the Chicago Audubon Society. He's been recognized by the Kovler Center for the Survivors of Torture, the Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America, the Women's Global Education Project, and the Syrian American Medical Society.

Through his hosting of *Worldview's* long running Global Activism segment, he has featured people who've started health care, education, and community development organizations around the globe. The six "Global Activism Expos" WBEZ held gave thousands of people an opportunity to connect with these social entrepreneurs and have had lasting impacts.

When asked what started his interest in the environment, he spoke of meeting with artist Chapman Kelly, who planted his “Wildflower Works” garden in Grant Park in 1984. Although some thought it looked like a bunch of weeds, the artist explained, “No it isn’t. It’s supporting insects, butterflies and birds. It’s alive. It changes with the seasons. Different plants are in bloom”.

When Jerome went over to inspect the installation, it moved him. This started his deepening relationship with the living world that continues even today. He thought, “What relationship do all these plants and animals have with each other, with us?” From then on, he realized, “The complexity of nature is endless and beautiful.” Throughout his work in media, he has tried to help people to understand this concept, believing, “The more people are in communion with nature, the more likely we are to save it and ourselves”.

After discussions with several people involved in native plants and species, he recently decided to visit Illinois Beach State Park, a place which he had not seen since he was a child. At the time, it was enjoying a full bloom of beautiful native flowers, plants and grasses. Months later, in January, after some particularly devastating storms, the same lovely grounds were flooded and badly damaged. While everyone else was doing stories on the property damage which occurred, he was researching, with the help

of others, the damage done to the State Park. He disclosed a multi layered story with human actions at the center of all of the damage, which changed the entire park.

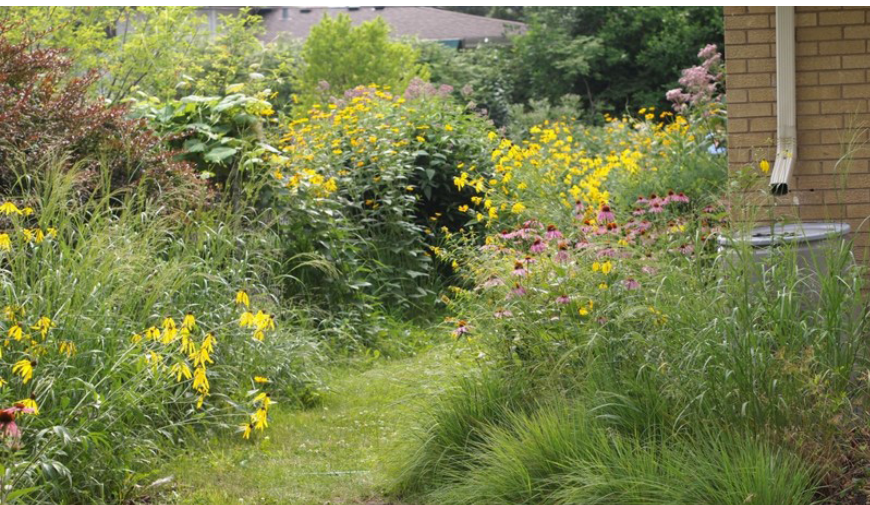
Today, Jerome McDonnell takes a very strong interest in all environmental issues, but especially those in our own backyard, the Great Lakes Region. Having interviewed experts and worked with numerous groups regarding changing weather patterns and run-off from these rains, bio-diversity and the ridding of invasive species, and the reduction of micro-plastics in the Great Lakes, Jerome is planning on moving in a new direction in the near future, focusing on solution-oriented journalism while working on independent projects.

Prior to Covid-19, the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago had planned to make this award the beginning of a two-year focus on education and effort in helping to reduce the climate crisis, through the hosting of additional lectures and events with guest speakers. We look forward this year to presenting some of the sessions which we had planned, online, before presenting the Spirit of St. Benedict Award to our most deserving honoree, Jerome McDonnell. This will be followed by an additional year of setting our environmental plans into action.

Please be sure to contact Joanne Spata at 773-764-2413, Ext. 233, or jspata@osbchicago.org with any updated email address information you may have, so that we can keep you informed of our upcoming lectures, programs and events, as we continue in our information and effort campaign on limiting the Global Climate Crisis.



An advocate for the protection of the environment, Jerome McDonnell's mode of transportation is bicycling whenever possible.



Native plant gardens filled with prairie plants accumulated and tilled for over 20 years by Jerome McDonnell page 10 above, at left, and on the cover of this magazine.



Join us Virtually for these upcoming events

Feast of St. Scholastica Mass

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

In honor of our Alumnae, Donors, Friends and Oblates.

Dreams and Spirituality

Led by Sister Pat Coughlin, OSB, via Zoom, Tuesday mornings Jan. 19 & 26, Feb 2, and 9 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Limit 12 participants.

For more info or to register, contact:

Sister Pat Coughlin, OSB, pcoughlin@osbchicago.org

A Deeper Look at *Fratelli Tutti* in Spite of its Title

Led by Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB via Zoom. 3rd Thursday of the month (Feb.-Nov., 2021) from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

For more info or to register, contact:

Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB, 773.764.2413 x248 or pcrowley@osbchicago.org

Lectio Divina

Led by Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB via Zoom. 1st Thursday of the month beginning in Feb. 2021, from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

For more info or to register, contact:

Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB, 773.764.2413 x248 or pcrowley@osbchicago.org

"To Share the Common Table": A Benedictine Vision for Living in Times of Division

A presentation by Nicole Sotelo
Sunday, March 7, 2021

3:00-4:30 p.m.

For more info, contact: Sister Benita Coffey, OSB
773.764.2413 x327

Connections and Callings

A virtual evening of discernment during **Catholic Sisters Week** for young single women (18-50). Monday, March 8, 2021, 7-9 p.m.

To learn more, contact:

Sister Belinda Monahan, OSB, 847.859.9887

Earth is "Crammed with Heaven" An Invitation to Dialogue about *Laudato Si'*

Led by Sister Pat Coughlin, OSB & Sister Mary Melady, OSB via Zoom.

Thursday mornings in March and April from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

For more info or to register, contact:

Sister Pat Coughlin, OSB, pcoughlin@osbchicago.org

World Labyrinth Day

Led by Oblate Dan Raven and Sister Mary Melady, OSB. Self-guided & social distanced on Saturday May 1, 2021 Noon - 8 p.m.

To learn more, contact:

Sister Mary Melady, OSB, 773.764.2413 x231

"Listen"-

A Discernment Retreat on Friday, May 21-Sunday, May 23, 2021. Young women (18-50) are invited for a spring weekend Discernment

Retreat. To learn more, contact:

Sister Belinda Monahan, OSB, 847.859.9887

For more information on all of these events and spirituality programs and retreats, visit:

www.osbchicago.org/programs

Looking for support on your journey?

Our Sisters also offer spiritual direction and counseling. For more information:
www.osbchicago.org/directionandcounseling

Prayer Ministry

We remember you in our daily prayers.

The following represents Memorial and Special Occasion prayer requests from
July 1, 2020 through November 1, 2020

Memorials

In memory of Prudence Terranova Aiello
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Madeline M. Albano
Siobhan O'Neill Meluso and Edgar Meluso
In memory of Jacob, Amalia and Irma Arzer
Marie T. Arzer

In memory of Agnes Heffernan Atwood
Mary Graehling

In memory of Anna Bartosiak
Jakub and Anetka Dunajczan
Elizabeth and Monika Slota

In memory of Judith Beaumont
Judith Lee

In memory of Mary Elizabeth Bihler
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Sande D. Bolan
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Michael B. Bolan

In memory of Adam Brzezinski
Geraldine Martin Simon

In memory of Carol Barrett Butler
Richard Butler

In memory of Paul and Mary McVane
Calhoun

Judith Byers
Joan and Leo Marubio

In memory of Pat Callero
Judith Zonsius, OSB

In memory of Sister Amy Campbell, OSB
Marie Cushing
Olen and Kim Kalkus

In memory of Patricia Forgie Carter
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Mary Angela Christien
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Mary Lynn Bower
Nancy Christien-Zidek

In memory of Rosalie Stanton Clary
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Genevieve E. Collieran
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Mary Louise Baldwin and Collieran family

In memory of Marilyn Considine
Robert and Beth Berry

Mary and Richard Cook
Amy DiGregorio

Mary (Terri) Ellis
Laura Hehemann

Ann Miller

Mary Jane and J. Robert Nicholson
Leslie and Erik Obrochta

Kathryn and David Schoenwetter
Julie Spear

Carol Wakeman

In memory of Richard Cullen

Margaret Cullen

In memory of Patricia Malone Darnell
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Barbara Cassidy De Smet
Harry De Smet

In memory of Sister Ann Diettrich, OSB
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Dr. Mike Fagan

Judith Borchers

In memory of the Felician Sisters of Livonia,
Michigan who lost their lives during
the Covid-19 Pandemic

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Craig Fujibayashi

Rosalind T. Trejo-Hult

In memory of Patricia Langelund Funk
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Phyllis and Jon Graham

In memory of Bridget Galassini

Jean Dolan

Suzanne and Michael Sullivan

In memory of Florence and Tom Gannon

Patricia Prusa

In memory of Sister Joan Gannon, OSB

Jeanine and Dean Silas

In memory of Mike Gardner

Wayne and Peg Wagner

In memory of Mary Gehl

Sheila Gallagher

In memory of Kathy Geroski

Jill Newberger

In memory of Sister Joyce Gleeson, OSB

Suzanne Walsh

In memory of Marilyn Jean Halvorsen

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Robert Hangartner

Barbara Windsor

In memory of Naned Healy

LuAnne Feik

In memory of Elizabeth J. Heffernan

Mary Atwood Graehling

In memory of Therese E. Heffernan

Mary Graehling

In memory of Kathy Hegarty

Jackie LeSanche

In memory of Karen Heger

Patricia Hartmann

In memory of Graham Neil Heikes

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

In memory of Shirley Lewandowski Heinzel

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Patricia Hartmann

In memory of Sister Joan Hentges, OSB

Bill and Mary Jo Brewer

In memory of Clifford Thomas Hermanson

Mary Ellen Keenan

In memory of Lorraine Huelsman

Genevieve Delana

In memory of Sheila Hulseman

Paul and Patrice Hulseman

In memory of Charlene Johnstone

Jeff, Kathy, Tom and Patrick Caudill

In memory of Dorothea Jung

Virginia Jung, OSB

Jackie LeSanche

In memory of John Kardasz

Patricia Kardasz

In memory of Shirley Kinnerk

Patricia and Richard (Dick) Hillenbrand

In memory of Rachael Koers

Mardo and John Petrovich

In memory of Barbara Jane Kohn

Melody Allred, Brett Grady and Lori Howes

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Peggy and Stanley Brzezinski

Marilyn Dahlen

Mark and Kelly Giura

Susan and Robert Hack

Annamaria and Bob Iacullo

Roger and Mary McLemore

Stephanie O'Neill

Peggy Lyons Reilly

Mary Sprandel

Warren Thomas Plumbing Co.

In memory of Jeffrey A. Lange

Holly Rumpel

In memory of Loretta A. Langton

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Sister Victoria Marconi, OSB

In memory of Frank Michael Loranger

Kathleen Uedelhofen Loranger

In memory of Franklin D. Loranger

Kathleen Uedelhofen Loranger

In memory of Jean Louis

Ann Fink

Prayer Ministry-July 1, 2020 - November 1, 2020

[In memory of Sister Mary Martin](#)
Sheila Gallagher
[In memory of Alice Mayhew](#)
Margaret O'Brien Steinfelds
[In memory of Eugene McGuire](#)
Amy and Scott Gilbert
[In memory of Mary Catherine McKenna](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Joanne Spata
[In memory of Katherine Meeker](#)
Mimi Meeker Wherfel
[In memory of Steve Meyer](#)
Judith Borchers
[In memory of Daniel Meyers](#)
Mary Ann and Fred Henning
[In memory of Thomas Meyers](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Peter Haas and Donna Eddy Haas
[In memory of Anna Moll](#)
Helga Ruby
[In memory of Philip R. Murtaugh](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of Phyllis Naccarato](#)
Wayne and Peg Wagner
[In memory of Joseph A. Nemanich](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of Connie Newman](#)
Patricia Jersin
[In memory of Pamela Yost O'Brill](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of James S. and Helen F. O'Connor](#)
Francine O'Connor
[In memory of Sister Mary Ann O'Ryan, OSB](#)
Marilyn Ballard
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
The Boland family
Judith Borchers
James and Roxanne Borendame
Gail Brandt
Andrea Ciccone
Thomas and Margaret Cunningham
Her many friends from St. Callistus/
Children of Peace
Katherine Gehrke and family
Clareece Gedeist Godt
SueLynn and Phil Hanegraaf
Kathleen Havlick
Charles and Patricia Kelly
Sheila Kelly
Jackie LeSanche
Margaret and Stephen Lombardo
Sheila McGuire
Anne Matz and Susan Rizzato
Marjorie McDewitt

Kathlyn Myers
Siobhan O'Neill Meluso
Rosie O'Neill
Brian and Wanda Pabich
Margaret Pajakowski
Myron (Micky) Resnick
Therese and Michael Reynolds
Linda and Duane Rocheleau
Helen Sieben
Deacon Anthony and Monica Spatafore
Mary Jo and Greg Stegeman
Kristyn and Mike Vaneecken
[In memory of Carol J. Pauly](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of Edmund A. Perse](#)
Margaret Cullen
[In memory of Mary Gersick Perse](#)
Margaret Cullen
[In memory of Peter A. Perse, Jr.](#)
Margaret Cullen
[In memory of Margaret Pirman](#)
Mary Pirman
[In memory of Eileen Ward Quinlan](#)
Benedictine Sister of Chicago
[In memory of George Radacy](#)
Susan Ernst
[In memory of Diane Rheingans](#)
Joanne Spata
[In memory of Sharon Rodie](#)
Susan Ernst
[In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Saffell](#)
Bette and Dennis Pasiewicz
[In memory of Sister Johnette Sawyer, OSB](#)
Bill and Mary Jo Brewer
Patricia Hamann
Judith Lee
Mickey Smith
Jeanine and Dean Silas
[In memory of Sister Ann Sharp, OSB](#)
Joan and John Delisi
[In memory of Donald Smith](#)
Sarah Whelan
[In memory of Juliann Kaspari Stanich](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Mimi Meeker Wherfel
[In memory of William Stanton](#)
Catherine Ingrassia
[In memory of Dan Steppan](#)
Genevieve Delana
[In memory of Edward Steppuhn](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of Myriah Stinson](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of Tom Straulin](#)
Francine O'Connor
[In memory of Warren Sundt](#)

Dominic and Margaret Caminiti
[In memory of John Swieca](#)
Dominic and Margaret Caminiti
[In memory of Sister Joanna Trapp, OSB](#)
Therese Altergott
[In memory of Janet Stineman Valterria](#)
Barbara Stineman Murphy
[In memory of Valerie Antoinette Varnes](#)
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
[In memory of Gretchen Voigt](#)
Mary Eckel
[In memory of Marguerite Walny](#)
Holly Rumpel
[In memory of Kathleen Walsh](#)
Christopher Deger
[In memory of James Ward](#)
Michael J. Hogan
[In memory of Maria Whelan](#)
Virginia Jung, OSB
[In memory of Kader White](#)
Teresa and Richard Brown
[In memory of Tony Windsor](#)
Barbara Windsor
[In memory of Sister Miriam Wilson, OSB](#)
Mary Margaret Byrne
[In memory of Elsie Wodishek](#)
Robert Wodishek
[In memory of Sister Suzanne Zuercher, OSB](#)
Valerie Stockmar

Special Occasions

[In honor of James Harvey Berger, Patron Saint of the Chicagoland mat-makers](#)
Jim Berger
[In honor of Sister Benita Coffey, OSB on her birthday](#)
Thomas and Sharon Coffey
Madonna Rodgers McCutcheon
[In honor of Sister Benita Coffey, OSB](#)
Janet Hitzman
[In honor of Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB on her 60th Jubilee](#)

*"...I remember
you constantly
in my prayers."*

Kathleen Alexander
Ann Caron
Richard and Nancy Kunnert
Gladys Paul
[In honor of Sister Hilary Halpin, OSB on her 60th Jubilee](#)
Kathleen Almaney
[In honor of Sister Vivian Ivantic, OSB on her 107th birthday](#)
Joan and John Delisi
Bob and Ann Kneesel
Rev. Robert Oldershaw
Mary and Michael Penich, Jr.
[In honor of the Jubilarians](#)
Patricia O'Rielly Miller
[In honor of Sister Callista Kaley, OSB on her 70th Jubilee](#)
Bob and Ann Kneesel
Madonna Rodgers McCutcheon
[In honor of Sister Callista Kaley, OSB](#)
Linda Kneesel Barnard
[In honor of William Kenter](#)
Leslie Graham and Louis Kenter
[In honor of Sister Victoria Marconi, OSB](#)
Steven Vatch
[In honor of Joseph Nemanich on his 98th birthday +](#)
Vivian Nemanich
[In honor of Sister Rita Nowak, OSB](#)
Catherine Nagler
[In honor of Kathy Riordan on her birthday](#)
Linda Zienty



If you have a loved one that you would like the Sisters to remember in prayer, please share their names with us via the envelope provided in this newsletter.

Prayer in the time of COVID-19

by Sister Judith Murphy, OSB

From just about any perspective, 2020 was an unprecedented year, like no other in living memory.

For almost the entire year, a confusing pandemic hung like a cloud over all of humanity, throughout our entire world. It baffled us all while we struggled to grasp the dimensions of this novel corona virus: its causes; its contagion; effective treatment; a cure; warranted precautions.

It has impacted all of life as we know it: education at all levels, work, family and individual finances, generational relations, social life, health care; front line service providers in health care, food stores, public transit; sacramental life and congregational worship; cultural institutions; the list can go on and on.

Here at our monastery, the recommended lockdown in March brought us to a situation reminiscent of cloistered life. A simpler schedule; reduced outside activity; even reduction in our schedule of common prayer and worship, and meals in common. And, we have had to deal with our share of COVID's impact of sickness and death. We've had a more stark experience of community and for a number of us this has renewed our appreciation of the reality and blessings of our life together in this community.

Like many other people in our society and culture, and with the 24/7 news cycle, we have seen more clearly and had time and opportunity to ponder the realities and concerns of our times. With other Catholic sisters in the LCWR, we have been called to pray about the issues at the intersection of racism, migration, and climate reality.

Benedictine Life can be summed up in the motto: *Ora et Labora* –Pray and Work. We pray for guidance in our prayer: for what shall we pray, about what shall we be concerned, how can our prayer lead us to be changed and grow in our understanding about issues, and the subsequent response that is called forth in us?

We could hear the appropriate connection between COVID-19 and the association expressed in the phrase COVID-1619, which recognized that Racism in our country began with the arrival of the first ship of enslaved human beings brought from Africa. We also see the connection between the climate realities of droughts and stronger, more frequent storms in Central America, resulting in peoples' inability to grow food and their desire to seek life in lands to the north where they could perhaps raise their families. And we see these conditions replicated in other areas of our world. Our Pope Francis challenges us to support life in all these human populations whose livelihoods are challenged.

We have come through an election season that invites us to support programs to help address the many challenges on every side. And the words of Archbishop Oscar Romero reverberate: You cannot do everything; but each of us can do something to respond.

Responsible citizenship calls forth our better angels to help us join together in participative government and civic works in support of the dignity of all persons, and in care for the earth, our common home. Let us unite in prayer and work for our human community and our common home.

Note from the Director of Development

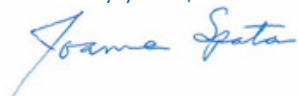
And we begin again. The start of a new year always holds so much promise. Let's face it, 2020 was not at all what we expected. How fortunate that we are not alone. God is among us, especially during this challenging time. He is here with his healing presence and encouragement. He gives us a mission, to be united in love. He has also blessed us with you, our faithful friends and supporters. It is through your partnership and encouragement that we are able to continue in our ministry.

We have always been grateful to have you in our corner, but last year your support has meant even more. We deeply appreciate all that you have done and continue to do for us. Yes, 2020 was quite a challenge; however, through your prayers you have fortified us. Your many cards, letters, phone calls, and the success of our Virtual Reunion have lifted our spirits and often brought back cherished memories of gone by decades. Your donations, even in the absence of so many of our special events, have enabled us to carry on our ministry, while remaining safe, through the use of PPE. Your embrace of our annual Share in The Care appeal has been heartwarming as you continue to help support the aging in place of our infirm Sisters, here in our St. Joseph Court Infirmary and the updating of their kitchen. Your memorial gifts and moving sentiments in honor of the Sisters, your family, and friends who have died, helped to bring us all comfort and peace.

Even having experienced all this, we still miss seeing you! Please know until we can tangibly be together, we hold you close in our prayers. We are truly grateful that together with you, we serve the people of God, in the spirit of the Gospel, as we all strive to make this world a better place.

Wishing you a Blessed 2021!

Gratefully yours,



Joanne Spata, Director of Development

We are very grateful to the Bernard Heerey Family Foundation!





Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Annual Stewardship Report *Fiscal Year 2019-2020*



Message from the Prioress



Dear Friends,

While we are still getting used to the year 2021, many of us shared relief as 2020 ended: it brought too much illness, threat, and confusion. We ask for grace and blessings to meet the new year and new challenges with hope and wonder. We acknowledge also that the old year included blessings for which we are grateful. Through the daunting realities that have been such a threat in our day to day lives, we are thankful also for the human spirit of generosity, cooperation, and care, evidenced in the best responses around us to the many challenges on every side.

We thank you our friends for all the ways you continue to support us in our works and in our Benedictine community life, through your prayers and generosity in ways financial and other wise. Although our Testimonial Dinner was canceled by COVID, your support nonetheless continued strong this year.

We are grateful for the alumnae of our academies in Colorado and in Chicago, and for the students and families that we have come to know in parish teaching and work, and for the colleagues who join us in these educational endeavors and other service and works, all of whom

express continued care for us. You indeed join in our Benedictine charism of prayer, community, and service where there is need.

The virtual reunions in September brought alums together and gave opportunities to “see” and hear from each other that your lives manifest your values as strong, principled women who are taking responsibility and cooperating with others in family, neighborhood, and career to build the human family for the common good. It is gratifying to know you are passing along the life values that have been passed along to us in the Benedictine tradition. We pray daily in thanks for all the blessings we receive from you our benefactors. May our gracious and loving God bless you and keep you and your loved ones safe and healthy.

Gratefully yours,

Prioress, Sister Judith Murphy, OSB

List of Donors, Fiscal Year July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020

The following foundations, organizations, and individual donors are listed in alphabetical order. Please see page 31 for a listing of those who donated to Uncle Pete’s Ministries. A “+” cross indicates that the donor passed away this year. Every effort has been made to accurately acknowledge our donors’ gifts for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. We apologize for any errors and encourage you to call any inaccuracies or omissions to our attention. Thank you!

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MORC Tuesday Track Club c/o Aaron
Franzel
Old St. Pat's Women's Spirituality Group
(Chicago North)
Reba Place Fellowship Church
Rogers Park C.P.D..
Rogers Park Food Coop
The Sealark Captain and Crew
SOAR! Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM
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Margaret Brennan Collins
Marilyn Collins
Anne Marie Comeau
Margaret Conklin
Katherine Conlon
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Larry and Judi Connolly
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Shaun Considine
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Howard Dubin



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Pray for the Benedictine Community

Please keep the Sisters, Oblates, Alumnae, and friends in your prayers. Your prayer support helps sustain us!

Become a Monthly Donor

Automatic monthly donations are an easy way to support the Sisters. To learn more about making donations directly from your checking account or credit card, please contact us.

Matching Gifts

Many employers sponsor matching gift program that match, double, or even triple any charitable contributions that their employees make. Consider asking your Human Resources Department.

Donor-Advised Fund DAF

As a registered 501(c)(3) charity, the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago are legally able and truly grateful to accept your thoughtful donation through your Donor-Advised Fund.

IRA Charitable Rollover

A deeply appreciated donation and a major tax benefit all in one! If you are 70 ½ plus, you can make a transfer directly from your IRA to the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago. This gift will not only save you tax on the donation you transfer, but it also counts toward your required minimum distribution.

Appreciated Stock

Your kindness through the donation of Stock will not only help support the Sisters, but may also lower your Capital Gains Taxes.

Memorial Gifts

Families may choose to name the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago as their preferred recipient for a memorial tribute, instead of flowers. Pre-printed envelopes are available for use at the funeral home.

Memorial Card

At your request, a lovely card can be sent to the bereaved, expressing your sympathy and notifying them that a donation was made in memory of their loved one.

Celebration or In Honor of Someone Special

A thoughtful gift for the person who has everything; a donation in their honor to the Sisters. Or, you may consider stating, "In lieu of gifts, a donation to the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago may be made". An acknowledgment card on your behalf will be sent to the honoree.

Legacy Society

More than just a legal document, your will is a testament to your life's work, your values and your beliefs. The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago would be honored to be remembered as a part of your legacy.

Of course all donors, deceased loved ones, and honorees will be listed in Sacro-Speco and remembered daily in the Sisters' prayers.

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The St. Joseph Court Infirmiry Sisters enjoy their newly remodeled kitchen thanks in part to SOAR for a grant and to you, our generous donors and friends.

Thanks to your prayers, and donations we are able to care for our elder Sisters' basic needs in the comfort of their community with dignity.

We are deeply grateful.



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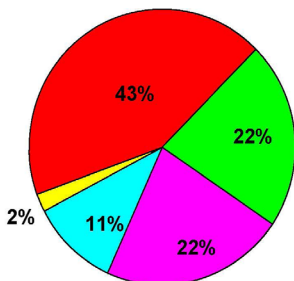
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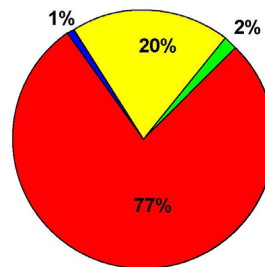
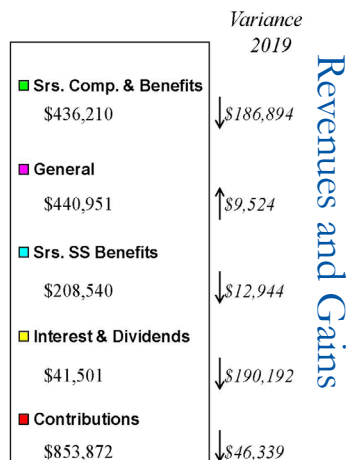
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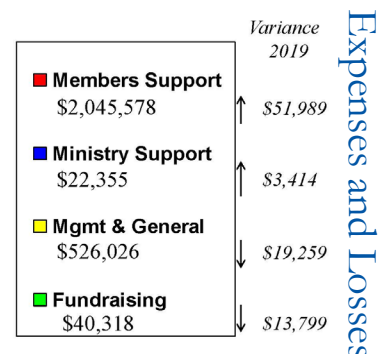


Total Revenues & Gains = \$2,005,609

(Graph does not include property damage insurance reimbursement of \$24,535.)



Total Expenses = \$2,634,277





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More than a legal document, your will is a testament to your life's work, your values, and your beliefs. The Benedictine Sisters of Chicago would be honored to be remembered as part of your legacy.

Contact Joanne Spata at 773.764.2413 x233 to learn more.

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Summer 2021

Thank you

We are grateful to our local City of Chicago Alderwoman, Maria Hadden, and her staff, especially Torrence Gardner, for providing much needed guidance and resources in obtaining COVID-19 tests during the height of the pandemic Spring 2019. The 49th Ward office connected us with Heartland Health Centers and Dr. Laurie Carrier personally coordinated coronavirus test appointments for all of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago as well as the Monastery staff.
Thank you!



Thank you for partnering with us in our mission to promote Benedictine spirituality and action in our church and world.



Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
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Annual Report

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