



# Sacro Speco

## Sacred Space

THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF CHICAGO MAGAZINE + WINTER/SPRING 2024



**Recent News and Events From Our Community**  
**PLUS**  
*The 2022-2023 Annual Report*



# Winter/Spring Issue 2024, vol. XXXV, no. 1

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## 4 Sisters

Monastery News

In Memory of Sr. Patricia Crowley

We Cannot End Homelessness Without Homes

*by Sr. Karen Bland*

Archives Go Online *by Sr. Virginia Jung*

## 9 Oblate News

## 10 How Has Benedictine Education Shaped You?

"Holy Conversation: Is that the Crux of Benedictine Education?" *by Sr. Susan Quaintance*

## 14 Alumnae

2023 Chicago reunion photos

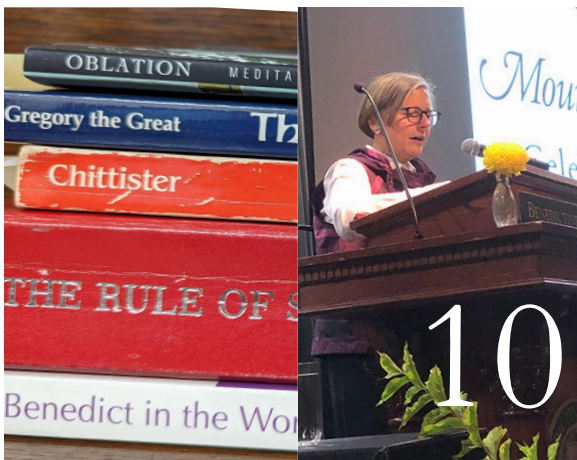
2024 Save the Date

In Memorium

## 18 Prayer Ministry

We hold you in our prayers.

## 23 Annual Report



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, are receiving multiple copies of the newsletter, or know someone who would like to receive future mailings, please contact [jlesanche@osbchicago.org](mailto:jlesanche@osbchicago.org) or 773.764.2413 x241.

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Benedictine Sisters of Chicago.

Cover photos, clockwise from top left: Sr. Jane Smith at Preservation Week Pop-Up; Oblate outing to hear Gregory Boyle, SJ speak- Maureen Kaucher, Barbara Boland, Sr. Virginia Jung, Sr. Mary Susan Remsgar, Kathy Caudill, and Dan Raven; Members of the Class of '93 at reunion brunch; Srs. Mary Susan Remsgar and Mary Melady enjoying the solar eclipse.

# Letter from the Prioress



*Sister Mary Susan Remsgar, OSB  
Prioress*

*D*ear Friends,

This coming month of June will mark the completion of my first year as prioress of our Benedictine community here at St. Scholastica Monastery. It has been both enlivening and challenging to assume this role at this particular time in the history of our community. I am so very grateful to my sisters and to all of you who have responded to me with words of encouragement and most importantly, with the promise of your prayers. Thank you!

As you know, we are in the midst of a major transition. We are seeking to sell our entire property as we no longer need the same amount of space we have occupied for so many years. The maintenance and upkeep of the buildings and grounds has become increasingly more difficult for us. We realize it is time to hand over the stewardship of our property to others, who hopefully, will carry out some measure of our legacy in using the property in service to the Rogers Park community. While we are saddened by the thought of moving from our home of 118 years here in Rogers Park, we believe we must do so in response to the realities incumbent upon us. We

trust God is with us in our communal discerning and we hope you, our friends, understand this difficult decision as one of those life choices that often confront us in our ever-changing life journeys.

At this time, we are looking into various residential options and exploring some possibilities which will afford us access to levels of care as we continue to age. We hope to be able to live out our community life together within a community of other senior residents. No decision has been made as yet regarding a specific location. Once we have made our selection, we will inform everyone of our future new residence.

As a community of Benedictine women, we are committed to our God and to one another. The Benedictine heart, whether inside or outside the monastery, reaches one hand to God and the other to the world. Perhaps God is calling us to bring the monastery of our hearts to those who otherwise may never have encountered us. In whatever place we find ourselves, we are the hands and heart of Christ. We will remain faithful to our Benedictine way of life as we continue to share life-giving relationships with all those we know and meet, and most certainly, with each of you.

Thank you for walking with us. Thank you for holding us in your prayers. Thank you for supporting us in so many ways as we continue to move forward, to discern and follow God's call. You are always in our hearts and prayers.

In St. Benedict and St. Scholastica,

*Mary Susan Remsgar, OSB*

Mary Susan Remsgar, OSB



# Monastery News

70th Jubilee of Profession was celebrated for both [Sr. Rita Nowak, OSB](#) and [Sr. Jane Smith, OSB](#) in July 2023.

Each year we revisit our commitments to our community and the world around us. During the Labor Day commissioning ceremony, we prayed "May our monastic commitment be fruitful for our world."

Joe Ramirez, the artist who restored the chapel paintings in the 1980s, returned to visit with the Sisters and see the chapel in September. We are forever grateful to him for making our liturgies and our lives so beautiful.

Reunion Weekend 2023 was a fun and joyful celebration, with Mass in the Chapel and brunch at Chateau Ritz in Niles. Enjoy the photos on page 14.

In September, [Sr. Susan Quaintance](#) presented "Holy Conversation: Is that the Crux of Benedictine Education?" at the Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica's Fellin Lecture at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas. See pages 10-13.

On the Feast of St. Francis, the community, oblates and friends gathered in-person and virtually to participate in "The Way of Francis: Seeking Peace and Justice for All Creation," created by the Catholic Climate Covenant.

Bethany House of Hospitality posthumously honored [Sr. Patricia Crowley](#) with the Heart of Bethany Award. Sisters, Oblates, and family gathered to accept the award in late October.

Profoundly grateful for the support of our benefactors, alumnae, family, and friends for their generous support, we welcomed many of them to an appreciation Mass and brunch the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

[Srs. Susan Quaintance](#) and [Judith Zonsius](#) attended the Monastic Congregation Council meeting at Monasterio Pan de Vida in Torreon, Coahuila, Mexico.

[Sr. Belinda Monahan](#) gathered with other women religious under 65 to dream about the future of religious life at the Leadership Collaborative's Hope-Esperanza Conference.

The Conference of Benedictine Prioresses gathered in Beech Grove, IN, giving [Sr. Mary Susan Remsgar](#) the opportunity to learn from and support others in the role of prioress.

For the Feast of St. Scholastica Mass in February, we were joined by many guests in-person and virtually. In her reflections, [Sr. Mary Susan](#) spoke of Scholastica's love for God and her brother Benedict, and of God's love for both of them.

We put on our protective glasses and watched the solar eclipse in April. See photo on the cover page.

Howard and Evanston Community Center posthumously honored [Sr. Patricia Crowley](#) for her many years of service there as Executive Director and board member.

During Preservation Week in April, [Sr. Virginia Jung](#) hosted an archives pop-up. Along with archive volunteers, sisters and guests practiced visual literacy and learned about the archive's new online home.

Sounds Good! Choir in Evanston had winter and spring concerts in which [Srs. Mary Melady](#) and [Susan Kilduski](#) and [Oblate Kathlyn Myers](#) performed. We love hearing them sing!

A number of sisters and Oblates attended the Irish American Hall of Fame gala. [Sr. Patricia Crowley](#) was this year's inductee in the Religion category, and we were honored to attend with members of her family.

## Sister Patricia Crowley 1939-2023

Patricia Ann Crowley was born in Chicago on May 13, 1939, the first child of Patrick and Patricia Caron Crowley. Her Baptism was in St. Gertrude Church on June 11. Patricia's siblings were Joan, Mary Ann, Patrick, Cathy, Theresa, and Al Augustine, one of many foster-siblings.

She was educated at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Lake Forest, Illinois, St. Joseph School in Wilmette, Illinois, and St. Scholastica in Chicago. Upon graduation from high school in 1957 she went on to Trinity College in Washington, D.C. for one year before entering the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago in 1958 where she received the name Sister Mary Patrick. Her final vows were pronounced in 1965.

*"...in memory of her."* Mark 14:9

She received her B.A. in English Literature from Loyola University, M.A. in Catechetical Theology from the Manhattan College in New York, and held honorary doctorate degrees from Chicago Theological Seminary, Elmhurst College, and St. Mary of the Woods College in Terra Haute, Indiana. Sr. Patricia taught elementary grades at St. Lambert Parish in Skokie, Illinois and at Queen of All Saints in Chicago. She then served as instructor in English, Theology and French at St. Scholastica High School in Chicago for twelve years.

Beginning in 1979, her role was as the Executive Director of the Howard Area Community Center. During her 10-year time in that position, the organization expanded to include neighborhood daycare and health-related services.



Priority to her own community at St. Scholastica Monastery was consistently of importance for Sr. Patricia and willingly given. While serving as Prioress of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago from 2007-2015, Sr. Patricia also held the position of President of the Conference of Benedictine Prioresses.

Throughout her life, Sr. Patricia's concern for the homeless was evident. She served as Executive Director of Deborah's Place, which provides shelter, housing, and services to homeless women in Chicago. Then, working first as a consultant, she became Executive Director of Chicago Continuum of Care, a 10-year plan to end homelessness in the city. In addition, she was a founding Board member of Dehon House, Housing Opportunities for Women, and the Partnership to End Homelessness.

In spearheading the efforts to make a home for young immigrant women in detention, Sr. Patricia gathered representatives of several religious communities to found Bethany House of Hospitality in 2017. Young women turning 18 in child detention centers could now be placed in a homelike setting allowing them to thrive, work, and prepare for adulthood. Since opening, Bethany House has welcomed more than sixty women from countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, South and Central America. Until very recently, Sr. Patricia had arranged day-long retreats for homeless women at St. Scholastica Monastery while being part of the Ignatian Spirituality Program.

All the while Sr. Patricia continued to actively serve, her good works were being recognized and awarded. The Daniel A. Lord Award, Chicago Call to Action Award, Impact Award and St. Francis Cabrini Award are just a few of the many awards she received.

It was her good fortune to have the chance to travel abroad, using her skills as a spiritual director. A year in Namibia, Africa, serving as the spiritual director for women in religious formation was a highlight in 2019-2020.



Recognized as a woman who was a particularly personable speaker, Sr. Patricia willingly spoke of her own experiences to groups. Two examples were "My Journey - Your Journey" at Saint Ann's Parish, in Barrington, Illinois, and "Journey with the Poor" for the Ladies' Theology Group in Park Ridge, Illinois.

Her leadership skills were shared generously on numerous Boards. Among them were Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing, Chicago Religious Leaders Network on Latin America, the Chicago Council on Urban Affairs, Chicago Call to Action, Chicago Peace Council, Network and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, as well as on the sub-committee of Mayor Harold Washington's Task Force on homelessness.

Sr. Patricia dealt with justice rooted in spirituality even after she herself was diagnosed with cancer. During the last months of her illness, family members were able to freely visit and she was comforted to have their presence and consolation. Even as gradually she was unable to speak, she seemed to be quite aware of her condition and grateful for all that was being done for her comfort. She died peacefully on October 14, 2023.

"Patsy," as she was known by dear ones, is survived by her sisters Mary Ann Kono and Cathy George, foster-brother Al Augustine, many extended family members, and her Benedictine Sisters. The countless people she served during her lifetime will remain her legacy.

Sr. Patricia's funeral took place at St. Nicholas church in Evanston on November 4, 2023, with inurnment at the Benedictine Sisters plot at Calvary Cemetery, also in Evanston.

# Coming Soon

Catholic Outreach



Mother Teresa Place



## We Cannot End Homelessness Without Homes

### *Mother Teresa Place to house 40 families in Grand Junction, CO*

**Sr. Karen Bland**

No community seems unaffected by the number of citizens finding themselves forced out of housing for a variety of reasons – the most pressing being housing rentals that far exceed what many persons earning minimum wage or on social security will ever be able to afford. Those in situational homelessness – short period of time homeless because of an eviction or other family malady – often find remedies for their situation, either through programs that help them with short-term assistance similar to those offered by Grand Valley Catholic Outreach, or help through a family member. In the past ten years, Catholic Outreach's rental assistance has increased 400%, as housing prices and rentals continue to rise. Recent years have witnessed more than 700 households and 1,767 individuals being rescued from homeless situations and chronic homelessness as a result of this yearly rental assistance program. Far more problematic and far-reaching is chronic homelessness, a situation characterized by being homeless for more than a year or for shorter periods of time over several years. That is why we see tents spring up in parks, under overpasses, and even on city sidewalks in many cities.

What happens to individuals who find themselves chronically homeless? "We cannot end homelessness without homes" is our mantra. In our community of Mesa County, Colorado the availability of affordable rental units has drastically decreased. Almost Home – a weekly presentation of available rentals with information supplied by the property owners – formerly covered 30 pages. Today, that listing rarely exceeds six pages, and there are seldom more than two rentals listed that are affordable to

a person with little income.

More than twenty years ago, Catholic Outreach began addressing the housing situation for persons with low income by supporting transitional housing opportunities. This allowed families a maximum of two years in order to gain financial stability and self-direction in housing. Since that time, the funding source morphed into permanent supportive housing, primarily for persons who are chronically homeless. Beginning in 2008 Catholic Outreach raised funds from the local populace that enabled the building of 63 housing units (St. Benedict Place-23 and St. Martin Place-40) for persons who were chronically homeless.

Just before the pandemic arrived, the need for housing was becoming acute. Catholic Outreach sponsored a survey asking about the need for housing and other services. From 199 responses from those struggling with survival, 129 indicated that they were in need of affordable housing. With this data the Catholic Outreach Board assented to developing future housing. A committee composed of those experiencing homelessness indicated what was most desirous for them in future housing. The primary issue from this population was security, so that is primary to the design for Mother Teresa Place.

In December, 20, 2023 construction began on Mother Teresa Place, a 40-unit multifamily housing project that will provide permanent, independent housing for the most vulnerable persons among those who are homeless. More than half the cost of this endeavor comes from individuals in the community who find this a meaningful and doable way of helping those who are desperately in need of safe and decent housing. The other half is the



result of requests for monetary assistance presented to the City of Grand Junction and local foundations, housing grants from the State of Colorado, and funding from the federal government that has been passed down through local governments. As with previous housing programs, there will be no mortgages needed to cover construction costs once Mother Teresa is built. That is due to the generosity of the local community.

Catholic Outreach's housing is predicated on the needs of those being served. Since persons who are chronically homeless have nothing but what they can carry in a knapsack, each unit is a one-bed apartment completely furnished with furniture, appliances, and items that each household requires. Both physical and mental health providers who currently care for persons who are homeless at the Catholic Outreach Day Center will cover the medical needs of those who become Mother Teresa residents.

Residents in each of Catholic Outreach's permanent housing complexes pay no more than 30% of their income in rent. Vouchers received from the state or the local Housing Authority enable Catholic Outreach to cover residents' utilities and maintain the upkeep of the units and complexes. Successful housing experiences are predicated on the need to promote each resident's dignity. This occurs by not putting an excessive burden on any resident and holding expectations that foster their own sense of purpose, competency, and well-being.

By the end of 2024, Catholic Outreach will operate more than 100 units, bringing homes to those who for far too long have been without. This is through the vision and the faith of a dedicated Board of Directors, a community



*Sr. Karen Bland is Executive Director of  
Grand Valley Catholic Outreach*

willing to address a problem in a manner that is doable for them, whether through direct service or through sharing of their resources, a core of staff and volunteers who, daily through services offered, bring a bit of relief to those who are without. Yet, none of this is possible without the belief and remembrance that it is the Almighty One who provides the energy and direction for Mother Teresa Place to become a reality. We often remember that the project belongs to our God; we are just the helpers bearing in mind, "Open hands and open hearts open doors."

*Not all of us can do great things,  
but we can do small things with great love.  
Mother Teresa*

N.B. Grand Valley Catholic Outreach was founded in 1988 by the four local parishes in Grand Junction, Palisade, and Fruita, who believe that by combining their resources they could more effectively bring services to the local community. Since that time more than 50 other denominations have joined this effort through monthly donations, sponsorships, and more than 500 volunteers who share in the ecumenical work of Grand Valley Catholic Outreach.

"Anyone can serve and anyone can be served."



*Not all archival work is digital. Maribel Garcia, Katrina Swanson and Sr. Virginia Jung, OSB prepare an embroidered Corpus Christi canopy for preservation and boxing.*



*Archives Intern Justin Anderson uses tools like our database, Library of Congress Authorities, and the ArchivesSpace Help Center to determine access points to our community's archival holdings.*

## Archives Go Online

### *Sr. Virginia and her volunteers have created a virtual home*

Last September, the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago Archives, under the care and guidance of Community Archivist Sr. Virginia Jung, began to create an online resource using the ArchivesSpace platform. Our Sisters, Oblates, Staff, and other researchers use our ArchivesSpace site as a catalog to the materials our Archives holds. In it, we create and post finding aids to the different collections. Finding aids are the guides that archives use to educate researchers about the contents of collections. Called Resources in ArchivesSpace, the finding aids include biographical or historical notes, information about the scope and content of the collection, possibly a note about related materials, and any conditions governing use of the archival materials.

Our Archives identifies six main record groups within our collection: Monastery records, Schools records, Summer Schools of Religion collection, Sisters' papers, Oblate records, and Catholic Culture collection. An advantage to having a digital catalog is the ability to create links between related materials, people, organizations, and subjects. Also, users can visit the Archives from home before arranging a visit or they can request that material be sent to them in electronic format.

Justin Anderson, a student of art history and photography at Columbia College, assisted Sister Virginia Jung, OSB with the implementation of ArchivesSpace as part of his internship this year. He dedicated great care and attention to detail as he entered basic information on sisters, oblates, schools, parishes, and towns into the site as well as identifying multiple subject areas. Justin also learned to finish processing diverse collections and create finding aids for them – for example: Prioress' papers, sisters' papers, publications, and summer schools.

Justin also contributed to our workflow, the manual to our implementation of ArchivesSpace. This workflow is invaluable as it assists other workers in the Archives as they learn to use the platform, and it helps us to be sure that we are all doing things the same way. Elizabeth Piskorski, an archives student from Dominican University, and Madison Carter, a peace and justice major from DePaul University, both used this workflow to guide them as they created finding aids for the collections they processed this year – collections of textiles and religious education textbooks.

Make some time to explore the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago Archives in ArchivesSpace. You may find that you want to come in to explore the physical collections or to join us in our ongoing work assessing, preserving, arranging, and describing all manner of things that carry the history of our community at prayer and at work in Chicago and in Colorado.

Learn more about the Archive and find the link to ArchivesSpace here- [www.osbchicago.org/archives](http://www.osbchicago.org/archives)



*Intrepid Oblate Mickey Smith has made the transition from Microsoft Word and now uses ArchivesSpace to continue her excellent work processing and creating finding aids for Sisters' papers.*



# Oblate News



Last July, the Chicago Oblates hosted their annual summer picnic at the St. Scholastica Monastery gardens and grounds - a perfect setting for food and fellowship!



In September Oblate **Nancy Labiak** attended the Fifth International Oblates Congress in Rome, entitled "MOVING FORWARD Living the Wisdom of the Rule."



In Chicago, we enrolled new Oblates **Rhonda Fochs, Kathleen Brady-Murfin, and Anita Ortiz Maddali '96.**

Anita is pictured here between Sr. Benita Coffey and Sr. Mary Susan Remsgar.



**Milagros Rodriguez** was enrolled in Colorado. Wearing red, she is pictured here with Rose Higgs, Dee Wallace, Connie Godfrey, Fr. Don Malin, Deacon John Chavez, and

Loretta Hernandez at Mt. Carmel Church in Pueblo. The laypeople and deacon are all oblates as well!



In February, the Oblates organized a presentation by scholar **Susan Garthwaite**, author of the award-winning book *Saint Hildegard: Ancient Insights for Modern Seekers* (She Writes Press, 2021). In her presentation "Saint Hildegard: Friendship With God," Sue shared Hildegard's 12th century spiritual teachings and their relevance to 21st century seekers of friendship with God. She included a robust history of Hildegard's life and teachings and several excerpts from her manuscripts. The recording can be found on YouTube via our website: [osbchicago.org/blog](http://osbchicago.org/blog)

In early May we welcomed visitors to the monastery's labyrinth for World Labyrinth Day. Oblate **Dan Raven**, who built the labyrinth in 1999, was available all day as a resource to visitors. He hosts church and school group visits throughout the year, including students from Evanston Township High School who visited later in May.



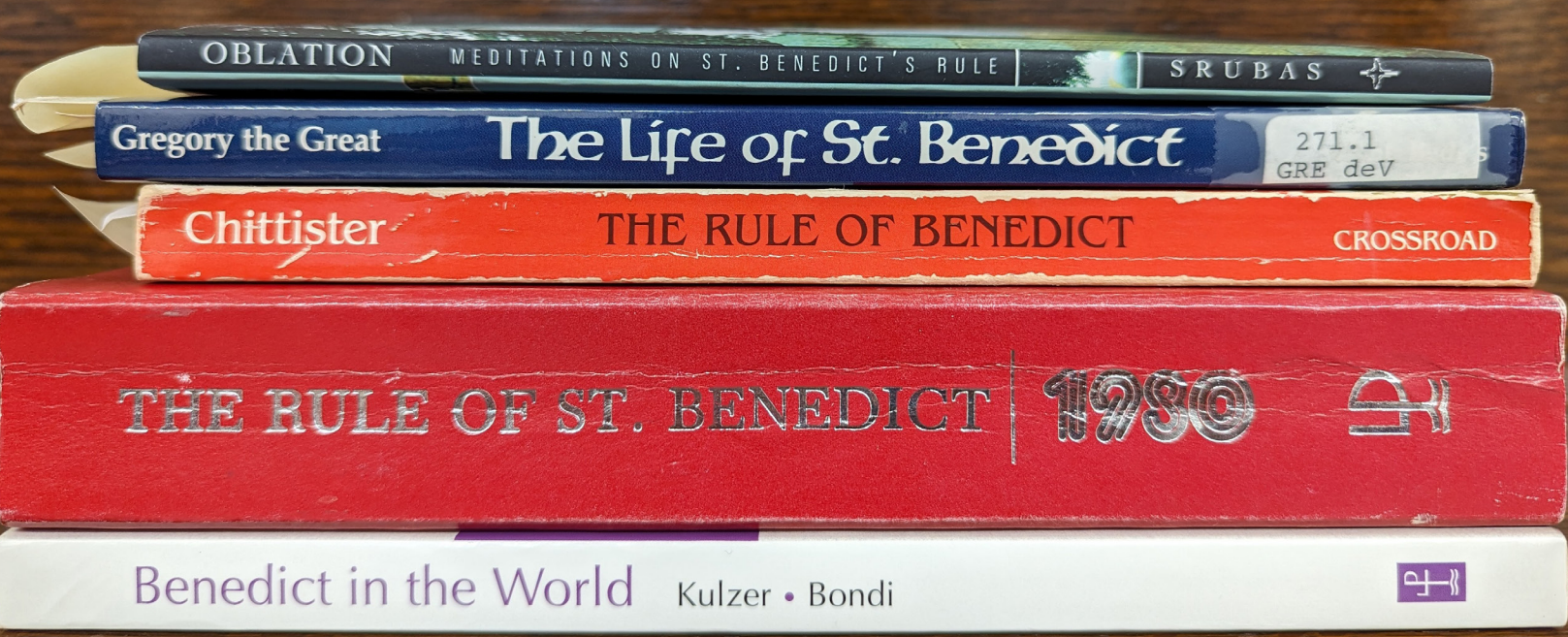
To learn more about our Oblates visit:  
[www.osbchicago.org/oblates](http://www.osbchicago.org/oblates)

To explore the call to this way of life, contact  
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For more spirituality programs, visit:  
[www.osbchicago.org/programs](http://www.osbchicago.org/programs)

Looking for support on your journey?  
Our Sisters offer spiritual direction and counseling.  
For more information:  
[www.osbchicago.org/directionandcounseling](http://www.osbchicago.org/directionandcounseling)





## How has Benedictine education shaped you?

*Sr. Susan includes alumnae responses in lecture*

Sr. Susan Quaintance presented “Holy Conversation: Is that the Crux of Benedictine Education?” in September 2023, invited by the Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica Monastery, sponsors of the annual Fellin Lecture to support the liberal arts orientation of Benedictine College. Her lecture is below, with minimal edits to accommodate this printed format. It was recently published in the Spring 2024 edition of the journal *Benedictines*.

### Holy Conversation: Is that the Crux of Benedictine Education?

Any of you who have ever endured a pop quiz or slogged through a complicated lab or puzzled over a problem set or stayed up way too late to write a paper about a book you’re not sure you understood may have raised your eyebrows at the title of this talk. You may have thought, “Holy conversation? Really? On what planet did this woman go to school?” I feel you. Right in the thick of assignments and deadlines and exams, Benedictine academic life might seem like many things, but certainly not “holy conversation.”

But I have a hunch that at its best, at our best, that’s exactly what it is. I stole that title from the wonderful story about Benedict and Scholastica in The Dialogues of St. Gregory the Great. Many people in this auditorium could recite the story by heart, but for those of you who don’t know it, I’ll tell it in brief. As was their annual custom, Benedict and Scholastica met between their monasteries one particular year to have a visit. St. Gregory writes: “They devoted the whole day to the praises of God and to holy conversation.” They talked into the evening, and then Benedict said it was time to leave. Scholastica asked him to stay so they could keep talking about holy things. He refused. So she put her head down on the table and, moved to tears, prayed. The skies opened up, and there was such a storm that Benedict couldn’t leave. Gregory concludes that part of the story with the words: “And so it happened that they passed the whole night in vigil and each fully satisfied the other with holy talk on the spiritual life.” They went back to their own monasteries, and Scholastica died three days later. She, too, had a hunch: one she listened to.

If I was going to give a lecture, though, in front of, well . . . you . . . , I felt like I better have something to back up my hunch. So I gathered some data. Disclaimer #1: this data is unscientific and statistically irrelevant. But still: data.

For twenty-three years I taught at St. Scholastica Academy, the all-girls high school sponsored by my religious community, the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago. For most of my tenure there, we talked a lot about being a Benedictine school, what Benedictine values are, and what they look, sound, and feel like in practice. It seemed to me that women who went to that school should really be the ones to tell what difference a Benedictine education makes.



So I asked. I emailed about 100 alumnae who I had taught over the years (and had contact information for) and asked how the lens of Benedictine spirituality shaped their worldviews. The responses I got came from women who attended St. Scholastica between 1994 and 2013. They came from women in a wide range of vocations: social work, education (from primary teacher to college professor), customer service, analytics, entertainment. A nurse. A pediatrician. A farmer. A couple attorneys. Three of those who wrote back had gone on to Benedictine institutions of higher learning, including two "Ravens" who graduated from right here at Benedictine College.

Their responses were generous and thoughtful, and I am profoundly edified that these women took time out of their very busy lives to show up for an old nun. Certain themes came up over and over again, and those are the heart of my remarks tonight. These alums talked about how a Benedictine education sparked, nurtured, and sustained their empathy, curiosity, community-mindedness, balance, and contemplative spirits.

Deeply gratifying is how many answers spoke about empathy and how a Benedictine education taught the capacity to look at the world as someone else sees it.

Brittany said, "At SSA I was taught that loving Jesus meant loving and standing up for everyone, not just those who society deems worthy . . . I've never been afraid to have conversations about hard issues because I have always centered my work in love, something I definitely learned at [Scholastica]."

Jordan wrote: "SSA taught me the importance of seeing the world through the lens of another. [When I] move to a new place and explore new people and traditions – seeing how others live expands my worldview. It helps build my empathy and understanding."

Diamond talked about how the stories of Benedict and Scholastica taught her about "loving others more than we love ourselves: sensing and being Spirit-led to 'hear' the unspoken needs of Jesus's people."

Mercedez said that a Benedictine education helped her "not to see things as black and white." She went on to say that "instead of blaming, we need to ask where we can help."

It taught Jennifer W. "to strive to help the broader community, even if we don't know them."

Katie learned "to look beyond myself; it's how we treat each other in the dark times that matters."

As I sat with these comments, I was intrigued by how much they reflected not just what we taught at St. Scholastica Academy in Chicago, but what I know students learn and practice at other Benedictine schools all over the world. How does that happen? It happens because these schools are so deeply grounded in the Benedictine tradition.

What these women said about empathy immediately brought to mind another story from The Dialogues of Gregory the Great in which Benedict, near the end of his life, sees the whole world in a single ray of light. Unpacking the theological implications of the event, St. Gregory says, "in the very light of the internal vision, the capacity of the soul is enlarged; it is so expanded in God that it is placed above the world. Indeed the soul of the seer is raised above itself." Of course we find that empathy in the Rule of Benedict as well. Benedict teaches that his followers should always take special care of the most vulnerable: the sick, the old, the young, the poor, guests. And monastic people are always to be on the lookout for how they can serve each other. Empathy: seeing the world as God sees it.

Another thing that emerged in the emails I received was a love of learning that has enriched the respondents' adulthoods.



*Continued on next page*



*Continued from prior page:  
Holy Conversation: Is that the Crux of Benedictine Education?*

Laura, one of the Ravens I mentioned earlier, said that Benedictine schools urged her to “discover things: ask questions and then go seek answers.”

Dejah talked about how Theology class, in particular, “allowed her to be curious, without being judged,” leading to a lifetime of healthy spiritual exploration.

Mary recounted that, “In the classroom our teachers taught us to ask questions. They urged us to look under the surface of what we were reading or studying, into a deeper inquiry, and ultimately a deeper understanding. We learned to push boundaries and think for ourselves.”

These thoughts, too . . . so very Benedictine. It’s no coincidence that the title of an essential monastic text is *The Love of Learning and the Desire for God*. The Rule of Benedict is rooted in a respect for and love of the word – both upper and lower-case “w.” Besides building a schedule where monks listen to scripture and pray the Psalms regularly throughout the day, Benedict dictates that there would be ample time for *lectio divina* (“holy reading”) and study. In Chapter 48, “On the Daily Manual Labor,” the word “read” is used 11 times . . . in just 24 verses. While Benedict encourages his monks (and later followers) to do “whatever work needs to be done,” he clearly thinks that study is just as important in a life of faith and meaning.

Nor surprising to any of you, I suspect, is how many of our alumnae raised the importance of community.

Laurencia, another Raven, said that that was a value that “strongly impacted” her. The sense of belonging that community provides “will motivate us to grow in relationship with God and others as we are all striving toward the common good.”

Mary, who we heard from before, observed that “At Scholastica it was all about community . . . What we did, we did together. Our teachers guided us not just with questions in class, but in questions about our lives – what do I desire to be and do? They encouraged us and enabled us as we tried new things, occasionally making fools of ourselves, but gaining confidence all the time. We learned to see in ourselves and each other what they already saw in us.”

Obviously, that fits easily into the larger Benedictine milieu. Benedict directs his teaching to cenobites, the kind of monks who live under a Rule and an abbot or prioress . . . together. The list of things that community members do together is long: praying, eating, receiving guests, welcoming newcomers, making decisions, stewarding property and possessions.

In order to live communal life well (whether in a monastery, family, or any other intentional community), one must learn a sense of balance.

Bridget reflected: “Going to a Benedictine school ingrained in me the importance of everything that goes into making people feel like whole humans. Not just a student, or athlete, or someone who is religious or spiritual, but how all those things intersect and often vie against one another for attention within ourselves. My Benedictine education [gave] me the opportunity to practice, during a critical time in my personal and brain development, how to honor the different pieces of myself and find ways to strike a balance as frequently as possible.”

Ann described it this way: “Some people seem to think one must choose one or two areas of interest . . . I’ve never been able to do that . . . balance and diversity bring me joy. I think of my true self as an artist and a farmer; engaging the body, mind, and great mystery, all supporting each other. The ability to pursue multiple things was always encouraged at SSA and the abbey [Belmont Abbey College].”



Benedict famously taught “moderation in all things” or something pretty close to that, which is probably the source of this Benedictine value of balance. He counsels avoiding the extremes in the daily schedule, food, speech, discipline – even prayer! I think we also see this in the Rule where no one is encouraged to be super-specialized. Benedict acknowledges that some people are better at some things than others, but generally, people aren’t exempted from jobs that keep the common life going. The artisan of the monastery still took (and takes) a turn at kitchen service. Guests are everyone’s responsibility, not just the porter’s or portress’s. When there is an important decision to be made, everyone must be consulted.

Finally, and perhaps most counterculturally, a Benedictine education supports the development of a contemplative spirit. It teaches one to be quiet, to listen.

Jennifer M. wrote: Of all the lessons I could share – the most notable that has shaped my worldview is listening with the ear of my heart. My Benedictine education taught me to bring mindfulness and quietness to life in being fully present and listening to God’s love as it’s the loudest sound . . . I learned this through practicing *lectio*, a repetition of a text that I’ve carried into my current career. My work uses the power of sport to foster positive social change in communities and for the last several years I’ve practiced this with incarcerated youth populations . . . The goal is to help the youth find a quietness and peace around just being – acceptance of past and direction for future. And every time I do it with them, I learn things about me. That’s part of listening – it’s a mutuality that is hard to capture on one side or a singular agenda.

Ann, the farmer/artist we heard from before, articulated it this way: “I find my love for silence supported and encouraged; I feel it is a great strength as an adult to be able to turn inward and lean on the quiet voice inside. A rich inner life is really the cornerstone to [being] an emotionally healthy human.”

It is not coincidental that these women were formed in a tradition whose foundational document begins with the words “Listen carefully.” While some of Benedict’s comments on silence simply reflect the teachings of his monastic forebears about silence as a discipline (which it is!), they are also much more. Being silent is a way to reverence what else is happening; it is key to attention. It allows for other voices – scripture, tradition, community – to be heard as prominently to the racket of our self-will, perhaps even as a counter to it. In one translation of the Rule, the first line of Chapter 42, “Silence After Compline,” reads “Monks should diligently cultivate silence at all times.” That word, “cultivate,” seems especially evocative. Like good gardeners, what might we grow in silence? Benedict knew that by feeding our souls a balanced diet, and not just dumping in anything that came along, good fruit would result.

Before I conclude – and I’m close – I do need to offer disclaimer #2. In claiming that Benedictine education has something special to offer, am I saying that it is the only tradition that teaches women and men to think critically and pray wholeheartedly in preparation for lives of integrity, justice, compassion, and service? In the worlds of Eric Litwin, the creator of the awesome *Pete the Cat* children’s books, “Goodness, no!” Benedictines do not have the corner on empathy or silence or even community. Many, many schools – from their own values and traditions – provide exemplary moral education and supply avenues for its practical application. Thank heavens!

But I do want to return to my hunch about Benedictine education being holy conversation. Like the monastic body at prayer, creating a rhythm between one side of chapel and the other, my own experience of the truth of my hunch was confirmed by what my former students had to say, to teach: that the charism leads to an educational system that is conversational. It is a back-and-forth between students and teachers, students and other students, faculty members and administrations, schools and their sponsoring communities, schools and their local areas. It is a dialogue between people and ideas, and between ideas and ideas. I suspect that it is at the heart of the freshman Benedictine College Experience here. The best days in a Benedictine education are a palaver between play and rigor, sound and silence, the joy of learning something new and the discomfort of being stuck. Most critically it prepares minds and hearts for conversation with the One who created those minds and hearts and sends us out in service of the gospel. Being a part of that sacred exchange has been one of the great joys of my life; I hope you can say that, too. (If not today, some day.)

St. Benedict and St. Scholastica – pray for us!

~ Sr. Susan Quaintance

# St. Scholastica Chicago

## Alumnae & Teachers Reunite

St. Scholastica Academy Chicago classes ending in '3 and '8 gathered and celebrated with prayer, laughter, and hugs at the September 2023 Alumnae Reunion, with Saturday Mass in the Chapel and Sunday brunch at Chateau Ritz.

Special thanks to all the class representatives who updated contact information and rallied their classmates to attend - we could not do this annual event without you!





# Reunion 2023



Save the Date!

St. Scholastica Academy Chicago Reunion  
September 21-22, 2024

# In Memoriam

St. Scholastica Academy, Chicago

**Helen Huber (1936)**, mother of Gail Huber (1971)  
**Audrey Anderson Adams Hegener (1940)**, sister of Ellen Anderson Sottung Kurkky (1946)  
**Genevieve Delana (1944)**, sister of deceased Eileen Delana (1949)  
**Margaret Cunningham Ahmann (1948)**, sister of deceased sisters, Mariellen Sabato (1939), Monica O'Brien (1941), and Alice O'Gorman (1944)  
**Mary Lou Gibbons Brennan (1948)**, mother of deceased Mary Beth Reynolds (1972), Colleen Doucet (1973), Margaret Collins (1974), Kathryn Nicolau (1977), and sister of deceased Loretta Gibbons McGrath (1948)  
**Elaine Smith Caraher (1948)**  
**Rose Anne Leahy Grimes (1948)**  
**Joan Bernice Wietor Heinz (1948)**, sister of Helen Wietor Leider (1942), mother of Christine Heinz Luebcke (1969) and Marilyn Heinz Brierton 1970)  
**Joan Patricia Dooling Gertie (1949)**  
**John Patrick Madden**, husband of deceased Mary Frances Plunkett Madden (1952)  
**Peggy Ann Worst**, daughter of Eileen Barry Meyer (1953)  
**Susan Jane McMahon O'Neill (1953)**, sister of Patricia Askew (1962)  
**Mary Ellen Hukill Kadleck (1954)**  
**Leo J. Marubio**, husband of Joan Colver Marubio (1955)  
**Joan Katherine Meenan Murphy (1955)**  
**Lucille Ferrara Peterson (1955)**  
**Mary Jane Bowler Tworek (1956)**, sister of Patricia Flaherty (1964)  
**Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB (1957)**, sister of Catherine George (1965) and deceased Theresa Crowley (1973)  
**Loretta Mary Cahill O'Malley (1957)**, sister of deceased Mona Ann Cahill Ladner (1955) and Catherine Cahill Hamilton (1963)  
**Jane Ann Gleixner Ryan (1957)**  
**Michael Joseph "Joe" Kelly**, husband of Joanne O'Malley Kelly (1958)  
**Bonnie Jean Kirschen White (1958)**, sister of Kathleen Kirschen Janessa (1963)  
**Mary Ann Harrington (1959)**  
**Lambert Schommer**, husband of Joan Schipp Schommer (1959)  
**Helen E. Sieben (1959)**  
**Kevin Toomey**, son of Sheila O'Carroll Toomey (1959)  
**Barbara Washington Niesel (1961)**  
**Barbara Jo Sullivan O'Brien (1961)**  
**Laura Anne Affar**, daughter of Kathy Littau Bell (1963) and niece of Marianne Littau (1960)  
**Jo Anne Joyce (1963)**, aunt of Eileen Mellon Carter (1977)  
**Florence Kaepplinger McAmis (1963) (\*5/29/20)**

**Lynn Jaeger Nord (1963) (\*9/1/2021)**  
**Donald Savage**, father of Ginny Savage Warner (1963) and Peggy Savage Shumacher (1965)  
**Carl J. Butzen, III (\*5/27/2023)**, husband of Linda Nelson Butzen (1967)  
**Barbara Tortorello Cavanagh (1968)**  
**Diane Marie Graham-Kearns (1968)**, sister of Susanne Colleran (1964), niece of Sister Susanne Zeller, OSB (1935), and daughter of Dorothy Zeller (1937)  
**Luz Davila De Prieto**, mother of Luz Maria Prieto (1968), Carmen Prieto (1971), Margarita Prieto (1980), and grandmother to Sara Prieto (2003)  
**Gregory Joseph Stenzel**, husband of Nancy Napoleon Stenzel (1968)  
**Adela Winikaitis Lassen**, mother of Christine Bertrand (1972) and Karen Britten (1974)  
**Sharon K. Ptak-Miles (1972)**  
**Theresa Crowley (1973)**, sister of Catherine George (1954) and deceased Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB (1957)  
**Kathleen Gallichio (1973)**, sister of Mary Gallichio McNulty (1978) and Donna Gallichio Burke (1982)  
**Catherine J. Minnick (1973)**  
**Ann Scheller**, mother of Mary Scheller (1974), Helen Scheller (1976), and Suzanne Scheller (1982)  
**MaryJane Reddy**, mother of Patricia Reddy (1975)  
**Linda Boldt Heinig (1976)**, sister of Patti Boldt Smietana (1974)  
**Marilee R. Dentzer**, mother of Cheryl Dentzer Love (1978) and Mary Beth Denzer (1985)  
**JoAnne Festle**, mother of Mary Jo Festle (1979)  
**Joseph P. Marren**, father of Susan McGinn (1982), Julie Cooke (1987) and Mary Jo Green (1992)  
**Dolores McQuiddy**, mother of Kathleen McQuiddy O'Kane (1983)  
**Ignacio Cordova, Jr.**, brother of Susana Cordova Gegner (1984) and Cindy Cordova Pelrine (1987)  
**Amanda Nole Hulseman (1984)**  
**John Sasaki**, father of Emily Sasaki Attack (1988) and Ellen Sasaki McGarry (1990)

St. Scholastica Academy, Cañon City

**Scott M. Brace**, husband of Quinn Skinner Brace (1998)

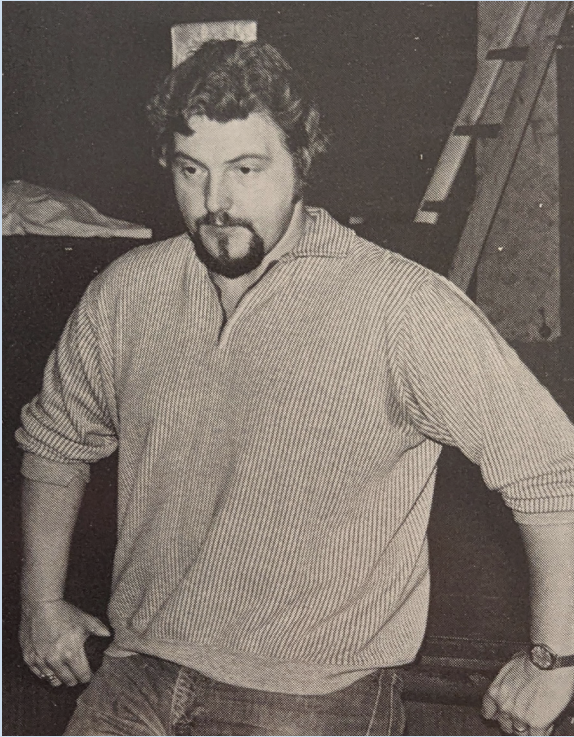
*The above represents notices received  
June 2, 2023 – March 31, 2024.*

*\*denotes that death was prior to June 2, 2023, but we received notice of their death in the last several months.*



# In Memoriam

## Ronn Toebaas



Ronn Toebaas, "Mr. T," was St. Scholastica's drama teacher from 1974-1986. He clearly made a positive impact and lasting impression on his students and those who worked with him. Upon his passing in 2023, a number reached out on our Facebook page to leave remembrances. With permission we are sharing some here.

*"[He was] an awesome teacher [who] taught with kindness and passion, [and he] inspired - there is no better gift you can give a human being... feeling that they can do more than they really can and then they do just that. I remember the countless hours of "preparing for a show" and the wonderful final bows when it all became a memory - a special moment in time. Thank you." - Tracy (Printz) Bertke '80*

*"Ronn was my colleague at SSA and was so supportive and kind. We had some great talks about the arts and their future. He always came into the art studios to visit and see what my students were up to." - Reni Arreguin*

*"Mr. T. was a fabulous teacher and director. He taught us so many valuable skills. I feel lucky to have had him as a teacher and to have been in many different productions." - Katy Walsh '78*

*"He taught and gave confidence to the students in his productions. He really presented excellent productions at SSA" - Maureen Tobin Healy '77*

## John and Mary Madden



Mary Plunkett Madden graduated with St. Scholastica Chicago's Class of 1952 and was one of the co-founders of the long-time Alumnae Board, which ran the annual Woman for the World benefit.

The story goes that one day, while headed to school on the bus, Mary dropped a pencil on the floor. When she arose from picking it up, there was John Madden. They later married and together raised a wonderful family.

John and Mary Madden were always generous benefactors of St. Scholastica Academy, the Benedictine Sisters, and their communities. Mary and her fellow members of the Alumnae Board often met for monthly dinners at Hackney's on Lake - a group of them are still meeting to this day! If John happened to be there with friends or family, the board would often find that he had picked up their tab.

Mary passed away in 2023 and John in 2024. We will remember their kindness and generosity and hold their friends and family in our prayers.

# Prayer Ministry

*We remember you in our daily prayers.*

The following represents Memorial and Special Occasion prayer requests from  
*June 2, 2023 through March 31, 2024*

## Memorials

### **In memory of Laura Anne Affar**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Andrea Ciccone  
Anne Lynn Porter

### **In memory of Sister Mary Jude Ahern, OSB**

Rabbi Robert and Dawn Rosen  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

### **In memory of Margaret Ahmann**

Christopher Ahman  
Nancy and William O'Brien

### **In memory of Arnold**

Eileen Moorman

### **In memory of Stephen Bachmann**

Cynthia Bachmann

### **In memory of Judith Beaumont**

Judith Lee

### **In memory of Daneen Berres**

Judith Bartels

### **In memory of Nancy Van Der Bosch**

Patrick and Arlen Craddock  
Stuart and Patricia Harvey  
Pamela Hodur

Mr. and Mr. Stephen Hooley

Michael McNulty

Margaret Monticello

### **In memory of Scott M. Brace**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

### **In memory of Mary Ellen Molony Brady**

Mary Clare Brady

### **In memory of Robert Braudt**

Bob and Kathleen Murray

### **In memory of Mary Lou Gibbons Brennan**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Lyon Sisters

### **In memory of Robert "Bobby" Burns**

Jackie LeSanche

### **In memory of Mary Elizabeth Buttitta**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

### **In memory of Carl J. Butzen, III**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Linda Butzen

Francine O'Connor

### **In memory of James R. Callero**

Kathleen Janessa

### **In memory of Michael Callero**

Kathleen Janessa

### **In memory of Elaine Smith Caraher**

Margaret Devaney

Rosanne Hugunin

### **In memory of Barbara Tortorello**

**Cavanagh**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Mimi Meeker Wherfel

### **In memory of Winifred Kneafsey Cebulski**

Michael and Marian Kneafsey

### **In memory of Frances "Jeanne"**

**Christensen**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Mary M. Specht

### **In memory of Ignacio Cordova, Jr.**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

### **In memory of Tom and Kathleen Cowley**

Francine O'Connor

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

Sister Frances Crean

### **In memory of Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB**

Peggy Anselmo and Mary Cuny

Marilyn Ballard

Patricia Ballard

Kathleen Beaulieu

Judith Borchers

William and Cheryl Blum

Nancy Bryers

Christella Killeen Buchberger

Anna Capizzi

Andrea Ciccone

Thomas Clark

Alice Crowley

Noreen Ferrari and Barb Logue

Leann Gannon

Jill Goldsmith

Sheilya Hackett

Patricia Heineman-Vernon

Ngoe Hoang and Kim My Tran Family

John and Laura Howard

Judith Janowiak

M. Jean Keeley

Gerry Kulans

M. Angela Lapid and John G. Rux

Karen and Bryan LeBlanc

Judith Lee

Marcia Mally

Virginia Malter

Jane McHugh

Jim and Cecile Mikulski

Jill Newberger

Gladys Paul

Mary Schullen

Jeanine and Dean Silas

Tan Tran and Phuong Hoang

Angie Trandai

Anh Ngoc Trandai

Michelle Trandai and Tan Duong

### **In memory of Theresa Crowley**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

### **In memory of Annie Cullen**

Margaret Cullen

### **In memory of George Cullen, Sr.**

Margaret Cullen

### **In memory of Richard J. Cullen**

Margaret Cullen

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

Helen M. Slattery

### **In memory of John J. Cullom III**

Helen M. Slattery

### **In memory of Richard Cullen**

Margaret Cullen

### **In memory of William "Bill" Davis**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Sister Hilary Halpin, OSB

### **In memory of Genevieve Delana**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Timothy F. Delana

### **In memory of Marilee R. Denzer**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

### **In memory of Luz Davila De Prieto**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

### **In memory of Robert E. Dyer**

Don C. Winslow

### **In memory of Jack and Julie Evans**

Leslie Dickerson

### **In memory of JoAnne Festle**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

### **In memory of Carolyn Fields**

Wendy Sin

### **In memory of Richard Fields**

Mary Schill

Wendy Sin

### **In memory of Liz Fisher**

Maureen Kielbowicz

### **In memory of Sister Mary Ann**

**Fleischmann, OSB**

Andrea Ciccone



## Prayer Ministry-June 2, 2023 through March 31, 2024

**In memory of Richard and Loretta**

**“Chickie” Gallagher**

Sheila Gallagher

**In memory of Kathleen Gallichio**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Sister Joan Gannon, OSB**

Ellen Ward

**In memory of Sister Helen Gehl**

Sheila Gallagher

**In memory of Kathy Geroski**

Jill Newberger

**In memory of Betty Gerzel**

Elizabeth Marsh

**In memory of Catherine Gersick**

Margaret Cullen

**In memory of Martin Gersick**

Margaret Cullen

**In memory of Mary and Stanley Gersick**

Barbara Greenwood

**In memory of Joan Patricia Dooling  
Gertie**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Joe Giglio**

Kathleen and William Riordan

**In memory of Sister Carolyn Glach, OSB**

Robert and Patricia McClelland

**In memory of Matthew Glavich**

Agnes Glavich

**In memory of Sister Joyce Gleeson, OSB**

Suzanne Walsh

**In memory of Horst Goerge**

Helga Ruby

**In memory of Blanca and Carlos Gonzalez**

Marianela Gonzalez

**In memory of Irene Gracey**

Mary and Richard Marcheschi

**In memory of Diane Marie Graham-  
Kearns**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Dave Green**

Joe Green

**In memory of Rose Anne Leahy Grimes**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Katharina Grintschacher**

Helga Ruby

**In memory of James Guess**

Michael and Eileen Moorman

**In memory of Mary Ann Harrington**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Mary Clare Brady

**In memory of Audrey Anderson Adams  
Hegener**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Linda Boldt Heinig**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Robert Heineman**

Judith Borchers

Georgianne Ellis

**In memory of Joan Bernice Wietor Heinz**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Sister Joan Hentges, OSB**

Mary Jo and Hal Brewer

**In memory of Jack Higgins**

Eileen Moorman

**In memory of Sister Eleanore**

**Hillenbrand, OSB**

Michael and Mary Jane Cole

**In memory of Richard “Dick” Hillenbrand**

Katherine and James Hillenbrand

**In memory of David Hogarty**

Margaret Hogarty

**In memory of Helen Huber**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Gail Huber

**In memory of Amanda Nole Hulseman**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Sister Vivian Ivantic, OSB**

Sharon Nemith Barr

Margaret Heaphy

**In memory of Jo Anne Joyce**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Eileen Carter

Valerie Ciolli Stockmar

**In memory of Mary Ellen Kadleck**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Cecile and James Mikulski

**In memory of Mary Kaye**

Molly and Richard Walsh

**In memory of Peggy Keeley**

Ruth Lochner

**In memory of Michael Joseph “Joe” Kelly**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Joanne Kelly

**In memory of Kurt Kozeny**

Sister Judith Zonsius, OSB

**In memory of Walter and Gina Kozlowski**

Cynthia Bachman

**In memory of Theresa Kuechel**

Helga Ruby

**In memory of Adela Winikaitis Lassen**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Adela and Matthew Lassen**

The Lyon Sisters

**In memory of Rudy Lausch**

Terese and Richard Brown

**In memory of Michael Lewis**

Vivian Nemanich

**In memory of Sister Mary Michael**

**Link, OSB**

Valerie Ciolli Stockmar

**In memory of John Patrick Madden**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

**In memory of Mary Frances Plunkett**

**Madden**

Marilyn Ballard

**In memory of John and Dorothy Maloney**

Marie Maloney

**In memory of Michael Maloney**

Regina and James Murray

**In memory of Sister Barbara Mallinger,  
OSB**

Andrea Ciccone

**In memory of Sister Victoria Marconi,  
OSB**

Steven Vatch, Jr.

**In memory of Joseph Marren**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Susan Littau

Amy MacKenzie

Janet and Tim Murtaugh

David O’Grady

**In memory of Joseph and Mary Marren**

Maureen Kaucher

Jeanne Rattenbury

**In memory of Leo Marubio**

Alliance of Illinois Judges

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Judie and Bob Byers

James Crawley

Becky and Christopher Dillman

Jonathan Clark Green

Pat Kenny and Joan Marubio

Pete and Meg Kerber

Karen LaManna

Chris Nolan and Trisha Rich

Jean M. Wirkus

**In memory of Greg and Judy Matz**

Anthony Rizzato

**In memory of Florence Kaepflinger  
McAmis**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Ron McAmis

**In memory of Catherine Bigley McGovern**

Peter McGovern

**In memory of Michael McManus**

Kathleen and Robert Murray

**In memory of Dolores McQuiddy**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Kathleen McQuiddy O’Kane

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*“...I remember you  
constantly  
in my prayers.”*

*2 Timothy 1:3*

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## Prayer Ministry-June 2, 2023 through March 31, 2024

### **In memory of Diane Widtmann Mesh**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Charles and Mary Smoot

### **In memory of Ann McMahon Metzger**

Mary Ann Lynch Jewell

### **In memory of Catherin J. Minnick**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

### **In memory of John T. Monahan**

The Social Outreach Ministry of Our Lady  
of Victories Church

### **In memory of Sister Mercedes Moore, OSB**

Patricia Heidkamp

### **In memory of Joan Morrison**

Marianne Abbott

### **In memory of Lia Mortensen**

Georgianne Ellis

### **In memory of Joan Katherine Meenan Murphy**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

### **In memory of Patricia Nangle**

Eleanor Nangle

### **In memory of Ray Noesen**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

### **In memory of Albert J. Nole**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

### **In memory of Barbara Jo Sullivan O'Brien**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Jean and Joseph Lorenz

### **In memory of Loretta Mary Cahill O'Malley**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

### **In memory of Susan Jane McMahon O'Neill**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Gerrie Bernacchi Pretzel

### **In memory of Dr. James Orticelli**

Mimi Wherfel

### **In memory of Sister Mary Ann O'Ryan, OSB**

Andrea Ciccone

### **In memory of Kenneth Paul Paniln**

Agnes Glavich

Marian and Tim Pechek

Diane and Chuck Slaten

### **In memory of Joan Pasterczyk**

Diane Ostermann

### **In memory of Ashanti Devona Payne**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

### **In memory of Lucille Ferrara Peterson**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

### **In memory of Joan Pernecke**

Margaret Garrity

### **In memory of Denise Perse**

Margaret Cullen

### **In memory of Edmund Perse**

Margaret Cullen

### **In memory of Marc A. Perse**

Margaret Cullen

### **In memory of Mary Gersick Perse**

Margaret Cullen

### **In memory of Peter A. Perse, Jr.**

Margaret Cullen

### **In memory of Taylor Perse**

Margaret Cullen

### **In memory of Glen H. Phillips**

Wayne and Peg Wagner

### **In memory of Tom Piazza**

Sister Virginia Jung, OSB

### **In memory of Willistine Porter**

Dr. Gayle Porter

### **In memory of Carolyn Pretzel**

Janet Freibert Parrilli

### **In memory of Sharon K. Ptak-Miles**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

### **In memory of George Radacy and Sharon Rodie**

Susan Ernst

### **In memory of Guy Ranallo III**

Joanne Spata

### **In memory of Erin Ravelingeen**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

### **In memory of Patricia Redig**

Don Winslow

### **In memory of MaryJane Reddy**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

### **In memory of Mary Rigoni**

Michael and Eileen Moorman

### **In memory of Anna Ruby**

Helga Ruby

### **In memory of Earl Charles Rumpel II**

Holly Ann Rumpel

### **In memory of Jane Ann Gleixner Ryan**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

### **In memory of Mark Sanders**

Aline and Edward Schultz and family

### **In memory of Geraldine Saunders**

Janet Gengler

### **In memory of John Sasaki**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

### **In memory of Donald Savage**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

### **In memory of Rose M. Scalzitti**

Joanne Spata

### **In memory of Ann Scheller**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

### **In memory of Betty Schillaci**

Mary Yena and family

### **In memory of Judith K. Schneider**

Sister Judith Zonsius, OSB

Mary and Michael Zonsius

### **In memory of Lambert Schommer**

Joan Schipp Schommer

### **In memory of Sister Ann Sharp, OSB**

Margaret Mei

### **In memory of Helen E. Sieben**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Andrea Ciccone

Karen and Bryan LeBlanc

### **In memory of Sister Mary Beatrice Singler, OSB**

Richard Singler

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

Helen M. Slattery

### **In memory of Helen A. Slattery**

Helen M. Slattery

### **In memory of Dr. Thomas Slattery**

Helen M. Slattery

### **In memory of Lennie Herder Smelich**

Alice Heigel

### **In memory of Al Smith**

Judith Borchers

### **In memory of Joan Smith**

Judith Bartels

Ann and Adam Crane and family

Jane Fahrner

Fern Funk

Karen Griffin

Linda Hickey

Catherine Ingraffia

Mary and Richard Marcheschi

Kathleen and Joseph Mazzia, Beth Jackson  
and Amy Caruso

Mary Jo and George Olen

Francine and Steven Palm

Joyce Patton

Margaret and John Schmoltdt

Patricia Senerchia

Debra Smith

Jeanne Stanton

Mary and John Waechter

Ellen and William Wirth

Sister Judith Zonsius, OSB

### **In memory of Luella Schoeneberger Smith**

Phil Smith

### **In memory of Mary Ann Smith**

Judith Borchers

### **In memory of Joe Sotelo**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Andrea Ciccone

Jackie LeSanche

### **In memory of Diane L. Spata**

Joanne Spata

### **In memory of Richard J. Stanek, Sr.**

Mary Yena

### **In memory of Gregory Joseph Stenzel**

Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

Mimi Meeker Wherfel



## Prayer Ministry & Special Occasions-June 2, 2023 through March 31, 2024

**In memory of Irene M. Stutzman**  
Mary Jo Stegeman  
**In memory of John F. Sullivan, M.D.**  
Maurice Sullivan  
**In memory of JoAnn O'Reilly Swartz**  
Julie O'Reilly Castillo  
**In memory of Bernice Szostak**  
David Szostak  
**In memory of Paula Szostak**  
David Szostak  
**In memory of Terese Mulkern Terry**  
John Terry  
**In memory of James Testin**  
Rita Testin  
**In memory of Donald Thompson**  
Marguerite Thompson  
**In memory of Kevin Toomey**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
**In memory of Sister Joanna Trapp, OSB**  
Andrea Ciccone  
**In memory of Mary Jane Bowler Tworek**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Maureen Quinn  
**In memory of Rosalia "Rose" Walter**  
Helga Ruby  
**In memory of Bonnie Jean Kirschen White**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
Kathleen Kirschen Janessa  
**In memory of Russell D. Winslow**  
Don Winslow  
**In memory of Joan Woods**  
William Fitzgerald  
**In memory of Timothy Woods**  
Mimi Wherfel  
**In memory of Peggy Ann Worst**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
**In memory of Sister Anna Wrenn, OSB**  
Michael J. Wrenn  
**In memory of Rita Zalesky**  
Nancy Tomz  
**In memory of Sister Mildred Zember, OSB**  
Joan Erjavec  
**In memory of Joel Zienty**  
Kathleen and William Riordan  
**In memory of Barbara Zonsius**  
John and Mary Lou Waechter

**In memory of Barbara and Peter Zonsius**  
Karen Schlueter  
**In memory of Carla Goberville Zuchowski**  
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago  
**In memory of Sister Suzanne Zuercher, OSB**  
Paula Keating  
Valerie Ciolli Stockmar

## Special Occasions

**In honor of Sister Benita Coffey, OSB**  
Lynn Brand  
John and Patricia Coffey  
Madonna Rodgers-McCutcheon  
Iva Williams  
**In honor of Sister Patricia Coughlin, OSB**  
Anita Thies  
**In honor and recognition of Sister Patricia Coughlin, OSB**  
Dede Coughlin and Ralph Levy III  
**In honor of Sister Patricia Crowley, OSB**  
Bunny Carrane  
Rev. Daniel Coughlin  
Joseph P. and Patricia K. Crowley  
A former classmate, the late Nancy Clark Kunnert  
Sandra Shelley  
**In honor of Rev. Edmund J. Fortman, SJ**  
Janet Gengler  
**In honor of Mary and Tom Gramins on their 60th Anniversary**  
Donald Sprague  
**In honor of Sister Hilary Halpin, OSB**  
Sharon P. Wang  
**In honor of Sister Hilary Halpin, OSB on her birthday**  
Kathy Brady  
**In honor of Mary Jaster on her 80th birthday**  
Kathy Kirschen Janessa and Karen Ugel Nickerson  
**In honor of Helen Jendryk Lyon on her 95th birthday and in memory of her twin brother, Chester J. Jendryk**  
Daughters of Helen

**In thanks to Sister Kathleen Maloney, OSB and all the Sisters**  
Lawrence and Virginia Stasica  
**In honor of Sister Kathleen Maloney, OSB**  
Barbara and Andy Scelsi, Jr.  
**In honor of Carolyn Murphy**  
Anonymous  
**Blessings for Carolyn Murphy and all Uncle Pete Ministries Volunteers**  
James Merkel  
**In honor of Dianne Murphy and Colleen Howard**  
Kathleen and Robert Anderson  
**In honor of Eddie, Tony, Kenny and John**  
Jeanne Stanton  
**In honor of Sister Judith Murphy, OSB**  
Ellen Castille  
Rabbi Robert and Dawn Rosen  
**In honor of Sister Kathleen Maloney, OSB**  
Eugenia and Gilbert Krebill  
Marguerite Thompson  
Philip and Kathleen Dramisino  
**In honor of Sister Rita Nowak, OSB on her 70th Jubilee**  
Don Winslow  
**In honor of Sister Mary Susan Remsgar, OSB on her Installation as Prioress**  
Mickey Smith  
**In honor of Florence Sabia on her 90th birthday**  
Terese and Richard Brown  
**In honor of Sister Jane Smith, OSB on her 70th Jubilee**  
Marian and Timothy Briggs  
Noreen Ferrari and Barb Logue  
Sheila T. Kelly  
Don Winslow  
Judith and Kenneth Witcher  
**In honor of the Martin D. Stanton Family**  
Jeanne Stanton

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





Save the Date!

# 28th *Annual* Testimonial Dinner and Awards

Wednesday, August 28, 2024  
Park Ridge Country Club

We are very grateful to the  
Bernard Heerey Family Foundation





# Annual Stewardship Report

## Fiscal Year 2022-2023

### List of Donors, Fiscal Year July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023

The following foundations, organizations, and individual donors are listed in alphabetical order. Please see page 35 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, 2022 to June 30, 2023. We apologize for any errors and encourage you to call any inaccuracies or omissions to our attention. Thank you!

#### Foundation Grants

Amazon Smile  
The Benevity Community Impact Fund  
Bernard Heerey Family Foundation  
Carol Lavin Bernick Family Foundation  
Community Foundation of St. Joseph County, Inc.  
Howard Dubin, Howard S. Dubin Family Foundation  
Helen Brach Foundation  
Network for Good  
PayPal Online Giving Foundation  
Polk Bros. Foundation  
SOAR! Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM

#### Businesses

C & C Power, Inc.  
Dentzer Plumbing and Sewer Corp.  
Roberts Plumbing, Inc.  
Tom Killoran  
Vicki Quade/Nuns 4 Fun

#### Organizational Donors

Holy Child Jesus Parish  
Ignatian Lay Volunteer Corps  
Ignatian Spirituality Project  
Reba Place

#### Estates

Sylvia Bezek  
Timothy Delana  
Mary Kay Dougherty  
Mary Ann Harrington  
Frank J. Jallits  
Sheila McGuire  
Helen E. Sieben  
Molly Walsh  
Mary A. Watson  
Rev. Michael Wulsch



Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, July 2023

## *Donors, July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023*

### **Individual Donors**

Janet and John Abowd  
Patricia and Brian Abrams  
Lucy and Samir Abu-Absi  
Mary Lynn Wysocki Adamowski  
Diane C. Adler  
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Mary Beth Ahern  
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Laurena and Rock Aker  
Judith Alexander  
Seth J. Alexander  
Shaheen Ali  
Renae Alm  
Renae Alm and Friends  
Meghan Alroth  
Therese and Thomas Altergott  
Anthony and Jayne Altimari  
Rosalinda Alvarado  
Lynette M Amato  
Matthew and Maria Ambre  
Kathleen and Robert Anderson  
Dorothy Andries  
Christine Anenen  
Anonymous  
Peggy Anselmo  
Astrid Apopa  
Helen Arnolds  
Glorianna Dominguez Atencio  
Mary Jo Yunker Atkinson  
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Evelyn Angel Aztlan-Keahey  
Maribeth Babler  
Pamela J. Babler  
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Barbara Badalewski  
Suzanne Badillo  
Darlene Bailey  
Charlene O'Donnell Baizer  
Angela Balcerak  
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Rita Balice  
Charlene Balkin  
Marilyn Izzo Ballard  
Patricia Ballard  
Eleanor Ringwald Balog  
Nancy Barber-Smith  
Gerri Barosso  
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Doris Hoyle Batt

Fatima Beach  
Thomas Auer  
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Katherine Bell  
Jeanine Belz and John Masters  
Shamoon Benjamin  
Carolyn Benson  
Nancy Berg  
Norbert and Virginia Bergmann  
Juliet Bergner  
Nicole Berry  
Kathleen and Theodore Beth  
Paul and Suzanne Betts  
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Sylvia Bezek  
Roberta and Craig Bieganowski  
Patricia Bielat  
Maria and Kenneth Binder  
Terry Biro  
AnnLisa Bjorvik  
Anna and Clifford Blackman  
Frances Blake  
Bertha F. Blattner  
Barbara and David Blegen  
Dr. Petra Blix and Dr. Benjamin Gruber  
William and Cheryl Blum  
Susan Blumenfeld  
Mary Beth and Michael Boland  
Joan Cain Boles  
Britta Bolin  
Carmen Bona  
Mary Jo Bona  
Joanne Bookstein  
Judith Borchers  
Marilyn Borucki  
Mary Ann Borucki  
Christine and Robert Bowen  
Mary Lynn and Kenneth Bower  
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Suzanne and William Braasch  
Virginia Braasch  
Kathleen Brady  
William Brady  
Lynn and Benjamin Brand  
Gail A. Brandt  
Sheila Brannen  
+ Sally Noonan Bredemann  
JoAnn and Bill Brennan  
Geri Bresnahan and Robert Brinkmann  
Mary Jo and Hal W. Brewer  
Ann Marie Brice  
Timothy and Marian Briggs

Paul Brimstin  
Ruth Ann Brinkman  
Catherine Broscio  
Amy Brown  
Carol Romano-Brown  
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Wilma and Claude Brown  
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Bunny Carrane  
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Maureen Molloy Casey  
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+ Kathleen K. Chapman  
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Deborah Chernick  
Bud and Betty Chess  
Carole and Arthur Childs



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Jill Ann Chrobak

Andrea Ciccone

John and Joyce Cipolla

Joseph and Sally Cipolla

Francine and Robert M. Clark

Mary Clark

Brian Clarke and Margaret Feit Clarke

Geoffrey and Maribeth Clemm

Patricia Clifford

Mary Close

Mindy Cobarrubias

Edward C. and Mary A. Coffey

Patricia and John J. Coffey III

Peter J. Coffey and Molly Cavanaugh

Thomas and Sharon Coffey

Maureen Cogan

+ Suzanne Stepan Coleman

Virginia Collings

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Kenneth and Barbara Cooper

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Denise Coughlin and Ralph Levy

Jeanne Collins Couleur

Patricia Cowhey

Virginia Serb Cox

Frances Crean, RSM

Donald H. and Karen L. Cronauer

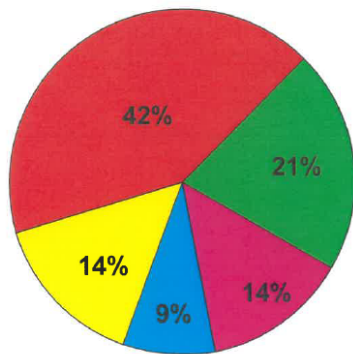
Mary Birren Cronin

Patricia Crossin

Maureen Shanahan Crouchley

Colleen Crowley Yarusso and Jon

## Revenues & Gains – 2023



Total Revenues & Gains = \$2,082,371

<span style="color: green;">■</span> <b>Srs. Comp. &amp; Benefits</b>	\$408,279
<span style="color: pink;">■</span> <b>General</b>	\$270,155
<span style="color: blue;">■</span> <b>Srs. SS Benefits</b>	\$169,572
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> <b>Interest &amp; Dividends</b>	\$285,821
<span style="color: red;">■</span> <b>Contributions</b>	\$831,370

*Variance  
2022*

↓ \$6,987

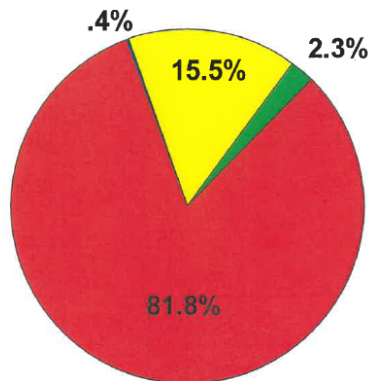
↓ \$188,579

↓ \$11,298

↑ \$262,225

↓ \$267,660

## Expenses and Losses – 2023



Total Expenses = \$2,649,674

<span style="color: red;">■</span> <b>Members Support</b>	\$2,167,904
<span style="color: blue;">■</span> <b>Ministry Support</b>	\$11,460
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> <b>Mgmt &amp; General</b>	\$409,348
<span style="color: green;">■</span> <b>Fundraising</b>	\$60,962

*Variance  
2022*

↑ \$9,281

↓ \$3,283

↓ \$121,511

↑ \$6,772



*Thank you for  
partnering  
with us  
in ministry.*

Michael Yarusso  
Alice F. Crowley  
Carolyn Crowley  
Jerome and Carol Crowley, Jr.  
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Peggy Cuniff  
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Paula Cook Dale  
John Clesen and Kathleen Danahy-  
Clesen  
Ralph Dangelmaier  
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Maxwell Davis and Beth Boosalis Davis  
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Kathleen Dawson  
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Claudia DeLeon  
Hope and Lorenzo DeLeon  
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Jean Dolan  
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Carol Eshaghy  
Erin Espy  
Amy and Thomas Ewert  
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Judith Fegan  
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Concepcion Feria  
+ JoAnne Festle  
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Marilyn C. Fields  
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Margaret Healy  
Maureen Healy  
Margaret Heaphy  
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Michael Hegarty and Kristi Arellano  
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Diane Huntington  
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Matthew Hyser and Sonia Verges-Hyser  
Richard and Sandra Ides  
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Karen Ivantic  
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Thomas P. Jewell  
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Hannah (Teresa) Jhang and James  
Augustone Won  
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Charlotte Johnson  
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Karen Tobin Juneman  
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Olen and Kim Kalkus  
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Mary Fran and William Karanikolas  
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Joanne Kelly  
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Nancy E. and Paul W. Kelly  
Patricia Kelly  
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Mary Kaye Kennedy  
Philip and Gaye Kenny  
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Michael and Marian Kneafsey  
Carol Knoerzer  
Dr. Judith Knorst  
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Leonard Kobliska  
Kathleen and Judith Kochevar  
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Karen LaManna  
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Kelsey Lawlor  
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Patricia Lenihan-Barbee  
Nancy Lennon  
Savannah Leonard-Singleton  
Jacquelean LeSanche  
Thomas Letcher and Sheila Glancy  
Letscher



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Renee Lewis  
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Catherine and James Liggett  
James Lindsay and Pamela Grout  
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Noreen Ferrari and Barbara Logue  
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Lisa Lyon  
Mary Lyons  
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Anita Maddali  
Mary Ellen Madden  
Mary Jo Maddux  
Theresa Brandecker Maher  
Frances Hermes Mahoney  
Theresa Malinowski  
Marcia Mally  
James and Judith Maloney

Marie Maloney and Jim Evans  
Mary Maloney  
Mary Catherine Maloney  
Mary Lou Farrell Maloney  
Michael T. and Mary T. Maloney  
+ Michael Maloney  
David and Mary Malter  
Virginia Malter  
Gale Meyers Mann  
Maureen Matheis Mann  
Carole Manning  
Jane and John Manning  
Mary Catherine Ginnelly Manning  
Ana Manzanares  
MaryLou Marek  
Maureen Marley  
Ruth and Raymond Marquez  
+ Joseph Marren  
Paul Marron  
Michael T. Marsden  
Elizabeth Marsh  
Angela Marshburn  
Maureen M. Martin  
Patricia Martin  
Anonymous  
Carmela Martino  
Joan Marubio  
+ Leo Marubio  
Carmen Maso  
Marta E Maso  
Suzanne Maso  
Sara Masterson  
Nora Matsunaga  
Anne Matz

Linette Matzig  
Janice Mayr  
Kimberly Mc Caro  
Michael and Darlene McArthur  
Judy Whalen McAvoy  
Colleen McCague  
Richard George and Cynthia McCallister  
Margaret McCarthy and Thomas Cramer  
Maureen and Lawrence McCarthy  
David and Dorothy McCarty  
Virginia McCaskey  
Kathleen McChesney  
Margaret McCormick  
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## *Your Gifts Support our Elder Sisters*

The St. Joseph Court Infirmary Sisters enjoy  
their life of dignity together in community  
because of your generous support.

Thanks to your prayers, donations, and  
volunteer time, we are not only able to care  
for our elder Sisters' basic needs, but also  
provide them with care that enrich their  
days. We are deeply grateful.

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# Other ways to Partner with Us in Mission

## **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.

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

*Questions? Contact Joanne Spata, Director of Development, at 773-764-2413, ext. 233*

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**The following benefactors remembered the Benedictine Sisters in their wills or trusts  
for which bequests or gifts were made during the 2022-2023 fiscal year.**

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Timothy Delana  
Mary Kay Dougherty  
Mary Ann Harrington  
Frank J. Jallits

Sheila McGuire  
Helen E. Sieben  
Molly Walsh  
Mary A. Watson  
Rev. Michael Wulsch

**These generous friends join fellow Legacy Society members  
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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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*Thank you for*  
**partnering with us to**  
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**spirituality and action in**  
**our church and world.**

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**Annual Report**

*Begins on page 23*